2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · TEXAS · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 18

Incumbent Christian Menefee (D), who won a January 2026 special election, defeated Rep. Al Green in the primary runoff. District lines redrawn for 2026.



Christian Menefee

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since 2026; former Harris County Attorney.

Ronald Whitfield

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

Republican nominee; 2025 special-election candidate for this seat.

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)

CHRISTIAN MENEFEE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Iran war powers resolutions, Mar.–Sept. 2026 (six House votes): **Yes** Mar., Apr., May, June, July, Sept.

Yes Ukraine Support Act (H.R. 2913), June 2026 — authorizes support for Ukraine

RONALD WHITFIELD

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

CHRISTIAN MENEFEE

Calls for AI rules that "protect workers, not replace them."

[1] Menefee: Innovation

VOTING RECORD

Yes Faster Labor Contracts Act (H.R. 5408), June 2026 — sets deadlines for reaching first union contracts

RONALD WHITFIELD

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

CHRISTIAN MENEFEE

Supports Medicare for All and strengthening Medicaid.

[1] Menefee: Healthcare

RONALD WHITFIELD

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

CHRISTIAN MENEFEE

Supports the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, the Freedom to Vote Act, and automatic and same-day registration.

[1] Menefee: Democracy

VOTING RECORD

No SAVE America Act (House amendment to S. 1383), Feb. 2026 — requires documentary proof of citizenship to register and photo ID to vote in federal elections

RONALD WHITFIELD

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

CHRISTIAN MENEFEE

Will fight to restore abortion rights, defend contraception and IVF, and block a national abortion ban.

[1] Menefee: Abortion Rights

RONALD WHITFIELD

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

CHRISTIAN MENEFEE

No public position found.

RONALD WHITFIELD

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

CHRISTIAN MENEFEE

Supports DACA protections, a path to citizenship and ending family separation.

[1] Menefee: Immigration

VOTING RECORD

No Secure America Act (S. 2), June 2026 — reconciliation funding for ICE and Customs and Border Protection

Yes Haiti TPS bill (H.R. 1689), Apr. 2026 — requires temporary protected status for Haitians

RONALD WHITFIELD

No public position found.

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

CHRISTIAN MENEFEE

No public position found.

RONALD WHITFIELD

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

CHRISTIAN MENEFEE

Backs tougher environmental protections and opposes efforts to dismantle the EPA.

[1] Menefee: Clean Air & Water

VOTING RECORD

Did not vote Homeowner Energy Freedom Act (H.R. 4758), Feb. 2026 — repeals home-electrification rebates from the 2022 climate law

RONALD WHITFIELD

No public position found.

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