2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · NEW YORK · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 21

Open seat (Elise Stefanik, R, not seeking reelection).



Anthony Constantino

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Founder and CEO of Sticker Mule, an Amsterdam, N.Y., printing company; self-funding his campaign; also on the Taxpayer Rights line.



Blake Gendebien

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Second-generation North Country dairy farmer and small-business owner; former vice chair of the Agri-Mark cooperative board.

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)

ANTHONY CONSTANTINO

No public position found.

BLAKE GENDEBIEN

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

ANTHONY CONSTANTINO

No public position found.

BLAKE GENDEBIEN

Supports "responsible regulations in cryptocurrency and AI to protect workers and consumers" and expanded training in those fields for North Country workers.

[1] Gendebien for Congress: 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

ANTHONY CONSTANTINO

No public position found.

BLAKE GENDEBIEN

Pledges he "will never vote to cut Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid" and supports lowering prescription drug costs and expanding rural telehealth.

[1] Gendebien for Congress: Issues

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

ANTHONY CONSTANTINO

No public position found.

BLAKE GENDEBIEN

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

ANTHONY CONSTANTINO

No public position found.

BLAKE GENDEBIEN

Says "we also must protect a woman's right to choose" and opposes total abortion bans, including in cases of rape or threats to the mother's life; supports contraception access.

[1] Gendebien for Congress: Issues

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

ANTHONY CONSTANTINO

No public position found.

BLAKE GENDEBIEN

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

ANTHONY CONSTANTINO

Pledges to work with President Trump to "permanently secure the northern border" and says illegal immigrants "eat up resources and increase costs" in New York.

[1] Constantino for Congress: Agenda

BLAKE GENDEBIEN

Would make it "harder to enter our country illegally, but easier to enter legally": more Border Patrol agents, deporting criminals here illegally and fixing the H-2A and H-2B guest worker programs.

[1] Gendebien for Congress: Issues

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

ANTHONY CONSTANTINO

No public position found.

BLAKE GENDEBIEN

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

ANTHONY CONSTANTINO

Pledges to cut and oppose regulations, including "green energy regulations," he says have raised utility costs, and to "end the unfair solar farm deals."

[1] Constantino for Congress: Agenda

BLAKE GENDEBIEN

No public position found.

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