

# The Georgist Journal

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## Guest Editorial

### NEED FOR A GEORGIST POLITICAL MOVEMENT

Massive efforts over the last 100 years by large numbers of Georgists have failed to bring about a sufficiently significant implementation of the economic policies we espouse. On the contrary, we have for many years been fighting a rearguard action to hold onto the reforms that were achieved.

We must therefore accept that the attempt to implement Georgist policies through the lobbying of the politicians and members of existing political parties, has largely failed. The following are amongst the reasons for these failures:

1) The attempt to influence the various political parties involves a massive dissipation of limited manpower.

2) Existing political parties have many other non-Georgist policies competing for their attention. These policies are often in direct contradiction with our beliefs.

3) The policy makers of the major parties do not have to undergo any stringent tests to verify whether they understand and accept the basic principles and policies of the party. So even if Georgist policies were written into the party programme, there is no guarantee that the party's parliamentarians would support the policies.

4) It is most likely that by the time we influence sufficient numbers of parliamentarians to make change possible, an election takes place in which many of them lose their seats or else they retire. We then have to start all over again.

5) Even when Georgist revenue reforms are introduced, it does not take many years for those that introduced the reforms to be replaced. The members that replace them are often not aware of why the reforms were introduced and do not understand them because there is nothing in the structure of existing political parties to ensure that the members are educated and trained in the policies of the party.

The advantages of starting a Georgist political movement would be as follows:

1) The energies of our membership could be concentrated on supporting more and more candidates of known Georgist persuasion instead of our energies being dissipated by trying to convert parliamentarians of other parties with a whole host of varying views on economics and politics.

2) We could ensure that decision-making members, as opposed to ordinary members, had a full understanding and acceptance of the policies and principles of the party. This would give the enormous strength of unity. It is better to have a smaller number of active decision-makers who are keen and united in approach, than a large number who have conflicting beliefs on major issues.

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