Governor

Gov. Phil Scott seeks a sixth two-year term; Amanda Janoo won the Aug. 11 Democratic primary over Aly Richards. Rated Likely Republican by Cook Political Report (Oct 2026).



Amanda Janoo

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Economist; former economics and policy lead at the Wellbeing Economy Alliance.



Phil Scott

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

Governor of Vermont since 2017; former lieutenant governor and co-owner of a construction company.

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)

AMANDA JANOO

Backs "Defend the Guard": no deployment of the Vermont National Guard unless Congress declares war.

[1] OnTheIssues: Amanda Janoo

PHIL SCOTT

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

AMANDA JANOO

Calls for a moratorium on AI data centers, "protecting collective bargaining over automation" and "prohibiting invasive workplace surveillance."

[1] Janoo campaign: Platform

PHIL SCOTT

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

AMANDA JANOO

Proposes universal primary and preventive care funded by a "Fair Share" tax on high earners meant to offset "pending federal cuts to Medicaid"; has called $25 an hour a living wage.

[1] Janoo campaign: Platform
[2] WCAX: Scott, Janoo outline competing economic views (Oct. 2026)
[3] OnTheIssues: Amanda Janoo

PHIL SCOTT

His 2026 budget kept about $70 million set aside for expected federal Medicaid and human-services cuts; opposes new taxes and rejects a publicly funded health system: "It can't be done in Vermont."

[1] VTDigger: Scott unveils $9.4 billion budget (Jan. 2026)
[2] Seven Days: A civil debate showcases differences between Scott, Janoo (Oct. 2026)
[3] WCAX: Scott, Janoo outline competing economic views (Oct. 2026)

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

AMANDA JANOO

No public position found.

PHIL SCOTT

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

AMANDA JANOO

Platform pledges to protect "reproductive freedom" and to bar AI from monitoring reproductive health care.

[1] Janoo campaign: Platform

PHIL SCOTT

As governor, signed legislation guaranteeing access to abortion services.

[1] Ballotpedia: Phil Scott

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

AMANDA JANOO

No public position found.

PHIL SCOTT

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

AMANDA JANOO

Opposes AI systems "designed for mass political or immigration surveillance" and would bar AI monitoring for immigration enforcement.

[1] Janoo campaign: Platform

PHIL SCOTT

Signed a law limiting state police involvement in federal immigration enforcement; after a fatal shooting by federal agents in January 2026 said, "It's not acceptable for American citizens to be killed by federal agents for exercising their God-given and constitutional rights to protest their government."

[1] Ballotpedia: Phil Scott
[2] CT Public: Phil Scott condemns federal immigration enforcement tactics (Jan. 2026)

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

AMANDA JANOO

Would bar AI from monitoring "religious practice"; opposes forced school consolidation and closure.

[1] Janoo campaign: Platform

PHIL SCOTT

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

AMANDA JANOO

Opposes new nuclear power until the waste problem is solved and favors community-owned renewable energy and a climate-resilient food system.

[1] Seven Days: A civil debate showcases differences between Scott, Janoo (Oct. 2026)
[2] Janoo campaign: Platform

PHIL SCOTT

Says energy policies passed by the Legislature make Vermont less affordable; points to Québec hydropower and backs exploring small-scale nuclear with other New England governors.

[1] VTDigger: Scott unveils $9.4 billion budget (Jan. 2026)
[2] Seven Days: A civil debate showcases differences between Scott, Janoo (Oct. 2026)

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