2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · CALIFORNIA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 1

Incumbent James Gallagher (R); Gallagher and Mike McGuire (D) advanced from the June 2 top-two primary. District lines redrawn for 2026 (Proposition 50).



James Gallagher

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative; former Republican Leader of the California State Assembly.



Mike McGuire

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

California state senator and former Senate President pro Tempore.

Where the candidates stand on the issues Pope Leo XIV has raised, in their own words and votes. Bracketed numbers link to sources. We do not rate, score, or endorse candidates.

WAR & PEACE

POPE LEO XIV *Leo invited citizens of every country involved in the war with Iran to contact their leaders and members of Congress "to work for peace and to reject war and violence."* Remarks at Castel Gandolfo, Apr. 7, 2026 (Vatican News via The Good Newsroom)

JAMES GALLAGHER

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Iran war powers resolutions, Mar.–Sept. 2026 (six House votes): **No** July, Sept.

MIKE MCGUIRE

No public position found.

AI & THE DIGNITY OF WORK

POPE LEO XIV *"No one can be reduced to productivity, to cognitive performance, or to mere data."* Magnifica Humanitas presentation, May 25, 2026

JAMES GALLAGHER

No public position found.

MIKE MCGUIRE

No public position found.

THE POOR & THE SAFETY NET

POPE LEO XIV *The preferential choice for the poor is "a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society."* Dilexi Te, Oct. 4, 2025

JAMES GALLAGHER

No public position found.

MIKE MCGUIRE

Campaign cites his work keeping rural hospitals open and expanding coverage, and pledges to "protect your healthcare" and make life more affordable.

[1] McGuire campaign site

ELECTIONS & CIVIC LIFE

POPE LEO XIV *Authentic democracy, "far from being a mere procedure," "recognizes the dignity of every person and calls each citizen to participate responsibly in the pursuit of the common good."* Message to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, Apr. 9, 2026

JAMES GALLAGHER

No public position found.

MIKE MCGUIRE

No public position found.

LIFE OF THE UNBORN

POPE LEO XIV *Abortion "cuts short a growing life and refuses to welcome the gift of life."* Address to the Diplomatic Corps, Jan. 9, 2026

JAMES GALLAGHER

No public position found.

MIKE MCGUIRE

Says he wants "to enshrine the right to reproductive health for every woman in California" and led efforts to keep California's Planned Parenthood health centers open after federal defunding.

[1] McGuire campaign site

THE DEATH PENALTY

POPE LEO XIV *Someone who opposes abortion but favors the death penalty "is not really pro-life."* AP via PBS NewsHour, Sept. 30, 2025

JAMES GALLAGHER

No public position found.

MIKE MCGUIRE

No public position found.

IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

POPE LEO XIV *"Defending human life also includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants."* Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026

JAMES GALLAGHER

No public position found.

MIKE MCGUIRE

No public position found.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY & EDUCATION

POPE LEO XIV *Religious freedom is "the right of every person to worship according to conscience."* Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026

JAMES GALLAGHER

No public position found.

MIKE MCGUIRE

No public position found.

CARE FOR CREATION

POPE LEO XIV *"We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures."* AP, Oct. 1, 2025

JAMES GALLAGHER

No public position found.

MIKE MCGUIRE

Campaign credits him with doubling state firefighters and investing "billions in wildfire prevention," and describes climate change as harming local communities.

[1] McGuire campaign site

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