

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 1

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

ABOUT THE SURVEYS

The Maryland Catholic Conference surveyed candidates seeking office in the General Assembly (as well as Governor and Congress; see separate documents).

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?

We encourage you to use these materials and the resources at mdcatholic.org/elections, to help you inform your conscience before voting.

Please note: 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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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 Governor and U.S. Congress 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

DISTRICT 1			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
1	D	Ashley Emerick					
1	R	Mike McKay	●	X	●	●	Yes
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
1A	D	Jason M. Jobe					
1A	R	Andy Adams					
1A	R	Edward E. Clemons	●	●	●	●	Yes
1A	R	Dan Duggan					
1A	R	Lisa Lowe					
1A	R	Timothy Thomas	●	●	●	●	Yes
1B	D	Rhiannon C. Brown					
1B	R	Jason Buckel					
1C	D	Seth Funk	●	●	●		Yes
1C	R	Terry Baker					

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

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.

DISTRICT 1 SENATE CANDIDATES

1	R	Mike McKay	Maintaining and, when necessary, increasing targeted funding for essential services is a responsible investment in Maryland’s long-term stability. Ensuring low-income residents have access to food, housing, and healthcare strengthens families, reduces costly crises, and promotes self-sufficiency. By prioritizing efficiency and accountability, we can support vulnerable communities while safeguarding taxpayer resources and promoting economic resilience.
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DISTRICT 1 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

1A	R	Edward E. Clemons	As a pastor, I am called to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Protecting the needy and disadvantaged should be a top social priority and I support the State, Federal and Local governments working with churches to provide needed assistance to those in our community that need help. The hands and feet of Christ.
1A	R	Timothy Thomas	I am currently working on establishing an outreach program in my area that provides assistance to returning military vets. I wholeheartedly believe a part of being human is caring for one another.
1C	D	Seth Funk	There is no need to cut the support for needy families when warehouses, data centers, and massive corporations are given exemptions and tax breaks.

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.

DISTRICT 1 SENATE CANDIDATES

1	R	Mike McKay	The State of Maryland should prioritize cost-effective environmental strategies that protect taxpayers while encouraging responsible behavior. Rather than expanding grant programs or creating new tax credits, Maryland should focus on reducing regulatory burdens, promoting private-sector innovation, and ensuring any incentives are targeted, temporary, and tied to measurable outcomes. A fiscally disciplined approach can support carbon-reduction efforts without growing government spending or shifting costs onto Maryland families and businesses.
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DISTRICT 1 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

1A	R	Edward E. Clemons	We need to protect our environment so our children and future generations have a healthy and clean place to live. God gave us the Earth to be good stewards.
1C	D	Seth Funk	My platform involves bringing funding for community solar into the district to generate clean energy, and I would support expanding these initiatives even further to make Maryland one of the cleanest states in energy production.

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.

DISTRICT 1 SENATE CANDIDATES

1	R	Mike McKay	Maryland should continue expanding targeted scholarships because empowering families with choice is a fiscally responsible investment. Allowing low-income students to attend the nonpublic school that best meets their needs reduces long-term costs tied to underachievement and ensures tax dollars work efficiently. By directing resources to students rather than systems, the state promotes accountability, competition, and better outcomes. This approach respects taxpayers while giving every child a fair chance to succeed. It strengthens Maryland's future workforce too.
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DISTRICT 1 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

1A	R	Edward E. Clemons	Everyone should get a good education no matter what background or financial situation they are from.
1A	R	Timothy Thomas	I was a student that benefited from the concept of school choice, and really think private schools will be the future in education.
1C	D	Seth Funk	If a true public school cannot provide the resources, then we must ensure that there is an option for those who need it.

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.

DISTRICT 1 SENATE CANDIDATES

1	R	Mike McKay	Maryland should uphold its existing ban on assisted suicide because protecting every human life reflects enduring moral principles and responsible stewardship. Allowing physician-assisted death risks undermining trust in health care and creating fiscal pressures on families and state systems tasked with safeguarding the vulnerable. Preserving the current law affirms compassion expressed through care, not intentional death, and ensures resources remain focused on genuine support, comfort, and life-affirming alternatives for all who face serious illness and uncertainty in our communities.
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DISTRICT 1 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

1A	R	Edward E. Clemons	I believe suicide is a sin and God determines when life begins and ends. I am pro life and pro family.
1C	D	Seth Funk	I have mixed feelings on the subject. I agree with the concerns that there is a possibility of abuse for those who cannot speak for themselves. I also believe that people should be free to make medical decisions when they have the mental capacity to do so. I watched an uncle slowly fade away from cancer, becoming weaker for many months. He got to a point where he could not rise out of bed or even eat. He did not wish to live, and I would not wish that on someone. I cannot commit to one side or another on this position without a deeper conversation.

5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 1 SENATE CANDIDATES

1	R	Mike McKay	Catholics should re-elect me, Mike McKay, to the Maryland State Senate. I am a steadfast defender of core Christian teachings with a 100% pro-life voting record, believing life begins at conception and opposing abortion expansions. I have championed religious liberty, including worship rights during the pandemic and conscience protections for faith-based providers. I also advocate for rural Western Maryland's economic growth, veterans, and healthcare—values aligned with Catholic social teaching on human dignity and the common good.
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DISTRICT 1 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

1A	R	Edward E. Clemons	I am a Christian and believe family and pro life standards are what we should embrace and stand for. We must support the elderly and needy. I am also a Lion and the president of the Lions Club and We Serve. I ask for the support of the Catholics in Maryland.
1A	R	Timothy Thomas	As the God fearing man that I am, and knowing that the love of Christ is what I will be bringing to my public office. All I ask is a chance to bring some peace and normalcy to this office I seek.
1C	D	Seth Funk	I am a candidate that shares many values and concerns with the Catholic Church, as well as an appreciation for their positions. I cannot promise that I will always agree, but I always will welcome a conversation with the Church. I promote a clean energy future, assistance for our most vulnerable, and ensuring every person has the opportunity to succeed through education, healthcare, and support.