

U.S. House, District 8

Northeastern Pennsylvania, including Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. Freshman Rep. Rob Bresnahan (R) faces Scranton Mayor Paige Cagnetti (D). 2026).

Rob Bresnahan

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since 2025; former CEO of a northeastern Pennsylvania electrical contracting company.

Paige Cagnetti

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Mayor of Scranton since 2020.

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)

ROB BRESNAHAN

Supports U.S. military action against Iran: “we cannot allow a dangerous regime to act without consequences.” Voted against each 2026 House war powers resolution on Iran.

- [1] Bresnahan on X
- [2] guides.vote PA-08 guide
- [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.
Yes Ukraine Support Act (H.R. 2913), June 2026 — authorizes support for Ukraine

PAIGE CAGNETTI

Opposes the Iran war, saying “We don’t know what the goals are,” and objects to “sending our tax dollars overseas while our prices keep rising at home.”

- [1] guides.vote PA-08 guide
- [2] Cagnetti on X

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

ROB BRESNAHAN

Introduced the Local Control Protection Act to limit corporate lawsuits over local denials of data centers. Broke with his party to vote to restore federal workers’ collective bargaining rights.

- [1] PBS NewsHour: data centers in PA-8
- [2] Bresnahan: union rights press release

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

PAIGE CAGNETTI

Wants to “make it easier to join and start a union.” On data centers, says “Big Tech needs to pay their own way,” with no tax breaks and local union hiring.

- [1] Cagnetti campaign: priorities
- [2] PBS NewsHour: data centers in PA-8

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

ROB BRESNAHAN

Voted for the 2025 reconciliation law, which included Medicaid cuts; later voted to extend ACA premium subsidies for three years. Cosponsored a bill to raise the federal minimum wage indexed to cost of living.

- [1] [BBC: what is in the bill](#)
- [2] [Bresnahan statement on ACA tax credits](#)
- [3] [Congress.gov: H.R. 3438](#)

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

PAIGE COGNETTI

Opposes the 2025 reconciliation law’s Medicaid cuts, calling them “deep and damaging,” and supports fully funding ACA premium subsidies. Has advocated local authority to set higher minimum wages.

- [1] [River Reporter: Cognetti on Bresnahan, Oz](#)
- [2] [Cognetti campaign: priorities](#)
- [3] [guides.vote PA-08 guide](#)

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

ROB BRESNAHAN

Says “I would never support a federal ban on abortion” and that voters in each state should decide.

- [1] [Times-Tribune: Cartwright, Bresnahan on the issues](#)

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

PAIGE COGNETTI

Says abortion “needs to be legal, it needs to be safe.”

- [1] [Fox56: reproductive freedom rally in Scranton](#)

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

ROB BRESNAHAN

Introduced Eric’s Law, letting federal prosecutors seek a second sentencing jury in death penalty cases when the first jury cannot reach a unanimous decision.

- [1] [Bresnahan: Eric’s Law press release](#)
- [2] [Congress.gov: H.R. 1556](#)

PAIGE COGNETTI

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

ROB BRESNAHAN

Supports a border wall and voted for the \$75 billion ICE funding increase; would bar taxpayer funding for relocating illegal immigrants into communities.

- [1] [Bresnahan campaign](#)
- [2] [NPR: ICE budget funding in Congress](#)
- [3] [Pike County Courier: candidates detail policy plans](#)

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

PAIGE COGNETTI

Says “We need that secure border” and opposes buying warehouses to detain immigrants. Supports pathways to citizenship for Dreamers and essential workers.

- [1] [guides.vote PA-08 guide](#)
- [2] [City & State PA: PA mayors’ letter on immigration](#)

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](#)

ROB BRESNAHAN

Supports “expanding school choice” and says the federal government can “incentivize school choice through federal funding.”

[1] [Pike County Courier: candidates detail policy plans](#)

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

PAIGE COGNETTI

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](#)

ROB BRESNAHAN

Voted to end Biden-era clean energy tax credits and supported ending EPA power-plant greenhouse gas rules; voted to expand oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

[1] [WHYY: PA Republicans applaud EPA rollback](#)

[2] [Congress.gov: House roll call 295 \(2025\)](#)

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

PAIGE COGNETTI

Called the Build Back Better Act “the kind of historic investment that we need to prevent the worst effects of climate change”; helped develop Scranton’s Climate Action Plan.

[1] [Pennsylvania Capital-Star: Cognetti op-ed](#)

[2] [WVIA: Scranton climate plan](#)

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