2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · CALIFORNIA · LETTERS FROM LEO

# U.S. House, District 26

Open seat (Julia Brownley not seeking reelection); Jacqui Irwin (D) faces Samuel Gallucci (R). Rated Solid Democratic by Cook Political Report. District lines redrawn for 2026 (Proposition 50).



## Samuel Gallucci

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Republican candidate for Congress.



## Jacqui Irwin

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

California State Assembly member.

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)

**SAMUEL GALLUCCI**

*No public position found.*

**JACQUI IRWIN**

*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

**SAMUEL GALLUCCI**

*No public position found.*

**JACQUI IRWIN**

*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

**SAMUEL GALLUCCI**

*No public position found.*

**JACQUI IRWIN**

Rep. Julia Brownley's endorsement on her site credits Irwin with authoring Proposition 1 to support homeless veterans.

[1] Irwin 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

**SAMUEL GALLUCCI**

*No public position found.*

**JACQUI IRWIN**

*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

**SAMUEL GALLUCCI**

*No public position found.*

**JACQUI IRWIN**

*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

**SAMUEL GALLUCCI**

*No public position found.*

**JACQUI IRWIN**

*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

**SAMUEL GALLUCCI**

*No public position found.*

**JACQUI IRWIN**

*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

**SAMUEL GALLUCCI**

*No public position found.*

**JACQUI IRWIN**

*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

**SAMUEL GALLUCCI**

*No public position found.*

**JACQUI IRWIN**

Rep. Julia Brownley's endorsement on her site credits Irwin with helping reauthorize California's "landmark climate law."

[1] Irwin campaign site

**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.