2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · MISSOURI · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 6

Open seat (Sam Graves, R, retiring). District lines redrawn for 2026 (map subject to legal dispute per Ballotpedia).



Josh Smead

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Licensed architect, general contractor and small business owner from Liberty, Missouri.



Chris Stigall

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Conservative talk radio host and former field representative and deputy communications director for Rep. Sam Graves.

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)

JOSH SMEAD

Calls for stopping "the illegal Iran war" and increasing support for service members deployed in it; does not address Ukraine or Israel.

[1] Josh Smead for Congress: The Plan

CHRIS STIGALL

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

JOSH SMEAD

Says he is "proudly pro-union" and supports "the freedom to organize"; calls for investigating the costs and benefits of data centers to residents.

[1] Josh Smead for Congress: The Plan

CHRIS STIGALL

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

JOSH SMEAD

Notes one in five Missourians rely on Medicaid and opposes cuts to it and SNAP; pledges to "retain Medicaid, Medicare and SNAP" and invest in rural healthcare.

[1] Josh Smead for Congress: The Plan

CHRIS STIGALL

Pledges to reduce federal mandates and red tape to "strengthen rural hospitals" and supports making the Trump tax cuts permanent; does not address Medicaid or SNAP directly.

[1] Chris Stigall for Congress: Issues

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

JOSH SMEAD

Calls January 6 "a horrific attack on the transition of power" and accuses Republicans of trying to "deny citizens the right to vote"; supports term limits.

[1] Josh Smead for Congress: The Plan
[2] Ballotpedia: Josh Smead

CHRIS STIGALL

Supports the SAVE Act "to ensure only American citizens can vote in federal elections," calling election integrity a fundamental federal responsibility.

[1] Chris Stigall for Congress: Issues

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

JOSH SMEAD

Says Missourians "deserve sovereignty over their own bodies — plain and simple" and that government should stay out of decisions "from abortion rights to gender and lifestyle choices."

[1] Josh Smead for Congress: The Plan
[2] Josh Smead for Congress: Freedom

CHRIS STIGALL

Says he is "proudly pro-life" and that every human life is "a gift from God"; pledges to oppose taxpayer funding for abortion while noting the issue is increasingly decided by states.

[1] Chris Stigall for Congress: Issues

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

JOSH SMEAD

No public position found.

CHRIS STIGALL

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

JOSH SMEAD

Calls for eliminating ICE and any military role in deportations, and for "humane legal immigration enforcement separate from the Department of Homeland Security."

[1] Josh Smead for Congress: The Plan

CHRIS STIGALL

Says "a nation without secure borders is not a nation at all"; supports finishing the wall, ending catch-and-release and deporting "dangerous criminal illegal immigrants."

[1] Chris Stigall for Congress: Issues

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

JOSH SMEAD

Opposes school vouchers as diverting public school funding, backs keeping "religion out of public schools," and says freedom of religion should be ensured.

[1] Josh Smead for Congress: The Plan

CHRIS STIGALL

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

JOSH SMEAD

Says "climate change is real" and calls for long-term, funded bipartisan federal action, including on extreme rainfall damage in rural and riverfront Missouri towns.

[1] Josh Smead for Congress: The Plan

CHRIS STIGALL

No public position found.

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

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