2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · RHODE ISLAND · LETTERS FROM LEO

# U.S. House, District 2

Incumbent Seth Magaziner (D) is seeking reelection.



## Seth Magaziner

**DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT**

U.S. Representative since 2023; former Rhode Island general treasurer.



## Victor Mellor

**REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER**

U.S. Marine Corps veteran and former business executive.

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)

### SETH MAGAZINER

*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

### VICTOR MELLOR

*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

### SETH MAGAZINER

*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

### VICTOR MELLOR

Favors returning manufacturing jobs to the U.S. and says he will "work with Congress to expand shipbuilding."

[1] Ballotpedia: Victor Mellor

## 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

### SETH MAGAZINER

*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

### VICTOR MELLOR

Says "Reducing the cost of healthcare and improving its quality is a top priority" and would codify executive orders on drug pricing and billing transparency.

[1] Ballotpedia: Victor Mellor

## 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

### SETH MAGAZINER

*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

### VICTOR MELLOR

*No public position found.*

## 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

### SETH MAGAZINER

*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

### VICTOR MELLOR

*No public position found.*

## 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

### SETH MAGAZINER

*No public position found.*

### VICTOR MELLOR

*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

### SETH MAGAZINER

*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

### VICTOR MELLOR

Supports "continuing to secure and seal the border."

[1] Ballotpedia: Victor Mellor

## 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

### SETH MAGAZINER

*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

### VICTOR MELLOR

*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

### SETH MAGAZINER

*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

### VICTOR MELLOR

Backs policy that "restores reliable fossil fuel production and use," calls renewables "intermittent and unreliable," and supports ending solar and wind projects.

[1] Ballotpedia: Victor Mellor

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