2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · SOUTH CAROLINA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 5

Open seat (Rep. Ralph Norman, R, is running for governor).



Wes Climer

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

South Carolina state senator from York County since 2016 (resigning effective Nov. 3) and financial advisor.



Mallory Dittmer

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Former fashion-industry executive and mother from Fort Mill running as a first-time candidate.

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)

WES CLIMER

No public position found.

MALLORY DITTMER

Says "isolationism is not the answer"; pledges to strengthen NATO and alliances, "end endless wars and refocus on defense, not aggression," and uphold congressional authority.

[1] Dittmer for Congress: National Security

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

WES CLIMER

No public position found.

MALLORY DITTMER

Would protect the power grid from strain and higher costs from AI data centers, guard elections against AI-generated disinformation and protect kids from "predatory algorithms."

[1] Dittmer for Congress: Economy
[2] Dittmer for Congress: Elections
[3] Dittmer for Congress: Safety

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

WES CLIMER

No public position found.

MALLORY DITTMER

Would reverse "dangerous cuts to ACA subsidies, Medicare, and Medicaid," protect child-nutrition programs, end medical debt and raise the $7.25 minimum wage.

[1] Dittmer for Congress: Health Care
[2] Dittmer for Congress: Economy

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

WES CLIMER

No public position found.

MALLORY DITTMER

Supports independent redistricting to end partisan gerrymandering, "simplified and secure mail-in and absentee ballot processes," fewer barriers for independents and overturning Citizens United.

[1] Dittmer for Congress: 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

WES CLIMER

Describes himself as "pro-life, pro-parent, and pro-freedom."

[1] Wes Climer: 9 Pillars

MALLORY DITTMER

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

WES CLIMER

No public position found.

MALLORY DITTMER

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

WES CLIMER

Calls the border "a national crisis" and supports building the wall, reinstating Remain in Mexico and defunding sanctuary cities.

[1] Wes Climer: 9 Pillars

MALLORY DITTMER

Supports stronger border security "with a focus on … human compassion," due process in ICE enforcement, keeping children with families, a path to citizenship and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act.

[1] Dittmer for Congress: Immigration
[2] Dittmer for Congress: Agriculture

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

WES CLIMER

Says he expanded school choice in the state Senate "so every child can access the best education regardless of ZIP code"; supports abolishing the federal Department of Education.

[1] Wes Climer: About
[2] Wes Climer: 9 Pillars

MALLORY DITTMER

Wants "public, taxpayer funds" to stay within the public school system and supports re-establishing the federal Department of Education.

[1] Dittmer for Congress: Education

CARE FOR CREATION

POPE LEO XIV *"We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures."* AP, Oct. 1, 2025

WES CLIMER

Pledges to advance the "America First agenda" on energy, among other areas.

[1] Wes Climer: 9 Pillars

MALLORY DITTMER

Calls for clean air, safe water and contaminant-free food and for helping farmers prepare for "unpredictable extreme weather."

[1] Dittmer for Congress: Safety
[2] Dittmer for Congress: Agriculture

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