2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · TEXAS · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 9

Open seat: newly configured district with no incumbent (Al Green ran in the 18th). District lines redrawn for 2026.



Leticia Gutierrez

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Community advocate with a finance degree from the University of St. Thomas.



Alex Mealer

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

West Point graduate, Army veteran and former oil and gas finance executive; 2022 Harris County Judge nominee.

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)

LETICIA GUTIERREZ

No public position found.

ALEX MEALER

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

LETICIA GUTIERREZ

No public position found.

ALEX MEALER

Wants the U.S., not China, to set AI rules; supports safety reviews for the most powerful systems and protections against deepfakes.

[1] Mealer campaign site

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

LETICIA GUTIERREZ

No public position found.

ALEX MEALER

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

LETICIA GUTIERREZ

No public position found.

ALEX MEALER

Campaign describes her year-long legal contest of the 2022 Harris County judge election, which she lost narrowly.

[1] Mealer about page

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

LETICIA GUTIERREZ

No public position found.

ALEX MEALER

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

LETICIA GUTIERREZ

No public position found.

ALEX MEALER

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

LETICIA GUTIERREZ

No public position found.

ALEX MEALER

Pledges to "restore law and order at the border" and enforce immigration laws, citing cartels and human trafficking.

[1] Mealer campaign site

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

LETICIA GUTIERREZ

No public position found.

ALEX MEALER

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

LETICIA GUTIERREZ

Prioritizes hardening infrastructure — pipes, power lines and freeways — after Hurricane Harvey, Winter Storm Uri and the derecho.

[1] Gutierrez priorities

ALEX MEALER

Pledges to expand domestic energy production to lower gas and electricity prices.

[1] Mealer campaign site

Full guide and every race in Texas: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/texas/ · **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.