

# MARYLAND VOTE 2026

---

## MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4

### ABOUT THE SURVEYS

The Maryland Catholic Conference surveyed candidates seeking office in the General Assembly (as well as Governor and Congress; see separate documents; see [mdcatholic.org/elections](https://mdcatholic.org/elections)).

Candidates could choose “agree” or “disagree” and/or provide a statement for these questions:

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

### WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?



*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.*

# MARYLAND VOTE 2026

## MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4

VOTE JUNE 11-18 (early voting) | JUNE 23 (Election Day)

These positions and statements provided by candidates to a Maryland Catholic Conference survey, plus materials at [mdcatholic.org/elections](https://mdcatholic.org/elections), are resources to help you inform your conscience before voting. **Please see the separate gubernatorial and General Assembly surveys.**

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.

*Candidate statements follow grid*

	Poverty	Abortion	Immigration	Education	Environment	Family	Conscience Protections	Addl. Comments
<b>DEMOCRATS</b>								
Joseph Gomes	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Yes
Shavonne N. Hedgepeth								
Glenn F. Ivey								
Jakeya Johnson								
Jonathan D. White	●	X	●	X	●	●	X	Yes
<b>REPUBLICANS</b>								
George E. McDermott								

Green = agree | Red = disagree | Blank = no response

Candidate statements follow. Candidates may not have responded to every question.

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.

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES**

<b>Democrats</b>	
Joseph Gomes	I strongly support protecting and strengthening programs like SNAP. Catholic teaching calls us to prioritize the needs of the poor and vulnerable. These programs are important lifelines for millions of families. We should work together, while ensuring no one goes hungry.
Jonathan D. White	My campaign is very focused on addressing poverty and building an economy that works for everyone, not just billionaires. I am a clinical social worker by training and worked for 21 years in the US Dept of Health and Human Services. I believe SNAP and WIC should be expanded, not reduced, but we also need a \$27/hour minimum wage, publicly funded supports for families like childcare and education access, and affordable housing, to lift families out of poverty.
<b>Republicans</b>	
	No response

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.

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES**

<b>Democrats</b>	
Joseph Gomes	As a Catholic, I believe in the dignity of every human life. At the same time, I recognize the complexity of this issue in a pluralistic society. I support policies that reduce abortion. I do not support a total federal ban, but I do support reasonable limits.
Jonathan D. White	I support women's reproductive freedoms. Service members who fight for our country and receive healthcare through Tricare, like my family does, should not have fewer rights than Americans who get their healthcare from non-federal sources.
<b>Republicans</b>	
	No response

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.

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES**

<b>Democrats</b>	
Joseph Gomes	I support comprehensive immigration reform rooted in human dignity. This includes protecting vulnerable children and young people, such as through legislation like the Protect Vulnerable Immigrant Youth Act. My approach is guided by the Catholic principle with discipline, fair immigration system.
Jonathan D. White	While in government, I led the fight against Trump's family separation policy in the first Trump Administration. I led the mission to reunify 2,200 immigrant children with the parents from whom they were separated by the government, and have testified repeatedly before Congress on the need for robust protections of children and families in immigration enforcement.
<b>Republicans</b>	
	No response

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.

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES**

<b>Democrats</b>	
Joseph Gomes	Every child deserves access to a high-quality education. While I support strong public schools, I am open to policies that expand educational opportunities for families, including carefully designed tax credit programs that help parents choose the best learning environment for their children. Any such policy must ensure accountability, equity, and support for public education systems that serve most students. Education is the best key for our young generation.
Jonathan D. White	We need more robust funding for public education in the US. We have drastically underfunded public schools. I do not support raiding public funding for private schools.
<b>Republicans</b>	
	No response

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.

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES**

<b>Democrats</b>	
Joseph Gomes	Caring for creation is a moral responsibility. I support legislation that protects our environment, combats climate change, and preserves our natural resources for future generations. This includes safeguarding national parks and wildlife, investing in clean energy.
<b>Republicans</b>	
	No response

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.

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES**

<b>Democrats</b>	
Joseph Gomes	I strongly support policies that uplift families, including expanding the child tax credit, strengthening WIC, investing in affordable childcare, and supporting foster care systems. These policies reflect a commitment to the dignity of life at all stages and provide families with the resources they need to thrive. I am open to inclusive approaches that support both born and unborn children through practical, compassionate measures.
Jonathan D. White	Expansion of WIC benefits to include pregnant women is a good idea; making available prenatal care and prenatal nutrition to pregnant women leads to better results for both the mom and the baby once the baby is born.
<b>Republicans</b>	
	No response

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

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES**

<b>Democrats</b>	
Joseph Gomes	I strongly support policies that uplift families, including expanding the child tax credit, strengthening WIC, investing in affordable childcare, and supporting foster care systems. These policies reflect a commitment to the dignity of life at all stages and provide families with the resources they need to thrive. I am open to inclusive approaches that support both born and unborn children through practical, compassionate measures.
Jonathan D. White	Such "conscience laws" where they exist have been used to deny healthcare, even emergency life-saving care, to LGBTQ+ people. Bigots are not entitled to special rights. No law should permit a healthcare worker to deny healthcare to someone simply because they have a thinly veiled religious excuse for discrimination.
<b>Republicans</b>	
	No response

8. **WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?**

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES**

<b>Democrats</b>	
Joseph Gomes	Maryland Catholics should consider supporting me because my values align with Catholic teachings, service, dignity, and compassion. As a Democrat and a Christian, I believe in putting faith into action by supporting education, caring for working families, and standing with those in need. If elected, I will advance policies that expand opportunity, protect families, and ensure access to healthcare and economic stability. I am committed to serving with integrity, guided by faith, and working for the common good of all.
Jonathan D. White	The Roman Catholic Church, under the current Holy Father, is returning to its moral roots with a renewed focus on the rights of immigrants and the needs of the poor. Jesus in the Gospels calls on us to redistribute wealth from the rich to the poor 29 times. I am someone who has fought for the protection of immigrants, especially immigrant children, and led the fight to push back against the most anti-family policy of our lifetime, the family separation policy at the Southwest Border. I have real life experience defending "the least of these."
<b>Republicans</b>	
	No response