2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · ILLINOIS · LETTERS FROM LEO

# U.S. House, District 16

Incumbent Republican Darin LaHood is seeking reelection.



## Darin LaHood

**REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT**

U.S. Representative since 2015.



## Paul Nolley

**DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER**

Executive director of Project First Rate; Rockford native.

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)

### DARIN LAHOOD

*No campaign statement found. See voting record below.*

**VOTING RECORD**

Iran war powers resolutions, Mar.–Sept. 2026 (six House votes): **No** Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Sept.

**No** Ukraine Support Act (H.R. 2913), June 2026 — authorizes support for Ukraine

### PAUL NOLLEY

*No public position found.*

## 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

### DARIN LAHOOD

*No campaign statement found. See voting record below.*

**VOTING RECORD**

**No** Protect America's Workforce Act (H.R. 2550), Dec. 2025 — nullifies the executive order ending union bargaining for many federal workers

**No** Faster Labor Contracts Act (H.R. 5408), June 2026 — sets deadlines for reaching first union contracts

### PAUL NOLLEY

Pledges "pro-worker legislation that makes it easier to collectively bargain and raise wages and benefits," and supports expanding modern manufacturing careers.

[1] Nolley campaign: Issues

## 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

### DARIN LAHOOD

*No campaign statement found. See voting record below.*

**VOTING RECORD**

**Yes** One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), final passage July 2025 — tax cuts with Medicaid and SNAP changes

**No** Breaking the Gridlock Act (H.R. 1834), Jan. 2026 — extends enhanced ACA premium tax credits through 2028

### PAUL NOLLEY

Says Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid "need to be strengthened," supports expanding Medicare to every American with no premiums or copays, paid family leave, child care access and a larger Child Tax Credit.

[1] Nolley campaign: 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

### DARIN LAHOOD

*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, 121–303)

**No** Objection to counting Pennsylvania's 2020 electoral votes, Jan. 7, 2021 — a Yes vote supported the objection (failed, 138–282)

**No** For the People Act (H.R. 1), Mar. 2021 — automatic and same-day voter registration, expanded mail and early voting, campaign-finance and ethics rules

**No** Presidential Election Reform Act (H.R. 8873), Sept. 2022 — says the vice president's role in counting electoral votes is ministerial and raises the threshold for objections

**Yes** SAVE America Act (House amendment to S. 1383), Feb. 2026 — requires documentary proof of citizenship to register and photo ID to vote in federal elections

### PAUL NOLLEY

Says everyone should be free to engage in the democratic process and speak "without fear of government surveillance, retaliation, or repression."

[1] Nolley campaign: Issues

## 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

### DARIN LAHOOD

*No campaign statement found. See voting record below.*

**VOTING RECORD**

**Yes** Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 21), Jan. 2025 — requires care for infants born alive after an attempted abortion

**Yes** Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act (H.R. 6945), Jan. 2026 — lets states use TANF funds for pregnancy centers

### PAUL NOLLEY

*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

### DARIN LAHOOD

*No public position found.*

### PAUL NOLLEY

*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

### DARIN LAHOOD

*No campaign statement found. See voting record below.*

**VOTING RECORD**

**Yes** Laken Riley Act (S. 5), Jan. 2025 — requires detention of undocumented immigrants charged with theft and certain crimes

**Yes** Secure America Act (S. 2), June 2026 — reconciliation funding for ICE and Customs and Border Protection

**No** Haiti TPS bill (H.R. 1689), Apr. 2026 — requires temporary protected status for Haitians

### PAUL NOLLEY

*No public position found.*

## 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

### DARIN LAHOOD

*No campaign statement found. See voting record below.*

**VOTING RECORD**

**Yes** One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), July 2025 — created a federal tax credit for donations to K–12 scholarship organizations

### PAUL NOLLEY

*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

### DARIN LAHOOD

*No campaign statement found. See voting record below.*

**VOTING RECORD**

**Yes** Resolution overturning EPA approval of California vehicle-emission rules (H.J.Res. 87), Apr. 2025

**Yes** Homeowner Energy Freedom Act (H.R. 4758), Feb. 2026 — repeals home-electrification rebates from the 2022 climate law

### PAUL NOLLEY

Calls for "practical, common-sense solutions" to protect air, water and land, "holding polluters accountable and creating good-paying union jobs in clean energy."

[1] Nolley campaign: Issues

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