U.S. Senate

Open seat (Dick Durbin retiring). Rated Solid Democratic by Cook Political Report.



Juliana Stratton

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Lieutenant Governor of Illinois since 2019; former state representative.



Don Tracy

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Attorney and businessman; former Illinois Republican Party chair and former Illinois Gaming Board chair.

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)

JULIANA STRATTON

Calls the Iran war an "illegal war of choice" started by President Trump and vows to oppose supplemental war funding.

[1] Capitol News Illinois: Stratton, Tracy clash in lone U.S. Senate forum

DON TRACY

Says he would consider the Iran war "just" if it prevents Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. Called Putin a "thug" and says he would have voted against waiving Russia sanctions.

[1] Capitol News Illinois: Stratton, Tracy clash in lone U.S. Senate forum

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

JULIANA STRATTON

Has said workers need "a seat at the table on AI" and calls Illinois "one of the most pro-union states."

[1] OnTheIssues: Juliana Stratton

DON TRACY

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

JULIANA STRATTON

Backs Medicare for All and a $25 federal minimum wage, funded in part by a millionaire's tax; says SNAP should stay in the farm bill and that "Republicans are holding SNAP benefits hostage."

[1] Capitol News Illinois: Stratton, Tracy clash in lone U.S. Senate forum
[2] Stratton campaign: Issues

DON TRACY

Defends the SNAP work requirements in the 2025 reconciliation law ("There is dignity in work") and calls a $25 minimum wage "a death sentence" for small businesses; favors health care price transparency and competition.

[1] Capitol News Illinois: Stratton, Tracy clash in lone U.S. Senate forum
[2] Ballotpedia: Don Tracy (Candidate Connection survey)

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

JULIANA STRATTON

Supports passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and says she has worked to "protect voting rights."

[1] Stratton campaign: Issues

DON TRACY

Supports the SAVE Act's voter ID and proof-of-citizenship provisions — "I'd go for voter ID first" — and wants to make mail-in voting "more secure."

[1] Chicago Sun-Times: Stratton faces Tracy for Durbin's seat

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

JULIANA STRATTON

Lists "restoring the abortion protections of Roe v. Wade" among her Senate priorities and says she has worked to "safeguard reproductive freedom" in Illinois.

[1] Stratton campaign: Issues

DON TRACY

"I fully support the Hyde Amendment, but I do not support nationalizing abortion law," and says state laws may differ. His campaign says he does not support penalties for women who seek abortions.

[1] Illinois Public Media: Don Tracy talks abortion, ICE shootings and Iran war
[2] Capitol Fax: Bailey denounces Anderson abortion bill; Tracy opposes penalties

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

JULIANA STRATTON

No public position found.

DON TRACY

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

JULIANA STRATTON

Supports abolishing ICE, saying it cannot be reformed, and backs a "real path to legal citizenship, including for Dreamers," plus more immigration judges and caseworkers.

[1] Capitol News Illinois: Stratton, Tracy clash in lone U.S. Senate forum
[2] WBEZ: Takeaways from the Stratton–Tracy Senate debate

DON TRACY

Called Operation Midway Blitz in Chicago "ugly and chaotic," blaming local officials' non-cooperation; says he would support changing the law on birthright citizenship.

[1] Capitol News Illinois: Stratton, Tracy clash in lone U.S. Senate forum
[2] Illinois Public Media: Don Tracy talks abortion, ICE shootings and Iran war

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

JULIANA STRATTON

No public position found.

DON TRACY

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

JULIANA STRATTON

Says she has worked alongside Gov. Pritzker to "take urgent action on climate change"; her platform lists no specific federal energy proposals.

[1] Stratton campaign: Issues

DON TRACY

Supports "a reasonable energy policy" that protects energy independence "with an eye on a clean energy future."

[1] Ballotpedia: Don Tracy (Candidate Connection survey)

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