2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · OKLAHOMA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 4

Incumbent Tom Cole (R) seeks reelection.



Tom Cole

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since 2003; House Appropriations Committee chairman.



Mitchell Jacob

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Public defender and military veteran.

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)

TOM COLE

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

MITCHELL JACOB

Says the U.S. should cease all support for Israel "until they cease their campaign of violence."

[1] Jacob campaign site

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

TOM COLE

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

MITCHELL JACOB

Calls for thoughtful AI regulation given consequences for workers, the environment and children.

[1] Jacob campaign site

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

TOM COLE

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

MITCHELL JACOB

Supports affordable healthcare without insurance denials and a living wage.

[1] Jacob campaign site

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

TOM COLE

Campaign says he supported the SAVE Act and the SAVE America Act, which it says mandate voter ID nationwide.

[1] Cole issues

VOTING RECORD

Yes Objection to counting Arizona's 2020 electoral votes, Jan. 6, 2021 — a Yes vote supported the objection (failed, 121–303)

Yes 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

MITCHELL JACOB

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

TOM COLE

Campaign cites his 100% National Right to Life rating and support for the Hyde Amendment.

[1] Cole: Protecting the Unborn

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

MITCHELL JACOB

Describes himself as pro-choice and says politicians should not impose personal beliefs on medical decisions.

[1] Jacob campaign site

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

TOM COLE

No public position found.

MITCHELL JACOB

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

TOM COLE

Campaign says border security is "the most important component" of immigration policy.

[1] Cole: Securing Our Border

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

MITCHELL JACOB

Opposes mass deportations and "masked agents"; pledges to fix the system "treating all individuals with dignity."

[1] Jacob 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

TOM COLE

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

MITCHELL JACOB

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

TOM COLE

Campaign highlights his work to end the oil export ban and support American energy independence.

[1] Cole issues

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

MITCHELL JACOB

No public position found.

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