2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · LOUISIANA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 1

Incumbent Steve Scalise (R) seeks re-election. Under Louisiana's 2026 format, all candidates appear on one Nov. 3 ballot regardless of party; a majority winner is elected outright, otherwise the top two meet on Dec. 12. District lines redrawn in May 2026 after the Supreme Court's Louisiana v. Callais ruling.



Randall Arrington

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

Retired Navy aviator, former federal law enforcement pilot and former university political science professor.



Lauren Jewett

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

National Board Certified special education teacher with 17 years in Louisiana classrooms and teachers' union leader.



Steve Scalise

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

U.S. House Majority Leader.

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)

RANDALL ARRINGTON

In a 2024 candidate survey, listed "prevent World War III" among his priorities.

[1] Ballotpedia: Randall Arrington

LAUREN JEWETT

Backs restoring congressional war powers, citing Iran; opposes sending U.S. military aid and weapons to conflicts "like we see in Gaza."

[1] Jewett campaign: Foreign Policy

STEVE SCALISE

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

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

RANDALL ARRINGTON

No public position found.

LAUREN JEWETT

Supports the PRO Act and stronger collective bargaining, and wants AI data centers receiving incentives to commit to local hiring, fair wages and safe conditions.

[1] Jewett campaign: Modern Economy

STEVE SCALISE

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

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

RANDALL ARRINGTON

In a 2024 candidate survey, pledged to "protect Social Security and Medicare, no cuts" and backed tax cuts for workers.

[1] Ballotpedia: Randall Arrington

LAUREN JEWETT

Would cosponsor Medicare for All, expand the ACA, close the Medicaid coverage gap and raise the federal minimum wage indexed to inflation.

[1] Jewett campaign: Quality Healthcare
[2] Jewett campaign: Modern Economy

STEVE SCALISE

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

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

RANDALL ARRINGTON

In a 2024 candidate survey, backed voter ID, paper ballots, proof of citizenship and same-day voting.

[1] Ballotpedia: Randall Arrington

LAUREN JEWETT

Would cosponsor the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and Freedom to Vote Act; opposes the SAVE America Act and supports same-day registration and expanded mail voting.

[1] Jewett campaign: Protect the Right to Vote

STEVE SCALISE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Yes Objection to counting Arizona's 2020 electoral votes, Jan. 6, 2021 — a Yes vote supported the objection (failed, 121–303)

Yes 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

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

RANDALL ARRINGTON

No public position found.

LAUREN JEWETT

Would cosponsor the Women's Health Protection Act to "codify Roe v. Wade into federal law"; also backs the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act.

[1] Jewett campaign: Quality Healthcare

STEVE SCALISE

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

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

RANDALL ARRINGTON

No public position found.

LAUREN JEWETT

No public position found.

STEVE SCALISE

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

RANDALL ARRINGTON

In a 2024 candidate survey, listed "SEAL THE BORDER, DEPORT ILLEGALS" among his priorities.

[1] Ballotpedia: Randall Arrington

LAUREN JEWETT

Would vote for legislation that "dismantles ICE" and ends its detention operations; supports pathways to citizenship, a permanent fix for Dreamers and more asylum-court capacity.

[1] Jewett campaign: Immigration

STEVE SCALISE

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

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

RANDALL ARRINGTON

No public position found.

LAUREN JEWETT

No public position found.

STEVE SCALISE

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

CARE FOR CREATION

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

RANDALL ARRINGTON

In a 2024 candidate survey, pledged to "tap all of Louisiana's energy sources" and cancel the electric vehicle mandate.

[1] Ballotpedia: Randall Arrington

LAUREN JEWETT

Backs rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement, investing in Gulf offshore wind, restoring NOAA coastal programs and a dedicated federal coastal restoration trust fund.

[1] Jewett campaign: Clean Energy and Coast
[2] Jewett campaign: Foreign Policy

STEVE SCALISE

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

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