2026 CATHOLIC VOTER GUIDE · WASHINGTON · LETTERS FROM LEO

U.S. House, District 5

Incumbent Michael Baumgartner (R) seeks reelection. Top-two general election.



Michael Baumgartner

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

U.S. Representative since 2025.



Carmela Conroy

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Former U.S. Foreign Service officer and Spokane County deputy prosecutor.

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)

MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

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

CARMELA CONROY

Calls for defunding "aggressive and otherwise illegal military operations"; in 2024 said partners in Israel and Ukraine need the means to defend themselves.

[1] Ballotpedia: Carmela Conroy

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

MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

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

CARMELA CONROY

Describes herself as a dues-paying union member and is endorsed by the Washington State Labor Council; no stated position on AI.

[1] Ballotpedia: Carmela Conroy

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

MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

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

CARMELA CONROY

Wants to restore Medicare and Medicaid funding, reduce red tape from the 2025 reconciliation law, extend children's Medicaid coverage to age 19 and index the federal minimum wage to inflation.

[1] Ballotpedia: Carmela Conroy

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

MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

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

CARMELA CONROY

In 2024 called "ensuring access to the ballot" a priority and named domestic extremists as a threat to democracy.

[1] Ballotpedia: Carmela Conroy

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

MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

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

CARMELA CONROY

Says she would keep politicians out of medical decisions that belong to women; in 2024 said Congress should "codify our basic human rights" rather than pass a national abortion ban.

[1] Ballotpedia: Carmela Conroy

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

MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

No public position found.

CARMELA CONROY

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

MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

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

CARMELA CONROY

Calls for holding the Department of Homeland Security accountable for border security and for defunding immigration detention centers as quickly as can be done humanely.

[1] Ballotpedia: Carmela Conroy

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

MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

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

CARMELA CONROY

Says public funds should not be used in violation of church-state separation and calls for restoring public education funding, including for students with special needs.

[1] Ballotpedia: Carmela Conroy

CARE FOR CREATION

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

MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

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

CARMELA CONROY

Warns against weakening environmental protections; in 2024 listed clean energy investment and "retaining a survivable climate" as priorities.

[1] Ballotpedia: Carmela Conroy

Full guide and every race in Washington: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/washington/ · **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.