2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · OREGON · LETTERS FROM LEO

Governor

Tina Kotek is seeking a second term. A DHM Research poll for The Oregonian (Sept 24–Oct 1) had Kotek 46%, Drazan 44%.



Christine Drazan

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

State senator, former state representative and 2022 Republican nominee for governor.



Tina Kotek

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

Governor since 2023 and former speaker of the Oregon House.

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)

CHRISTINE DRAZAN

No public position found.

TINA KOTEK

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

CHRISTINE DRAZAN

Says Oregon "cannot continue to be the Wild West for data center development"; wants community benefit agreements and more apprenticeships.

[1] Drazan campaign: The Drazan Plan

TINA KOTEK

Would prohibit new data center development until statewide standards exist, require clean energy for new facilities and support union jobs; would stop insurers using AI to deny claims.

[1] Kotek campaign: Oregon's future
[2] Willamette Week: First governor's debate

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

CHRISTINE DRAZAN

Opposed the tax package funding the Oregon Health Plan, saying the governor answers every problem "with a new tax."

[1] OPB: Kotek, Drazan final debate
[2] OPB: Kotek, Drazan first debate

TINA KOTEK

Would "defend the Oregon Health Plan from Trump's Medicaid cuts" and backed a tax package to fund it.

[1] Kotek campaign: Oregon's future
[2] OPB: Kotek, Drazan final debate

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

CHRISTINE DRAZAN

Says Biden won in 2020 and calls herself a "strong supporter of vote-by-mail," though she sponsored a 2025 bill to make in-person voting the norm.

[1] OPB: Kotek, Drazan first debate
[2] Willamette Week: First governor's debate

TINA KOTEK

Pledges to "safeguard Oregon's trusted and secure vote-by-mail system" against federal overreach.

[1] Kotek campaign: Oregon's future
[2] Willamette Week: First governor's debate

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

CHRISTINE DRAZAN

Describes herself as pro-life but says, "I do not support banning abortion."

[1] OPB: Kotek, Drazan first debate

TINA KOTEK

Pledges to protect Oregonians from "federal attempts to restrict access to abortion, birth control" and to ensure Planned Parenthood can keep providing care.

[1] Kotek campaign: Oregon's future

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

CHRISTINE DRAZAN

No public position found.

TINA KOTEK

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

CHRISTINE DRAZAN

No public position found.

TINA KOTEK

Pledges to "stand up to ICE and other aggressive federal immigration enforcement" and to oppose ICE detention facilities in Oregon.

[1] Kotek campaign: Oregon's future

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

CHRISTINE DRAZAN

Would "support school choice and educational opportunities" and protect parents' ability to review instructional materials.

[1] Drazan campaign: The Drazan Plan

TINA KOTEK

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

CHRISTINE DRAZAN

Would "rescind" the Climate Protection Program on day one; says "man-made climate change has an impact" but opposes raising taxes to address it.

[1] Willamette Week: First governor's debate
[2] OPB: Kotek, Drazan first debate

TINA KOTEK

"I am 100% supportive of our current Climate Protection Program"; pledges to maintain Oregon's commitment to clean energy.

[1] Willamette Week: First governor's debate
[2] Kotek campaign: Oregon's future

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