2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · OKLAHOMA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 1

Open seat: incumbent Kevin Hern (R) is running for U.S. Senate.



John Croisant

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Former teacher and coach and local businessman.



Mark Tedford

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Oklahoma state representative and businessman.

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)

JOHN CROISANT

No public position found.

MARK TEDFORD

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

JOHN CROISANT

Calls for federal AI legislation so AI isn't used to harm Americans or "simply replace American workers to boost corporate profits."

[1] Croisant issues

MARK TEDFORD

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

JOHN CROISANT

Supports expanding coverage through Medicaid expansion, ACA subsidies or a universal model, and would fight to repeal recent federal Medicaid cuts.

[1] Croisant issues

MARK TEDFORD

No public position found.

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

JOHN CROISANT

Opposes pardons and an "Anti-Weaponization Fund" for people who attacked police on January 6.

[1] Croisant issues

MARK TEDFORD

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

JOHN CROISANT

No public position found.

MARK TEDFORD

No public position found.

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

JOHN CROISANT

No public position found.

MARK TEDFORD

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

JOHN CROISANT

Would redirect ICE resources toward immigration courts to clear the case backlog.

[1] Croisant issues

MARK TEDFORD

Says strong immigration enforcement "protects American communities" and touts state legislation cracking down on illegal immigration.

[1] Tedford campaign site

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

JOHN CROISANT

Cites his Christian faith in backing separation of church and state; opposes public money flowing to private schools "with no strings attached."

[1] Croisant issues

MARK TEDFORD

Pledges to defend parental rights and religious liberty.

[1] Tedford campaign site

CARE FOR CREATION

POPE LEO XIV *"We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures."* AP, Oct. 1, 2025

JOHN CROISANT

Supports investing in all energy types with a shift toward environmentally friendly energy; opposes passing data-center power costs on to consumers.

[1] Croisant issues

MARK TEDFORD

Pledges to fight for American energy and manufacturing.

[1] Tedford campaign site

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