

U.S. House, District 28

Incumbent Henry Cuellar (D) faces Republican Tano Tijerina in a district redrawn in 2025.

Henry Cuellar

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

U.S. representative since 2005; former Texas secretary of state.

Tano Tijerina

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

Webb County judge since 2015; rancher and former minor league baseball player.

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 \(Vatican News via The Good Newsroom\)](#)

HENRY CUELLAR

Voted for the September 2026 War Powers Resolution directing removal of U.S. forces from hostilities with Iran.

[\[1\] House roll call 307 \(2026\): Iran war powers resolution](#)

VOTING RECORD

Iran war powers resolutions, Mar.–Sept. 2026 (six House votes): **Yes** Apr., May, June, July, Sept. · **No** Mar.

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

TANO TIJERINA

Backs an “America First” foreign policy, “standing with our allies, including Israel” and “confronting hostile regimes.”

[\[1\] Tijerina campaign: 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](#)

HENRY CUELLAR

Filed the “Ratepayer Bill of Rights Act” requiring data centers to disclose electricity and water use and pay all project-driven costs.

[\[1\] Texas Tribune: Cuellar and Tijerina spar](#)

VOTING RECORD

Yes Protect America’s Workforce Act (H.R. 2550), Dec. 2025 — nullifies the executive order ending union bargaining for many federal workers

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

TANO TIJERINA

Wants South Texas to lead in AI and says the U.S. must beat China in the AI race, while pledging ratepayers will not pay for data centers’ power demands.

[\[1\] Tijerina campaign: Issues](#)

[\[2\] Texas Tribune: Cuellar and Tijerina spar](#)

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

HENRY CUELLAR

Voted against the 2025 reconciliation law (H.R. 1); co-authored Texas’ CHIP pilot as a state legislator and supports community health centers.

[1] [House roll call 145 \(2025\): H.R. 1 passage](#)

[2] [House roll call 190 \(2025\): H.R. 1 final passage](#)

[3] [Cuellar office: Health Care](#)

VOTING RECORD

No One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), final passage July 2025 — tax cuts with Medicaid and SNAP changes

Yes Breaking the Gridlock Act (H.R. 1834), Jan. 2026 — extends enhanced ACA premium tax credits through 2028

TANO TIJERINA

No federal position found; as county judge he touts expanding Meals on Wheels for seniors and \$20 million in utility assistance.

[1] [Texas Tribune: Cuellar and Tijerina spar](#)

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

HENRY CUELLAR

Voted for the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act in January 2025.

[1] [House roll call 27 \(2025\): Born-Alive Act](#)

VOTING RECORD

Yes Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 21), Jan. 2025 — requires care for infants born alive after an attempted abortion

Yes Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act (H.R. 6945), Jan. 2026 — lets states use TANF funds for pregnancy centers

TANO TIJERINA

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

HENRY CUELLAR

No public position found.

TANO TIJERINA

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

HENRY CUELLAR

Says “ICE should be focusing on criminals — not on families, Dreamers, construction workers.” Voted for the Laken Riley Act; has favored port and Border Patrol upgrades over a border wall.

[1] [Texas Tribune: Cuellar and Tijerina spar](#)

[2] [House roll call 23 \(2025\): Laken Riley Act](#)

[3] [Cuellar office: Border & Homeland Security](#)

VOTING RECORD

Yes Laken Riley Act (S. 5), Jan. 2025 — requires detention of undocumented immigrants charged with theft and certain crimes

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

TANO TIJERINA

Says “we must secure the border, enforce the law,” while calling for immigration reform that is “practical and bipartisan.”

[1] [Tijerina 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

HENRY CUELLAR

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), July 2025 — created a federal tax credit for donations to K–12 scholarship organizations

TANO TIJERINA

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

HENRY CUELLAR

Supports investment in “all forms of domestic energy production, including oil, natural gas, wind, solar”; wants data centers to prove water remains for households during drought.

[1] Cuellar office: Energy and Environment

[2] Texas Tribune: Cuellar and Tijerina spar

VOTING RECORD

Yes Resolution overturning EPA approval of California vehicle-emission rules (H.J.Res. 87), Apr. 2025

No Homeowner Energy Freedom Act (H.R. 4758), Feb. 2026 — repeals home-electrification rebates from the 2022 climate law

TANO TIJERINA

Says data centers can “drain scarce water” and should generate their own water and electricity; pledges to protect land and water in rural communities.

[1] Tijerina campaign: Issues

[2] Texas Tribune: Cuellar and Tijerina spar

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