

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7

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).

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 7

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, 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 |
|--------------------|---------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|--------|------------------------|----------------|
| DEMOCRATS | | | | | | | | |
| Mark S. Conway | ● | X | ● | X | ● | ● | ● | Yes |
| Tashi K. Davis | | | | | | | | |
| Theo R. Gillespie | ● | X | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Yes |
| Kweisi Mfume | | | | | | | | |
| REPUBLICANS | | | | | | | | |
| Scott M. Collier | | | | | | | | |

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 7 CANDIDATES

Democrats

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Mark S. Conway | SNAP is a lifeline for working families, seniors, and children. No one in this country should go hungry. I will oppose efforts to cut or restrict access and instead strengthen nutrition programs, expand access in underserved communities, and address the root causes of poverty by investing in good jobs, housing, and affordable essentials. |
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| Theo R. Gillespie | I am opposed to restrictions on SNAP and I do believe the hot food bar should be allowed with SNAP. A rotisserie chicken could go a long way for a family and be made into left overs for a week. Many families in America depend on the supplement food assistance to make ends meet and to put food on the table. |
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Republicans

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 7 CANDIDATES

Democrats

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| Mark S. Conway | I believe healthcare decisions belong to patients and their doctors, not politicians. We should focus on supporting families with real resources like healthcare, childcare, and economic stability to reduce the instances that women are forced to make such difficult personal decisions. |
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| Theo R. Gillespie | I disagree under some conditions. I am pro life and I feel like women should have the control of decisions over their own bodies. There also may be certain cases where the conception came from not so pleasant experiences like sexual assault, incest, molestation etc. Abortion should be made available in those cases to not further harm the victim. |
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Republicans

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 7 CANDIDATES

Democrats

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| Mark S. Conway | Protecting abused, neglected, and abandoned children is not a partisan issue — it's a basic moral obligation. I strongly support the Protect Vulnerable Immigrant Youth Act and similar reforms that ensure children don't fall through the cracks of a broken system. I've seen firsthand in MD-06 how immigration enforcement without humanitarian guardrails tears families apart and leaves vulnerable kids exposed. Children fleeing abuse deserve protection. A humane immigration system recognizes that the most defenseless among us require the strongest safeguards — regardless of where they were born. |
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| Theo R. Gillespie | I believe in protecting children. Our youth should be protected from harm. Children are the future of this country and generations. |
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| Republicans | No response |
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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 7 CANDIDATES

Democrats

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Mark S. Conway | We have a moral responsibility to protect vulnerable children. I support reforms that provide humanitarian protections for abused, neglected, or abandoned youth, while also working toward a broader system that is fair, humane, and grounded in dignity, due process, and a pathway to stability for families. |
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| Theo R. Gillespie | Students should have the best opportunities in education. I don't believe the lack of funds should be in the way of one's education despite parents not being able to afford it. |
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| Republicans | No response |
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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 7 CANDIDATES

| Democrats | |
|--------------------|---|
| Mark S. Conway | We have a responsibility to protect our natural resources for future generations. I support strong environmental protections, investments in conservation, and policies that both preserve our parks and address environmental injustice in communities that have been treated as sacrifice zones for too long. |
| Theo R. Gillespie | I do agree that our national parks and wild life should be protected because they contribute greatly to the environment. The trees in these parks provide oxygen and they are homes to the animals who live in them. The fresh springs should remain clear and pure, not contaminated by pollution. |
| Republicans | |
| | 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 7 CANDIDATES

| Democrats | |
|--------------------|---|
| Mark S. Conway | Supporting families means lowering costs and expanding opportunity. I support strengthening the Child Tax Credit, investing in childcare, and expanding WIC and foster care resources. We should make it easier for families to raise children with stability, dignity, and access to the services they need. |
| Theo R. Gillespie | I never understood why there isn't already legislation for unborn children if a woman is pregnant. This tax credit should be included. I'm an advocate for universal childcare. Childcare for parents is really expensive these days. |
| Republicans | |
| | 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 7 CANDIDATES

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| Democrats | |
| Mark S. Conway | Religious freedom is a core American value, and individuals should not be forced to violate deeply held beliefs. At the same time, those protections must be balanced to ensure that patients and the public can still access lawful services without discrimination or denial of care. |
| Theo R. Gillespie | Everybody should practice their beliefs as they see fit for themselves. I believe every American should have the right to express that freedom in their beliefs. |
| Republicans | |
| | No response |

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

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7 CANDIDATES

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Democrats | |
| Mark S. Conway | My Catholic education helped shape the values I carry today: discipline, service to others, and a belief that every person deserves dignity. Those lessons continue to guide my work in public service. I've fought to hold government accountable, stand up to powerful interests, and ensure that every family has a fair shot. In Congress, I will continue that work, focused on building a more just and compassionate future for all. |
| Theo R. Gillespie | I believe every person, no matter their background, identity, or economic status, deserves to be treated with dignity and given a fair shot at life. That means fighting for affordable healthcare, making sure working families can actually make ends meet, protecting children from harm, and ensuring our elders can retire with respect. Maryland Catholics deserve a representative who listens, who leads with empathy, and who is committed to building stronger, safer communities. |
| Republicans | |
| | No response |
