U.S. Senate

Sen. Chris Coons is seeking a fourth term. Rated Solid Democratic by Cook Political Report (Oct. 2026).



Chris Coons

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

U.S. senator since 2010; former New Castle County executive.



Michael Katz

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

Pediatric anesthesiologist and real estate business owner; Democratic state senator (2009–2013) and 2024 independent Senate candidate.

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)

CHRIS COONS

Says President Trump started the Iran war without a plan; says he "remains committed to standing with Ukrainians in their fight for freedom."

[1] WHYY: Katz and Coons forum
[2] Coons campaign: Priorities

VOTING RECORD

Yes Iran war powers resolution (H.Con.Res. 86), June 2026
Yes Iran war powers resolution (H.Con.Res. 89), Sept. 2026
Yes Russia sanctions bill (H.R. 5334), Aug. 2026

MICHAEL KATZ

Argued the Iran war was necessary to stop Iran from building a nuclear weapon; his platform calls for a nation that "stands with allies and up to adversaries."

[1] WHYY: Katz and Coons forum
[2] Katz campaign: Home

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

CHRIS COONS

Calls for guardrails on AI and has introduced a bill on deepfakes; cites "a long record of protecting the rights and pensions of organized labor."

[1] WHYY: Katz and Coons forum
[2] Coons campaign: Priorities
[3] FOX 29: Coons and Katz bios

MICHAEL KATZ

Says "AI is a tool; it's not a replacement for human beings," and would convene experts and business and tech leaders to set guardrails.

[1] WHYY: Katz and Coons forum

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

CHRIS COONS

Says "everyone should have access to quality, affordable health care" and has opposed what he calls Trump's threats to the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid.

[1] Coons campaign: Priorities

VOTING RECORD

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

MICHAEL KATZ

Says the Affordable Care Act "has a lot of really good things in it" but the system is "broken"; would lower drug and insurance costs and fund rural care.

[1] WHYY: Katz and Coons forum
[2] Katz campaign: Platform

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

CHRIS COONS

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No Objection to counting Arizona's 2020 electoral votes, Jan. 6, 2021 — a Yes vote supported the objection (failed, 6–93)

No Objection to counting Pennsylvania's 2020 electoral votes, Jan. 7, 2021 — a Yes vote supported the objection (failed, 7–92)

Yes For the People Act (S. 2093), June 2021 — vote to begin debate (failed, 50–50; 60 needed)

No SAVE America Act (S. 1383), Mar. 2026 — motion to take up the bill requiring proof of citizenship to register and photo ID to vote (passed, 51–48)

No Photo ID amendment to the SAVE America Act, Mar. 2026 — vote to end debate on requiring photo ID to vote (failed, 53–47; 60 needed)

MICHAEL KATZ

Backs the SAVE Act, documentary proof of citizenship and photo ID to vote, voter-roll audits, and making Election Day a federal holiday.

[1] Katz campaign: Platform

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

CHRIS COONS

Describes himself as "a fierce defender of our constitutional rights, including protecting access to reproductive health care"; endorsed by Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

[1] Coons campaign: Priorities
[2] Coons campaign: Home

VOTING RECORD

No Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 6), Jan. 2025 — vote to advance the bill (failed, 52–47; 60 needed)

MICHAEL KATZ

His 2026 platform does not address abortion; as a 2024 independent candidate he said "the politicization of women's health has been harmful to the medical needs of patients."

[1] OnTheIssues: Mike Katz

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

CHRIS COONS

No public position found.

MICHAEL KATZ

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

CHRIS COONS

Has introduced legislation for an ICE oversight body and to bar immigration officers from schools and hospitals; wants ICE officers to wear body cameras and obtain judicial warrants for arrests.

[1] Coons campaign: Priorities
[2] WHYY: Katz and Coons forum

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

MICHAEL KATZ

Would finish the southern border wall, restore "Remain in Mexico," designate cartels as foreign terrorist organizations and cut federal funds to sanctuary jurisdictions.

[1] Katz campaign: Platform

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

CHRIS COONS

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

MICHAEL KATZ

Wants to keep the federal bureaucracy "entirely out of the business of policing American speech and religious expression"; his platform does not address school choice.

[1] Katz campaign: Platform (PDF)

CARE FOR CREATION

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

CHRIS COONS

Calls climate change "a generational threat" and supports clean-energy technologies to reduce and eventually replace reliance on fossil fuels.

[1] Coons campaign: Priorities

VOTING RECORD

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

MICHAEL KATZ

Pledges to protect Delaware's "clean water and air, beaches and open spaces," supports nuclear power, and says offshore wind decisions should not raise families' costs.

[1] Katz campaign: Platform (PDF)

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