

U.S. Senate

Open seat (Jeanne Shaheen retiring).

Chris Pappas

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

U.S. representative for New Hampshire's 1st District since 2019; Manchester restaurant owner.

John E. Sununu

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Former U.S. senator (2003–2009) and U.S. representative (1997–2003).

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 \(Vatican News via The Good Newsroom\)](#)

CHRIS PAPPAS

Voted to end U.S. military operations against Iran and to require congressional approval for future action. Supports security aid to Israel, humanitarian aid to Gaza, a hostage-return ceasefire and a two-state solution.

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

VOTING RECORD

Iran war powers resolutions, Mar.–Sept. 2026 (six House votes): **Yes** Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Sept.

Yes Ukraine Support Act (H.R. 2913), June 2026 — authorizes support for Ukraine

JOHN E. SUNUNU

Says attacking Iran without a plan to protect the Strait of Hormuz was “a mistake”; priorities are reopening trade and preventing an Iranian nuclear weapon. Calls Israel “a critical ally” with a right to defend itself.

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

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes H.J.Res. 114 (2002), authorizing the use of U.S. armed forces against Iraq

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](#)

CHRIS PAPPAS

Calls for a moratorium on new data centers in New Hampshire and federal AI “rules of the road,” including consumer protections, pre-clearance of AI models and data privacy.

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

VOTING RECORD

Yes Protect America's Workforce Act (H.R. 2550), Dec. 2025 — nullifies the executive order ending union bargaining for many federal workers

Yes Faster Labor Contracts Act (H.R. 5408), June 2026 — sets deadlines for reaching first union contracts

JOHN E. SUNUNU

Supports AI “guardrails” for privacy and national security while recognizing AI as a productivity tool.

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

RECORD IN OFFICE

No H.R. 800 (2007), Employee Free Choice Act, cloture on motion to proceed

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](#)

CHRIS PAPPAS

Opposed the 2025 Republican budget law, citing its health care cuts; says health care should be “a right, not a privilege.” Supports restoring the expanded Child Tax Credit.

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

VOTING RECORD

No One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), final passage July 2025 — tax cuts with Medicaid and SNAP changes

Yes Breaking the Gridlock Act (H.R. 1834), Jan. 2026 — extends enhanced ACA premium tax credits through 2028

JOHN E. SUNUNU

Proposes forcing health care providers to compete across state lines, health savings accounts for anyone who wants one, and less paperwork for providers; pledges never to cut Social Security benefits.

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

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes H.R. 976 (2007), reauthorizing and expanding the State Children’s Health Insurance Program

No H.R. 1 (2003), creating a Medicare prescription drug benefit, conference report

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](#)

CHRIS PAPPAS

Supports passing a federal law to restore abortion rights nationwide after Roe was overturned; endorsed by Reproductive Freedom for All.

[\[1\] NHPR: Pappas talks inflation, abortion, border policies \(2022\)](#)

[\[2\] Pappas campaign: Reproductive Freedom for All endorsement](#)

VOTING RECORD

No Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 21), Jan. 2025 — requires care for infants born alive after an attempted abortion

No Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act (H.R. 6945), Jan. 2026 — lets states use TANF funds for pregnancy centers

JOHN E. SUNUNU

No current statement found. As a House member in 2000, the Boston Globe reported he opposed abortion rights.

[\[1\] Boston Globe: Bass, Sununu declare victory \(2000\)](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes S. 3 (2003), Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, conference report

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](#)

CHRIS PAPPAS

No public position found.

JOHN E. SUNUNU

No current statement found. As a House member in 2000, the Boston Globe reported he favored the death penalty.

[\[1\] Boston Globe: Bass, Sununu declare victory \(2000\)](#)

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](#)

CHRIS PAPPAS

Supports comprehensive reform with a path for immigrants “who work hard and follow the rules,” plus border security. Was one of 46 House Democrats who voted for the Laken Riley Act in 2025.

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

[\[2\] NHPR: NH delegation joins GOP to pass Laken Riley Act \(Jan. 2025\)](#)

VOTING RECORD

Yes Laken Riley Act (S. 5), Jan. 2025 — requires detention of undocumented immigrants charged with theft and certain crimes

No Secure America Act (S. 2), June 2026 — reconciliation funding for ICE and Customs and Border Protection

Yes Haiti TPS bill (H.R. 1689), Apr. 2026 — requires temporary protected status for Haitians

JOHN E. SUNUNU

Says the U.S. “has made great progress securing our borders” and should now modernize legal immigration programs for agricultural, seasonal and health care workers.

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

RECORD IN OFFICE

No S. 1639 (2007), comprehensive immigration reform bill, cloture motion

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

CHRIS PAPPAS

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), July 2025 — created a federal tax credit for donations to K–12 scholarship organizations

JOHN E. SUNUNU

No current statement found. As a House member in 2000, the Boston Globe reported he favored school vouchers.

[\[1\] Boston Globe: Bass, Sununu declare victory \(2000\)](#)

CARE FOR CREATION

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

CHRIS PAPPAS

Calls climate change an “existential threat”; backs clean-energy investment and an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy, and says he “helped pass the largest climate change legislation in history.”

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

VOTING RECORD

No Resolution overturning EPA approval of California vehicle-emission rules (H.J.Res. 87), Apr. 2025

No Homeowner Energy Freedom Act (H.R. 4758), Feb. 2026 — repeals home-electrification rebates from the 2022 climate law

JOHN E. SUNUNU

Wants to “get rid of some of the crazy mandates,” expand domestic energy production and speed approval of energy infrastructure; cites his past wilderness and river-protection laws.

[\[1\] WMUR: Where 2026 NH Senate candidates stand on the issues](#)
[\[2\] WMUR: John E. Sununu launches campaign \(Oct. 2025\)](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes S. 3036 (2008), Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act, cloture motion

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