2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · CALIFORNIA · LETTERS FROM LEO

# U.S. House, District 29

Incumbent Luz Rivas (D) faces fellow Democrat Angélica María Dueñas in a top-two general election. District lines redrawn for 2026 under Proposition 50.



## Angélica María Dueñas

**DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER**

Community organizer and former Sun Valley Neighborhood Council president.



## Luz Rivas

**DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT**

U.S. Representative since 2025; electrical engineer and former State Assemblymember.

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)

### ANGÉLICA MARÍA DUEÑAS

Says she opposes "this genocide" in Gaza and "will never vote to send U.S. weapons or military aid to Israel."

[1] Dueñas campaign: Candidate Statement
[2] Dueñas campaign site

### LUZ RIVAS

*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

### ANGÉLICA MARÍA DUEÑAS

Supports the right to unionize, collective bargaining and raising the minimum wage to a living wage.

[1] Dueñas campaign site

### LUZ RIVAS

*No campaign statement found. See voting record below.*

**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

### ANGÉLICA MARÍA DUEÑAS

Says she will vote for Medicare for All and housing security for all.

[1] Dueñas campaign: Candidate Statement

### LUZ RIVAS

*No campaign statement found. See voting record below.*

**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

### ANGÉLICA MARÍA DUEÑAS

*No public position found.*

### LUZ RIVAS

*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

### ANGÉLICA MARÍA DUEÑAS

Pledges to ensure access to abortion and reproductive health care "without government interference."

[1] Dueñas campaign site

### LUZ RIVAS

*No campaign statement found. See voting record below.*

**VOTING RECORD**

**No** 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

### ANGÉLICA MARÍA DUEÑAS

*No public position found.*

### LUZ RIVAS

*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

### ANGÉLICA MARÍA DUEÑAS

Calls for abolishing and prosecuting ICE and backs legal status for all, DREAM Act citizenship and justice for asylum seekers.

[1] Dueñas campaign site

### LUZ RIVAS

*No campaign statement found. See voting record below.*

**VOTING RECORD**

**No** 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

### ANGÉLICA MARÍA DUEÑAS

*No public position found.*

### LUZ RIVAS

*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

### ANGÉLICA MARÍA DUEÑAS

Pledges to vote for "urgent climate action."

[1] Dueñas campaign: Candidate Statement

### LUZ RIVAS

Her campaign says that in the State Assembly she advocated for environmental justice and expanded climate change education.

[1] Rivas campaign: Meet Luz

**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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