2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · CONNECTICUT · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 1

Open seat in practice: Luke Bronin defeated incumbent John Larson (D) in the August 11, 2026 Democratic primary; Larson is not on the general-election ballot.



Luke Bronin

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Former mayor of Hartford (2016–2024).



Amy Chai

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Physician specializing in internal medicine and addiction.

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)

LUKE BRONIN

No public position found.

AMY CHAI

Says "I do not believe in 'regime change' abroad or proxy wars," favoring a strong defense she "would prefer not to deploy."

[1] Chai for Congress: 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

LUKE BRONIN

Says his job on AI will be to ensure "AI innovation means more money in your pocket, not less" while protecting children from addictive algorithms.

[1] Bronin for Congress: Issues

AMY CHAI

Says the government should ensure the U.S. is "the best, the first, and the most ethical nation" in developing AI.

[1] Ballotpedia: Amy Chai

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

LUKE BRONIN

Pledges to "protect and strengthen Medicare and Medicaid," negotiate down prescription drug prices and push for universal, affordable health care.

[1] Bronin for Congress: Issues

AMY CHAI

Says health costs "skyrocketed" after the ACA and that anti-poverty spending is not "accounted for or effective"; calls for targeted laws to cut health costs and invest in prevention.

[1] Ballotpedia: Amy Chai
[2] Chai for Congress: Issues

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

LUKE BRONIN

No public position found.

AMY CHAI

Would set federal voter ID requirements, monitor voter rolls, require paper ballots and limit early voting to one week; says no representative should "advocate for political violence."

[1] Ballotpedia: Amy Chai

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

LUKE BRONIN

Calls reproductive freedom "a basic human right" and says Congress must pass federal protections for abortion access nationwide.

[1] Bronin for Congress: Issues

AMY CHAI

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

LUKE BRONIN

No public position found.

AMY CHAI

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

LUKE BRONIN

Pledges to stop "ICE's lawlessness" in the short term while working "to abolish ICE from the ground up" over the longer term.

[1] Bronin for Congress: Issues

AMY CHAI

Says "I believe in secure borders" and that a U.S. representative should never "impede the enforcement of border security."

[1] Chai for Congress: Issues
[2] Ballotpedia: Amy Chai

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

LUKE BRONIN

No public position found.

AMY CHAI

Says parents "have every right to determine what their children are learning," in public schools or home education; in 2022 said she fully supports parental choice in education.

[1] Chai for Congress: Issues
[2] Ballotpedia: Amy Chai

CARE FOR CREATION

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

LUKE BRONIN

Calls climate change a present threat, criticizes the Trump administration's fossil-fuel focus and the energy demands of data centers, and backs "affordable, clean energy."

[1] Bronin for Congress: Issues
[2] Ballotpedia: Luke Bronin

AMY CHAI

Says she is "passionate about environmental causes of chronic illness" and that "we need to learn how to mitigate this."

[1] Ballotpedia: Amy Chai

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