2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · TEXAS · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 38

Open seat (Rep. Wesley Hunt, R, ran for U.S. Senate). District lines redrawn for 2026.



Jon Bonck

REPUBLICAN · OPEN SEAT

Mortgage sales manager with a biochemistry degree from LSU.



Melissa McDonough

DEMOCRAT · OPEN SEAT

Realtor and former election judge.

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)

JON BONCK

Says "No more blank checks for foreign wars. Put America first."

[1] Ballotpedia: Jon Bonck

MELISSA MCDONOUGH

Supports aiding Ukraine with older U.S. military equipment without "boots on the ground"; backs Israel's right to defend itself, a proportionate response and a two-state solution.

[1] McDonough campaign: Platform

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

JON BONCK

No public position found.

MELISSA MCDONOUGH

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

JON BONCK

No public position found.

MELISSA MCDONOUGH

Says "Expanding Medicaid is a cost-effective way to help Texans get access to quality healthcare."

[1] McDonough campaign: Platform
[2] Ballotpedia: Melissa McDonough

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

JON BONCK

No public position found.

MELISSA MCDONOUGH

Says "We need to make mail-in voting easier," keep countywide voting and expand accessible polling places.

[1] McDonough campaign: Platform
[2] Ballotpedia: Melissa McDonough

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

JON BONCK

His "Protect Life" theme states "Life begins at conception. No compromise."

[1] Ballotpedia: Jon Bonck

MELISSA MCDONOUGH

Says "Women deserve the right to bodily autonomy" and that women have lost reproductive freedom "at the discretion of politicians."

[1] Ballotpedia: Melissa McDonough

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

JON BONCK

No public position found.

MELISSA MCDONOUGH

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

JON BONCK

His "Secure the Border" theme states "Finish the wall. End the invasion. Put Texas first."

[1] Ballotpedia: Jon Bonck

MELISSA MCDONOUGH

Favors "streamlining the immigration process" over border barriers and addressing root causes of migration in Latin America.

[1] McDonough campaign: Platform
[2] Ballotpedia: Melissa McDonough

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

JON BONCK

His "Defend Religious Liberty" theme says "Faith belongs in public life — not under attack"; on schools, "Parents first."

[1] Ballotpedia: Jon Bonck

MELISSA MCDONOUGH

Criticizes "Governor Abbott's relentless push for vouchers" and calls for stronger public school funding.

[1] McDonough campaign: Platform
[2] Ballotpedia: Melissa McDonough

CARE FOR CREATION

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

JON BONCK

No public position found.

MELISSA MCDONOUGH

Calls for "fully enforcing the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts" and embracing renewable energy innovation.

[1] Ballotpedia: Melissa McDonough

Full guide and every race in Texas: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/texas/ · **Take the Pope Leo voter pledge:** standwithpopeleo.com/vote/

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