2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · ILLINOIS · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 8

Open seat (Democrat Raja Krishnamoorthi ran for U.S. Senate).



Melissa Bean

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Former U.S. Representative (2005–2011) and business owner.



Jennifer Davis

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Tech entrepreneur; co-founder of Davisware and BExponential.

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)

MELISSA BEAN

No public position found.

JENNIFER DAVIS

Cites cyberattacks by China, Russia and Iran as daily threats to Americans.

[1] Ballotpedia: Jennifer Davis (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

MELISSA BEAN

Supports the right to organize and AI rules that protect rights and safety "without hampering innovation."

[1] Ballotpedia: Melissa Bean (campaign themes)

JENNIFER DAVIS

No public position found.

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

MELISSA BEAN

Calls to reverse "the Republican Medicaid cuts" in the 2025 reconciliation law.

[1] Ballotpedia: Melissa Bean (campaign themes)

JENNIFER DAVIS

No public position found.

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

MELISSA BEAN

Supports protecting and expanding voting rights, including early and mail-in voting.

[1] Ballotpedia: Melissa Bean (campaign themes)

JENNIFER DAVIS

No public position found.

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

MELISSA BEAN

Supports "defending access to abortion, contraception, and IVF nationwide."

[1] Ballotpedia: Melissa Bean (campaign themes)

JENNIFER DAVIS

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

MELISSA BEAN

No public position found.

JENNIFER DAVIS

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

MELISSA BEAN

Supports comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship.

[1] Ballotpedia: Melissa Bean (campaign themes)

JENNIFER DAVIS

Calls for "good, fair, and orderly immigration policies" that protect American workers.

[1] Ballotpedia: Jennifer Davis (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

MELISSA BEAN

Opposes school vouchers, saying they "drain our schools of tax dollars."

[1] Ballotpedia: Melissa Bean (campaign themes)

JENNIFER DAVIS

Says parents should be "their children's first educators," with schools as partners; no explicit school-choice position.

[1] Ballotpedia: Jennifer Davis (campaign themes)

CARE FOR CREATION

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

MELISSA BEAN

Calls for curbing super-pollutants and holding polluters accountable.

[1] Ballotpedia: Melissa Bean (campaign themes)

JENNIFER DAVIS

Supports energy independence by "expanding U.S. oil, gas, and renewables."

[1] Ballotpedia: Jennifer Davis (campaign themes)

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