2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · VIRGINIA · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 11

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 James Walkinshaw (D) seeks reelection. Green Party candidate Dianne Blais is also on the ballot.



Arthur Purves

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

Retired computer programmer and longtime Fairfax County civic leader.



James Walkinshaw

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since September 2025; former Fairfax County supervisor.

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)

ARTHUR PURVES

Calls it "hypocritical of Democrats to criticize the Iran war for high oil prices" and warns that otherwise "Iran will build atomic bombs and use them."

[1] Ballotpedia: Arthur Purves

JAMES WALKINSHAW

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

ARTHUR PURVES

No public position found.

JAMES WALKINSHAW

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

ARTHUR PURVES

No public position found.

JAMES WALKINSHAW

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

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

ARTHUR PURVES

Says "mail-in ballots enable election fraud."

[1] Ballotpedia: Arthur Purves

JAMES WALKINSHAW

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

ARTHUR PURVES

Says "abortion always takes a life" while also saying to "keep abortion legal for those rare cases but encourage marriage."

[1] Ballotpedia: Arthur Purves

JAMES WALKINSHAW

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

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

ARTHUR PURVES

No public position found.

JAMES WALKINSHAW

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

ARTHUR PURVES

Calls for vetting immigrants "before they enter" and warns that reopened borders "will allow in gangs and traffickers."

[1] Ballotpedia: Arthur Purves

JAMES WALKINSHAW

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

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

ARTHUR PURVES

Would "put the Ten Commandments in public schools" and says school districts should give vouchers to students who attend for at least a year.

[1] Ballotpedia: Arthur Purves

JAMES WALKINSHAW

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

ARTHUR PURVES

Says the climate "is warming. It is not a crisis," and argues that billions spent reducing carbon footprints have "no impact on atmospheric CO2."

[1] Ballotpedia: Arthur Purves

JAMES WALKINSHAW

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No Homeowner Energy Freedom Act (H.R. 4758), Feb. 2026 — repeals home-electrification rebates from the 2022 climate law

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