

Governor

Ayotte seeks a second two-year term.

Kelly Ayotte

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

Governor since 2025; former U.S. senator and state attorney general.

Cinde Warmington

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Executive councilor and health care 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)

KELLY AYOTTE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes Cloture on S.Amdt. 2640 to H.J.Res. 61 (2015), resolution disapproving the Iran nuclear agreement

CINDE WARMINGTON

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

KELLY AYOTTE

Opposes data centers in New Hampshire and pledges a statewide moratorium in her next budget, citing electricity costs, water use, noise and environmental effects.

[1] WMUR: Where 2026 NH governor candidates stand on the issues

[2] WMUR: Ayotte town hall (Oct. 2026)

CINDE WARMINGTON

Would issue a temporary statewide moratorium on large data centers on day one, paired with a “Community Bill of Rights” on electric bills, water and noise.

[1] WMUR: Where 2026 NH governor candidates stand on the 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

KELLY AYOTTE

Says she protected the state Medicaid program, “preserving some of the highest eligibility levels in the nation,” and pledges no income or sales tax.

[1] WMUR: Where 2026 NH governor candidates stand on the issues

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes H.R. 3762 (2015), reconciliation bill repealing parts of the Affordable Care Act

CINDE WARMINGTON

Pledges to undo state Medicaid cuts, lower prescription drug costs and expand mental health and addiction treatment, without a sales or income tax.

[1] WMUR: Where 2026 NH governor candidates stand on the 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](#)

KELLY AYOTTE

Supports keeping New Hampshire’s current law allowing abortion through 24 weeks with later exceptions; vetoed a bill that would have further restricted access. Supports IVF access.

[1] [WMUR: Where 2026 NH governor candidates stand on the issues](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes H.R. 36 (2015), Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, cloture on motion to proceed

CINDE WARMINGTON

Calls reproductive freedom “a fundamental right” and pledges to protect abortion access; has called for repealing the state’s 24-week abortion limit.

[1] [WMUR: Where 2026 NH governor candidates stand on the issues](#)

[2] [WMUR: Warmington calls for repeal of abortion ban](#)

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](#)

KELLY AYOTTE

Says the death sentence for Michael Addison, convicted of killing a Manchester police officer, should be carried out despite the state’s 2019 repeal: “The death penalty was the appropriate sentence there.”

[1] [Union Leader: Police leaders criticize Warmington’s death penalty stance](#)

CINDE WARMINGTON

Asked whether she would carry out the death sentence of Michael Addison, the state’s only death-row inmate, said: “I will not be proceeding with the application of the death penalty in this state.”

[1] [Union Leader: Police leaders criticize Warmington’s death penalty stance](#)

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](#)

KELLY AYOTTE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

SignedHB 511 (2025), relative to cooperation with federal immigration authorities

Yes S. 744 (2013), Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act

CINDE WARMINGTON

Pressed Ayotte to take a position on a planned federal ICE detention facility in Merrimack.

[1] [WMUR: Warmington running for governor \(Feb. 2026\)](#)

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](#)

KELLY AYOTTE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

SignedSB 295 (2025), extending Education Freedom Account eligibility to all New Hampshire students

CINDE WARMINGTON

Opposes the state’s Education Freedom Account (voucher) program, which she says is driving up property taxes.

[1] [Warmington campaign: Priorities](#)

[2] [WMUR: Warmington running for governor \(Feb. 2026\)](#)

CARE FOR CREATION

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

KELLY AYOTTE

Backs an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy and next-generation nuclear power; signed new landfill-siting protections and supported protecting the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Forest.

[1] [WMUR: Where 2026 NH governor candidates stand on the issues](#)

[2] [Ayotte campaign: State of the State on nuclear power \(Feb. 2026\)](#)

CINDE WARMINGTON

Says climate change is “already damaging” the state; supports transitioning toward renewable energy, efficiency and grid modernization.

[1] [WMUR: Where 2026 NH governor candidates stand on the issues](#)

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