2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · ILLINOIS · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 4

Open seat (Democrat Jesús “Chuy” García retired).



Lupe Castillo

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Pharmacy and food service background; 2022 Illinois House candidate.



Patty Garcia

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Former chief of staff to Rep. Chuy García; holds a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois.

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)

LUPE CASTILLO

Said in a 2024 survey that NATO must do its part supporting Ukraine and that Israel “should be allowed to protect themselves.”

[1] Ballotpedia: Lupe Castillo (campaign themes)

PATTY GARCIA

Supports an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and more congressional control over the use of military force.

[1] Ballotpedia: Patty Garcia (campaign themes)

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

LUPE CASTILLO

Calls to bring manufacturing and jobs back to the U.S.

[1] Ballotpedia: Lupe Castillo (campaign themes)

PATTY GARCIA

Pledges a “100% pro-union” agenda and is backed by the labor movement.

[1] Ballotpedia: Patty Garcia (campaign themes)

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

LUPE CASTILLO

No public position found.

PATTY GARCIA

Backs Medicare for All, calling health care a human right.

[1] Ballotpedia: Patty Garcia (campaign themes)

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

LUPE CASTILLO

No public position found.

PATTY GARCIA

Supports safeguarding voting rights and increasing early and mail-in voting opportunities.

[1] Ballotpedia: Patty Garcia (campaign themes)

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

LUPE CASTILLO

No public position found.

PATTY GARCIA

Her campaign website says she "supports reproductive healthcare rights."

[1] Ballotpedia: Patty Garcia (campaign themes)

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

LUPE CASTILLO

No public position found.

PATTY GARCIA

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

LUPE CASTILLO

Said in a 2024 survey: "We need to strengthen our border security and our immigration process."

[1] Ballotpedia: Lupe Castillo (campaign themes)

PATTY GARCIA

Says immigration enforcement is being used "to terrorize working-class immigrant communities instead of creating real reform."

[1] Ballotpedia: Patty Garcia (campaign themes)

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

LUPE CASTILLO

His campaign website says to "allow for school choice."

[1] Ballotpedia: Lupe Castillo (campaign themes)

PATTY GARCIA

Says public education should be fully funded and protected; no stated position on school choice.

[1] Ballotpedia: Patty Garcia (campaign themes)

CARE FOR CREATION

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

LUPE CASTILLO

Said in a 2024 survey that the U.S. needs to restore energy independence "to its fullest capacity."

[1] Ballotpedia: Lupe Castillo (campaign themes)

PATTY GARCIA

Says climate change is "a real and looming danger" and calls for climate action.

[1] Ballotpedia: Patty Garcia (campaign themes)

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