2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · MONTANA · LETTERS FROM LEO

# U.S. Senate

Open seat (Steve Daines withdrew at the March 2026 filing deadline and endorsed Alme). Three-way race; a Quantus Insights poll (Oct 2026) had Alme 44%, Bodnar 28%, Bankhead 21%.



### Kurt Alme

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Former U.S. attorney for Montana and state budget director under Gov. Greg Gianforte.



### Alani Bankhead

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and federal counterintelligence agent.



### Seth Bodnar

INDEPENDENT · OPEN SEAT

Former University of Montana president, Army Green Beret and GE executive.

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)

**KURT ALME**

Supports the president on Iran and wants a "quick and successful" end to the war; says he will never support "boots on the ground" in "another forever war."

[1] Daily Montanan: Alme profile
[2] NBC Montana: Senate candidates lay out policy positions

**ALANI BANKHEAD**

Opposes the war: "I do not support the war in Iran," which she calls illegal.

[1] NBC Montana: Senate candidates lay out policy positions
[2] Daily Montanan: Senate debate audience

**SETH BODNAR**

Calls for ending the "costly and unauthorized" Iran war; says Congress should use its war powers and demand an exit plan.

[1] Bodnar campaign: Issues
[2] Montana Free Press: Bodnar stays in race
[3] NBC Montana: Senate candidates lay out policy positions

## 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

**KURT ALME**

Says AI and data center companies should disclose costs and community impacts and pay their own way; supports the Ratepayer Protection Act and leaving siting to local communities.

[1] NBC Montana: Senate candidates lay out policy positions
[2] Daily Montanan: Senate candidates share debate stage

**ALANI BANKHEAD**

Wants a moratorium on AI data center construction in Montana: "I am the loudest on this stage about being opposed to them."

[1] NBC Montana: Senate candidates lay out policy positions
[2] Daily Montanan: Senate candidates share debate stage

**SETH BODNAR**

Would "stop any AI data center" coming into Montana and wants AI "guardrails"; pledges to protect Montana workers' right to organize.

[1] Daily Montanan: Senate candidates share debate stage
[2] NBC Montana: Senate candidates lay out policy positions
[3] Bodnar campaign: Issues

## 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

**KURT ALME**

Says the Affordable Care Act failed to make care affordable; favors making health care "more transparent, more competitive" and "putting patients first."

[1] Daily Montanan: Senate candidates share debate stage

**ALANI BANKHEAD**

Supports universal health care modeled on the military's TRICARE, funded in part by ending the Iran war; would lift the Social Security wage cap.

[1] Daily Montanan: Senate candidates share debate stage
[2] Daily Montanan: Senate debate audience

**SETH BODNAR**

Would restore ACA premium tax credits, protect Medicaid expansion and oppose work-requirement verification he says could cost 30,000 Montanans coverage; backs a $35 insulin cap.

[1] Daily Montanan: Senate debate audience
[2] Bodnar campaign website

## 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

**KURT ALME**

Lists "securing our elections" among his priorities; has not detailed specific proposals.

[1] Ballotpedia: Kurt Alme

**ALANI BANKHEAD**

*No public position found.*

**SETH BODNAR**

Lists protecting voting rights and election security among his priorities and supports ending gerrymandering.

[1] Bodnar campaign: Issues
[2] Ballotpedia: Seth Bodnar

## 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

**KURT ALME**

Endorsed by Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America; has not detailed his own abortion position in campaign materials.

[1] Ballotpedia: Kurt Alme

**ALANI BANKHEAD**

Supports abortion rights; her campaign's message on reproductive freedom is "trust people, not the government."

[1] Bankhead campaign website
[2] Daily Montanan: Planned Parenthood endorses Bodnar

**SETH BODNAR**

Says "the government has no place in a Montanan's doctor's office"; endorsed by Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

[1] Daily Montanan: Planned Parenthood endorses Bodnar
[2] Bodnar campaign website

## 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

**KURT ALME**

*No public position found.*

**ALANI BANKHEAD**

*No public position found.*

**SETH BODNAR**

*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

**KURT ALME**

Says "we must secure our borders" and blames Biden-era border policy; as U.S. attorney he formed a Homeland Security Task Force targeting drug cartels.

[1] Ballotpedia: Kurt Alme
[2] NBC Montana: Senate candidates lay out policy positions
[3] Alme campaign: Meet Kurt

**ALANI BANKHEAD**

Supports comprehensive reform with due process and a faster citizenship process; would withhold enforcement funding until agencies are "held accountable."

[1] NBC Montana: Senate candidates lay out policy positions
[2] Daily Montanan: Senate debate audience

**SETH BODNAR**

Supports border security and enforcing immigration law but opposes "a masked, untrained, unaccountable force" in U.S. cities; backs comprehensive reform.

[1] Montana Free Press: Bodnar stays in race
[2] NBC Montana: Senate candidates lay out policy positions

## 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

**KURT ALME**

*No public position found.*

**ALANI BANKHEAD**

*No public position found.*

**SETH BODNAR**

*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

**KURT ALME**

"I will always fight to keep our public lands in public hands." Has not detailed an energy or climate platform.

[1] Daily Montanan: Senate candidates share debate stage

**ALANI BANKHEAD**

"Public lands stay public: period." Says the current administration has opened public lands to "exploitation."

[1] Bankhead campaign website
[2] Daily Montanan: Senate candidates share debate stage

**SETH BODNAR**

Pledges to defend public lands and Montanans' constitutional right to a clean environment; endorsed by Montana Conservation Voters.

[1] Bodnar campaign: Issues
[2] Ballotpedia: Seth Bodnar

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

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