2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · VIRGINIA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 9

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 Morgan Griffith (R) seeks reelection.



Morgan Griffith

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since 2011; former majority leader of the Virginia House of Delegates.



Joy Powers

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Fourth-generation cattle farmer from Bedford County and former manager of her family's farm-equipment dealership; founder of Restore the Harvest.

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)

MORGAN GRIFFITH

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

JOY POWERS

Would end largely unconditional U.S. weapons aid to Netanyahu's government, saying "our weapons should come with our values attached"; wants the hostages home and "safety and dignity for Israelis and Palestinians alike."

[1] Joy for Virginia: The Issues

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

MORGAN GRIFFITH

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

JOY POWERS

Opposes data center projects that raise power bills, drain local water and rely on tax breaks — "Southwest Virginia is not a sacrifice zone" — and backs apprenticeships linked to local employers.

[1] Joy for Virginia: The Issues
[2] Joy for Virginia: Priorities

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

MORGAN GRIFFITH

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

JOY POWERS

Says "healthcare is a human right" and supports universal health care; would fight to protect federal Medicaid funding for rural hospitals and to "protect SNAP purchasing power."

[1] Ballotpedia: Joy Powers
[2] Joy for Virginia: The Issues
[3] Joy for Virginia: Priorities

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

MORGAN GRIFFITH

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

Yes Objection to counting Arizona's 2020 electoral votes, Jan. 6, 2021 — a Yes vote supported the objection (failed, 121–303)

Yes Objection to counting Pennsylvania's 2020 electoral votes, Jan. 7, 2021 — a Yes vote supported the objection (failed, 138–282)

No For the People Act (H.R. 1), Mar. 2021 — automatic and same-day voter registration, expanded mail and early voting, campaign-finance and ethics rules

No Presidential Election Reform Act (H.R. 8873), Sept. 2022 — says the vice president's role in counting electoral votes is ministerial and raises the threshold for objections

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

JOY POWERS

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

MORGAN GRIFFITH

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

JOY POWERS

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

MORGAN GRIFFITH

No public position found.

JOY POWERS

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

MORGAN GRIFFITH

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

JOY POWERS

No public position found.

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

MORGAN GRIFFITH

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

JOY POWERS

Calls herself "a proud public school parent, public school graduate and … public school advocate" and wants strong public-school funding and career and technical education.

[1] Joy for Virginia: The Issues

CARE FOR CREATION

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

MORGAN GRIFFITH

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

JOY POWERS

Says data centers have driven up Virginia electricity costs and threaten local water, and pledges to defend farmland from corporate consolidation and redevelop abandoned mine land.

[1] Joy for Virginia: The Issues
[2] Joy for Virginia: Priorities

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

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