2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · NEVADA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 2

Open seat (Rep. Mark Amodei, R, retiring).



Teresa Benitez-Thompson

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Former Nevada Assembly majority leader and social worker.



David Flippo

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and combat veteran; Nevada small-business owner.

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)

TERESA BENITEZ-THOMPSON

Says U.S. military aid to Israel should not be unconditional; supports phasing out funding for offensive arms sales and conditioning aid on humanitarian law, while funding Iron Dome; calls the Iran war "a war of choice."

[1] Benitez-Thompson: Policy

DAVID FLIPPO

Wants to fully fund and modernize the military and "put America First in global alliances," saying America must "project strength to deter threats."

[1] Flippo: Issues
[2] Ballotpedia: David Flippo

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

TERESA BENITEZ-THOMPSON

Backs "strong regulations to prevent massive job layoffs due to AI" and good-paying jobs in Northern Nevada.

[1] Benitez-Thompson: Policy

DAVID FLIPPO

Says "we must make sure AI does not replace American jobs, weaken education, or erode human responsibility" (2025 survey).

[1] Ballotpedia: David Flippo

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

TERESA BENITEZ-THOMPSON

Pledges to defend the Affordable Care Act, ensure Medicaid covers mental and behavioral health, and undo the 2025 "One Big Beautiful Bill" law's effects on working families; voted for Nevada's public-option plan.

[1] Benitez-Thompson: Policy

DAVID FLIPPO

Supports expanding health care, mental health support and jobs for veterans and has criticized "out of control healthcare costs"; has not stated positions on Medicaid or SNAP.

[1] Ballotpedia: David Flippo

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

TERESA BENITEZ-THOMPSON

Opposes the SAVE Act and other barriers to registration; supports expanding mail and early voting, automatic and same-day registration and redistricting reform.

[1] Benitez-Thompson: Policy

DAVID FLIPPO

Supports passing the SAVE Act and a federal voter ID requirement, while saying elections "should continue to be run by the states."

[1] Flippo: Issues
[2] Ballotpedia: David Flippo

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

TERESA BENITEZ-THOMPSON

Supports protecting "reproductive freedom through federal legislation"; as a legislator, voted to bar out-of-pocket costs for contraception.

[1] Benitez-Thompson: Policy

DAVID FLIPPO

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

TERESA BENITEZ-THOMPSON

No public position found.

DAVID FLIPPO

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

TERESA BENITEZ-THOMPSON

Calls for "a reformed immigration system that works, not federal agents pulling families apart."

[1] Elect Teresa: Why I'm Running

DAVID FLIPPO

Pledges to "deport illegal aliens," end catch-and-release and sanctuary policies, and finish the border wall.

[1] Flippo: Issues
[2] Ballotpedia: David Flippo

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

TERESA BENITEZ-THOMPSON

No public position found.

DAVID FLIPPO

Pledges to defend religious liberty, wants education funds to "follow the student," and backs a federal parental bill of rights.

[1] Flippo: Issues

CARE FOR CREATION

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

TERESA BENITEZ-THOMPSON

Opposes selling off federal public lands without local and tribal input and wants federal wildfire and flood-mitigation funding restored.

[1] Benitez-Thompson: Policy

DAVID FLIPPO

Wants to "unleash American energy production" to lower prices and fight "radical environmental lawfare" he says hurts farmers and ranchers.

[1] Flippo: Issues

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