U.S. Senate

Incumbent Republican Shelley Moore Capito won her primary with 66.5%; Democrat Rachel Fetty Anderson won a five-way primary with 33.2%.



Rachel Fetty Anderson

DEMOCRAT · CHALLENGER

Attorney and mother of four.



Shelley Moore Capito

REPUBLICAN · INCUMBENT

U.S. Senator since 2015; chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

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)

RACHEL FETTY ANDERSON

Supports a two-state solution — "Both Israel and Palestine deserve to exist" — and says U.S. military power "should be reserved for self-defense."

[1] Fetty Anderson campaign: Issues

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

Said in March 2026 that Congress need not pass an Iran war powers resolution, arguing it would hamper real-time decisions; said Trump gave Iran "more than enough time to come to the table."

[1] Capito on Iran war powers (Mar. 3, 2026)

VOTING RECORD

No Iran war powers resolution (H.Con.Res. 86), June 2026
No Iran war powers resolution (H.Con.Res. 89), Sept. 2026
Yes Russia sanctions bill (H.R. 5334), Aug. 2026

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

RACHEL FETTY ANDERSON

Calls to "Divest from AI and technologies designed to reduce workforce participation"; says the right to unionize "must not be interfered with."

[1] Fetty Anderson campaign: Issues

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

Sponsors the VET AI Act, which would create voluntary federal guidelines and independent third-party evaluation of AI systems.

[1] WDTV (Aug. 13, 2025)

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

RACHEL FETTY ANDERSON

Supports Medicare for All and investment in Medicare, Medicaid and Tricare; says SNAP must protect farmers from market instability.

[1] West Virginia Watch (May 12, 2026)
[2] Fetty Anderson campaign: Issues

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

Called the 2025 reconciliation law "good news for West Virginia," citing its rural health fund; later said projections of its Medicaid cuts are "way overstated."

[1] Capito on the reconciliation law (July 2025)
[2] The Intermountain (Jan. 15, 2026)

VOTING RECORD

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

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

RACHEL FETTY ANDERSON

No public position found.

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

No campaign statement found. See voting record below.

VOTING RECORD

No Objection to counting Arizona's 2020 electoral votes, Jan. 6, 2021 — a Yes vote supported the objection (failed, 6–93)

No Objection to counting Pennsylvania's 2020 electoral votes, Jan. 7, 2021 — a Yes vote supported the objection (failed, 7–92)

No For the People Act (S. 2093), June 2021 — vote to begin debate (failed, 50–50; 60 needed)

Yes SAVE America Act (S. 1383), Mar. 2026 — motion to take up the bill requiring proof of citizenship to register and photo ID to vote (passed, 51–48)

Yes Photo ID amendment to the SAVE America Act, Mar. 2026 — vote to end debate on requiring photo ID to vote (failed, 53–47; 60 needed)

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

RACHEL FETTY ANDERSON

Wants to restore the right to abortion; says adults should have autonomy over their bodies to choose or refuse medical care, "including birth control."

[1] West Virginia Watch (May 12, 2026)
[2] Fetty Anderson campaign: Issues

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

Supported the Dobbs decision, saying it "returned this issue to the states"; joined all Senate Republicans in a statement backing continued nationwide IVF access.

[1] Capito on Dobbs (June 2022)
[2] Capito: IVF joint statement

VOTING RECORD

Yes Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 6), Jan. 2025 — vote to advance the bill (failed, 52–47; 60 needed)

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

RACHEL FETTY ANDERSON

No public position found.

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

Has supported the death penalty for killing police officers (2015).

[1] OnTheIssues: Shelley Moore Capito

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

RACHEL FETTY ANDERSON

Her campaign site does not address immigration enforcement; it urges encouraging migration of professional workers, "particularly medical professionals."

[1] Fetty Anderson campaign: Issues

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

Campaign touts her support for border security; after a fatal ICE shooting in January 2026 she said "Any loss of life is a tragedy" and "it's tough being an ICE agent."

[1] Capito campaign site
[2] The Intermountain (Jan. 15, 2026)

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

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

RACHEL FETTY ANDERSON

Criticizes officials who seek to place religious texts in schools and fund religious institutions; supports educational resources wherever families choose to educate their children.

[1] Fetty Anderson campaign: Issues

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

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

CARE FOR CREATION

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

RACHEL FETTY ANDERSON

Encourages investment in sustainable energy while calling coal plants "an essential part of America's energy portfolio."

[1] Fetty Anderson campaign: Issues

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

As Environment and Public Works chair, aims to "roll back regulatory overreach" such as California's electric vehicle mandate; pledges to invest in West Virginia energy.

[1] Capito campaign site
[2] West Virginia Watch (May 12, 2026)

VOTING RECORD

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

Full guide and every race in West Virginia: standwithpopeleo.com/vote/west-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.