2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · SOUTH CAROLINA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. Senate

Sen. Lindsey Graham died July 11, 2026; Gov. Henry McMaster appointed his sister, Darline Graham, who then won the GOP special primary runoff. A New York Times/Siena poll showed the race tied at 48% (Oct. 2026).



Annie Andrews

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Pediatrician; 2022 Democratic nominee for South Carolina's 1st District.



Darline Graham

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

Appointed U.S. Senator (July 2026); former S.C. Commission for the Blind commissioner and rehabilitation counselor.

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)

ANNIE ANDREWS

Would "End reckless, open-ended wars" and "Require Congress to approve use of military force."

[1] Andrews campaign: No more endless wars

DARLINE GRAHAM

Defended the Iran war in an October debate, saying "Iran is the weakest they have been in forty years"; her site pledges support for "A strong military."

[1] Daily Beast: Graham debate remarks on Iran (Oct. 2026)
[2] Graham campaign: Issues

VOTING RECORD

No Iran war powers resolution (H.Con.Res. 89), Sept. 2026
Yes Russia sanctions bill (H.R. 5334), Aug. 2026

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

ANNIE ANDREWS

Would "Regulate AI and facial recognition tools that can discriminate or be abused" and "Raise wages and strengthen workers' rights."

[1] Andrews campaign: Big Tech
[2] Andrews campaign: Economy

DARLINE GRAHAM

Said in the Oct. 11 debate that she applauded President Trump's creation of an AI task force.

[1] Spectrum News: SC Senate debate (Oct. 12, 2026)

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

ANNIE ANDREWS

Would "Protect and expand Medicaid and Medicare," opposes rolling back ACA subsidies and supports a public option; has a plan to reverse the Medicaid cuts.

[1] Andrews campaign: Health care
[2] Andrews campaign: Platform

DARLINE GRAHAM

Pledges to protect Medicare and Social Security and keep rural hospitals open; supports "work requirements for able-bodied adults."

[1] Graham campaign: Issues

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

ANNIE ANDREWS

Pledges to work toward "Protecting the right to vote and making elections fairer."

[1] Andrews campaign: Political corruption

DARLINE GRAHAM

"Voter ID. Clean rolls. Transparent counting." Opposes federal takeovers of state elections and any effort to let noncitizens vote.

[1] Graham campaign: Issues

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

ANNIE ANDREWS

"These decisions belong to women and families, not to politicians"; supports restoring Roe v. Wade protections and access to contraception and infertility care.

[1] Andrews campaign: Reproductive freedom
[2] ABC News 4: Andrews in Marion

DARLINE GRAHAM

Is "pro-life and believes every child is a gift from God"; opposes taxpayer funding of abortion and supports pregnancy resource centers and adoption.

[1] Graham campaign: Issues

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

ANNIE ANDREWS

No public position found.

DARLINE GRAHAM

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

ANNIE ANDREWS

Backs stronger border security and "a fair path to citizenship"; has criticized "masked ICE agents ripping families apart."

[1] Andrews campaign: Immigration
[2] ABC News 4: Andrews in Marion

DARLINE GRAHAM

"Secure the border. Enforce the law." Backs finishing the wall, ending catch-and-release and removing "criminal illegal aliens"; opposes amnesty.

[1] Graham campaign: Issues

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

ANNIE ANDREWS

No public position found.

DARLINE GRAHAM

Says "She will defend religious liberty" and will stand up for parents' rights in their children's education.

[1] Graham campaign: Issues

CARE FOR CREATION

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

ANNIE ANDREWS

Would end tax breaks for "corporate polluters"; her platform does not otherwise address climate or energy.

[1] Andrews campaign: Economy

DARLINE GRAHAM

Backs an "all-of-the-above American energy strategy" to lower costs and reduce dependence on foreign adversaries.

[1] Graham campaign: Issues

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