

Governor

Open seat (Gov. Tim Walz withdrew in January 2026 amid a social-services fraud scandal).

Lisa Demuth

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Speaker of the Minnesota House and former school board member.

Amy Klobuchar

DEMOCRATIC-FARMER-LABOR · OPEN SEAT

U.S. Senator since 2007 and former Hennepin County Attorney.

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](#))

LISA DEMUTH

No public position found.

AMY KLOBUCHAR

Linked rising gas prices to the Iran war and said ending it would bring the fastest relief; voted against sending certain weapons to Israel and supports a two-state solution.

[\[1\] FOX 9: final governor debate](#)

[\[2\] Klobuchar campaign summary](#)

VOTING RECORD

Yes Iran war powers resolution (H.Con.Res. 86), June 2026

Yes Iran war powers resolution (H.Con.Res. 89), Sept. 2026

Yes Russia sanctions bill (H.R. 5334), Aug. 2026

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](#)

LISA DEMUTH

Says local communities should decide on data centers, with consumer energy prices protected and transparency in agreements.

[\[1\] FOX 9: final governor debate](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

No HF 2 (2023), creating a statewide paid family and medical leave program (final repassage)

AMY KLOBUCHAR

Plans to double the number of apprenticeships; says local communities should decide on data centers and residents should not pay their electric costs. Endorsed by the AFL-CIO and other unions.

[\[1\] Klobuchar campaign summary](#)

[\[2\] FOX 9: final governor debate](#)

[\[3\] Wikipedia: 2026 Minnesota gubernatorial election](#)

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](#)

LISA DEMUTH

Would require periodic health-program eligibility checks with disenrollment of ineligible enrollees, cut the two lowest income tax brackets, and end state taxes on Social Security.

[\[1\] Demuth campaign priorities](#)

[\[2\] Demuth affordability agenda](#)

AMY KLOBUCHAR

Voted against the 2025 reconciliation law; would push to restore its Medicaid cuts, simplify enrollment, and create a state tax credit to lower premiums if federal ACA credits are not extended.

[\[1\] Senate roll call 372 \(H.R. 1\)](#)

[\[2\] Klobuchar health care plan](#)

VOTING RECORD

No One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), July 2025 — tax cuts with Medicaid and SNAP changes

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](#)

LISA DEMUTH

Was chief author of a 2021 Minnesota House bill (HF 262) to prohibit abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, with medical-emergency exceptions.

[\[1\] Minnesota Legislature: HF 262 \(2021\)](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

No HF 1 (2023), Protect Reproductive Options Act, establishing a statutory right to reproductive health care including abortion

AMY KLOBUCHAR

Pledges to “stand up for reproductive freedom” and to “protect the reproductive rights codified in state law by the PRO Act.”

[\[1\] Klobuchar health care plan](#)

VOTING RECORD

No Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 6), Jan. 2025 — vote to advance the bill (failed, 52–47; 60 needed)

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](#)

LISA DEMUTH

No public position found.

AMY KLOBUCHAR

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](#)

LISA DEMUTH

Pledges to “continue to oppose illegal immigrant handouts and magnet legislation the Democrats passed” during their legislative trifecta.

[\[1\] Demuth campaign priorities](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

No HF 4 (2023), removing the lawful-presence requirement for standard driver’s licenses and state ID cards

AMY KLOBUCHAR

Voted against the Laken Riley Act in January 2025 and against confirming Kristi Noem as Homeland Security secretary.

[\[1\] Senate roll call 7 \(S. 5\)](#)

[\[2\] Senate roll call 17 \(Noem nomination\)](#)

VOTING RECORD

No Laken Riley Act (S. 5), Jan. 2025 — requires detention of undocumented immigrants charged with theft and certain crimes

No Secure America Act (S. 2), June 2026 — reconciliation funding for ICE and Customs and Border Protection

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](#)

LISA DEMUTH

Pledges to opt Minnesota into the federal \$1,700 tax-credit scholarship program on day one, unlocking scholarships for public, charter and private school students.

[\[1\] Demuth education plan](#)

AMY KLOBUCHAR

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), July 2025 — created a federal tax credit for donations to K–12 scholarship organizations

CARE FOR CREATION

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

LISA DEMUTH

Supports an “all-of-the-above” energy approach, repealing Minnesota’s ban on new nuclear plants, and says the executive order barring copper-sulfide mining near the Boundary Waters should never have happened.

[\[1\] Demuth campaign priorities](#)

[\[2\] FOX 9: final governor debate](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

No HF 7 (2023), requiring utilities to provide 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2040

AMY KLOBUCHAR

Voted against stripping protections from the Boundary Waters and pledges to oppose shrinking public lands; plan calls for keeping air and water clean and building climate-resilient parks.

[\[1\] Klobuchar conservation plan](#)

VOTING RECORD

No Resolution overturning EPA approval of California vehicle-emission rules (H.J.Res. 87), May 2025

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