2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · NEW MEXICO · LETTERS FROM LEO

Governor

Open seat (Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham term-limited). Rated Solid Democratic by Cook Political Report and Likely Democratic by Inside Elections (Oct 2026).



Deb Haaland

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Former U.S. Secretary of the Interior (2021–2025) and U.S. Representative.



Gregg Hull

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Former Rio Rancho mayor (first elected 2014) and former 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)

DEB HAALAND

No public position found.

GREGG HULL

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

DEB HAALAND

Would ban landlords from using AI algorithms that inflate rents and raise the minimum wage; endorsed by the New Mexico Filmworkers Union (IATSE Local 480).

[1] Haaland campaign: Deb's Plan
[2] Haaland for Governor

GREGG HULL

Not opposed to data centers but wants developers accountable for water use, such as cooling with brackish or produced water; backs expanded career and technical education.

[1] Source NM via KANW: Hull town hall (May 2026)
[2] Stateside: Gregg Hull candidate profile

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

DEB HAALAND

Would "use budget surpluses to fill Medicaid gaps" left by federal cuts, protect marketplace coverage, raise the minimum wage and ban medical debt from credit reports.

[1] Haaland campaign: Deb's Plan

GREGG HULL

His health plan calls for expanding affordable care in rural and urban areas, lowering prescription-drug costs and setting competitive reimbursement rates; does not address Medicaid by name.

[1] Stateside: Gregg Hull candidate profile

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

DEB HAALAND

No public position found.

GREGG HULL

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

DEB HAALAND

Endorsed by Planned Parenthood Votes New Mexico; as a House member she co-sponsored the Women's Health Protection Act to codify abortion access.

[1] Haaland campaign: Planned Parenthood Votes endorsement

GREGG HULL

Says "I'm pro-life" and said he was "fully committed" to working with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott when asked about reducing Texans' abortion travel; also says the Legislature "has already decided this issue" and it won't change unless the Legislature shifts.

[1] Santa Fe New Mexican: Hull abortion comments (Aug. 2026)

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

DEB HAALAND

No public position found.

GREGG HULL

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

DEB HAALAND

Says ICE is "targeting parents, targeting children"; supports requiring agents to unmask and identify themselves, protecting schools and churches, and barring local immigration-detention contracts.

[1] Santa Fe New Mexican: Governor candidates' views on ICE (Apr. 2026)
[2] Santa Fe New Mexican: Dem candidates on ICE (Jan. 2026)

GREGG HULL

Says those who crossed the border illegally "have committed a crime" and calls detention "a necessary part" of the process; wants to fast-track citizenship for working immigrants.

[1] Santa Fe New Mexican: Governor candidates' views on ICE (Apr. 2026)
[2] Source NM via KANW: Hull town hall (May 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

DEB HAALAND

No public position found.

GREGG HULL

Supports "expanding school choice to allow parents greater say in their child's education."

[1] Stateside: Gregg Hull candidate profile

CARE FOR CREATION

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

DEB HAALAND

Calls climate and the environment "absolutely the most important issue"; backs more renewable energy while saying oil and gas "will continue to play a role."

[1] Source NM via KANW: Haaland looks ahead (June 2026)
[2] Haaland campaign: Deb's Plan

GREGG HULL

Calls New Mexico "an energy state" and says he will "never apologize for defending" oil and gas; supports adding emerging energy sources under the Energy Transition Act.

[1] Source NM via KANW: Haaland looks ahead (June 2026)
[2] Stateside: Gregg Hull candidate profile

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