

Governor

Gov. Joe Lombardo seeks a second term.

Aaron Ford

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Nevada Attorney General since 2019.

Danielle Ford

INDEPENDENT · CHALLENGER

Nevada State Board of Education member, former Clark County School District trustee and marketing strategist.

Joe Lombardo

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

Governor of Nevada since 2023; former Clark 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)

AARON FORD

Has criticized the Iran war’s effect on gas prices, calling it “an unacceptable burden that Trump is forcing Nevadans to bear.”

[1] Ford campaign release on Iran war and gas prices (April 2026)

DANIELLE FORD

No public position found.

JOE LOMBARDO

After the February 2026 U.S. strikes on Iran, said Iran “must never be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon” and that “all options for diplomacy have been rejected by Iran.”

[1] FOX5: Lombardo addresses U.S. attack on Iran (Feb. 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

AARON FORD

Would repeal Nevada’s right-to-work law, require data centers to provide their own power, and require new energy projects to use union labor.

[1] Nevada Independent: Where Nevada’s governor candidates stand (Aug. 2026)

[2] Nevada Current: Ford energy plan (April 2026)

DANIELLE FORD

Wants guardrails on automated decision-making, surveillance and algorithmic bias; opposes giving data centers public benefits before their water, energy and job impacts are disclosed.

[1] Danielle Ford campaign: Platform

[2] Ballotpedia: Danielle Ford

JOE LOMBARDO

Opposes repealing Nevada’s right-to-work law, saying he supports it and would not want to eliminate it; on data centers, his campaign cites existing ratepayer protections.

[1] Nevada Independent: Where Nevada’s governor candidates stand (Aug. 2026)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Vetoed AB 388 (2025), requiring paid family leave procedures for certain public and private employers

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

AARON FORD

Cites his own family’s past reliance on Medicaid and food stamps in criticizing the 2025 federal law’s Medicaid cuts; his “Affordable Nevada” plan targets prescription costs and medical debt, and he pledges to “guarantee school meals for students.”

[1] KFF Health News: Health costs in Nevada governor’s race (July 2026)

[2] Ford campaign: Student Success Agenda (May 2026)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes SB 106 (2017), revising the minimum wage for private-sector employees

DANIELLE FORD

Calls for “stronger care systems” focused on access, insurance, mental health and long-term care.

[1] [Danielle Ford campaign: Platform](#)

JOE LOMBARDO

In 2025 raised concerns with federal officials about rolling back Medicaid expansion funding or imposing per-capita caps, while seeking tools against waste and fraud; did not sign a GOP governors’ letter praising the reconciliation bill.

[1] [Gov. Lombardo letter on Medicaid \(Feb. 2025\)](#)

[2] [Nevada Current via Yahoo: Lombardo did not sign RGA letter \(May 2025\)](#)

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

AARON FORD

Supports enshrining abortion rights through 24 weeks in the state constitution and pledges “protecting abortion access, safeguarding IVF.”

[1] [Nevada Independent: Where Nevada’s governor candidates stand \(Aug. 2026\)](#)

DANIELLE FORD

Backs current Nevada law protecting abortion through 24 weeks; says medical decisions belong to “patients and their doctors, not politicians.”

[1] [Danielle Ford campaign: Platform](#)

JOE LOMBARDO

Says he would personally support a 15-week cutoff but that abortion rights are codified in state law and should be left up to Nevada voters.

[1] [Nevada Independent: Where Nevada’s governor candidates stand \(Aug. 2026\)](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

SignedSB 131 (2023), shielding people involved in reproductive health care from out-of-state prosecution and extradition

VetoedSB 217 (2025), protecting access to assisted reproduction, including IVF, from government burdens

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

AARON FORD

Opposes capital punishment: “I am opposed to it, and I would sign the bill to repeal.”

[1] [Nevada Independent: Where Nevada’s governor candidates stand \(Aug. 2026\)](#)

DANIELLE FORD

No public position found.

JOE LOMBARDO

Supports capital punishment, calling it “a solution for individuals that have committed egregious crimes against society” (2021).

[1] [Nevada Independent: Where Nevada’s governor candidates stand \(Aug. 2026\)](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

VetoedSB 350 (2025), extending the time within which a judgment of death must be executed

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](#)

AARON FORD

As attorney general, says he is “fighting in court to make ICE agents follow the law”; criticized Lombardo’s call for more federal ICE and CBP funding.

[1] FOX5: Lombardo calls for ICE funding, Ford criticizes move (June 2026)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes SB 303 (2013), providing for the issuance of driver authorization cards

DANIELLE FORD

Calls immigration enforcement mainly federal; does not treat “undocumented status alone” like violent crime and wants clear state rules on data sharing and due process.

[1] Danielle Ford campaign: Platform

JOE LOMBARDO

Says CBP and ICE agents “are on the front lines protecting our nation” and urged Congress to keep them “fully funded and fully equipped.”

[1] FOX5: Lombardo calls for ICE funding, Ford criticizes move (June 2026)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Vetoed AB 217 (2025), barring schools from granting immigration enforcement officials access or pupil information

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](#)

AARON FORD

No stated position on Opportunity Scholarships found; his education agenda centers on raising per-pupil public school funding, and he cites past legislative work to “give parents more choice.”

[1] Ford campaign: Student Success Agenda (May 2026)

[2] Nevada Independent: Where Nevada’s governor candidates stand (Aug. 2026)

RECORD IN OFFICE

No SB 302 (2015), creating Education Savings Accounts for children taught outside public schools

DANIELLE FORD

Wants education that “gives families real options,” with public accountability for education dollars; states no position on vouchers.

[1] Danielle Ford campaign: Platform

JOE LOMBARDO

Has repeatedly sought to expand Opportunity Scholarships for low-income students at private schools, opted Nevada into the new federal school-choice tax credit and backed charter school funding.

[1] Nevada Independent: Grading Lombardo’s education record (Oct. 2026)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Vetoed AB 441 (2025), revising tax-credit rules for the Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program

CARE FOR CREATION

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

AARON FORD

Would halt NV Energy’s residential demand charge, expand residential solar and efficiency incentives, and push back on federal cuts to solar tax credits.

[1] Nevada Current: Ford energy plan (April 2026)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes AB 206 (2017), revising the renewable portfolio standard

DANIELLE FORD

Wants ratepayer protection and clearer energy bills; ties development to transparent water planning, saying “Nevada cannot solve the Colorado River alone.”

[1] Danielle Ford campaign: Platform

JOE LOMBARDO

Ordered a review of the state climate strategy and favors a “balanced approach” including natural gas alongside renewables; says his ties to Trump helped restore solar subsidies.

[1] Nevada Independent: Lombardo energy order (2023)

[2] Nevada Current: Ford energy plan (April 2026)

Full guide and every race in Nevada: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/nevada/ · **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.