2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · LOUISIANA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 5

Open seat (incumbent Julia Letlow (R) is running for U.S. Senate). 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.



Stewart Cathey

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Louisiana state senator since 2020, Army engineer veteran of two Afghanistan deployments and small-business owner.



Misti Cordell

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Health care consulting firm owner, former chair of the Louisiana Board of Regents and former Landry administration official.



Oscar Dantzler

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Ran as a Democrat in 2019, 2022 and 2023 races; running as a Republican in 2026.



Michael Echols

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

State representative, chairman of the Louisiana House Republican Delegation, contractor and commercial real estate developer.



Gabe Firment

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

State representative since 2020, chairman of the Louisiana House Insurance Committee and small-business owner.



Austin Magee

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Business owner and Southeastern Louisiana University graduate.



Dan McKay

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Avoyelles Parish lawyer and Army veteran; former public defender, assistant district attorney and town attorney.



Pat Moore

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

State representative for Louisiana House District 17 since 2019 and member of the Legislative Black Caucus and Women's Caucus.



Antonio Wilson

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Licensed general contractor and business owner from Madison Parish.

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)

STEWART CATHEY
No public position found.

MISTI CORDELL
No public position found.

OSCAR DANTZLER
No public position found.

MICHAEL ECHOLS
Calls Trump "the greatest foreign policy President of our lifetime"; supports rebuilding the military, standing with Israel and "confronting the Iranian regime."
[1] Echols campaign: Issues

GABE FIRMENT
No public position found.

AUSTIN MAGEE
No public position found.

DAN MCKAY
Says U.S. policy of close ties to Israel "should be changed to eliminate fighting their wars for them."
[1] Ballotpedia: Dan McKay

PAT MOORE
No public position found.

ANTONIO WILSON
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

STEWART CATHEY
No public position found.

MISTI CORDELL
No public position found.

OSCAR DANTZLER
No public position found.

MICHAEL ECHOLS
Supports workforce training and technical education so Louisiana workers can fill jobs from new manufacturing, energy and technology projects.
[1] Echols campaign: Issues

GABE FIRMENT
No public position found.

AUSTIN MAGEE
Says "AI can never be given the power to decide life or death" and urges Congress to "get control of AI before it controls us."
[1] Ballotpedia: Austin Magee

DAN MCKAY
No public position found.

PAT MOORE
Pledges to support fair wages, skilled trades, workforce training and new industries that create good-paying jobs close to home.
[1] Moore campaign site

ANTONIO WILSON
Focuses on connecting local workers, small businesses and industry so new investment creates "long-term careers" and "real wage growth," and on expanding workforce training.
[1] Wilson campaign site
[2] Ballotpedia: Antonio Wilson

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

STEWART CATHEY
No public position found.

MISTI CORDELL
Pledges to cut taxes and lower health care costs through expanded doctor access, patient choice and "market-based solutions"; does not address Medicaid or SNAP.
[1] Cordell campaign: Platform

OSCAR DANTZLER
No public position found.

MICHAEL ECHOLS
Pledges to protect and strengthen Medicare and to curb pharmacy benefit managers to lower drug prices; says illegal immigrants should be barred from taxpayer-funded benefits.
[1] Echols campaign: Issues

GABE FIRMENT
Pledges to protect Social Security and Medicare so they "remain strong for future generations."
[1] Firment campaign site

AUSTIN MAGEE
No public position found.

DAN MCKAY
Warns that about 20 rural hospitals in the district are threatened by Medicaid cuts and says repeated tax cuts "favor only the most wealthy."
[1] Ballotpedia: Dan McKay

PAT MOORE
Says she will "protect Medicaid so nobody loses care over paperwork," protect rural hospitals, lower medicine costs, support fair wages and make child care more affordable.
[1] Ballotpedia: Pat Moore
[2] Moore campaign site

ANTONIO WILSON
No public position found.

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

STEWART CATHEY
No public position found.

MISTI CORDELL
No public position found.

OSCAR DANTZLER
No public position found.

MICHAEL ECHOLS
Supports nationwide voter ID laws and the SAVE Act requiring proof of citizenship to register for federal elections.
[1] Echols campaign: Issues

GABE FIRMENT
No public position found.

AUSTIN MAGEE
No public position found.

DAN MCKAY
Says "free and fair elections are essential," without naming specific voting policies.
[1] Ballotpedia: Dan McKay

PAT MOORE
No public position found.

ANTONIO WILSON
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

STEWART CATHEY
No public position found.

MISTI CORDELL
Says she will "vote pro-life" and believes "every child deserves protection."
[1] Cordell campaign: Platform

OSCAR DANTZLER
No public position found.

MICHAEL ECHOLS
No public position found.

GABE FIRMENT
Campaign site describes him as "Pro-Life, Pro-Gun, Pro-Family" without further detail.
[1] Firment campaign site

AUSTIN MAGEE
In Ballotpedia's candidate survey, lists among his views that he "is pro life," without further detail.
[1] Ballotpedia: Austin Magee

DAN MCKAY
Says "women's healthcare should be a matter of decision-making between a woman and her medical professionals."
[1] Ballotpedia: Dan McKay

PAT MOORE
No public position found.

ANTONIO WILSON
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

STEWART CATHEY
No public position found.

MISTI CORDELL
No public position found.

OSCAR DANTZLER
No public position found.

MICHAEL ECHOLS
No public position found.

GABE FIRMENT
No public position found.

AUSTIN MAGEE
No public position found.

DAN MCKAY
No public position found.

PAT MOORE
No public position found.

ANTONIO WILSON
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

STEWART CATHEY
No public position found.

MISTI CORDELL
Pledges to "secure the border, finish the wall, stop illegal immigration" and shut down the cartels.
[1] Cordell campaign: Platform

OSCAR DANTZLER
No public position found.

MICHAEL ECHOLS
Supports securing the border and returning those who entered illegally, barring them from benefits; says legal immigrants who take welfare should lose the path to citizenship.
[1] Echols campaign: Issues

GABE FIRMENT
Pledges to "secure the border," protect American sovereignty and uphold the rule of law; gives no further specifics.
[1] Firment campaign site

AUSTIN MAGEE
No public position found.

DAN MCKAY
Says "our immigration laws must be reformed," without further detail.
[1] Ballotpedia: Dan McKay

PAT MOORE
No public position found.

ANTONIO WILSON
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

STEWART CATHEY
No public position found.

MISTI CORDELL
Pledges to "fight for school choice," return education to local control and "protect religious freedom."
[1] Cordell campaign: Platform

OSCAR DANTZLER
No public position found.

MICHAEL ECHOLS
No public position found.

GABE FIRMENT
No public position found.

AUSTIN MAGEE
No public position found.

DAN MCKAY
Lists separation of church and state among the principles he supports.
[1] Ballotpedia: Dan McKay

PAT MOORE
No public position found.

ANTONIO WILSON
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

STEWART CATHEY
No public position found.

MISTI CORDELL
Pledges to protect Louisiana's energy and agriculture sectors by cutting red tape and opposing federal overreach.
[1] Cordell campaign: Platform

OSCAR DANTZLER
No public position found.

MICHAEL ECHOLS
Pledges to expand domestic energy production, support LNG exports, protect refineries and reform federal permitting.
[1] Echols campaign: Issues

GABE FIRMENT
Pledges to "unleash American energy production" and to support the timber industry with "responsible stewardship of our forests."
[1] Firment campaign site

AUSTIN MAGEE
No public position found.

DAN MCKAY
Says the district's "abundant natural resources … can and must be protected."
[1] Ballotpedia: Dan McKay

PAT MOORE
No public position found.

ANTONIO WILSON
No public position found.

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