

Veronica Trier

Why did you join the CSV?

My father and brother were active in local politics in Cologne. Already during my school years in Germany, I had ideas about how education policy could be improved. My brother then took me to a CDU political event, and afterwards I joined the party. When I arrived in Luxembourg, it was natural for me to join the CSV. For me, political engagement is a way to take an active part in democratic life — not only to enjoy its freedoms but also to defend them. In Luxembourg, we are used to these freedoms and rights and tend to take them for granted. But that's not the case everywhere. In many countries, for example, freedom of speech and the right to demonstrate are restricted. Voting is important, but there is so much more one can do to participate in democratic life. Through my political involvement, I want to actively help shape our community and our way of living together.

What would you like to change or improve in Bertrange?

I still find education policy fascinating and important. Our youngest child has just started secondary school. Over the years, I've seen many things that work very well in the Bertrange school. The *Maison Relais* is wonderful. The school is well equipped. I have met very dedicated teachers. However, there are also issues. The playground of the "École beim Schlass" is too small. During every break, children play football there. Others want to play tag or simply rest. My children have often told me about conflicts arising from this. In the summer of 2025, the children were divided into two groups for recess. That helps, but is it enough? The CSV supported the idea of expanding the playground from the beginning. It's a pity that this was not pursued further, especially since there are suitable areas nearby.

Bertrange is a multicultural community. New residents arrive, others leave. As part of the *municipal pact*, a dialogue was organized. I attended one of the meetings and saw that many participants proposed creating a *citizens' café*. I think that's a great idea. When I arrived in Luxembourg in 2008, it took me quite some time to find my footing. A meeting place where everyone can come together would be very helpful. A citizens' café, open also on weekends, where families can meet, a book club can take place, or people can practice Luxembourgish, would be a real enrichment for the village community. Especially during the rainy autumn and winter months, such a café would offer a great way to connect with others. I've heard that some municipalities have already set up such cafés — so why not in Bertrange?

Even though I think the actual organization of a citizens' café should be handled by an association, this project would still need support from the municipal council, for example by providing a suitable space. Existing businesses should also be involved — it should definitely not compete with them.

Environmental protection is strongly supported by the municipality. There are several initiatives around cycling, which I find very important. Physical activity is healthy, cycling saves money and helps the environment. I often see young people cycling in Bertrange. I hope the network of cycle paths will be improved for greater safety, as in some places the infrastructure is poor and cars drive quite fast, sometimes creating dangerous situations. Better cycle paths connecting the town hall to City Concorde and Belle Étoile would be useful for both young and older residents.

The *Ruff-Bus Berti* is also a great initiative — a bus that helps especially seniors to stay mobile. In the past, there was a bus with a fixed route and timetable, but I almost always saw it empty. *Berti* is definitely the better alternative. However, I've also noticed that some students take *Berti* in the morning to reach the bus stop. That makes me wonder about its original purpose. I think it would be better if young people walked or cycled more, or if additional bus stops were created, so that *Berti* remains available for elderly or ill residents.