2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · LOUISIANA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 3

Incumbent Clay Higgins (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.



Kate Cotten
REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

Republican candidate; no published biography found.



John Day
DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Professional writer and U.S. Navy veteran raised in Lake Charles.



Priscilla Gonzalez
DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Marketing director and immigrant advocate; 2024 Democratic candidate for the same seat.



Clay Higgins
REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative for Louisiana's 3rd District.



Caleb Walker
DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Army combat veteran (Sergeant First Class, Afghanistan deployment) based in Lafayette.

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)

KATE COTTEN

No public position found.

JOHN DAY

No public position found.

PRISCILLA GONZALEZ

No public position found.

CLAY HIGGINS

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

CALEB WALKER

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

KATE COTTEN
No public position found.

JOHN DAY
No public position found.

PRISCILLA GONZALEZ
No public position found.

CLAY HIGGINS
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

CALEB WALKER
Proposes exempting the first $50,000 of teachers' salaries from federal income tax, student-loan forgiveness for health care workers and hazardous-duty pay for essential workers in disasters.

[1] Walker campaign: Issues

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

KATE COTTEN
No public position found.

JOHN DAY
No public position found.

PRISCILLA GONZALEZ
Supports continued Medicaid expansion for low-income families, wider telehealth access and more investment in community health centers in rural areas.

[1] Gonzalez campaign: Healthcare

CLAY HIGGINS
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

CALEB WALKER
Pledges to lower grocery, housing, insurance and health care costs and to support wages that keep pace with the economy; does not name specific safety-net programs.

[1] Walker campaign: Issues

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

KATE COTTEN

No public position found.

JOHN DAY

No public position found.

PRISCILLA GONZALEZ

No public position found.

CLAY HIGGINS

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

CALEB WALKER

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

KATE COTTEN

No public position found.

JOHN DAY

Lists "protecting your freedom to make your own personal medical decisions" as a key message; does not mention abortion by name.

[1] Ballotpedia: John Day

PRISCILLA GONZALEZ

No public position found.

CLAY HIGGINS

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

CALEB WALKER

No public position found.

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

KATE COTTEN

No public position found.

JOHN DAY

No public position found.

PRISCILLA GONZALEZ

No public position found.

CLAY HIGGINS

No public position found.

CALEB WALKER

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

KATE COTTEN

No public position found.

JOHN DAY

No public position found.

PRISCILLA GONZALEZ

No public position found.

CLAY HIGGINS

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

CALEB WALKER

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

KATE COTTEN

No public position found.

JOHN DAY

No public position found.

PRISCILLA GONZALEZ

No public position found.

CLAY HIGGINS

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

CALEB WALKER

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

KATE COTTEN

No public position found.

JOHN DAY

Backs "an all-of-the-above energy strategy," supporting oil and gas jobs "while investing in renewable energy."

[1] Ballotpedia: John Day

PRISCILLA GONZALEZ

Proposes diversifying the district's oil-and-gas-dependent economy toward sectors including renewable energy, advanced manufacturing and technology.

[1] Gonzalez campaign: Economy

CLAY HIGGINS

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

CALEB WALKER

Pledges to "confront global warming with practical, science-based solutions," support responsible carbon capture and fund coastal restoration and flood protection.

[1] Walker campaign: Issues

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