2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · OREGON · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 4

Incumbent Val Hoyle (D) seeks reelection.



Monique DeSpain

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

Retired Air Force colonel and attorney; 2024 Republican nominee for this seat.



Val Hoyle

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since 2023.

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)

MONIQUE DESPAIN

Says "peace through strength" deters conflict and opposes "blank checks for foreign assistance" without accountability (2024 survey).

[1] Ballotpedia: Monique DeSpain

VAL HOYLE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Iran war powers resolutions, Mar.–Sept. 2026 (six House votes): **Yes** Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Sept.

Yes Ukraine Support Act (H.R. 2913), June 2026 — authorizes support for Ukraine

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

MONIQUE DESPAIN

Emphasizes private-sector job creation for small businesses and the skilled trades and rebuilding American manufacturing; has not addressed AI or unions.

[1] DeSpain: Priorities

VAL HOYLE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Yes Protect America's Workforce Act (H.R. 2550), Dec. 2025 — nullifies the executive order ending union bargaining for many federal workers

Yes Faster Labor Contracts Act (H.R. 5408), June 2026 — sets deadlines for reaching first union contracts

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

MONIQUE DESPAIN

Supports expanded addiction and mental-health treatment with outcome measures for homelessness programs; has not detailed positions on Medicaid, SNAP or the ACA.

[1] DeSpain: Priorities

VAL HOYLE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), final passage July 2025 — tax cuts with Medicaid and SNAP changes

Yes Breaking the Gridlock Act (H.R. 1834), Jan. 2026 — extends enhanced ACA premium tax credits through 2028

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

MONIQUE DESPAIN

Says elections must be "secure, accurate, and transparent" and supports requiring photo ID to vote (2024 survey).

[1] Ballotpedia: Monique DeSpain

VAL HOYLE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No 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

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

MONIQUE DESPAIN

Says she "will oppose a national abortion ban" and any congressional effort to restrict abortion access for Oregonians, saying those decisions belong to women and their doctors.

[1] DeSpain: Priorities

VAL HOYLE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 21), Jan. 2025 — requires care for infants born alive after an attempted abortion

No Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act (H.R. 6945), Jan. 2026 — lets states use TANF funds for pregnancy centers

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

MONIQUE DESPAIN

No public position found.

VAL HOYLE

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

MONIQUE DESPAIN

Backs border security, closing asylum loopholes and removing violent criminals, plus a one-time path to lawful status — not citizenship — for long-settled, non-criminal residents; says mass deportation is "neither a realistic nor constructive solution."

[1] DeSpain: Priorities

VAL HOYLE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No Laken Riley Act (S. 5), Jan. 2025 — requires detention of undocumented immigrants charged with theft and certain crimes

No Secure America Act (S. 2), June 2026 — reconciliation funding for ICE and Customs and Border Protection

Yes Haiti TPS bill (H.R. 1689), Apr. 2026 — requires temporary protected status for Haitians

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

MONIQUE DESPAIN

Supports a federal Parents' Bill of Rights and "genuine school choice."

[1] DeSpain: Priorities
[2] Ballotpedia: Monique DeSpain

VAL HOYLE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No 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

MONIQUE DESPAIN

Prioritizes active forest management, sustainable timber harvests and fuel reduction, supports rescinding the 2001 Roadless Rule, and backs an "all of the above" energy strategy.

[1] DeSpain: Priorities
[2] Ballotpedia: Monique DeSpain

VAL HOYLE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No Resolution overturning EPA approval of California vehicle-emission rules (H.J.Res. 87), Apr. 2025

No Homeowner Energy Freedom Act (H.R. 4758), Feb. 2026 — repeals home-electrification rebates from the 2022 climate law

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