2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · OKLAHOMA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. Senate

Open seat (Markwayne Mullin resigned in March 2026). Rated Solid Republican by Cook Political Report.



Kevin Hern

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

U.S. Representative for Oklahoma's 1st District since 2018; former McDonald's franchise owner and engineer.



N'Kiyla Jasmine Thomas

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Nurse, community health worker and military spouse; first-time candidate.

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)

KEVIN HERN

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

N'KIYLA JASMINE THOMAS

Says "We have to stop providing funding for these wars" and opposes unconditional military aid to Israel; says Netanyahu is "committing genocide" and supports a two-state solution.

[1] JTA: Oklahoma Senate candidate and AIPAC

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

KEVIN HERN

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

N'KIYLA JASMINE THOMAS

Backs nurses' unions and safe staffing ratios, 32-hour workweek pilots and a right to disconnect after hours.

[1] Thomas campaign: Policies

[2] Oklahoma Voice: Jasmine Thomas hopes lived experience will propel her

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

KEVIN HERN

Praised the 2025 law's Medicaid work requirements — "What we don't want to do is waste benefits on people who are able to take care of themselves" — while saying he didn't know how sweeping its impacts on local health care systems would be.

[1] Public Radio Tulsa: Hern on Medicaid work requirements

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

N'KIYLA JASMINE THOMAS

Supports Medicare for All, protecting Medicaid, "a living wage minimum wage" and paid family leave; calls food access "a basic right."

[1] Thomas campaign: Policies

[2] News 9: Oklahoma U.S. Senate candidates

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

KEVIN HERN

Has said voters want the SAVE America Act, which would require proof of citizenship to vote.

[1] Fox News: Oklahoma Senate primary results

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

N'KIYLA JASMINE THOMAS

Would safeguard voting access for disabled Americans; criticizes Oklahoma's closed primaries for shutting out independents.

[1] Thomas campaign: Policies

[2] Oklahoma Voice: Jasmine Thomas hopes lived experience will propel her

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

KEVIN HERN

Lists pro-life legislation among his priorities; his campaign says "all life is sacred and begins at conception."

[1] News 9: Oklahoma U.S. Senate candidates

[2] Ballotpedia: Kevin Hern

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

N'KIYLA JASMINE THOMAS

Would "Restore Roe v. Wade federally" and protect women from prosecution for miscarriage or pregnancy complications.

[1] Thomas campaign: Policies

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

KEVIN HERN

No public position found.

N'KIYLA JASMINE THOMAS

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

KEVIN HERN

Supports border barriers and other border-security measures.

[1] News 9: Oklahoma U.S. Senate candidates

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

N'KIYLA JASMINE THOMAS

Supports abolishing ICE, whose agents she has called "modern-day lynchers."

[1] OU Daily: Thomas, Hern and democratic socialism

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

KEVIN HERN

Supports school-choice policies, including expanded use of 529 education savings accounts.

[1] News 9: Oklahoma U.S. Senate candidates

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

N'KIYLA JASMINE THOMAS

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

KEVIN HERN

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

N'KIYLA JASMINE THOMAS

"We need to invest in renewable energy, protect our environment"; says "Clean water and clean air are non-negotiable."

[1] Ballotpedia: N'Kiyla Thomas (Candidate Connection survey)
[2] Thomas campaign: Policies

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

This guide does not endorse any candidate or party. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Positions are summarized from candidates' own statements, votes, and campaign materials, with sources linked. Published by *Letters from Leo*. Spot an error? Email cjh@christopherhale.com.