

has evolved, but it still provides the safety net needed by a caring society. Those on middle incomes have been squeezed to the extent that many now find it difficult to support themselves and their families. I want a change so that incentives for self-support and personal improvement are available to everyone, not just those on low incomes.

Support for further education and help with care in later years needs to be improved -the benefits of increased earning capacity and the ability to pass something to future generations have been eroded and now need to be recovered. Ultimately, this is good for our economy, and the short-sighted policies which damage the ability of people to improve their status must be changed.

### Self-sufficiency

I believe that the Isle of Man should do all it can to maximise the use of its natural resources. We have reached the stage where developments in technology mean that energy from renewable sources such as wind and wave power is a realistic option. We are gifted with an abundance of both and I want a change in energy strategy to put us at the forefront

of harnessing these elements in an ecologically friendly way. Farming still has a place in the Manx economy, and has to be recognised for the contribution it makes - it is vital that agriculture is supported and developed to meet our future demands.

### Faith

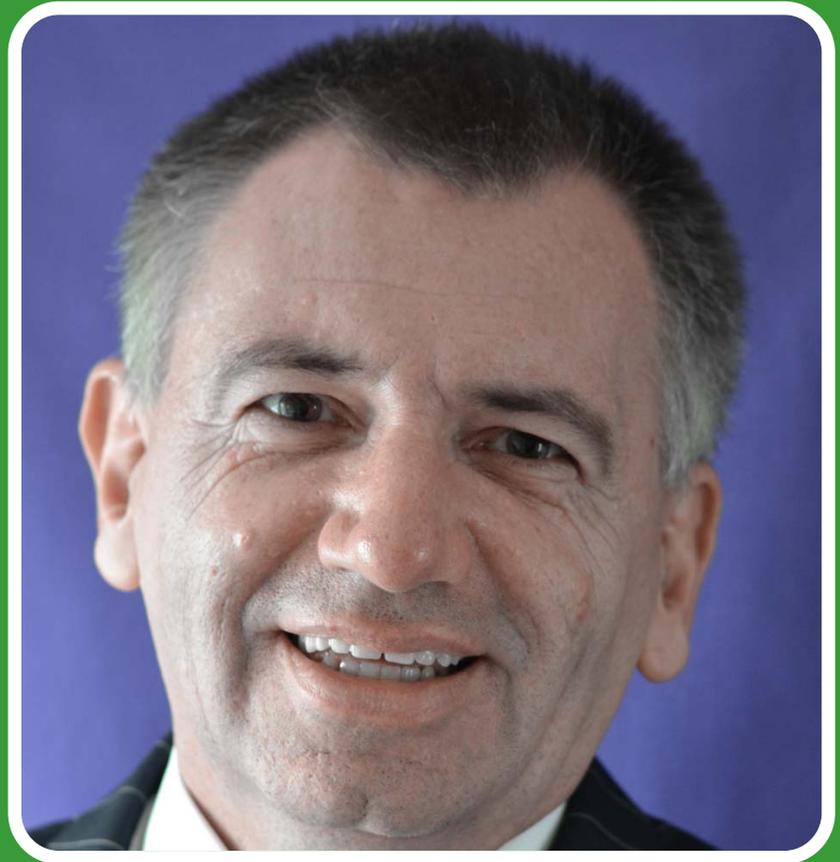
Above all, I believe that the people of this Island have lost faith in their national politicians, and it is the job of whoever is elected to the next House of Keys to change that view. It can be done, and it must be done if we are to move on from the position we are in now. I fully support the recommendations of Lord Lisvane, and believe the electorate of this Island have the right to expect their national government to be effective at all levels.

**If you cast your vote for me on September 22nd, I will take your expectations with me to the House of Keys. My mandate from you will be to change things for the better.**

Thank you

*Tim Craig*

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# Tim Craig for ONCHAN

**HOUSE OF KEYS GENERAL ELECTION  
THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2016**

# MY VISION

**I believe that Tynwald and Government must return to their primary functions - the provision of strong legislation and robust national infrastructure. We need to support growth in our economy to attain the high standard of living to which our population aspires. The introspection and inefficiency of the last five years has to change, and the focus in future must be on providing public services in a way that gives every taxpayer the best value for their contribution, large or small. To do this, we must have a legislature that has a sound understanding of its task, and is not be afraid of decisive action as it works toward improving life for the people of this Island.**

## About me

I'm 56, have lived in Onchan for most of my adult life and raised my family here. For the past ten years I have been Deputy Clerk to Onchan District Commissioners. My role involves managing our social housing and taking senior responsibility for human resources, as well as deputising for the Chief Executive. I have managed the authority when either there was no Chief Executive in post or he was on long-term leave. As part of my personal development I have become a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing and a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute. To achieve this I have had to demonstrate leadership skills at the highest level, and I will take these abilities with me into Tynwald and Government should I be elected.

## Government: National vs. Local

There has been a suggestion that more direct democracy should be introduced into Manx politics through increased public involvement. That this has been put forward at all demonstrates both the level of disengagement between national and local government, and the inability of those currently elected as national politicians to take responsibility for decisions. Direct democracy already exists at local level, and I make no apologies for declaring my support for local government on this Island. I have seen that it truly delivers accountable services to each resident and business within its district. I have also seen that the same cannot be said for services delivered through central government. I want to act as an agent for change by bringing the knowledge I have gained at one of the largest

authorities on the Island into the wider arena of central government, rebuilding the link between the two. I believe that - despite protestations to the contrary - local government has been hamstrung and dragged into the web of bureaucracy that currently binds our national decision makers. Local government now needs to be nurtured and supported to make it a truly independent and effective servant of its people. There is a place for services to be provided at both national and local level, but this should not be at the expense of flexibility and the accountability of local politicians. My goal, should I be elected, is for enhanced local authorities providing a wide range of cost-effective services, and for a central government sharply focused on providing national infrastructure and strong legislation to support growth in the economy.

## Finance and the Economy

We continue to face hard times, not helped by poor financial management of projects by central government set against a background of diminishing returns from the common purse agreement with the UK. I know that if there was an easy answer to our situation the problems would have been solved by now,

but this is the time to publically set in place a strategy which defines how we tackle the issues. We now need to plan for a long-term recovery which will involve fighting hard in the international arena against those who treat all offshore financial centres as targets to be eliminated. The Isle of Man has worked hard to establish a robust regulatory framework befitting a well administered jurisdiction. I want a change in approach which publicises that effort time and again to the point where the Isle of Man is recognised globally as one of the premier financial centres in which to do business. I can only interpret any intervention in our affairs by the UK government - especially after the Brexit vote - as a hostile defence of its own position and that of the City of London. Adverse comment from any other nation has to be viewed with the same jaundiced eye. There is room in the marketplace for all well regulated jurisdictions, and the louder and harder we make our case is the better our economy can grow.

## Government and the Individual

In my professional life I have seen the personal and family struggles created by this Government's attempts at rebalancing the finances of the Island. The support for those on low incomes