2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · OHIO · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 12

Incumbent Troy Balderson (R) seeks re-election. District lines redrawn for 2026.



Troy Balderson

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since 2018; former Ohio state senator.



Jerrad Christian

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Software engineer; Navy veteran and former meteorologist and oceanographer.

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)

TROY BALDERSON

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Iran war powers resolutions, Mar.–Sept. 2026 (six House votes): **No** Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Sept.

No Ukraine Support Act (H.R. 2913), June 2026 — authorizes support for Ukraine

JERRAD CHRISTIAN

Calls for halting offensive military aid for the Gaza war and a permanent ceasefire; says Ukraine's right to defend itself "is not negotiable."

[1] Ballotpedia: Jerrad Christian

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

TROY BALDERSON

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No Protect America's Workforce Act (H.R. 2550), Dec. 2025 — nullifies the executive order ending union bargaining for many federal workers

No Faster Labor Contracts Act (H.R. 5408), June 2026 — sets deadlines for reaching first union contracts

JERRAD CHRISTIAN

Calls for "transparency in AI systems" and accountability for harms; says a strong labor movement "stabilizes" the economy.

[1] Ballotpedia: Jerrad Christian

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

TROY BALDERSON

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Yes One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), final passage July 2025 — tax cuts with Medicaid and SNAP changes

No Breaking the Gridlock Act (H.R. 1834), Jan. 2026 — extends enhanced ACA premium tax credits through 2028

JERRAD CHRISTIAN

Supports universal health care and a higher minimum wage: "If you work full time in the United States, you should not be poor."

[1] Ballotpedia: Jerrad Christian

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

TROY BALDERSON

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No Objection to counting Arizona's 2020 electoral votes, Jan. 6, 2021 — a Yes vote supported the objection (failed, 121–303)

No Objection to counting Pennsylvania's 2020 electoral votes, Jan. 7, 2021 — a Yes vote supported the objection (failed, 138–282)

No For the People Act (H.R. 1), Mar. 2021 — automatic and same-day voter registration, expanded mail and early voting, campaign-finance and ethics rules

No Presidential Election Reform Act (H.R. 8873), Sept. 2022 — says the vice president's role in counting electoral votes is ministerial and raises the threshold for objections

Yes SAVE America Act (House amendment to S. 1383), Feb. 2026 — requires documentary proof of citizenship to register and photo ID to vote in federal elections

JERRAD CHRISTIAN

Says, "We should pass the Voting Rights Act and fully restore the protections."

[1] Ballotpedia: Jerrad Christian

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

TROY BALDERSON

His 2018 campaign site said he "is 100% pro-life."

[1] Ballotpedia: Troy Balderson

VOTING RECORD

Yes Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 21), Jan. 2025 — requires care for infants born alive after an attempted abortion

Yes Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act (H.R. 6945), Jan. 2026 — lets states use TANF funds for pregnancy centers

JERRAD CHRISTIAN

His 2024 campaign site said, "It is not freedom to tell women what they can do with their own bodies."

[1] Ballotpedia: Jerrad Christian

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

TROY BALDERSON

No public position found.

JERRAD CHRISTIAN

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

TROY BALDERSON

His 2018 campaign site listed "Build the Wall & Stop Illegal Immigration" as a priority.

[1] Ballotpedia: Troy Balderson

VOTING RECORD

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

Yes Secure America Act (S. 2), June 2026 — reconciliation funding for ICE and Customs and Border Protection

No Haiti TPS bill (H.R. 1689), Apr. 2026 — requires temporary protected status for Haitians

JERRAD CHRISTIAN

Calls for abolishing ICE "as it exists" and replacing it with a narrower, accountable system focused on public safety.

[1] Ballotpedia: Jerrad Christian

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

TROY BALDERSON

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Yes One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), July 2025 — created a federal tax credit for donations to K–12 scholarship organizations

JERRAD CHRISTIAN

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

TROY BALDERSON

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Yes Resolution overturning EPA approval of California vehicle-emission rules (H.J.Res. 87), Apr. 2025

Yes Homeowner Energy Freedom Act (H.R. 4758), Feb. 2026 — repeals home-electrification rebates from the 2022 climate law

JERRAD CHRISTIAN

Backs renewables and nuclear power and says capping Ohio's abandoned oil and gas wells "should be a priority."

[1] Ballotpedia: Jerrad Christian

Full guide and every race in Ohio: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/ohio/ · **Take the Pope Leo voter pledge:** standwithpopeleo.com/vote/

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