2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · VIRGINIA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 4

Virginia voters approved a new congressional map in April 2026, but the state Supreme Court struck it down, so existing district lines are in use. Incumbent Jennifer McClellan (D) seeks reelection. Independent Joan Bell is also on the ballot.



Robert Murray Jr.

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

Business consultant with degrees from William & Mary and Emory's Goizueta Business School.



Jennifer McClellan

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since 2023; former Virginia state senator.

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)

ROBERT MURRAY JR.

Would press to "quickly end the wars," restore a "peace through strength" doctrine and refocus the military on infrastructure hardening.

[1] Murray for Congress: Solutions

JENNIFER MCCLELLAN

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

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

ROBERT MURRAY JR.

Says he would protect against "harmful technology" and government and corporate spying, and that mental health care "will be key for addressing AI/robotic-disruptions to our economy."

[1] Murray for Congress: Solutions
[2] Ballotpedia: Robert Murray Jr.

JENNIFER MCCLELLAN

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

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

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

ROBERT MURRAY JR.

Would vote against foreign aid until Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, CHIP and WIC are "fully funded," and wants to shore up Medicare beyond 2033.

[1] Murray for Congress: Solutions

JENNIFER MCCLELLAN

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

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

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

ROBERT MURRAY JR.

Would pass the SAVE Act "with relief for women whose names changed," or at least require photo ID for federal elections, and audit results with AI and volunteers; supports reversing Citizens United.

[1] Murray for Congress: Solutions

JENNIFER MCCLELLAN

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

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

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

ROBERT MURRAY JR.

No public position found.

JENNIFER MCCLELLAN

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 21), Jan. 2025 — requires care for infants born alive after an attempted abortion

No Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act (H.R. 6945), Jan. 2026 — lets states use TANF funds for pregnancy centers

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

ROBERT MURRAY JR.

No public position found.

JENNIFER MCCLELLAN

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

ROBERT MURRAY JR.

No public position found.

JENNIFER MCCLELLAN

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No 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

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

ROBERT MURRAY JR.

Would co-sponsor legislation codifying Executive Order 13798 on religious liberty "to unmute ethical voices" and supports parents' rights to know what their children do in school.

[1] Murray for Congress: Solutions

JENNIFER MCCLELLAN

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

CARE FOR CREATION

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

ROBERT MURRAY JR.

Calls for cutting energy costs and shifting health care toward prevention through "better nutrition, less toxic environments."

[1] Murray for Congress: Solutions

JENNIFER MCCLELLAN

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No 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

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

This guide does not endorse any candidate or party. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Positions are summarized from candidates' own statements, votes, and campaign materials, with sources linked. Published by *Letters from Leo*. Spot an error? Email cjh@christopherhale.com.