2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · MASSACHUSETTS · LETTERS FROM LEO

Governor

Gov. Maura Healey seeks a second term; Mike Minogue defeated Brian Shortsleeve in the Sept. 1 Republican primary. Rated Solid Democratic by Cook Political Report (Oct 2026).



Maura Healey

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

Governor of Massachusetts since 2023; state attorney general, 2015–2023.



Mike Minogue

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

Former CEO of medical-device maker Abiomed; West Point graduate and Army veteran.

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)

MAURA HEALEY

Calls the Iran conflict "a war we shouldn't be in" and says it and tariffs have raised costs for residents.

[1] WBUR: Healey and Minogue meet in final debate (Oct. 2026)

MIKE MINOGUE

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

MAURA HEALEY

Launched a Massachusetts AI Hub and free AI training with Google to "support our workers, students and small business owners." Says she is "still looking at" Question 2 on collective bargaining for public defenders.

[1] Mass.gov: Massachusetts AI Hub announcement
[2] Mass.gov: Free AI training partnership with Google (Feb. 2026)
[3] NBC Boston: How Healey and Minogue are voting on the 9 ballot questions (Oct. 2026)

MIKE MINOGUE

Says he will "learn more" about Question 2 on collective bargaining for public defenders. His blueprint mentions AI only for traffic management.

[1] NBC Boston: How Healey and Minogue are voting on the 9 ballot questions (Oct. 2026)
[2] Minogue campaign: Blueprint for a Better Future

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

MAURA HEALEY

Proposed a Health Care Stabilization Fund to support MassHealth, the Connector and the Health Safety Net amid "new costs born from recent federal policy changes"; formed an Anti-Hunger Task Force in response to federal SNAP cuts.

[1] Boston Globe: Healey health care stabilization fund (Sept. 2026)
[2] NEPM: Healey launches anti-hunger task force (July 2025)

MIKE MINOGUE

Says "everyone that's entitled to Medicaid needs to get it" while targeting fraud, and proposes a help line to meet federal work requirements. Says people in the country illegally should not receive free shelter, Medicaid or benefits.

[1] State House News Service: Minogue squares support for Trump with goals as governor
[2] Ballotpedia: Michael Minogue (campaign themes)

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

MAURA HEALEY

Supports Question 4 to allow Election Day voter registration ("Absolutely"); says there are "some real questions" about all-party primaries.

[1] NBC Boston: How Healey and Minogue are voting on the 9 ballot questions (Oct. 2026)

MIKE MINOGUE

Says "Biden won the [2020] election." Opposes Election Day registration unless voters' identity can be validated.

[1] State House News Service: Minogue squares support for Trump with goals as governor
[2] NBC Boston: How Healey and Minogue are voting on the 9 ballot questions (Oct. 2026)

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

MAURA HEALEY

Says she has worked to protect abortion access and shield providers from out-of-state legal action: "I trust women and their doctors." Said in 2022 she supports medical aid in dying, leaving details to the Legislature.

[1] Boston.com: 4 takeaways from the final Healey–Minogue debate (Oct. 2026)
[2] GBH: Healey supports medical aid in dying (Dec. 2022)

MIKE MINOGUE

Describes himself as pro-life, rooted in his Catholic faith; declined to say whether he would seek to repeal the state's abortion law: "I will follow the law."

[1] WBUR: Healey and Minogue meet in final debate (Oct. 2026)
[2] Boston.com: 4 takeaways from the final Healey–Minogue debate (Oct. 2026)

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

MAURA HEALEY

In 2015, as attorney general, said she opposes capital punishment and that the Boston Marathon bomber should spend the rest of his life in jail.

[1] WHDH: AG Healey on Marathon bomber sentence (Apr. 2015)

MIKE MINOGUE

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

MAURA HEALEY

Opposes the Trump administration's enforcement tactics — "ICE is the public safety threat" — and points to the state's Protect Act as a check on federal actions.

[1] WBUR: Healey and Minogue meet in final debate (Oct. 2026)
[2] Boston.com: 4 takeaways from the final Healey–Minogue debate (Oct. 2026)

MIKE MINOGUE

Would "end sanctuary state policies" and work with ICE to remove violent criminals; says "Nobody should be afraid to leave their home, go to school or the hospital" and calls for better ICE training.

[1] Minogue campaign: Blueprint for a Better Future
[2] GBH: Minogue makes case for governor bid (Oct. 2026)
[3] State House News Service: Minogue squares support for Trump with goals as governor

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

MAURA HEALEY

No public position found.

MIKE MINOGUE

Would opt Massachusetts into the federal scholarship tax credit, calling it "transformational," and expand charter, technical and vocational schools. Says "I believe in the separation of church and state."

[1] Minogue campaign: Blueprint for a Better Future
[2] GBH: Minogue makes case for governor bid (Oct. 2026)
[3] WBUR: Healey and Minogue meet in final debate (Oct. 2026)

CARE FOR CREATION

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

MAURA HEALEY

Backs an “all-of-the-above” energy approach — gas, wind, solar, geothermal and hydropower — and supports continuing offshore wind. A “strong yes” on Question 6, a dedicated conservation fund.

[1] Boston.com: 4 takeaways from the final Healey–Minogue debate (Oct. 2026)
[2] NBC Boston: How Healey and Minogue are voting on the 9 ballot questions (Oct. 2026)

MIKE MINOGUE

Would “cancel the unfunded, unachievable Net Zero mandate,” expand natural gas pipelines, evaluate modular nuclear power and enact a gas tax holiday when prices top $4 a gallon. Opposes the Question 6 conservation fund.

[1] Minogue campaign: Blueprint for a Better Future
[2] NBC Boston: How Healey and Minogue are voting on the 9 ballot questions (Oct. 2026)

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