

U.S. House, District 2

Open seat (Ashley Hinson running for Senate).

Lindsay James

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

State representative from Dubuque and chaplain; co-founded Iowa's first bipartisan, bicameral legislative caucus.

Joe Mitchell

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Real estate developer from Clear Lake and former state representative.

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 \(Vatican News via The Good Newsroom\)](#)

LINDSAY JAMES

Lists the Iran war among Trump administration policies she says have hurt Iowans and pledges to work to reverse them.

[\[1\] Iowa Public Radio: 2nd District candidates' first debate](#)

JOE MITCHELL

Declined to support a war powers resolution to end the Iran war, saying Iran must not get a nuclear weapon, while backing efforts to give Congress “a real say” on war.

[\[1\] Iowa Public Radio: 2nd District candidates' first debate](#)

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](#)

LINDSAY JAMES

Opposes tax incentives for data centers; citing parents' worries about social media and AI, says Congress should “put control of kids screens back in the hands of parents, not big tech.”

[\[1\] Iowa Public Radio: 2nd District candidates' first debate](#)

[\[2\] Lindsay James campaign issues](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Did not vote HF 2355 (2022), reducing maximum state unemployment benefits from 26 to 16 weeks; House passage

JOE MITCHELL

Opposes tax incentives for data centers; pledges to fight wage stagnation by keeping jobs in America and strengthening antitrust enforcement.

[\[1\] Iowa Public Radio: 2nd District candidates' first debate](#)

[\[2\] Joe Mitchell campaign issues](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes HF 2355 (2022), reducing maximum state unemployment benefits from 26 to 16 weeks; House passage

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](#)

LINDSAY JAMES

Criticizes the 2025 reconciliation law's health care cuts and says no one should face bankruptcy from a medical emergency or ration medication.

[\[1\] Iowa Public Radio: 2nd District candidates' first debate](#)

[\[2\] Lindsay James campaign issues](#)

JOE MITCHELL

Says health reform should lower costs and expand choice “while preserving key protections from the ACA,” with drug and insulin prices comparable to other developed countries.

[\[1\] Joe Mitchell 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

LINDSAY JAMES

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

No HJR 5 (2021), proposed constitutional amendment stating Iowa's Constitution does not recognize a right to abortion

No HF 594 (2020), requiring a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion; final House passage

JOE MITCHELL

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes HJR 5 (2021), proposed constitutional amendment stating Iowa's Constitution does not recognize a right to abortion

Yes HF 594 (2020), requiring a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion; final House passage

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

LINDSAY JAMES

No public position found.

JOE MITCHELL

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

LINDSAY JAMES

Supports immigration reform with a “meaningful pathway for those who want to be here legally”; says Congress has failed on immigration reform.

[1] Iowa Public Radio: 2nd District candidates' first debate
[2] Lindsay James campaign issues

JOE MITCHELL

Supports securing the border, deporting “criminal illegal immigrants” and a temporary ban on H-1B visas; says “we should always put Iowans and Americans first.”

[1] Joe Mitchell campaign issues
[2] Iowa Public Radio: 2nd District candidates' first debate

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

LINDSAY JAMES

Criticizes Iowa's private-school voucher program as designed “to benefit the most fortunate” and calls for stronger public-school funding.

[1] Lindsay James campaign issues

JOE MITCHELL

Says K–12 education should empower “parents to decide what’s best for their children’s education.”

[1] Joe Mitchell campaign issues

CARE FOR CREATION

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

LINDSAY JAMES

Supports year-round E15 in a farm bill and incentives for farmers to adopt nutrient-reduction practices.

[1] Iowa Public Radio: 2nd District candidates' first debate

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes HF 2128 (2022), requiring most Iowa gas stations to offer E15 and expanding biofuel incentives; final passage

JOE MITCHELL

Supports an all-of-the-above energy mix — natural gas, oil, nuclear, clean coal, hydro, solar and wind — and year-round E15 and nutrient-reduction incentives for farmers.

[1] Joe Mitchell campaign issues
[2] Iowa Public Radio: 2nd District candidates' first debate

RECORD IN OFFICE

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