

U.S. Senate (special election)

Special election for the rest of JD Vance's term, which runs through January 2029. Husted was appointed in January 2025.

Sherrod Brown

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Former U.S. Senator (2007–2025) who lost his 2024 reelection bid; previously a U.S. Representative.

Jon Husted

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

U.S. Senator since January 2025 (appointed after JD Vance became vice president); former Ohio lieutenant governor and secretary of state.

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)

SHERROD BROWN

Opposes the Iran war, saying money spent on it should go to lower costs at home. Has backed Israel's right to defend itself and supported a hostage-release ceasefire with aid to Gaza.

[1] Ohio Capital Journal: Senate candidates on war with Iran (Mar 2026)

[2] Signal Akron: Brown reprises an anti-war message

[3] Jewish Insider: Brown launches bid against Husted (Aug 2025)

RECORD IN OFFICE

No Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq (H.J. Res. 114), 2002

Yes H.R. 815 (2024) — supplemental security aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, with humanitarian aid

JON HUSTED

Supported U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran and voted in March 2026 against a war powers resolution requiring congressional approval; has said he expects the war to be “brief and successful.” Opposed blocking weapons transfers to Israel.

[1] Ohio Capital Journal: Senate candidates on war with Iran (Mar 2026)

[2] Signal Akron: Brown reprises an anti-war message

[3] Jewish Insider: Brown launches bid against Husted (Aug 2025)

VOTING RECORD

No Iran war powers resolution (H.Con.Res. 86), June 2026

No Iran war powers resolution (H.Con.Res. 89), Sept. 2026

Yes Russia sanctions bill (H.R. 5334), Aug. 2026

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

SHERROD BROWN

Says data centers should pay their full utility costs and opposes “over-the-top tax breaks” for tech companies. Sponsored legislation to expand organizing and collective bargaining rights.

[1] Newsweek: Brown's AI and data center views

[2] guides.vote: 2026 Ohio U.S. Senate voters guide

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes Employee Free Choice Act (H.R. 800), 2007 — cloture on union recognition through majority sign-up

JON HUSTED

Introduced the CHAT Act to require parental consent and age verification for AI companion chatbots. His spokesperson says data centers “are, and should remain, a local decision,” and that his bill would require them “to pay for the power they use.”

[1] Husted press release: CHAT Act

[2] Newsweek: Brown's AI and data center views

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](#)

SHERROD BROWN

Supports the Affordable Care Act and raising the minimum wage to \$17 an hour; sponsored a \$35 monthly insulin cap.

[\[1\] guides.vote: 2026 Ohio U.S. Senate voters guide](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590), Senate passage, December 2009

Yes American Rescue Plan Act (H.R. 1319), 2021 — pandemic relief, including an expanded child tax credit

JON HUSTED

Voted for the 2025 reconciliation law, which reduced Medicaid spending and added work requirements. Voted against extending enhanced ACA tax credits and against raising the federal minimum wage to \$17.

[\[1\] guides.vote: 2026 Ohio U.S. Senate voters guide](#)

[\[2\] Senate roll call 372 \(July 1, 2025\): H.R. 1 passage](#)

VOTING RECORD

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

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](#)

SHERROD BROWN

Supports legal abortion and “abortion access for all women.” Voted in 2022 to bar government restrictions on abortion access and opposed overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

[\[1\] guides.vote: 2026 Ohio U.S. Senate voters guide](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

No Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act (S. 3), 2003 — conference report banning the partial-birth abortion procedure

Yes Women's Health Protection Act (S. 4132), 2022 — cloture on bill to establish a statutory right to abortion

JON HUSTED

Opposes abortion; sponsored a bill barring federal funding of abortion and abortions in federal facilities. Voted for the 2025 reconciliation law, which cut federal Medicaid payments to some abortion providers. Endorsed by SBA Pro-Life America.

[\[1\] guides.vote: 2026 Ohio U.S. Senate voters guide](#)

[\[2\] Senate roll call 372 \(July 1, 2025\): H.R. 1 passage](#)

[\[3\] Daily Signal: SBA Pro-Life America endorses Husted](#)

VOTING RECORD

Yes Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 6), Jan. 2025 — vote to advance the bill (failed, 52–47; 60 needed)

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](#)

SHERROD BROWN

Voted in 1994 to replace the federal death penalty with life imprisonment and in 2001 backed a moratorium on executions with more DNA testing.

[\[1\] OnTheIssues: Ohio crime positions](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes Kopetski amendment to H.R. 4092 (1994) — replacing federal death sentences with life imprisonment

Yes Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (H.R. 3355), 1994 — conference report; expanded federal death-eligible crimes

No Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act (H.R. 1279), 2005 — raised gang-crime penalties, adding death-eligible offenses

JON HUSTED

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](#)

SHERROD BROWN

Wants to “strengthen the border” and fund border agents; opposes ICE “targeting of innocent families.” Supported a path to citizenship for DACA recipients.

[1] [guides.vote: 2026 Ohio U.S. Senate voters guide](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

No H.R. 4437 (2005) — border-security bill expanding fencing and making unlawful presence a federal crime

Yes Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744), 2013 — border funding and path to citizenship

JON HUSTED

Supports “securing the border and adding more agents.” Voted for roughly \$75 billion in added ICE funding in the 2025 reconciliation law and has said ICE agents “do a really good job.”

[1] [guides.vote: 2026 Ohio U.S. Senate voters guide](#)

[2] [Senate roll call 372 \(July 1, 2025\): H.R. 1 passage](#)

VOTING RECORD

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

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](#)

SHERROD BROWN

Opposes private school vouchers, saying they move “money out of public education into religious schools and other private schools.”

[1] [guides.vote: 2026 Ohio U.S. Senate voters guide](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes Motion to table Blunt amendment (S. Amdt. 1520), 2012 — would let employers decline coverage on religious or moral grounds

JON HUSTED

Supports school choice tax credits for students “seeking a faith-based education”; helped create Ohio’s EdChoice scholarship program.

[1] [guides.vote: 2026 Ohio U.S. Senate voters guide](#)

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

CARE FOR CREATION

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

SHERROD BROWN

Voted for clean energy tax credits in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act; opposed an EPA coal-plant greenhouse gas rule as “unrealistic.” Supports Great Lakes protections.

[1] [guides.vote: 2026 Ohio U.S. Senate voters guide](#)

RECORD IN OFFICE

Yes Inflation Reduction Act (H.R. 5376), 2022 — clean energy tax credits, health and tax provisions

JON HUSTED

Voted to end Biden-era clean energy tax credits and supports repealing EPA greenhouse gas standards for coal plants.

[1] [guides.vote: 2026 Ohio U.S. Senate voters guide](#)

VOTING RECORD

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

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