2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · TEXAS · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 2

Open seat: incumbent Dan Crenshaw (R) lost the Republican primary to Steve Toth. District lines redrawn for 2026.



Shaun Finnie

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Former energy investment banker and oil and gas lawyer.



Steve Toth

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Texas state representative since 2019; ordained pastor and pool-business owner.

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)

SHAUN FINNIE

No public position found.

STEVE TOTH

Pledges to work with President Trump on "peace through strength" and to defend allies like Israel.

[1] Toth issues

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

SHAUN FINNIE

No public position found.

STEVE TOTH

Supports strategic tariffs to bring manufacturing and critical industries back to the United States.

[1] Toth issues

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

SHAUN FINNIE

Would expand the Affordable Care Act, raise the minimum wage and protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid from cuts.

[1] Ballotpedia: Shaun Finnie

STEVE TOTH

Calls for shifting from a system "driven by pharmaceutical profits and government overreach" toward individual responsibility for health; touts Texas ban on government vaccine mandates.

[1] Toth 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

SHAUN FINNIE

No public position found.

STEVE TOTH

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

SHAUN FINNIE

Campaign lists a priority to "ensure that women have the right to make their own healthcare decisions."

[1] Ballotpedia: Shaun Finnie

STEVE TOTH

Campaign lists him among Texas Right to Life's "Pro-Life Heroes."

[1] Meet Steve Toth

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

SHAUN FINNIE

No public position found.

STEVE TOTH

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

SHAUN FINNIE

Backs bipartisan reform with stronger border enforcement, deportation of people who entered illegally and committed serious crimes, and an earned path to citizenship for long-term, law-abiding residents.

[1] Ballotpedia: Shaun Finnie

STEVE TOTH

Says he "put the sovereignty of the Texas border above all else" in the Texas House and pledges to keep fighting until the southern border is secured.

[1] Toth 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

SHAUN FINNIE

No public position found.

STEVE TOTH

Highlights leading efforts to remove Critical Race Theory and DEI from Texas public classrooms and universities.

[1] Toth issues

CARE FOR CREATION

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

SHAUN FINNIE

No public position found.

STEVE TOTH

Calls for expanding domestic oil and gas production for "energy independence."

[1] Toth issues

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