

Hans Ströbele

Ströbele studied law and political science at Heidelberg University and at the Free University of Berlin.<sup>1,3</sup> In 1967, he was a trainee lawyer in the offices of the lawyer Horst Mahler.<sup>2</sup> He practiced law from 1969 in Berlin.<sup>3</sup>

From 1977, Ströbele was involved in founding the left-wing daily newspaper Die Tageszeitung.<sup>6</sup>

In 1983, Ströbele was convicted by the Berlin District Court of supporting terrorist groups through his smuggling of information between members serving in prison.<sup>7,4</sup> The Court concluded that Ströbele had significantly assisted in keeping the groups active during their leaders' time in prison.<sup>7</sup>

Ströbele co-founded the "Alternative List for Democracy and Environmental Protection," a predecessor to the Berlin chapter of the Greens.<sup>3</sup> He was a member of the Bundestag from 31 March 1985 until 1987 (the end of the term).<sup>3</sup> On the Berlin state level, he helped facilitate the red-green coalition of 1989/1990.<sup>8</sup>

Ströbele became the party's spokesman in June 1990 but he stood down in February 1991 after opposing the Persian Gulf War.<sup>6</sup> This included opposition to the delivery of Patriot missiles to Israel during an official visit of the party to that country.<sup>9</sup> As of 1992 he continued as assemblyman of the Greens in the Tiergarten borough of Berlin.<sup>10</sup>

In the federal elections of 2005 he won another direct mandate, now with a 43.2% majority of the votes. Given his local reputation, other parties tried to counter him with creative campaigns (notably Vera Lengsfeld's "We have more to offer") for the federal elections of 2009 but again Ströbele won the direct mandate, now by 46.8% of the vote and again with 39.9% in 2013.<sup>22</sup>

In 2011, Ströbele joined Gerhard Schick, Anton Hofreiter and Winfried Hermann in their successful 2011 constitutional complaint against the refusal of Chancellor Angela Merkel's government to provide information on the Deutsche Bahn and financial market supervision. In its judgment pronounced in 2017, the Federal Constitutional Court held that the government had indeed failed to fulfill its duty to give answers in response to parliamentary queries and to sufficiently substantiate the reasons.<sup>23</sup>

In December 2016, Ströbele announced that he would not stand in the 2017 federal elections but instead resign from active politics by the end of the parliamentary term.<sup>24</sup> In the 2017 election, Ströbele was succeeded by Alliance 90/The Greens candidate Canan Bayram in his former electoral district.<sup>25</sup>

Ströbele consistently voted against the participation of the German Bundeswehr in the NATO-led security

mission ISAF in Afghanistan. In 2010, he abstained from the vote on German participation in United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon but subsequently voted against its renewal.

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