2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · TEXAS · LETTERS FROM LEO

# U.S. House, District 33

Open seat: incumbent Julie Johnson (D) lost the Democratic runoff to Colin Allred; Marc Veasey withdrew. District lines redrawn for 2026.



## Colin Allred

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Former U.S. Representative (2019–2025), civil rights attorney and NFL linebacker.

## Patrick Gillespie

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Technical writer formerly at Boeing, BAE Systems and American Airlines; former IAM union local vice president.

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)

**COLIN ALLRED**

*No public position found.*

**PATRICK GILLESPIE**

*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

**COLIN ALLRED**

*No public position found.*

**PATRICK GILLESPIE**

*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

**COLIN ALLRED**

Proposes expanding the Child Tax Credit to 2021 levels and requiring Medicare and Medicaid to negotiate prices on all drugs.

[1] Allred campaign: Affordability agenda

**PATRICK GILLESPIE**

*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

**COLIN ALLRED**

Worked as an attorney to "combat voter suppression"; proposes independent redistricting commissions and a ban on mid-decade redistricting.

[1] Allred for Texas
[2] Allred campaign: Anti-corruption plan

**PATRICK GILLESPIE**

Says "We have the correct laws in place: photo ID," and opposes "ballot harvest[ing]."

[1] Ballotpedia: Patrick Gillespie

### 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

**COLIN ALLRED**

*No public position found.*

**PATRICK GILLESPIE**

*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

**COLIN ALLRED**

*No public position found.*

**PATRICK GILLESPIE**

Says "Rape needs to be reinstated as a Capital Offense" and that fentanyl dealers "should be charged with Capital Murder."

[1] Ballotpedia: Patrick Gillespie

## 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

**COLIN ALLRED**

Pledges to "abolish ICE" and transfer its functions to other agencies, guarantee counsel and bond hearings, and pass the Dream and Promise Act's path to citizenship.

[1] Allred campaign: Immigration agenda

**PATRICK GILLESPIE**

Campaign site urges "Enforce the laws on the books!!" on illegal immigration; opposes federal money for people in the country illegally.

[1] Ballotpedia: Patrick Gillespie

## 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

**COLIN ALLRED**

*No public position found.*

**PATRICK GILLESPIE**

*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

**COLIN ALLRED**

*No public position found.*

**PATRICK GILLESPIE**

Proposes switching coal-fired power generation to natural gas and withdrawing from the Paris Climate Accords.

[1] Ballotpedia: Patrick Gillespie

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