

2026 Isle of Man General Election

Your Vote Can make a difference

Steve Curphey for Ayre & Michael



Today, Monday 20th July, I am honoured to announce that I will be standing as a candidate in the House of Keys General Election on 24 September 2026. I do so with a deep sense of responsibility, a strong commitment to public service, and a clear determination to provide steady, principled, and effective representation for the people of Ayre and Michael. Our constituency deserves a voice that listens, acts, and always puts the interests of our community and our Island first.

I have the privilege of serving our community as a member of Ballaugh Parish Commissioners for the last five years, currently as Chairman. In that role, I have represented the parish on the Northern Parishes Refuse Collection Board, the Northern Civic Amenity Site Committee, Destination First Board, and more recently the Board of Governors of Ballaugh School. These responsibilities have given me valuable experience of local government, a practical understanding of the challenges facing our communities, and a clear view of the work that still needs to be done.

My decision to stand is rooted in a simple belief: politics must remain close to the people it serves. Too many residents feel that decision-making has become distant from everyday life, and that government has too often been reactive when it should have been proactive. I believe Ayre and Michael, and the Isle of Man as an independent nation, deserve representation that is accessible, accountable, and prepared to lead with purpose and compassion.

If elected as an MHK, I will work constructively across the issues that matter most to our Island, including education, housing, Island security, agriculture, and the green agenda, plus many others. I have tried to narrow this down to five key priorities where I believe urgent progress is needed. By addressing these areas with clarity and determination, we can build a stronger foundation for the wider challenges ahead.

Government Reform (Local & National)

Government exists to serve the people, and it must listen more closely, act more effectively, and be willing to reform so that it meets the expectations of today's Island community, businesses and the next generation. Effective leadership includes the willingness to revisit and amend decisions when they cease to deliver value or are no longer in the people's interest.

Departmental Review

Many government departments have become too broad in scope and should be reviewed. Responsibilities across government must be examined carefully to ensure they sit within the departments best placed to deliver them effectively. For example, I believe

footpaths and public rights of way should be considered for transfer to DEFA, where they may sit more naturally alongside land management and environmental responsibilities.

Civil Service Reform and Accountability

The Civil Service must be accountable, responsive, and focused on delivering value for the public. Reform should ensure that decisions are made efficiently, responsibilities are clear, and taxpayers can have confidence that public services are being managed properly. It is important to remember that public institutions exist to serve the people of the Isle of Man, reflecting their needs and priorities.

Fairer Taxation and National Insurance Reform

Taxation must be fair, balanced, and transparent. Our system should ensure that low- and middle-income earners keep more of what they earn, allowing them to reinvest in the Island's economy and strengthen local spending. At the same time, it should protect the most vulnerable, support working people, encourage enterprise, and ensure that everyone contributes fairly to the services our Island depends on. Crucially, our tax framework must also remain competitive and attractive, helping sustain investment, innovation, and long-term prosperity for the Isle of Man.

Health Service Budgetary Control

Our health service must be properly funded, but it must also be managed with discipline, and effective oversight. Public money must be spent wisely, frontline services must be protected, and patients must receive the care they need when they need it. Strong budgetary control is essential if we are to maintain a health service that is both compassionate and sustainable.

My campaign will be grounded in listening to residents, speaking honestly, and standing firmly for the issues that matter most to individuals, families, farmers, local businesses, and communities across Ayre and Michael. I believe the Isle of Man's greatest strength lies in its people: their skills, resilience, enterprise, and sense of community. If we place those strengths at the heart of decision-making, we can build a more confident, prosperous, and united future for our Island.

In the weeks ahead, I look forward to meeting residents across the constituency, listening carefully to their views, and setting out a positive case for stronger, more responsive representation for Ayre and Michael.

In the meantime, should you have any questions or queries or want to discuss matters that are important to you please email me. I will also be making myself available in person.

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