2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · RHODE ISLAND · LETTERS FROM LEO

Governor

Open seat: Helena Foulkes defeated Gov. Dan McKee in the Sept. 9 Democratic primary. Independent Ken Block has polled second in October surveys. Rated Solid Democratic by Cook Political Report (Oct 2026).



Ken Block

INDEPENDENT · OPEN SEAT

Software engineer and entrepreneur; president of Simpatico Software Systems.



Helena Foulkes

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Former president of CVS Pharmacy and former CEO of Hudson's Bay Company.



Aaron Guckian

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Former executive director of the Rhode Island Dental Association and aide to Gov. Don Carcieri; 2022 nominee for lieutenant governor.

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)

KEN BLOCK

No public position found.

HELENA FOULKES

No public position found.

AARON GUCKIAN

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

KEN BLOCK

No public position found.

HELENA FOULKES

No public position found.

AARON GUCKIAN

No public position found.

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

KEN BLOCK

Opposes Foulkes's proposed millionaires tax for housing; would cut state fees on energy bills. No stated position on Medicaid or SNAP found.

[1] NBC 10: Foulkes, Guckian, Block spar in debate (Oct. 2026)

HELENA FOULKES

Proposes a tax on millionaires to help build 20,000 housing units and pledged to make sure the health care system "is shored up."

[1] NBC 10: Foulkes, Guckian, Block spar in debate (Oct. 2026)
[2] Boston Globe: Takeaways from final R.I. governor debate (Oct. 2026)

AARON GUCKIAN

Backs expanding community health centers and spending more on mental health and addiction services; says minimum wage increases should be sustainable.

[1] WPRI: Guckian joins race for governor (Dec. 2025)
[2] OnTheIssues: Aaron Guckian

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

KEN BLOCK

Wrote a 2024 book, "Disproven," on his search for voter fraud for the 2020 Trump campaign and the data showing why Trump lost; Time named him a "Democracy Defender."

[1] Boston Globe: Takeaways from final R.I. governor debate (Oct. 2026)

HELENA FOULKES

No public position found.

AARON GUCKIAN

Supports requiring photo identification to vote.

[1] OnTheIssues: Aaron Guckian

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

KEN BLOCK

"I am pro-choice, I have always been pro-choice."

[1] NBC 10: Foulkes, Guckian, Block spar in debate (Oct. 2026)

HELENA FOULKES

Pledged to "always fight to protect a woman's right to choose" (2022); said in an October 2026 debate her opponents are not "willing to get out front and protect women."

[1] OnTheIssues: Helena Foulkes
[2] NBC 10: Foulkes, Guckian, Block spar in debate (Oct. 2026)

AARON GUCKIAN

Calls abortion rights "settled policy in Rhode Island" and says he would not seek to change state law.

[1] WPRI: Guckian joins race for governor (Dec. 2025)
[2] NBC 10: Foulkes, Guckian, Block spar in debate (Oct. 2026)

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

KEN BLOCK

No public position found.

HELENA FOULKES

No public position found.

AARON GUCKIAN

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

KEN BLOCK

Says "there is a humane way to enforce our laws" and that "no one should live in fear."

[1] NBC 10: Foulkes, Guckian, Block spar in debate (Oct. 2026)

HELENA FOULKES

"ICE is not welcome when I am governor." Has criticized Trump's treatment of immigrant communities.

[1] NBC 10: Foulkes, Guckian, Block spar in debate (Oct. 2026)
[2] OnTheIssues: Helena Foulkes

AARON GUCKIAN

Says ICE would be welcome — "We need to get the bad actors out" — while opposing arrests at green card interviews.

[1] NBC 10: Foulkes, Guckian, Block spar in debate (Oct. 2026)
[2] OnTheIssues: Aaron Guckian

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

KEN BLOCK

No public position found.

HELENA FOULKES

No public position found.

AARON GUCKIAN

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

KEN BLOCK

Opposes revoking permits for nearly finished projects like Revolution Wind, calling that "terrible public policy"; says a gas pipeline expansion should be finished if it lowers costs now.

[1] Boston Globe: Takeaways from final R.I. governor debate (Oct. 2026)

HELENA FOULKES

Opposes expanding Enbridge's Algonquin gas pipeline: "I think we need to be leaning into renewable energy."

[1] Boston Globe: Takeaways from final R.I. governor debate (Oct. 2026)

AARON GUCKIAN

Opposed the Trump administration's halt of Revolution Wind — "We need to protect both our planet and our people" — and would "definitely open" the gas pipeline expansion.

[1] WPRI: Guckian joins race for governor (Dec. 2025)
[2] Boston Globe: Takeaways from final R.I. governor debate (Oct. 2026)

Full guide and every race in Rhode Island: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/rhode-island/ · **Take the Pope Leo voter pledge:** standwithpopeleo.com/vote/

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