

U.S. House, District 7

Lehigh Valley. Freshman Rep. Ryan Mackenzie (R) faces firefighter Bob Brooks (D). 2026).

Bob Brooks

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Former Bethlehem firefighter of 20 years; president of the Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association.

Ryan Mackenzie

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since 2025; former Pennsylvania state representative.

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](#))

BOB BROOKS

Calls the Iran war “illegal” and “reckless” and would rein in a president’s ability to enter conflicts unilaterally. Supports “supporting Ukraine and our NATO allies.”

[1] Brooks campaign: issues

[2] Morning Call: Brooks candidate questionnaire

RYAN MACKENZIE

Voted against each 2026 House war powers resolution on Iran, saying he did not want to “take away the president’s leverage” during negotiations.

[1] Congress.gov: House roll call 199 (2026)

[2] LehighValleyNews: Mackenzie willing to give Trump more time on Iran

[3] House Roll Call 307 (2026): Iran war powers resolution

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

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](#)

BOB BROOKS

Calls passage of the PRO Act a top priority, saying “Unions are what built the middle class.” Says the federal government “should never take the power to decide where a data center gets built.”

[1] Brooks campaign: issues

RYAN MACKENZIE

As a state legislator, voted against a constitutional amendment protecting the right to organize and bargain collectively, and against unemployment benefits for striking workers.

[1] Pa. House roll call 88 (2023)

[2] Pa. House roll call 748 (2023)

VOTING RECORD

Yes 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

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

BOB BROOKS

Supports Medicare for All and would work to repeal the 2025 reconciliation law’s Medicaid and SNAP cuts. Would raise the federal minimum wage and index it to inflation.

[\[1\] Brooks campaign: issues](#)

[\[2\] guides.vote PA-07 guide](#)

RYAN MACKENZIE

Voted for the 2025 reconciliation law, saying “We shouldn’t be saying a work requirement is a negative thing”; voted for a three-year ACA tax credit extension in 2026. As a state legislator, voted against raising the minimum wage to \$15.

[\[1\] Lehigh Valley Public Media: Mackenzie on bill vote](#)

[\[2\] Congress.gov: House roll call 190 \(2025\)](#)

[\[3\] Pa. House roll call 270 \(2023\)](#)

[\[4\] House Roll Call 11 \(2026\): three-year ACA tax credit extension \(H.R. 1834\)](#)

VOTING RECORD

Yes 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

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

BOB BROOKS

Would “codify Roe v. Wade” and pass legislation to overturn state abortion bans; says the government has no place in personal medical decisions.

[\[1\] Brooks campaign: issues](#)

RYAN MACKENZIE

As a state legislator, voted for a 20-week abortion ban (2017), for a constitutional amendment stating abortion is not a right, and to bar telemedicine prescribing of mifepristone. Supports easing “pathways to adoption.”

[\[1\] Pa. House roll call 929 \(2017\)](#)

[\[2\] Pa. House roll call 1156 \(2021\)](#)

[\[3\] Lehighvalleylive: where Mackenzie and Wild stand on abortion](#)

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

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

BOB BROOKS

No public position found.

RYAN MACKENZIE

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

BOB BROOKS

Supports a system that “deters illegal entry and secures our border, while treating people humanely,” more immigration judges, a streamlined path to citizenship and protections for DACA and TPS holders. Calls ICE crackdowns “un-American.”

[1] [Brooks campaign: issues](#)

[2] [Morning Call: Brooks candidate questionnaire](#)

RYAN MACKENZIE

Voted for the 2025 reconciliation law’s \$75 billion ICE funding increase; would finish the border wall, reinstate Remain in Mexico and expand E-Verify. Supports ICE body cameras and de-escalation training.

[1] [guides.vote PA-07 guide](#)

[2] [NPR: ICE budget funding in Congress](#)

[3] [Mackenzie campaign: issues \(archived\)](#)

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

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

BOB BROOKS

Opposes vouchers: “I will not support using federal money to hand vouchers to private schools while public schools are being starved.”

[1] [Brooks campaign: issues](#)

RYAN MACKENZIE

As a state legislator, sponsored a bill funding K–12 scholarships for private schools in low-achieving districts and voted to expand tax-credit scholarship programs.

[1] [Pa. General Assembly: HB 1432 \(2023\)](#)

[2] [guides.vote PA-07 guide](#)

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

CARE FOR CREATION

POPE LEO XIV *“We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures.”* [AP](#), Oct. 1, 2025

BOB BROOKS

Calls for “taking on the climate crisis” with new nuclear and natural gas plants alongside renewables, and stricter federal oversight of pollution such as sewage sludge and mine refuse.

[1] [Brooks campaign: issues](#)

RYAN MACKENZIE

Voted to end Biden-era clean energy tax credits; opposes “cap-and-tax schemes” and calls for expanding domestic energy production.

[1] [Congress.gov: House roll call 145 \(2025\)](#)

[2] [Mackenzie campaign: issues \(archived\)](#)

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

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