

# U.S. House, District 11

Open seat (Rep. Chuck Edwards withdrew in August 2026 after the House Ethics Committee recommended censure; Republicans chose state Rep. Jennifer Balkcom).

## Jamie Ager

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Fairview farmer and co-founder of Hickory Nut Gap farm business.

## Jennifer Balkcom

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

North Carolina state representative from Henderson County and mortgage loan officer.

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)

#### JAMIE AGER

*No public position found.*

#### JENNIFER BALKCOM

*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

#### JAMIE AGER

Says social media algorithms and generative AI “are being designed to put us into silos” and pledges to work on solutions. Says wages are not keeping up with the cost of living.

[1] Ager campaign: Platform

#### JENNIFER BALKCOM

*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

#### JAMIE AGER

Criticizes “the recent cuts to Medicare and Medicaid by Congress”; supports a public option, expanding the child tax credit and preserving insulin caps.

[1] Ager campaign: Platform

[2] Ballotpedia: Jamie Ager

#### JENNIFER BALKCOM

Voted against the 2023 law expanding Medicaid in North Carolina (HB 76).

[1] NC House Roll Call 113 (2023), HB 76

### 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

#### JAMIE AGER

*No public position found.*

#### JENNIFER BALKCOM

Voted in 2023 to override the governor’s veto of SB 20, which banned most abortions after 12 weeks. Endorsed by North Carolina Right to Life.

[1] NC House Roll Call 380 (2023), SB 20

[2] Ballotpedia: Jennifer Balkcom

## 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](#)

### JAMIE AGER

*No public position found.*

### JENNIFER BALKCOM

Voted for 2025’s “Iryna’s Law,” which lets the state choose another execution method if lethal injection becomes unavailable and sets deadlines for capital appeals.

[\[1\] NC House Roll Call 605 \(2025\), HB 307](#)

[\[2\] UNC School of Government: HB 307 summary](#)

### RECORD IN OFFICE

**Yes** HB 307 (2025), Iryna’s Law: pretrial release changes and alternative methods of execution

## 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](#)

### JAMIE AGER

Supports reforms that “treat people with dignity” and give businesses the workforce they need, saying the “immigration system needs to be clear, fair, and realistic.”

[\[1\] Ager campaign: Platform](#)

### JENNIFER BALKCOM

Voted to override vetoes of bills requiring sheriffs to cooperate with ICE: HB 10 (2024) and HB 318, the Criminal Illegal Alien Enforcement Act (2025).

[\[1\] NC House Roll Call 802 \(2024\), HB 10](#)

[\[2\] NC House Roll Call 578 \(2025\), HB 318](#)

### RECORD IN OFFICE

**Yes** HB 318 (2025), Criminal Illegal Alien Enforcement Act; veto override vote

**Yes** SB 153 (2025), North Carolina Border Protection Act; veto override vote (June 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](#)

### JAMIE AGER

*No public position found.*

### JENNIFER BALKCOM

Voted on second reading for 2023’s HB 823, “Choose Your School, Choose Your Future,” which sought to expand Opportunity Scholarships for private schools, and to override the veto of HB 10 (2024), which funded the expansion.

[\[1\] NC House Roll Call 388 \(2023\), HB 823](#)

[\[2\] NC House Roll Call 802 \(2024\), HB 10](#)

## CARE FOR CREATION

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

### JAMIE AGER

Supports tax credits to help families “save energy and pay less for heat and electricity” and says he will “never allow” public lands to be sold off.

[\[1\] Ager campaign: Platform](#)

### JENNIFER BALKCOM

Voted to override the veto of 2025’s Power Bill Reduction Act, which removed the state’s 2030 target of cutting utility carbon emissions 70%, keeping a 2050 carbon-neutrality goal.

[\[1\] NC House Roll Call 586 \(2025\), SB 266](#)

[\[2\] UNC School of Government: SB 266 summary](#)

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