

U.S. House, District 48

Open seat (Darrell Issa retiring). Top-two general. 23, 2026, via 270toWin). District redrawn under Prop 50 (2025).

Jim Desmond

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

San Diego County Supervisor; Navy veteran and retired Delta Air Lines pilot.

Marni von Wilpert

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

San Diego City Councilmember; former deputy city attorney.

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)

JIM DESMOND

No public position found.

MARNI VON WILPERT

Opposes “Trump’s unauthorized wars” and wants to end the Iran war; supports Ukraine, NATO and a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians.

[1] von Wilpert campaign: Issues

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

JIM DESMOND

No public position found.

MARNI VON WILPERT

Helped write the PRO Act as House committee counsel and pledges to pass it; supports the CLARITY and GENIUS Acts for emerging-technology rules.

[1] von Wilpert campaign: Issues

[2] von Wilpert campaign: About

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

JIM DESMOND

Proposes expanding and simplifying the child care tax credit so relief comes monthly, tax-free child care savings, employer child care credits, and mandatory treatment and expanded psychiatric care for homelessness.

[1] Desmond campaign: Childcare plan

[2] Desmond campaign: Homelessness plan

MARNI VON WILPERT

Supports expanding the ACA with a public option, restoring ACA tax credits, expanding Medicare drug negotiation and opposing Social Security cuts.

[1] von Wilpert campaign: Issues

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](#)

JIM DESMOND

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

No San Diego County Board, Oct. 8, 2024 (Item 10): creating a county health unit for reproductive health, justice and equity

MARNI VON WILPERT

Pledges to “codify Roe into federal law” and reverse cuts to Planned Parenthood; also backs protecting families built through assisted reproductive care.

[\[1\] von Wilpert campaign: Issues](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Cosponsored San Diego City Council resolution (May 24, 2022) declaring San Diego a safe city for reproductive freedom and abortion access

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](#)

JIM DESMOND

No public position found.

MARNI VON WILPERT

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](#)

JIM DESMOND

Supports enforcing laws against illegal crossings, requiring asylum claims to be filed abroad, an online legal application system, and treating “every person with dignity.”

[\[1\] Desmond campaign: Secure Border](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

No San Diego County Board, Dec. 10, 2024 (Item 29): Policy L-2 barring county aid to federal immigration enforcement beyond state law

MARNI VON WILPERT

Pledges to “get ICE’s masked mobs off our streets”; supports border security and legal pathways to citizenship for long-term residents and Dreamers.

[\[1\] von Wilpert campaign: Issues](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes San Diego Ordinance O-22081 (2026), requiring judicial warrants for federal agents in non-public city areas; limiting police task-force roles

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](#)

JIM DESMOND

No public position found.

MARNI VON WILPERT

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](#)

JIM DESMOND

Opposes mandates for costly energy alternatives and electric vehicles; backs consumer choice from natural gas to renewables, using fossil fuels responsibly, carbon capture and new nuclear power, saying “Balance is key.”

[\[1\] Desmond campaign: Energy](#)

MARNI VON WILPERT

Calls climate change “an urgent threat”; opposes offshore drilling on the California coast and pledges to reverse Trump-era environmental rollbacks.

[\[1\] von Wilpert campaign: Issues](#)

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