

U.S. Senate

Open seat (Joni Ernst retiring). Polls show a close race; Fox News and Political Wire reported October 2026 polls within a few points.

Ashley Hinson

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

U.S. Representative for Iowa's 2nd District since 2021; former state representative and KCRG-TV anchor.

Josh Turek

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

State representative from Council Bluffs since 2023; two-time Paralympic gold medalist in wheelchair basketball.

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)

ASHLEY HINSON

Voted against a September 2026 House war powers resolution on the Iran war; in the October debate said it should end quickly and successfully without a nuclear Iran, and opposed a “forever war.” Voted against the 2026 Ukraine Support Act.

- [1] House Roll Call 307 (Sept. 2026): Iran war powers resolution
- [2] Newsweek: Turek, Hinson clash in Iowa Senate debate
- [3] House Roll Call 207 (2026): Ukraine Support Act

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

JOSH TUREK

Opposes the Iran war, saying it has raised gas and diesel prices, while opposing a nuclear Iran. In 2025 called Israel's Gaza response “disproportionate” and said U.S. support should not fund harm to civilians.

- [1] Newsweek: Turek, Hinson clash in Iowa Senate debate
- [2] The Gazette: Turek, Scholten team up

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

ASHLEY HINSON

Says the U.S. must build AI systems to compete with China, with safeguards, opposes tax breaks for data centers, and backed House-passed AI chatbot protections for minors. Voted against the 2025 Protect America's Workforce Act on federal workers' union rights.

- [1] Newsweek: Turek, Hinson clash in Iowa Senate debate
- [2] Iowa Capital Dispatch: Cruz calls for regulating kids' use of AI chatbots at Hinson event
- [3] House Roll Call 332 (2025): Protect America's Workforce Act

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

JOSH TUREK

Supports the PRO Act and a higher minimum wage. Says Congress should regulate AI and data centers, end data-center tax breaks and protect workers' jobs while competing with China.

- [1] Turek campaign platform
- [2] Newsweek: Turek, Hinson clash in Iowa Senate debate
- [3] C-SPAN: Turek says Congress has a role in regulating AI

RECORD IN OFFICE

No SF 542 (2023), changing youth employment rules, including hours and jobs permitted for minors; final 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](#)

ASHLEY HINSON

Voted for the 2025 reconciliation law and defends its Medicaid work requirements: “If you’re going to take a taxpayer benefit, you should be working.” Voted against a three-year extension of enhanced ACA tax credits (January 2026).

[1] House Roll Call 190 (2025): One Big Beautiful Bill Act final passage

[2] KTIV: Hinson defends Medicaid work requirements

[3] House Roll Call 11 (2026): Breaking the Gridlock Act (ACA credit extension)

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

JOSH TUREK

Would restore Medicaid funding and repeal SNAP cuts in the 2025 reconciliation law, protect and expand ACA subsidies, add a public option, and raise the minimum wage with automatic inflation increases.

[1] Turek campaign platform

RECORD IN OFFICE

No SF 615 (2025), establishing work requirements for Iowa's Medicaid expansion and other public assistance programs; final passage

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](#)

ASHLEY HINSON

Describes herself as “unapologetically pro-life” and supports exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the mother. Voted for the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act in 2025.

[1] Denver Gazette: Hinson tells GOP candidates to call out ‘culture of death’

[2] House Roll Call 27 (2025): Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act

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

JOSH TUREK

Supports making “Roe v. Wade the law of the land again” and protecting access to contraception and IVF; sponsored Iowa House legislation to repeal the state’s abortion ban.

[1] Turek campaign platform

RECORD IN OFFICE

Did not vote HF 732 (2023), prohibiting abortion after detection of a fetal heartbeat; final 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](#)

ASHLEY HINSON

No public position found.

JOSH TUREK

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](#)

ASHLEY HINSON

Says deportations should prioritize people here illegally who are dangerous criminals, with ICE focused on “the worst of the worst,” funded for body cameras and held accountable. Voted for the Laken Riley Act (2025).

[1] Newsweek: Turek, Hinson clash in Iowa Senate debate

[2] House Roll Call 23 (2025): Laken Riley Act

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

JOSH TUREK

Backs bipartisan reform that secures the border, deport those here illegally who commit crimes, and creates an “earned pathway to citizenship.” Says he will not fund DHS without ICE reforms.

[1] Turek campaign platform

[2] Newsweek: Turek, Hinson clash in Iowa Senate debate

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes SF 2340 (2024), creating a state crime of illegal reentry and allowing state orders to return to a foreign nation

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](#)

ASHLEY HINSON

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

JOSH TUREK

Opposes school vouchers, saying “public dollars belong in public schools,” and sponsored legislation to repeal Iowa’s voucher program.

[\[1\] Turek campaign platform](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

No HF 68 (2023), establishing education savings accounts usable for private school tuition; final passage

CARE FOR CREATION

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

ASHLEY HINSON

Voted for year-round E15 ethanol sales (2026) and for a 2025 resolution overturning EPA approval of California’s vehicle-emissions standards.

[\[1\] House Roll Call 164 \(2026\): Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act](#)

[\[2\] House Roll Call 114 \(2025\): Disapproval of EPA California vehicle standards](#)

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

JOSH TUREK

Focuses on water quality tied to Iowa’s cancer rates: funding water-quality sensors and “cracking down on chemical companies that pollute our water supply.”

[\[1\] Turek campaign platform](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes HF 639 (2025), setting common carrier and permitting requirements for hazardous liquid (carbon dioxide) pipelines

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