

Rep. Shinjiro Koizumi Policy Vision — “Settling [Issues] to Open the Doors to a New Era”

Agenda Items for the Presidential Election

- Can the LDP really change? Who can change the LDP?
- A leader who can absolutely accelerate reform, rather than a leader who proposes reform.
- Change Japanese politics that has been left behind in changes to the world.
- Settle challenges that were discussed for a long time but have no conclusion.
- Realize politics where individual voices for change are heard and not just changes to big challenges.
- As prime minister, an election will be called immediately as a vote of confidence on the government.

Political Reform

- Abolish policy activity fees for the transparency of political funding. Disclose what is formerly known as the correspondence fee and return remaining balance to national coffers.
- A vote of confidence over the political fundraising problem. Will undergo stringent screening of implicated Diet members to determine endorsements in an election.

Regulatory Reform Without Boundaries

- Revise regulations on firing employees, the centerpiece of labor market reform.
- Fully approve of ridesharing services to resolve the issue of rural travel.

Enhancing Life's Options

- Enhance the options in life for every individual by implementing measures like introducing separate surnames for married couples, abolishing the “income barrier,” and revising labor hour regulations.

Amending the Constitution

- Hold the first national referendum in post-war history.
- Next year is the 70th anniversary since the founding of the LDP. Keep the promise of the party since its founding.

Understanding of Japan's Current Situation

- Japan is in a state of decline. Japan's influence in the international community is on the decline under the severe international environment.
- The reason for Japan's decline is the feeling of closedness in society as a whole and the lack of dynamism.

- “Extend the needle that sticks out” “Accepting failure” “Anyone can start up again.” Bring back the spirit of acceptance and dynamism to Japanese society.
- Be determined and move forward with things that need to be done toward a country that has a bright future.
- Toward a country where no one feels small and can live freely according to their own feelings rather than what others think.

Political Reform

- The first step will be political reform to regain citizen’s understanding.
 - Promote three reforms together: transparency of political funding, LDP reform, and Diet reform
1. Transparency of Political Funding
 - Abolish the policy activity fee, which enables the non-disclosure of use.
 - For what is formerly known as correspondence fees, require disclosure of use and a refund of remaining balances.
 2. LDP Reform
 - Diet members who were implicated in the political fundraising scandal must fulfill their responsibilities to explain their position to the citizens and will not be appointed to leadership positions until they win in an election.
 - Dissolve the Lower House and ask for voters to judge the party. The new leadership will strictly determine endorsements for implicated Diet members based on 1) whether they fulfilled their responsibilities to explain to the public, 2) whether they have made efforts to introduce countermeasures, and reflecting the opinions of local organizations and voters.
 - Personnel appointments will be by merit. Create a framework in which skilled Diet members, regardless of terms in office, can take positions of responsibility.
 3. Diet Reform
 - Ban binding of the prime minister and Cabinet ministers to the Diet. Thoroughly promote digitalization.
 - Promote workstyle reform for government bureaucrats. Develop a framework where highly skilled talent can come together.
 - Ensure compliance with notification of questions and reduce overtime work for bureaucrats.

Regulatory Reform Without Boundaries

- Fully approve ridesharing services.
- Revise regulations on firing employees, the centerpiece of labor market reform.

- Develop a framework to dramatically expand startups.

Enhancing Life's Options

- Submit legislation to the Diet approving of separate surnames for married couples and proceed with national discussions.
- Abolish the “income barrier” which cuts back disposable income despite work. Revise the system so that welfare pensions apply to all active workers in principle.
- Consider loosening restrictions on labor hours. Consider flexible employment of overtime work regulations.

Challenging Toward the Next 80 Years

- Execute political reform, regulatory reform, and enhancing options within one year.
- Beyond that, take up the challenge of medium- to long-term structural reform with an eye toward the next 80 years.

1. Strong Economy

- As the world heads into competition between large powers, Japan must bring back a strong economy.
- Reinforce a framework that supports new challenges as a society.
- Work toward the fundamental reform of strengthening startup support, revising universities, and the education system.
- Even in an environment of inflation and interest rates, strengthen the characteristics of the Japanese economy toward economic growth.
- Work toward supporting low-income earners and small- and medium-sized enterprises affected by higher prices
- As prime minister, would instruct the consideration of an economic policy package

2. Strong Diplomacy

- With a strong economy as the foundation, promote “strong diplomacy” to ride out the severe international situation.
- Accelerate Japan’s own defense reinforcements. Swiftly realize 2 percent of GDP on defense spending.
- Strengthen and level up the Japan-U.S. alliance, the foundation of Japan’s diplomacy.
- Expand and deepen security and defense industrial base cooperation, as well as trade and economic security coordination with like-minded countries like Australia.
- Strengthen the network toward a “free and open Indo-Pacific” and “peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific,” while protecting the free and open international order.
- Promote summit-level strategic diplomacy. Take an open approach to direct dialogue with China and North Korea.

- The abduction issue cannot be prolonged further. Look for the appropriate setting for honest, direct talks between leaders from the same generation.
3. Amending the Constitution
- Amending the Constitution is a priority issue for creating a new Japan.
 - The LDP was founded 70 years ago to amend the Constitution. The situation in which discussions continue and nothing changes cannot persist any longer.
 - The four provisions — inserting the JSDF, the emergency situations clause, dissolving at-large districts, and enhancing education — are desired by this current era.
 - Make every effort to promote discussions on the matter in the Diet and swiftly proceed with submission to the Diet and a national referendum once the environment is set.