2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · NEW JERSEY · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 11

Incumbent Analilia Mejia (D) seeks a full term after winning the 2026 special election.



Joe Hathaway

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

Former mayor of Randolph and former aide to Gov. Chris Christie.



Analilia Mejia

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since 2026; former co-executive director of the Center for Popular Democracy.

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)

JOE HATHAWAY

Says he will "stand firmly with our allies, including Israel as it combats terrorism," and supports Ukraine against Russia.

[1] Ballotpedia: Joe Hathaway

ANALILIA MEJIA

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

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

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

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

JOE HATHAWAY

Opposes "AI-driven targeting that exploit minors" and supports guardrails on social media and technology.

[1] Ballotpedia: Joe Hathaway

ANALILIA MEJIA

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

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

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

JOE HATHAWAY

Opposes "government-run healthcare"; backs price transparency, expanded health savings accounts, Association Health Plans and cutting out pharmacy benefit managers.

[1] Ballotpedia: Joe Hathaway

ANALILIA MEJIA

No public position found.

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

JOE HATHAWAY

No public position found.

ANALILIA MEJIA

No public position found.

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

JOE HATHAWAY

No public position found.

ANALILIA MEJIA

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

JOE HATHAWAY

No public position found.

ANALILIA MEJIA

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

JOE HATHAWAY

Calls border security "essential" and wants to "ensure those who wish to enter the country are following our laws."

[1] Ballotpedia: Joe Hathaway

ANALILIA MEJIA

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

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

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

JOE HATHAWAY

No public position found.

ANALILIA MEJIA

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

JOE HATHAWAY

Supports an "all-of-the-above" energy approach including nuclear, natural gas, solar and land-based wind; opposes offshore wind.

[1] Ballotpedia: Joe Hathaway

ANALILIA MEJIA

No public position found.

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