2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · TENNESSEE · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 9

Open seat — incumbent Steve Cohen (D) is retiring. District lines redrawn for 2026.



Justin Pearson

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Tennessee state representative since 2023 and community organizer.



Brent Taylor

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Tennessee state senator and former funeral director.

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)

JUSTIN PEARSON

No public position found.

BRENT TAYLOR

Says America must "deter China, Iran, and other adversaries" and rebuild military readiness.

[1] Ballotpedia: Brent Taylor

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

JUSTIN PEARSON

No public position found.

BRENT TAYLOR

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

JUSTIN PEARSON

No public position found.

BRENT TAYLOR

No public position found.

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

JUSTIN PEARSON

No public position found.

BRENT TAYLOR

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

JUSTIN PEARSON

No public position found.

BRENT TAYLOR

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

JUSTIN PEARSON

No public position found.

BRENT TAYLOR

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

JUSTIN PEARSON

No public position found.

BRENT TAYLOR

Pledges to "end sanctuary policies" and "deport criminal illegal immigrants," calling secure borders essential to national security.

[1] Ballotpedia: Brent Taylor

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

JUSTIN PEARSON

No public position found.

BRENT TAYLOR

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

JUSTIN PEARSON

No public position found.

BRENT TAYLOR

Would "expand domestic oil, natural gas, and nuclear power" and wants data centers to cover their own power infrastructure costs.

[1] Ballotpedia: Brent Taylor

Full guide and every race in Tennessee: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/tennessee/ · **Take the Pope Leo voter pledge:** standwithpopeleo.com/vote/

This guide does not endorse any candidate or party. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Positions are summarized from candidates' own statements, votes, and campaign materials, with sources linked. Published by *Letters from Leo*. Spot an error? Email cjh@christopherhale.com.