2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · NEW YORK · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 13

Open seat in practice: Darializa Avila Chevalier defeated incumbent Adriano Espaillat (D) in the June 2026 Democratic primary.



Darializa Avila Chevalier

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Organizer and former public defender investigator; CUNY doctoral student; also on the Working Families line.

Manual Williams

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Army veteran; Republican nominee.

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)

DARIALIZA AVILA CHEVALIER

Supports the Block the Bombs Act to bar U.S. weapons used in Gaza and criticizes spending on the "U.S. war in Iran."

[1] Ballotpedia: Darializa Avila Chevalier

MANUAL WILLIAMS

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

DARIALIZA AVILA CHEVALIER

Backs the PRO Act, a "federal moratorium on AI data centers" and a 32-hour work week.

[1] Ballotpedia: Darializa Avila Chevalier

MANUAL WILLIAMS

No public position found.

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

DARIALIZA AVILA CHEVALIER

Backs Medicare for All, saying "Healthcare is a human right," plus $800 child tax credits and a universal basic income.

[1] Ballotpedia: Darializa Avila Chevalier

MANUAL WILLIAMS

In his 2021 City Council run, called for affordable housing and protecting long-term residents facing eviction.

[1] Ballotpedia: Manual Williams

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

DARIALIZA AVILA CHEVALIER

No public position found.

MANUAL WILLIAMS

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

DARIALIZA AVILA CHEVALIER

Her Medicare for All plan includes "Reproductive care, including abortion."

[1] Ballotpedia: Darializa Avila Chevalier

MANUAL WILLIAMS

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

DARIALIZA AVILA CHEVALIER

No public position found.

MANUAL WILLIAMS

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

DARIALIZA AVILA CHEVALIER

Calls to "Abolish ICE and the deportation machine" and to expand pathways to citizenship.

[1] Ballotpedia: Darializa Avila Chevalier

MANUAL WILLIAMS

No public position found.

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

DARIALIZA AVILA CHEVALIER

Calls to "halt charter school expansion"; no stated position on religious liberty.

[1] Ballotpedia: Darializa Avila Chevalier

MANUAL WILLIAMS

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

DARIALIZA AVILA CHEVALIER

Supports a Green New Deal to reach a "100% clean energy economy."

[1] Ballotpedia: Darializa Avila Chevalier

MANUAL WILLIAMS

No public position found.

Full guide and every race in New York: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/new-york/ · **Take the Pope Leo voter pledge:** standwithpopeleo.com/vote/

This guide does not endorse any candidate or party. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Positions are summarized from candidates' own statements, votes, and campaign materials, with sources linked. Published by *Letters from Leo*. Spot an error? Email cjh@christopherhale.com.