2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · KENTUCKY · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 4

Open seat — incumbent Thomas Massie (R) lost the May Republican primary to Ed Gallrein.



Ed Gallrein

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Retired Navy SEAL captain who served three decades, including on SEAL Team Six, and fifth-generation Shelby County farmer.



Melissa Strange

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Democratic nominee.

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)

ED GALLREIN

Pledges to "rebuild our military to support our national security to sustain peace and prosperity"; no position on specific conflicts found.

[1] Ed Gallrein for Congress

MELISSA STRANGE

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

ED GALLREIN

No public position found.

MELISSA STRANGE

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

ED GALLREIN

No public position found.

MELISSA STRANGE

Says "everyone deserves to be paid a fair, livable wage" and lists affordable physical and mental health care as a priority.

[1] Ballotpedia: Melissa Strange

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

ED GALLREIN

No public position found.

MELISSA STRANGE

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

ED GALLREIN

Under "Protect the Unborn," his campaign site says, "Gallrein is Pro-Life!"

[1] Ed Gallrein for Congress

MELISSA STRANGE

Does not address abortion by name; says "private health decisions should be made between patients and medical professionals, not by legislators."

[1] Ballotpedia: Melissa Strange

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

ED GALLREIN

No public position found.

MELISSA STRANGE

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

ED GALLREIN

Pledges to "team up with President Trump" to "finish the wall, fully fund Border Patrol & ICE" and secure the border.

[1] Ed Gallrein for Congress

MELISSA STRANGE

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

ED GALLREIN

No public position found.

MELISSA STRANGE

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

ED GALLREIN

No public position found.

MELISSA STRANGE

No public position found.

Full guide and every race in Kentucky: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/kentucky/ · **Take the Pope Leo voter pledge:** standwithpopeleo.com/vote/

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