

U.S. House, District 2

Open seat (Rep. Jared Golden, D, not seeking reelection).

Matt Dunlap

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Maine state auditor and former Maine secretary of state.

Paul LePage

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Former governor of Maine (2011–2019) and former mayor of Waterville.

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](#))

MATT DUNLAP

Opposes the Iran war, calling it a “war of choice” that should end, and wants spending shifted to health care “rather than foreign wars.”

[\[1\] Dunlap campaign: Issues](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes SP 163 (2003), joint resolution urging the President to pursue diplomacy and weapons inspections in Iraq (House adoption as amended)

PAUL LEPAGE

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](#)

MATT DUNLAP

Calls himself “100% pro-labor” and supports the PRO Act. No stated position on AI.

[\[1\] Dunlap campaign: Issues](#)

PAUL LEPAGE

Supports “cutting burdensome regulations” on the tech sector and the right to buy and trade cryptocurrency “without unnecessary government interference.” No stated position on AI or unions.

[\[1\] LePage campaign: Home](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

VetoedLD 611 (2013), adjusting Maine’s minimum wage annually based on cost-of-living changes

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](#)

MATT DUNLAP

Supports Medicare for All, protecting Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid, and reversing recent Medicaid cuts; backs universal child care.

[\[1\] Dunlap campaign: Issues](#)

[\[2\] Dunlap campaign: Home](#)

PAUL LEPAGE

Pledges to protect Social Security and Medicare and cut “wasteful spending” he blames for inflation.

[\[1\] LePage campaign: Home](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

VetoedLD 1066 (2013), expanding health coverage under Medicaid to qualify Maine for federal funding

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](#)

MATT DUNLAP

Says “the decision to terminate a pregnancy belongs to the woman” and that access to reproductive health care “should be a constitutional right.”

[1] [Dunlap campaign: Issues](#)

PAUL LEPAGE

Anti-abortion, per the Bangor Daily News. As governor in 2014, criticized a Planned Parenthood ad and said, “What I’m against is killing babies as a form of contraception.”

[1] [Bangor Daily News: LePage courts women voters \(2014\)](#)

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](#)

MATT DUNLAP

No public position found.

PAUL LEPAGE

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](#)

MATT DUNLAP

No public position found.

PAUL LEPAGE

Pledges to “finish the wall, end illegal immigration, and restore law and order.”

[1] [LePage campaign: Home](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Allowed to become law LD 369 (2015), aligning municipal General Assistance programs with state immigration-status policies

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](#)

MATT DUNLAP

No public position found.

PAUL LEPAGE

As governor in 2012, his education package included a bill to allow public funding for religious schools; the Legislature’s Education Committee voted 10-2 to recommend rejecting it.

[1] [Bangor Daily News: Bill to allow public funds for religious schools rejected \(2012\)](#)

CARE FOR CREATION

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

MATT DUNLAP

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes LD 845 (2003), An Act To Provide Leadership in Addressing the Threat of Climate Change

PAUL LEPAGE

As governor, called wind power a “boutique energy source” and “expensive,” and favored hydropower and natural gas.

[1] [Bangor Daily News: LePage on wind power \(2012\)](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Vetoed LD 1649 (2016), An Act To Modernize Maine’s Solar Power Policy and Encourage Economic Development

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