Governor

Incumbent Josh Green (D) seeks a second term. Rated Solid Democratic by Cook Political Report (Oct 2026).



Gary Cordery

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

General contractor and founder of Kingdom Builders; co-founder of the Aloha Freedom Coalition.



Josh Green

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

Governor since 2022; physician and former lieutenant governor.

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)

GARY CORDERY

No public position found.

JOSH GREEN

Said of the Iran war, "I want this war to end completely," citing inflation and supply-chain strain, and called for "a thoughtful diplomatic future there with Iran."

[1] Hawai'i Public Radio: Green interview

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

GARY CORDERY

Says union members "are also getting crushed" by Hawaii's cost of living and are leaving the state; campaign emphasizes local jobs and lower taxes.

[1] Civil Beat: Cordery runs against Green

JOSH GREEN

Backs a "balanced approach" to AI with guardrails on privacy, consumer protection, deepfakes and election misinformation; was endorsed in 2022 by three IBEW electrical workers' locals.

[1] Star-Advertiser: Green candidate Q&A
[2] Green campaign: IBEW endorsement

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

GARY CORDERY

Would eliminate the general excise tax on food and medicine, freeze property taxes for retirees and tie workforce participation to entitlement eligibility; proposes 15,000 fee-simple homes priced $400,000–$600,000.

[1] Civil Beat: Cordery candidate Q&A
[2] Cordery campaign: Key Issues

JOSH GREEN

Provided $250 per person in state emergency relief when federal SNAP benefits lapsed in the 2025 shutdown, saying "No one should go hungry"; warned federal Medicaid cuts could close rural hospitals.

[1] Maui News: Green announces food relief
[2] Hawaii News Now: Green on federal cuts

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

GARY CORDERY

Filed legal challenges after the 2022 election citing technical issues, which courts dismissed; his campaign urges supporters to "vote in person to ensure your vote counts."

[1] Civil Beat: Cordery runs against Green
[2] Cordery campaign site

JOSH GREEN

After the 2025 killing of Charlie Kirk, said "we must condemn all violence against one another and come together as a country to heal."

[1] Big Island Video News: Green statement

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

GARY CORDERY

Said in 2022, "if legislation came to my desk as governor to overturn abortion, I would sign it."

[1] Civil Beat: Cordery runs against Green

JOSH GREEN

Signed a 2023 law affirming the right to abortion and shielding patients and providers from out-of-state legal action, saying women have a right to choose abortion.

[1] Courthouse News: Green signs abortion protections

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

GARY CORDERY

No public position found.

JOSH GREEN

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

GARY CORDERY

No public position found.

JOSH GREEN

Urged lawmakers in 2026 to fast-track immigrant-protection bills, saying "We should never be targeting our citizens"; said people who commit crimes should get due process and "may have to leave the country."

[1] Civil Beat: Green wants immigrant protections fast

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

GARY CORDERY

Proposed a school voucher program in 2022, saying parents should be more involved and pledging to "get the union out of school policy."

[1] Ballotpedia: Gary Cordery

JOSH GREEN

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

GARY CORDERY

Opposes the Green Fee as "another tax" and says the "climate change agenda" adds costs and "needs to be looked at"; is "not necessarily opposed" to LNG but calls hydrogen, fission and small reactors "solutions for the future."

[1] Civil Beat: Cordery candidate Q&A
[2] Civil Beat: Cordery runs against Green

JOSH GREEN

Signed the nation's first "Green Fee," a lodging tax so visitors help fund climate adaptation, saying "where we see sea level rise coming up, we can adapt"; pledges to lower electricity bills.

[1] Hawaii News Now: Green Fee signed
[2] Star-Advertiser: Green candidate Q&A

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