



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

2024 MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION

MARYLAND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE SURVEY

Early voting: May 2-9 | Primary Election Day: May 14

ABOUT THIS GUIDE: The Maryland Catholic Conference sent candidates a survey covering policy issues of interest to Catholics. Their responses (agree/disagree and statements) are below. Before you vote, please review the responses and reflect upon the document Faithful Citizenship (mdcatholic.org/parish-elections) as you form your conscience and prayerfully discern your vote.

The Maryland Catholic Conference does not endorse or oppose any candidate, under any circumstance, and no inference of endorsement or opposition should be concluded as a result of the information provided here.

PARTY	CANDIDATES: MD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2		1. Poverty	2. Abortion	3. Immigration	4. Education	5. Environment	6. Family	7. Conscience Rights
D	Harry	Bhandari							
D	Sia	Kyriakakos							
D	John "Johnny O"	Olszewski, Jr.							
D	Sharron	Reed-Burns							
D	Jessica	Sjoberg *	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D	Clinton	Spellman, Jr. *	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R	Kim	Klacik							
R	John	Thormann							
R	Dave	Wallace							

KEY D = Democrat R = Republican

* = provided additional comments | ✓ = agree X = disagree blank = no response

We encourage you to read the additional comments provided by candidates to more fully explain their positions.

1. **Poverty.** The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other similar initiatives provide funding for millions of poor Americans who cannot afford to adequately feed themselves or their families. Congress should oppose restrictions on SNAP that prevent the most vulnerable from receiving these benefits.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Jessica Sjoberg In 2013, after my divorce I had to have both WIC and SNAP. I was embarrassed, but had no job, living with my parents, a 4 year old son, one year old daughter, and new born son. The application for SNAP is beyond ridiculous and the wait at Social Services is unbearable. BUT, I'm way beyond grateful for the SNAP. But, whatever food that my family did not use, I personally donated to the Grassroots Mission to give to those that need the food as well.

Clinton Spellman, Jr. I am proposing a federal program called Poverty to Profession, a 10-to-14-week Program to prepare the Homeless, Incarcerated, low income unemployed for training for Certified blue collar career employment thru Apprenticeships and two-year college degree from Electricians to nursing. And working with unions that pay a livable of \$50,000 plus, through training thru Poverty to Profession. Also proposing to raise the Federal Minimum wage to \$21.85 an hour with a cost-of-living increase of 1.35 every 2.

REPUBLICATION CANDIDATES

No comments provided

2. **Abortion.** Congress should enact legislation permanently banning the use of taxpayer funding for abortion and banning abortion in federal healthcare facilities or from being performed by federal employees.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Clinton Spellman, Jr. Women have the right to choose, also some women need government programs for abortions because they do not have the resources for health insurance

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

No comments provided

3. **Immigration.** Congress should pass legislation to reform immigration policy to protect children and young people, such as the Protect Vulnerable Immigrant Youth Act, to provide humanitarian protection to abused, neglected or abandoned youth.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Jessica Sjoberg As well as US Born Children of those undocumented immigrants.

Clinton Spellman, Jr. I agree a humane bill that will decrease the flow of illegal crossings, but speeds up the process of documentation immigrants to citizenship.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

No comments provided

4. **Education.** Congress should enact legislation, such as the Educational Choice for Children Act, which empowers parents in every state with expanded educational options through federal tax credit incentives that will fund scholarships for K-12 students, including those attending Catholic schools.

DEMOCRATIC & REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

No comments provided

5. **Environment.** Congress should pass legislation to encourage the responsible stewardship of the environment and its natural resources by protecting and promoting our national parks and wildlife preserves.

DEMOCRATIC & REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

No comments provided

6. **Family.** Congress should enact legislation to support families, mothers and children, such as increasing and extending the child tax credit to include unborn children, extending the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and providing increased funding for childcare programs and foster programs.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Jessica Sjoberg I am beyond grateful for the WIC program. I was also thankful for the farmers market coupons as well. This program is a wonderful and more supportive program and community.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

No comments provided

7. **Conscience Protections.** Congress should pass legislation to ensure religious freedom and rights of conscience for healthcare workers and other government employees.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Jessica Sjoberg As a healthcare worker, I feel it should be an individual's choice or religious decision. It shouldn't be forced upon you because that hospital can sometimes just fire you and that's not fair nor right. I am personally fine with getting a flu shot, labs drawn, and a drug test. But there still needs to be research done on Covid vaccines.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

No comments provided

8. **Why should Catholics vote for me?**

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Jessica Sjoberg I am a very independent strong willed single mother of three. My three children are my strongest supporters. I want to make my mark on Washington D.C. and within Maryland to stand up for those who can't make their voices heard, stop the destruction of our country, and to build a stronger future for our children. We need to rebuild our borders and work from the inside out. I am here in this campaign race to help my community and make a difference in others because my three children are so extremely proud of me and will be by my side. Thank you! May God Bless you all.

Clinton Spellman, Jr. I believe all religions should have the rights to practice their faith. And should nor have any prejudice or disrespect for one another

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

No comments provided
