2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · CALIFORNIA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 14

Incumbent Aisha Wahab (D), who won an August 2026 special election to succeed Eric Swalwell, faces fellow Democrat Melissa Hernandez after the June 2 top-two primary. District lines redrawn for 2026 (Proposition 50).



Melissa Hernandez

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Member of the BART Board of Directors since 2024.



Aisha Wahab

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since September 2026 (won August 2026 special election); former California state senator.

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)

MELISSA HERNANDEZ

No public position found.

AISHA WAHAB

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Iran war powers resolutions, Mar.–Sept. 2026 (six House votes): **Yes** Sept.

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

MELISSA HERNANDEZ

Supports "commonsense federal standards, not a 50 state patchwork" for AI and keeping tech and manufacturing jobs local.

[1] Hernandez issues

AISHA WAHAB

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

MELISSA HERNANDEZ

Would "restore insurance subsidies," protect Social Security and Medicare, and expand the Child Tax Credit.

[1] Hernandez issues

AISHA WAHAB

Says she will "lower costs, protect healthcare"; no further detail given.

[1] Ballotpedia: Aisha Wahab

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

MELISSA HERNANDEZ

No public position found.

AISHA WAHAB

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

MELISSA HERNANDEZ

Pledges to "fight to protect reproductive healthcare and restore reproductive freedom" and supports the Women's Health Protection Act.

[1] Hernandez issues

AISHA WAHAB

No public position found.

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

MELISSA HERNANDEZ

No public position found.

AISHA WAHAB

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

MELISSA HERNANDEZ

Says "ICE has become a symbol of an immigration system that's broken" and supports "a real pathway to citizenship for DREAMers and undocumented community members."

[1] Hernandez issues

AISHA WAHAB

Says she will "defend democracy, women's rights, civil rights, and immigrant families."

[1] Ballotpedia: Aisha Wahab

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

MELISSA HERNANDEZ

No public position found.

AISHA WAHAB

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

MELISSA HERNANDEZ

Supports a transition to renewable energy and "legislation that fully restores the Inflation Reduction Act."

[1] Hernandez issues

AISHA WAHAB

No public position found.

Full guide and every race in California: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/california/ · **Take the Pope Leo voter pledge:** standwithpopeleo.com/vote/

This guide does not endorse any candidate or party. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Positions are summarized from candidates' own statements, votes, and campaign materials, with sources linked. Published by *Letters from Leo*. Spot an error? Email cjh@christopherhale.com.