2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · VIRGINIA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 5

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 John McGuire (R) seeks reelection. Independent Cooke Harvey is also on the ballot.



John McGuire

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since 2025; former Navy SEAL and state senator.



Tom Perriello

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Former U.S. Representative for the 5th District (2009–2011) and former U.S. special envoy for Africa's Great Lakes region and for Sudan.

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)

JOHN MCGUIRE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

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

No Ukraine Support Act (H.R. 2913), June 2026 — authorizes support for Ukraine

TOM PERRIELLO

Would end the Iran war "on day one," require Congress to vote before war, stand with NATO and Ukraine, and end military aid to the Israeli government over what he calls genocide in Gaza.

[1] Perriello for Congress: Foreign Policy

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

JOHN MCGUIRE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No Protect America's Workforce Act (H.R. 2550), Dec. 2025 — nullifies the executive order ending union bargaining for many federal workers

No Faster Labor Contracts Act (H.R. 5408), June 2026 — sets deadlines for reaching first union contracts

TOM PERRIELLO

Calls for national AI safety guardrails and liability, opposes federal preemption of state AI laws, and wants tax and health policy rewritten to reward hiring over automation; quotes Pope Leo on technology.

[1] Perriello for Congress: AI

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

JOHN MCGUIRE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Yes One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), final passage July 2025 — tax cuts with Medicaid and SNAP changes

No Breaking the Gridlock Act (H.R. 1834), Jan. 2026 — extends enhanced ACA premium tax credits through 2028

TOM PERRIELLO

Supports "the best possible path to universal care, whether Medicare for All or alternatives," reversing rural health funding cuts, and matching the national minimum wage to Virginia's.

[1] Perriello for Congress: Healthcare
[2] Perriello for Congress: Jobs

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

JOHN MCGUIRE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Yes 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

TOM PERRIELLO

Would pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, treat threats against poll workers and registrars as crimes, and supports Virginia's automatic restoration of voting rights amendment (Question 3).

[1] Perriello for Congress: Voting Rights

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

JOHN MCGUIRE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

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

TOM PERRIELLO

Has "publicly affirmed abortion as a fundamental right" and pledges to codify access to contraception, abortion and fertility care nationwide; supports Virginia's reproductive-freedom amendment (Question 1).

[1] Perriello for Congress: Freedoms

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

JOHN MCGUIRE

No public position found.

TOM PERRIELLO

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

JOHN MCGUIRE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

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

Yes Secure America Act (S. 2), June 2026 — reconciliation funding for ICE and Customs and Border Protection

No Haiti TPS bill (H.R. 1689), Apr. 2026 — requires temporary protected status for Haitians

TOM PERRIELLO

Would hold enforcement to "the Constitution": no warrantless raids, no arrests at courthouses, schools or churches, no racial profiling; voted for the DREAM Act in Congress.

[1] Perriello for Congress: Freedoms

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

JOHN MCGUIRE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Yes One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), July 2025 — created a federal tax credit for donations to K–12 scholarship organizations

TOM PERRIELLO

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

JOHN MCGUIRE

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

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

Yes Homeowner Energy Freedom Act (H.R. 4758), Feb. 2026 — repeals home-electrification rebates from the 2022 climate law

TOM PERRIELLO

Would protect farmers' right to diversify into clean energy and sell power to the grid at market rates, and remove tax breaks for data centers and related projects.

[1] Perriello for Congress: Farmers

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