

U.S. House, District 9

Redrawn in 2025 to favor Republicans; Trump would have carried it by about 11 points in 2024.

Marcy Kaptur

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since 1983; the longest-serving woman in congressional history.

Derek Merrin

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

Former Ohio state representative and House Republican Caucus leader; former mayor of Waterville.

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](#))

MARCY KAPTUR

Opposes “endless wars” and voted for every 2026 House war powers resolution on Iran. Voted for the Ukraine Support Act.

[1] Kaptur campaign: [Priorities](#)

[2] House roll call 85 (Mar 2026): [Iran war powers resolution](#)

[3] House roll call 307 (Sept 2026): [Iran war powers resolution](#)

[4] House roll call 207 (June 2026): [Ukraine Support Act](#)

VOTING RECORD

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

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

DEREK MERRIN

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes Sub. H.B. 476 (2016) — barred state agencies from contracting with companies engaged in boycotts, including of Israel

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](#)

MARCY KAPTUR

Says she stands “shoulder to shoulder with organized labor”; voted to force a vote on, and to pass, the Faster Labor Contracts Act. Wants data centers to pay for the power and water they use.

[1] Kaptur campaign: [Priorities](#)

[2] House roll call 212 (June 2026): [discharge motion, Faster Labor Contracts Act](#)

[3] House roll call 216 (June 2026): [Faster Labor Contracts Act passage](#)

VOTING RECORD

Yes Protect America’s Workforce Act (H.R. 2550), Dec. 2025 — nullifies the executive order ending union bargaining for many federal workers

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

DEREK MERRIN

Emphasizes bringing jobs back to the U.S. and trades education; secured a state requirement that school counselors train at construction trades facilities. No AI position found.

[1] Merrin campaign: [About](#)

[2] Ballotpedia: [Derek Merrin](#)

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

MARCY KAPTUR

Wants to fully fund Medicare and Medicaid and restore ACA tax credits; voted against the 2025 reconciliation law and for a three-year ACA tax credit extension.

[1] Kaptur campaign: Priorities

[2] House roll call 190 (July 2025): final passage of H.R. 1

[3] House roll call 11 (Jan 2026): three-year ACA tax credit extension (H.R. 1834)

VOTING RECORD

No One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), final passage July 2025 — tax cuts with Medicaid and SNAP changes

Yes Breaking the Gridlock Act (H.R. 1834), Jan. 2026 — extends enhanced ACA premium tax credits through 2028

DEREK MERRIN

Pledges to protect Social Security and Medicare and supports ending federal taxes on Social Security benefits. As state Health Committee chair, pushed price transparency.

[1] Ballotpedia: Derek Merrin

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

MARCY KAPTUR

Voted against the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act in 2025 and against the 2025 reconciliation law, which cut federal Medicaid payments to some abortion providers.

[1] House roll call 27 (Jan 2025): Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act

[2] House roll call 190 (July 2025): final passage of H.R. 1

[3] H.R. 1 (2025 reconciliation law), enrolled text

VOTING RECORD

No Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 21), Jan. 2025 — requires care for infants born alive after an attempted abortion

No Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act (H.R. 6945), Jan. 2026 — lets states use TANF funds for pregnancy centers

DEREK MERRIN

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes Sub. S.B. 23 (2019), Human Rights and Heartbeat Protection Act — barred abortion after fetal heartbeat is detected

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

MARCY KAPTUR

No public position found.

DEREK MERRIN

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

No Am. Sub. H.B. 136 (2020) — barred the death penalty for offenders with serious mental illness at the offense

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](#)

MARCY KAPTUR

Backs enforcing immigration law and deporting violent criminals “while protecting due process”; voted for the Laken Riley Act, against the 2026 DHS appropriations bill, and for Haiti TPS designation.

[1] Kaptur campaign: Priorities

[2] House roll call 6 (Jan 2025): Laken Riley Act

[3] House roll call 87 (Mar 2026): DHS Appropriations Act, 2026

[4] House roll call 120 (Apr 2026): Haiti TPS bill

VOTING RECORD

Yes Laken Riley Act (S. 5), Jan. 2025 — requires detention of undocumented immigrants charged with theft and certain crimes

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

Yes Haiti TPS bill (H.R. 1689), Apr. 2026 — requires temporary protected status for Haitians

DEREK MERRIN

Supports finishing the border wall, deporting illegal immigrants, and “sending the military to secure the border to stop drug cartels and human trafficking.”

[1] Ballotpedia: Derek Merrin

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](#)

MARCY KAPTUR

Voted against the 2025 reconciliation law, which created a federal tax credit for donations to K–12 scholarship organizations.

[1] House roll call 190 (July 2025): final passage of H.R. 1

[2] H.R. 1 (2025 reconciliation law), enrolled text

VOTING RECORD

No One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), July 2025 — created a federal tax credit for donations to K–12 scholarship organizations

DEREK MERRIN

Says he led efforts in the Ohio House to “expand school choice.”

[1] Merrin campaign: About

[2] Ballotpedia: Derek Merrin

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes Sub. H.B. 33 (2023), state budget — conference report expanding EdChoice scholarship eligibility to all income levels

CARE FOR CREATION

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

MARCY KAPTUR

Supports an “all-of-the-above” energy approach and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding to fight Lake Erie algal blooms. Voted against repealing IRA home electrification rebates.

[1] Kaptur campaign: Priorities

[2] House roll call 78 (Feb 2026): Homeowner Energy Freedom Act

VOTING RECORD

No Resolution overturning EPA approval of California vehicle-emission rules (H.J.Res. 87), Apr. 2025

No Homeowner Energy Freedom Act (H.R. 4758), Feb. 2026 — repeals home-electrification rebates from the 2022 climate law

DEREK MERRIN

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes Am. Sub. H.B. 6 (2019) — subsidies for nuclear and coal plants; reduced renewable and efficiency mandates

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