

## **Rep. Kobayashi Takayuki Policy Vision — “The LDP will be reborn”**

### **Economy: “An all-Japan effort to get Japan’s economy on an ‘upward current’”**

- “The economy takes precedence over finances.” Giving people a real sense that their “lives will improve” through a virtuous cycle of “increased investment, income growth, and consumption growth.”
- The “**New Nippon Innovation Plan**,” in which national and local governments work as one team to create strategic industrial centers throughout Japan that will become the “source of livelihood,” “breadwinners,” and “dream of the youth” in the new era.
- The public and private sectors work together to realize an increase in income for younger people and the middle class.
- A policy package for inflation relief and support for increased profits among small- and medium-sized businesses through more equal collaboration between large and small businesses.
- A realistic power supply mix for stable and inexpensive power supply in an era of increasing power demand.
- Toward a country that makes earnings from digital services (creating a balance of payments surplus in digital services).
- Fostering opportunities for startups to take on challenges through a “Japanese version of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS)” with long-term commitment of government procurement.
- Expanding budget for food security and making agriculture, forestry, and fisheries a profitable industry.

### **Security/Foreign Policy: “Toward a ‘Japan that is trusted and needed by the world’”**

- A new diplomatic strategy — the “**BRIDGE**” Initiative in which Japan serves as a “bridge” providing tangible benefits for world peace and future innovation. Implementing projects including Global South strategy and industrial policies, avoiding division and “bridging” developed countries and the Global South.
- Fundamental reinforcement of defense capabilities to protect Japan/fundamental reinforcement of intelligence functions to reinforce ability to collect information.
- Formulating an “**Economic Security Strategy**” and a new public-private framework to ensure that the country will not be swayed left and right by the actions of other countries.

### **Public Policy/Social Welfare: “Toward a country where there are no generational or regional divisions, where people can experience ‘hope’ and ‘security’”**

- Social security system reform leading to “security” and “national vitality,” with regard to universal pensions, medical care, long-term care, child rearing, and measures to address the declining birth rate.
- Crafting an “**Action Plan to Address the Declining Population**” with full cooperation of the national and local governments.

- Developing a comprehensive education and human resource development foundation from “preschool education” to “lifelong learning”/establishing a **“fully government-sponsored study abroad system.”**
- Disaster prevention, disaster mitigation, and building national resilience, including reviewing assumptions and strengthening countermeasures for the Nankai Trough great earthquake, etc.

### **Other Key Policies**

- Establishing a **“2050 National Strategy Review Council”** to discuss aforementioned policies and vision/policies toward 2050.
- “An LDP that listens to the people and can be seen by the people”
  - Fraud will be dealt with strictly.
  - There will be no reversal in course from abolishing political factions.
  - Policy activity fees will be scrapped altogether. The so-called correspondence fees will be disclosed publicly. Reform measures like setting up a third-party body (oversight) will be carried out.
  - Steps will be taken to create a fresh and open, dynamic personnel appointment system and decision making framework, including the selection process for district branch chiefs (who become endorsed candidates).
- Realizing Constitutional amendments toward “self-reliance”
  - Amending the Constitution is a challenge that cannot be delayed any further. The key to politics is national crisis management. The LDP will put forth the insertion of an emergency situations clause and the inclusion of the JSDF (in Article Nine) as priority items for citizens to vote on in a referendum.

## **Rep. Kobayashi Takayuki Policy Document — “Toward a country that leads the world. The LDP will be reborn”**

I want to create a society that Japanese citizens can feel a sense of hope and dream in and a Japan that leads the world. I want to create a Japan that is truly autonomous and does not move left and right at every move made by other countries. I want to create a Japan that is trusted and felt needed by the world.

The steps we take in the next few years will determine the future of Japan in the coming decades. There is no time to waste. We must formulate a vision and move forward. For this, I will craft a “National Strategy 2050” keeping in mind Japan in 2050.

The LDP will also courageously throw out old traditions that don’t fit with the times.

The LDP will be reborn. Japan will be reborn. Toward new heights and new distances.

### **Three Pillars to Work on Immediately**

1. Rebirth: Party reform toward modernizing the LDP
  - Establish a “Party Modernization Implementation HQ” (provisional) and make concrete steps to be taken by the next party convention. Modernization refers to personnel appointment, finances, management, and adherence to the law. Additionally work on the “modernization of the Diet.”
  - Abolish or annually disclose policy activity fees. Disclose and mandate return of remaining balance of what used to be called correspondence fees.
  - Regularly hold fireside chats and external checks to ensure party management that reflects citizen voices and can be held accountable by the public.
2. Making livelihoods bright: Realizing higher incomes for the middle class “in the center”
  - Drastic investment in rural areas through the “New Nippon Innovation Plan” and other initiatives toward the improvement of rural employment creation and income. Craft a ten-year public-private investment plan and take the initiative to secure funding for national investment.
  - Craft a comprehensive inflation relief package by the end of the year.
  - Examine and revise “workstyle reform” to fulfill the desire to “work more.” Promote “labor mobility without unemployment” by reinforcing reskilling and matching functions.
  - Revise the “income barrier” to contribute to the increase in household income.
  - Thoroughly implement cost transfers and fundamentally reform the Subcontract Act to realize wage hikes.

- Achieve wage hikes for elderly care/nursing/nursery workers — jobs that rural workers and youth tend to take (introduce a “working conditions improvement rule exceeding inflation).
  - Enhance the scope of free nursery and higher education and private sector scholarships (tax deductions).
  - Make concrete a “third path” aiming to reduce the insurance fee burden on younger generations. Establish a “Future of Social Security Council” (provisional).
  - Develop policies like enhancing iDeCo to ensure the benefits of increased financial income accrue to the middle-class, which is working hard.
  - Focus on expanding the budget for food security and vitalizing rural, mountain, and fishing villages and revising price mechanisms toward improving farming income.
3. Protection: Japan’s peace and security and history and traditions
- Amending the Constitution cannot be delayed any longer. Make every effort to realize this as soon as possible.
  - Fundamentally reinforce defense capabilities by fundamentally reinforcing the defense industrial base and human capital base, pursuing defense equipment cooperation with neighboring countries, etc.
  - Craft a new diplomatic strategy “BRIDGE.” Maintain international order through the strengthening of coordination with the Global South.
  - Craft the first “economic security strategy.”
  - Aim to fundamentally improve information/intelligence functions by working on measures like establishing a new information/intelligence bureau.
  - Take every possible measure toward the swift resolution of the abductions issue.
  - Work on revising disaster projections, crafting the next medium-term plan as soon as possible, and reinforcing the central command function for disaster prevention toward the acceleration of national resilience.

### **Party Reform — The modernization of the LDP**

- “The LDP can be reborn.” Toward a party where citizens can be heard and see the party.
  - Recover trust in politics and return to the founding principles of the party of “politics for the people.”
  - Reform the LDP so that people can once again “entrust the nation to the LDP.”
- “Modernizing the party”
  - Thoroughly run a faction-less campaign. On top of that, manage the party in a modern way that is not beholden to former factions and generations. Immediately set up a “Party Modernization Implementation HQ” (provisional) and make concrete the measures to be taken by the next party convention.
  - Personnel — Establish an open and vibrant system based on policies and skills.

- Finances — Improve transparency of political funding by abolishing or annually disclosing policy activity fees and introducing external screening.
- Management — Regularly hold fireside chats and external checks to ensure party management that reflects citizen voices and can be held accountable by the public.
- Adherence to the Law — Respond strictly to unlawful acts and strictly manage punishments and personnel appointments for violators.
- “Modernizing the Diet”
  - Lead discussions with other parties toward Diet reform so that Diet members and government officials can focus on policy making for the people. Work toward holding regular leader debates and strengthening communications with the public.

### **Economy — Positioning Japan on an upward current, toward an economy where people can feel safe and fulfilled**

The livelihoods of Japanese citizens come first above all else. The goal is to ensure people across the country feel that “their lives are improving.” I will thoroughly support realizing wage hikes and fostering an environment for that.

Our country must overcome challenges such as labor shortages, challenges to secure raw materials, and structural issues on the supply side related to the lack of creation of new value. I will first work to fundamentally reinforce our economy’s supply capacity through drastic and proactive/strategic investments based on a new industrial policy that combines new ideas and fiscal stimulus.

In addition to investments, there is a need to accelerate structural wage hikes to expand incomes and consumption. For this, I will thoroughly require cost transfers that reflect the product’s value.

Through these, I aim to structurally improve the international balance of payments, the social security system, and other areas through the foundational recovery of Japan’s growth capacity. Japan can lead the world if it provides solutions to problems it faces like depopulation and an aging society. I aim to vitalize the Japanese economy by creating a flow of funds that makes use of innovative efforts by the private sector and rural areas toward resolving social challenges.

The baseline approach is “economy over finances.” Finances exist only if an economy prospers and finances can be improved by increasing tax revenue via a strong economy. Fiscal management that does not get in the way of economic expansion is a precondition.

#### *Two Major Projects*

1. “New Nippon Innovation Plan”

- Identify strategic areas that Japan has strengths in or should have strengths in, such as semiconductors, automobiles, green, aerospace, marine, materials, finance, data industry, smart agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Marshal budget, taxation, regulations to drastically invest in rural areas and create industrial clusters for a new era across the country.
2. Realizing a “New Digital Japan”
- Realize profitability (surplus) in digital services, toward a country that can make money in the digital domain
  - Digitalize services toward a country that does not suffer under depopulation and labor shortages
    - Establish an “advanced AI nation” realization program toward the most advanced society in the world in developing and implementing AI.
    - Fundamentally expand computational resources by developing data centers, etc. Develop a semiconductor supply chain for these efforts.
    - Proceed with supply chain and talent development toward the swift implementation of quantum computing.
    - Fundamentally review rules and regulations that prevent the introduction of new technologies.

*Thoroughly Support Profit Recovery for SMEs*

- Strong support across the board for efforts to transfer costs toward wage hikes all around. No tolerance for the mistreatment of subcontractors and fundamentally revise the Subcontract Act.
- Support investment in conservation for SMEs and others suffering under labor shortages.
- Work on enhancing management support for small businesses facing a multitude of challenges, establishing a new support mechanism for growing SMEs, enhancing support measures for business succession and reorganization, and the vitalization of shopping streets.
- Achieve wage hikes for elderly care/nursing/nursery workers — jobs that rural workers and youth tend to take (introduce a “working conditions improvement rule exceeding inflation”).
- Introduce an inflation relief package by the end of the year.

*Energy — Stable and Cheap Electricity Supply That Responds to Large Energy Demand*

- Work toward restarting, updating, and constructing new nuclear power plants with safety certification. Maintain the nuclear fuel cycle policy.
- Secure electricity supply toward the future and suppress rising electricity costs.

- Promote domestic renewable energy. Work on reinforcing perovskite and offshore wind generation supply chains and talent development. Accelerate the maximal use of hydro and geothermal generation.
- Support drastic testing and development of hydrogen-related technologies, small modular reactors, and nuclear fusion generators toward future exports.
- Drastically revise the nation's Basic Energy Plan and compile a new plan by the end of the year.

#### *Innovation — The Foundations of Japan's Economic Growth*

- Reinforce startup support
  - Work on accelerating the Startup Development Five-year Plan, financial market and trading reform like vitalizing secondary markets, strengthening flows from long-term operation funds like GPIF, and supporting impact startups, etc. Establish a “Japanese version of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS)” so startups can utilize government procurement to grow too.
- Promote the growth of the space industry
  - Establish a “Space Agency” (provisional) within the Cabinet Office as the central command post for space policy. Support development by adding to the ¥1 trillion strategic space fund.
- Fundamental reinforcement of the drug discovery industry
  - Strengthen the drug discovery ecosystem and the government's command functions by reinforcing public-private coordination. Drastically support healthcare startups in the medical and elderly care fields. Swiftly develop “Genomics Japan” and make the drug discovery industry in genome medicine top class in the world.

#### **Foreign Policy/Security — Foreign policy/security to realize peace and prosperity**

1. Foreign Policy and Security to “Protect Peace”
  - Reinforcement of defense capabilities
    - Surely execute the “National Security Strategy.” Protect Japan's peace and security.
    - Execute the ¥43 trillion Defense Buildup Plan, including the acquisition of counterstrike capabilities, to improve deterrence capabilities. Respond to ensure there are no negative impacts on procuring necessary defense equipment due to the depreciation of the yen, etc.
    - Develop a strong and sustainable defense industry and secure the stable procurement of defense equipment. Accelerate the transfer of defense equipment abroad.
    - Improve the work conditions for JSDF personnel, including by enhancing allowances and fundamentally improving work and living conditions.

- Submit legislation to the Diet this year to implement active cyber defense. Set up a minister in charge of this area and fundamentally strengthen the functions of the Cybersecurity Strategic HQs.
  - Diplomacy to protect peace and prosperity
    - Move forward a new diplomatic strategy “BRIDGE,” in which Japan serves as a “bridge” between the Global South and advanced countries and leads the world in a unique way, not led by the United States or China.
    - Realize a “free and open Indo-Pacific” through the strong alliance with the United States and strengthening coordination with many like-minded countries, as the international order is shaken.
    - Reinforce the Japan-U.S. alliance in every field at all levels, including space, cyber, and information security, to improve deterrence and responsiveness.
    - Expand opportunities for Japanese nationals to thrive in international institutions and strengthen Japan’s presence within the international community.
    - Resolutely oppose attempts to “unilaterally change the status quo by force” by China, etc.
  - Fundamental improvement of information/intelligence functions
    - Fundamentally reinforce the Cabinet Intelligence and Research Office and establish a new information/intelligence bureau. Also consider establishing an intelligence agency.
  - Effective improvement of civilian protection
    - Carry out revisions to effectively improve systems like for strengthening coordination between the national and local governments, constructing shelters, and protecting Japanese nationals abroad.
  - Swift resolution of the abductions issue
    - The “abductions” by North Korea are an intolerable and cruel violation of human rights and a violation of sovereignty. As the victims’ families age and time is running out, there cannot be any further delay. For the return of abductees as soon as possible, take every measure necessary beyond the box of established actions.
2. Economic Security for the Stability and Development of People’s Livelihood
- Craft the nation’s first “economic security strategy” from the perspective of heightening Japan’s “strategic autonomy” and “strategic indispensability” and securing national interest and security from an economic lens. Establish measures to prevent technological leaks, including by taking measures against foreign espionage. Reinforce energy security through the stable procurement of resources and food security. In addition, establish economic security in times of crisis.
  - Thoroughly protect and prevent leaks of intellectual property (including agricultural products) like critical technologies.



- Craft a “Data Act” related to the use of data in accordance with progress in DX and generative AI, as well as in the data-usage society.
- Lead international rulemaking and harness it for economic development. Craft an “International Standards Strategy.”

**Regional Nation Building — Japan’s strengths are in regions. Japan cannot develop without regional vitality**

1. Food Security and the Vitalization of Rural, Mountain, and Fishing Villages
  - Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries serve as an important pillar for regional economies. The culture and traditions, practices, and festivals borne out of rural, mountain, and fishing villages make up regional society. At the same time, food security is an immediate and important issue as global instability for food production happens. Develop a sustainable food system that realizes sustainable and appropriate price mechanisms.
    - Establish food security that protects the lives and health of Japanese citizens. Improve productivity and incomes via measures including the stable procurement of food and the reinforcement of crisis response, securing farmland and promoting appropriate and effective use, developing agricultural infrastructure, and smart agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.
    - Work on developing diverse talent to support rural, mountain, and fishing villages and the creation of “activity” utilizing regional resources, supporting the development and growth of region-leading food industry firms, maintaining and expanding fisheries resources through appropriate management, the industrialization of the fisheries industry through measures like structural reform of fishing boat fishing and developing market-in style breeding industry, enhancing “multi-functional performance” and measures to address bird and animal damage.
    - Develop an environmentally friendly, sustainable food system strategy by developing a “Green Food System Strategy,” promoting the circular use of forests through the enhancement of timber reuse, etc.
    - Promote the global development of Japan’s agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and food products through the needs-based identification export destinations, development of strategic supply chains, and the protection and utilization of IP.
2. National Resilience and the Creation/Maximization of Regional Power
  - Accelerate national resilience
    - Swiftly craft the next medium-term plan, including risk screening and disaster prevention, public infrastructure repairment and updates, as well as revise the anticipated damages from the Nankai trough earthquake, to protect peoples’ lives

and livelihoods in a disaster-prone country. Aim to strengthen central command functions of the government. Enhance the fire department.

- Recovery and reconstruction from the Noto Peninsula earthquake
  - Accelerate recovery and innovatively support the reconstruction of Noto that respects and develops its unique characteristics.
- Reconstruction of Fukushima
  - Resolutely make efforts to counteract negative misinformation on the treated water. Make efforts toward scrapping power plants and lifting the evacuation order, as well as the revival of livelihoods. Make efforts to continue long-term support for the prefecture following the end of the Second Reconstruction and Revitalization period at the end of 2025.
- Develop logistics/human flow infrastructure to maximize regional power
  - Update and construct new logistics/human flow infrastructure, like roads, bullet trains, airports and ports, to maximize regional power. Proceed with quality control, cost transfers, support for conservation, revolutionary construction methods toward the sustainable acquisition of workers.
- Tourism-oriented country
  - Utilize the power of inbound tourism in areas like food, arts and crafts, purchase of artwork, culture, rural, and nature experiences to vitalize Japan. Reduce the burden of tourism. Support transition toward high value-added local tourism.
- Vitalizing remote islands/peninsulas, measures to counter depopulation
  - Support new ventures like moving to and starting businesses, and working on farms in disadvantageous areas. Fundamentally revise the Peninsular Areas Development Act and aim for “peninsular resilience.” Protect the freedom of mobility by maintaining regional public transportation and gas stations.
- Protect Japan’s plentiful natural environment
  - Develop legislation to address the current situation in which foreigners can easily obtain rights to and sell water sources and mountains/forests.
- Dispersion-style nation building
  - Comprehensively review the decade of regional revitalization, while proceeding with “dispersion-style nation building” through measures like enhancing and uplifting local universities and businesses and developing a backup system for capital functions to prevent the vulnerabilities of overconcentration.
- Realizing a culture-oriented country
  - Promote public-private cultural investments to international levels. Tie cultural vitalization of regions to value-add for the country, including the preservation and utilization of cultural heritage, succession and revolutionization of food culture and traditional arts and industry, and vitalization of the contents industry through creator support and developing a media arts and crafts center.

## **Education/Children/Social Security — Toward a country where society is not divided and people can feel “hope” and “peace of mind”**

### **1. Education/Children — Investing in the Next Generation**

- Education as a “source” of national power
  - Develop an integrated education/talent development foundation from nursery education to re-learning throughout the life cycle.
  - Revitalize high-quality public education and undergo education reform so that everyone feels the “happiness of learning.”
  - Abolish education fee burden by drastically enhancing the scope of free education for low-income households and families with multiple children. Expand the tax deduction for businesses providing scholarships.
  - Realize an improvement in working conditions for teachers, workstyle reform, and a package to reduce the burden on teachers to foster an environment in which they can engage with students more.
  - With the anticipation that each student has one GIGA device, craft new learning instruction guidelines including the deepening of on-the-job training for “tailor-made learning” and “cooperative learning.”
  - Fundamentally enhance opportunities to engage with nature to develop children’s ability to live.
  - Support the establishment of a completely state-funded study abroad program to support study abroad and encourage correct understanding of modern history toward developing talent that can thrive on the global stage.
  - Enhance liberal arts education that develops “motivations” and “core” of people.
  - Fundamentally reinforce higher education, including through the revitalization of the basic research, which serves as the foundation for the development of science.
  - Promote coordination between education and welfare by enhancing special needs education and supporting children with disabilities.
  - Protect children from bullying. Enhance support for students who refuse to attend school.
- “Children in the center”/support child-rearing generation
  - Thoroughly support the stable employment, increase in income, and improvement of working conditions for child-rearing generations. Reduce the physical burden by reducing economic costs, providing consultations and supporting child-rearing, and enhancing drop-off locations for children. Marshal the strengths of the nation, municipalities, regions, medical and welfare systems to reverse the depopulation trend before the point of no return said to be around the first half of the 2030s.

### **2. Reviving “Happiness of Working”**

- Examine/revise “workstyle reform” — fulfill the desire to “work more.”

- Immediately consider measures like a framework to selectively loosen regulations on the over-time labor cap in industries with severe labor shortages, industries that require time to obtain skills, startups, and other areas, on the assumption that there are labor union agreements, the individuals' consent, measures to manage health, wage hikes, and other measures in place. Promote "labor mobility without unemployment" by strengthening reskilling and matching functions.
- Support for the employment ice age generation
  - Craft new measures to replace the "Second Stage" support program set to end this year through an interdisciplinary team of the government, local governments, and the private sector.
- Revise the "income barrier"
  - Aim to secure talent and increase household income by resolving the situation in which the so-called "¥1.3 million barrier" creates labor shortages and no difference in disposable income despite an increase in salary.
- Promote women's active engagement
  - Move forward with women's active engagement efforts to ensure appropriate income based on skills and experience. Strengthen response to health issues specific to women (lunar paraneoplasia, gynecological cancer, menopausal syndrome, etc.). Consider steps to be taken for legislation to follow up on the Act Promoting Women's Active Engagement, which expires at the end of FY 2025.

### 3. Social Security for a New Era

- Make concrete a "third path" aiming to reduce the insurance fee burden on younger generations. Establish a "Future of Social Security Council" (provisional). The Council will make progress on 1) the appropriate distribution of human and physical resources based on data, 2) health management through robots, AI, apps, etc., 3) "shaping health" like health check-ups, prevention, rehabilitation, counteracting frailness and dementia, as well as incentives for actions and results, and 4) reducing medical/elderly care demand through measures like cutting costs via effective and efficient provision of services through DX. All ideas will be on the table to create a social security system for a new era while sharing the general approach with citizens.
- Develop a support system for working population injuries and illnesses, the cause of concern for families and others, and support the working population through medical services. In addition, lead the world in the medical health sector through DX and innovation.
- Redress regional discrepancies in doctors and medical fees to secure medical care access. Also reform the management of medical institutions with the assumption that public services are provided in a stable manner. Secure talent in the medical, elderly care, and disabilities welfare areas.

- Establish a regional comprehensive care system based on the unique characteristics of each region toward realizing a society in which people can live life to the fullest in areas they are familiar with.
- Proceed with cancer treatment and multidisciplinary research support, while making efforts to prevent kidney disease and allergy-induced diseases from worsening and promoting the utilization of transplant surgery.
- Support ventures by people with disabilities through sporting events like the 2025 Tokyo Deaflympics, art, and diverse employment opportunities toward an inclusive society.

### **Amending the Constitution**

- Next year is the milestone 70th anniversary of the founding of the LDP. We must determine our country's future in the new era alongside the public. Amending the Constitution is one of the most important issues that cannot be delayed any further. I understand the entire process having served as a director on the Lower House Commission for the Constitution for many years. My desire on this matter is stronger than others. Considering the key to politics is “crisis management,” a new emergency situations clause and insertion of the JSDF into the text is of utmost importance. I will submit draft amendments and realize amendments to the Constitution as quickly as possible. I will make every effort to make it happen.

### **Imperial Succession**

- The history of the Imperial bloodline that has lasted over 126 emperors has been maintained by the various efforts of our ancestors. It is the foundation and character of our nation. Imperial succession should be kept to a male from the male lineage. We have a responsibility to ensure the long tradition of the Imperial family is passed on to future generations. Discussions on stable Imperial succession and securing the Imperial household should be done with sincerity among political parties and should not be used as a political tool or to divide the country into two.