2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · MICHIGAN · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 13

No incumbent on the ballot: Donavan McKinney defeated Rep. Shri Thanedar (D) in the August 4, 2026 Democratic primary.



Donavan McKinney

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Michigan state representative from Detroit; former SEIU Healthcare Michigan political director and Climate Power national political director.



Taras Nykoriak

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Detroit native; 2024 Republican nominee for Wayne County sheriff.

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)

DONAVAN MCKINNEY

Calls to "end the military aid and arms that America gives to Israel" and pledges to co-sign the Block the Bombs Act; favors a "diplomacy-first" foreign policy.

[1] Donavan McKinney — Priorities

TARAS NYKORIAK

Calls for congressional investigations and stronger auditing of U.S. aid to Ukraine, saying he saw U.S.-supplied materials for sale in Ukrainian flea markets in 2022–23.

[1] TP Nykoriak for Congress

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

DONAVAN MCKINNEY

A former SEIU member, says he is fighting "for every worker to have the right to form a union" and earn a living wage.

[1] Donavan McKinney — Priorities

TARAS NYKORIAK

No public position found.

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

DONAVAN MCKINNEY

Backs Medicare for All, a universal basic income, a national homes guarantee and federal tenant protections, citing his family's experience with poverty and evictions.

[1] Donavan McKinney — Priorities

TARAS NYKORIAK

Pledges to "protect Medicare and Medicaid for those who lawfully depend upon these programs" while targeting fraud, waste and abuse and lowering drug costs.

[1] TP Nykoriak for Congress

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

DONAVAN MCKINNEY

No public position found.

TARAS NYKORIAK

Pledges to "defend election integrity" by enforcing existing election laws and "ensuring accurate voter rolls."

[1] TP Nykoriak for Congress

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

DONAVAN MCKINNEY

Says "we must codify abortion rights at the federal level," protect medication abortion nationwide and pass the EACH Act to repeal the Hyde Amendment.

[1] Donavan McKinney — Priorities

TARAS NYKORIAK

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

DONAVAN MCKINNEY

No public position found.

TARAS NYKORIAK

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

DONAVAN MCKINNEY

Opposes "mass deportations, internment camps" and for-profit detention; calls for "a pathway to citizenship for all immigrants," asylum reform and welcoming refugees.

[1] Donavan McKinney — Priorities

TARAS NYKORIAK

Supports "strong border security" and enforcing existing immigration laws; would also limit qualified immunity for ICE and Border Patrol officers who "knowingly violate" constitutional rights.

[1] TP Nykoriak for Congress

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

DONAVAN MCKINNEY

No public position found.

TARAS NYKORIAK

Pledges to defend the right to "worship freely" and to "protect parents' rights" as primary decision-makers in their children's education.

[1] TP Nykoriak for Congress

CARE FOR CREATION

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

DONAVAN MCKINNEY

Backs a Green New Deal "transitioning to 100% clean and renewable energy," citing lead in Detroit's water and air pollution, plus expanded public transit.

[1] Donavan McKinney — Priorities

TARAS NYKORIAK

Pledges to "promote domestic energy production" and policies that lower energy costs and strengthen energy independence.

[1] TP Nykoriak for Congress

Full guide and every race in Michigan: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/michigan/ · **Take the Pope Leo voter pledge:** standwithpopeleo.com/vote/

This guide does not endorse any candidate or party. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Positions are summarized from candidates' own statements, votes, and campaign materials, with sources linked. Published by *Letters from Leo*. Spot an error? Email cjh@christopherhale.com.