2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · CALIFORNIA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 27

Incumbent George Whitesides (D) seeks a second term. District lines redrawn for 2026 under Proposition 50.



Jason Gibbs

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

Santa Clarita city councilman and former mayor; mechanical engineer who worked on rocket launch systems.



George Whitesides

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since 2025; former Virgin Galactic CEO and NASA chief of staff.

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)

JASON GIBBS

No public position found.

GEORGE WHITESIDES

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

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

Yes Ukraine Support Act (H.R. 2913), June 2026 — authorizes support for Ukraine

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

JASON GIBBS

No public position found.

GEORGE WHITESIDES

Pairs innovation with "responsible regulation" on kids' online safety, citing social media harms and deepfake AI-generated imagery.

[1] Whitesides campaign: Policies

VOTING RECORD

Yes Protect America's Workforce Act (H.R. 2550), Dec. 2025 — nullifies the executive order ending union bargaining for many federal workers

Yes Faster Labor Contracts Act (H.R. 5408), June 2026 — sets deadlines for reaching first union contracts

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

JASON GIBBS

No public position found.

GEORGE WHITESIDES

Says he voted against the Republican budget law that cut Medicaid and food assistance and increased ICE funding.

[1] Whitesides campaign: Policies

VOTING RECORD

No One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), final passage July 2025 — tax cuts with Medicaid and SNAP changes

Yes Breaking the Gridlock Act (H.R. 1834), Jan. 2026 — extends enhanced ACA premium tax credits through 2028

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

JASON GIBBS

No public position found.

GEORGE WHITESIDES

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No SAVE America Act (House amendment to S. 1383), Feb. 2026 — requires documentary proof of citizenship to register and photo ID to vote in federal elections

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

JASON GIBBS

No public position found.

GEORGE WHITESIDES

Cosponsors the Women's Health Protection Act to codify Roe v. Wade and says abortion decisions should be "free from government interference."

[1] Whitesides campaign: Policies

VOTING RECORD

Did not vote Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 21), Jan. 2025 — requires care for infants born alive after an attempted abortion

No Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act (H.R. 6945), Jan. 2026 — lets states use TANF funds for pregnancy centers

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

JASON GIBBS

No public position found.

GEORGE WHITESIDES

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

JASON GIBBS

Supports securing the border, cracking down on fentanyl trafficking and "ending policies that reward illegal entry," while backing legal immigration.

[1] Gibbs campaign site

GEORGE WHITESIDES

Backs border technology, more Border Patrol agents and immigration judges, and physical infrastructure "where it makes sense"; says he has stood up "against ICE's abuse of power."

[1] Whitesides campaign: Policies

VOTING RECORD

Did not vote Laken Riley Act (S. 5), Jan. 2025 — requires detention of undocumented immigrants charged with theft and certain crimes

No Secure America Act (S. 2), June 2026 — reconciliation funding for ICE and Customs and Border Protection

Yes Haiti TPS bill (H.R. 1689), Apr. 2026 — requires temporary protected status for Haitians

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

JASON GIBBS

No public position found.

GEORGE WHITESIDES

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), July 2025 — created a federal tax credit for donations to K–12 scholarship organizations

CARE FOR CREATION

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

JASON GIBBS

No public position found.

GEORGE WHITESIDES

Co-founded Megafire Action; backs wildfire prevention, an "all-of-the-above energy plan," and emissions cuts at the Aliso Canyon gas facility and Chiquita Canyon landfill.

[1] Whitesides campaign: Policies

VOTING RECORD

No Resolution overturning EPA approval of California vehicle-emission rules (H.J.Res. 87), Apr. 2025

No Homeowner Energy Freedom Act (H.R. 4758), Feb. 2026 — repeals home-electrification rebates from the 2022 climate law

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