

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GOVERNOR

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

ABOUT THE SURVEYS

The Maryland Catholic Conference surveyed candidates seeking to serve as Governor, as well as in the General Assembly and Congress (see separate documents). Use this and other resources at mdcatholic.org/elections as you inform your conscience prior to voting.

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

ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR. Funding in Maryland’s budget should be maintained, and when necessary, increased to provide low-income residents access to basic necessities, such as food, housing and healthcare.

ENVIRONMENT. The State of Maryland should support initiatives such as tax credits or grant programs to encourage Maryland residents, businesses and non-profits to reduce their carbon footprint.

K-12 EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS. The State of Maryland should continue to expand existing funding to provide scholarships for low-income students who wish to attend the K-12 nonpublic school best suited for their educational needs.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE/MEDICAL AID IN DYING. In 1999, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation making it a felony for an individual to assist in another individual’s suicide. Maryland should uphold the law in its current form and reject legislation to legalize the practice of physician-assisted suicide/medical aid in dying.

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.



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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 also see the sheets for the General Assembly and Congress.**

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Candidate statements follow grid

GOVERNOR		Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
DEMOCRATS						
D	Eric S. Felber	●	●	●	●	YES
D	Wes Moore					
REPUBLICANS						
R	Carl A. Brunner, Jr.					
R	L. D. Burkindine					
R	Dan Cox	●	●	●	●	YES
R	Ed Hale	●	X	●	●	YES
R	Douglas Larcomb	●	X	●	●	YES
R	John A. Myrick	●		●	●	YES
R	Michael Oakes					
R	Nancy Jane Taylor					
R	Shannon Wright	●	●	●	●	YES

D = Democrat | R= Republican : Green = agree | Red = disagree | Blank = no response

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

1. ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR

Funding in Maryland’s budget should be maintained, and when necessary, increased to provide low-income residents access to basic necessities, such as food, housing and healthcare.

Democratic Candidates for Governor

Eric S. Felber	The priorities of our progressive campaign are assistance to the poor, safe and affordable housing, safe streets, free transportation and education, universal childcare, and single payer medical care.
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Republican Candidates for Governor

Dan Cox	Conditional upon verified work pursuit and legal status.
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Ed Hale	Our society should always be in a position to offer a hand up to those who have fallen on hard times. That hand up needs to be accompanied by a meaningful path and plan for sustainable prosperity that provides those in need with the skills required to become self sufficient.
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John A. Myrick	We have a responsibility to ensure that those most in need are cared for. Working with non-profits and churches in Public-Private Partnership efforts, Maryland can and will do a much better job of caring for our low-income residents.
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Shannon Wright	I authored HB1626 and a companion bond initiative, carried in the House by Delegate Ric Metzger, to increase the availability of nutritious food, strengthen Maryland’s agrarian economy, and create jobs in our rural communities. The package leverages private-public partnerships, targeted incentives, farm-to-school procurement, and redirected resources so we can reduce food insecurity and grow local markets without imposing new taxes.
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2. ENVIRONMENT

The State of Maryland should support initiatives such as tax credits or grant programs to encourage Maryland residents, businesses and non-profits to reduce their carbon footprint.

Democratic Candidates for Governor

Eric S. Felber	We believe in renewable energy, no data centers, decrease usage of fossil fuels, and an increase in wind and solar energy.
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Republican Candidates for Governor

Dan Cox	I agree with tax credits for appropriate environmental conservation.
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Ed Hale	Right now Maryland is experiencing a fiscal crisis of its own making and cannot afford to direct more hard earned taxpayer money toward initiatives that have already received billions of taxpayer dollars in the midst of multi year deficits. Based on the state's own financial and climate reports from 2023 to 2026, Maryland has allocated approximately \$7.58 billion toward greenhouse gas reduction and carbon footprint initiatives over the last three fiscal years. Maryland is projected to have yet another budget deficit in 2027.
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Douglas Larcomb	There is tremendous State sanctioned pressure to push the EV initiative based on the false narrative that somehow we as humans v God have any substantial effects on climate change. While regular EPA mandates should be followed, this absurd move to force all to drive Electric Vehicles by 2035 is out of order. EV batteries present a whole new issue with world pollution that will affect water tables. Our electric bills are outrageous because of Wes Moore and the leadership who own Stock in this forced venture. PJM and the Grid Operators are charging unaffordable sums with their efforts.
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John A. Myrick	Maryland's environment is of critical importance. Maryland is "America in Miniature," and we must protect the natural beauty of our State. However, this cannot be done solely on the backs of Maryland taxpayers. The current Governor's Green Energy Initiatives are bankrupting Maryland residents and businesses. Policies enacted to protect our environment must be logically developed to balance the cost to Marylanders with the overall effectiveness of the plan. Maryland cannot simply bear the burden alone, this will take regional cooperation and a collective approach.
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Shannon Wright	I support tax credits and grants that help Maryland residents, businesses, and nonprofits reduce their carbon footprint and adopt individual renewable solutions. Programs should prioritize rooftop solar, home battery storage, heat pumps, and community solar, be means-tested, transparent, and drive local job growth. By empowering households with incentives and technical assistance, we lower emissions, cut energy costs, and strengthen resilient, locally controlled energy.
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3. K-12 EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

The State of Maryland should continue to expand existing funding to provide scholarships for low-income students who wish to attend the K-12 nonpublic school best suited for their educational needs.

Democratic Candidates for Governor

Eric S. Felber	We believe in free public education through our progressive campaign.
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Republican Candidates for Governor

Dan Cox	I have voted for BOOST and will work to expand it.
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Douglas Larcomb	Blueprint is bankrupt while your leadership and Wes Moore won't tell you that. They will be asking for Billions of dollars more soon to siphon more money off through the failed Blueprint plan. There is no "world class education" that has been derived from Blueprint. Graduation rates in Baltimore City are dismal under 72%. I was raised Catholic and attended Catholic Grade School and High School. That Education was sufficient while in fact commendable. I am a proponent of private school vouchers and Homeschooling while also Charter Schools and Magnet schools.
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John A. Myrick	My Lt. Governor running mate, Dr. Brenda J. Thiam, is an Educator. That was one of the most important factors in my selection. Education needs to prepare our children for a future. We favor school choice and will join in the federal government's program to offer it to Maryland parents. We also favor having the money spend on education follow the child and will offer tax credits up to that amount for parents who elect to home school or chose private schools to educate their children.
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Shannon Wright	I support Academic Savings Accounts that give families portable education funds to pay for tuition, tutoring, and career-focused programs. These accounts empower parents to tailor learning to each child's needs, encourage innovation across schools, and help low-income students access specialized options. Accounts should be means-tested, transparent, and tied to clear accountability and outcome measures to protect taxpayers and ensure educational quality.
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4. PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE/MEDICAL AID IN DYING

In 1999, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation making it a felony for an individual to assist in another individual's suicide. Maryland should uphold the law in its current form and reject legislation to legalize the practice of physician-assisted suicide/medical aid in dying.

Democratic Candidates for Governor

Eric S. Felber	I am a physician; agree with this.
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Republican Candidates for Governor

Dan Cox	I was honored to help fight against passage of assisted suicide as a State Delegate.
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Ed Hale	Agreed, Maryland should reject any legislation that would legalize physician assisted suicide/medical aid in dying.
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John A. Myrick	I feel that the sanctity of human life must be preserved. We oppose any legislative attempts to change the existing prohibition on physician-assisted/medical aid suicide.
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Shannon Wright	Maryland should uphold the current law that makes assisting in another person's suicide a felony. I oppose efforts to legalize physician-assisted suicide or medical aid in dying because every life has value, and vulnerable individuals deserve protection, support, and compassionate care—not pressure to end their lives. Our focus must remain on dignity, safety, and real alternatives for those in crisis.
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5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

Democratic Candidates for Governor

Eric S. Felber We will fight for every citizen in Maryland left behind by this current administration. We will leave no one behind.

Republican Candidates for Governor

Ed Hale While the need for a prosperous economy is not unique to any one faith I realize that a thriving economy can assist Catholics in their missions and charities. More disposable income in the pockets of citizens means they are free to do one thing Americans do really well, give to worthy causes. My administration will lower taxation, eliminate fees and get power bills under control. These initiatives will provide the working class and small businesses with the opportunity to keep more of what they earn.

Douglas Larcomb I am a reasonable conservative man open to working harmoniously with ALL to make Maryland affordable with smaller government. I was raised Catholic. If things aren't checked hard and soon, it wouldn't be a shock if the leadership would attempt to outlaw Catholicism with the current Socialist push. I will push for tax cuts with fiscal restraint, energy dominance, accountability, transparency, deregulation and suppression of any "woke" movement. My Cabinet will consist of down to Earth individuals including Republicans and Catholics to fill the 24 Cabinet Seats and 600+ Board Positions et al.

John A. Myrick Firstly, I am the only Catholic running for Governor of Maryland, and I believe in the preservation of the family, the sanctity of life, and the ideals of our shared faith. We have real solutions to the real issues facing Marylanders and will implement them without concern for the political fallout. We will always work for the benefit of Marylanders, not those of special interests or for personal gain or notoriety. We will work for the people of Maryland and will always ensure that our Administration remembers that they are our employers. We will always be good stewards of the public trust.

Shannon Wright Maryland Catholics should vote for me because I am committed to protecting religious liberty, strengthening families, and ensuring every community has the freedom to live out its values. I will defend parental rights, support faith-based service partners, and promote policies that uphold human dignity, economic stability, and safe communities across our state.
