

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 11

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 11			Candidate statements follow grid				Addl. Comments
			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
11	D	Shelly L. Hettleman					
11	R	James Simpson	X	X	●	●	Yes
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
11A	D	Cheryl E. Pasteur					
11A	D	Nico Sanders	●	●	●	●	Yes
11B	D	Jon S. Cardin					
11B	D	Dana Stein					
11B	R	John C. Gordon					

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 11 SENATE CANDIDATES

11	R	James Simpson	<p>Medical care, cash, food, energy, housing and other assistance, consumes almost 40% of MD's \$67B 2026 budget. Much of this is paid by the federal government, e.g. for SNAP, TANF, disability and more (about 70%). MD Health Dept. is about 32% of the budget. Feds pay \$7.5B for Medicaid (about 60%), while Maryland pays \$5.5 billion (40%).</p>
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DISTRICT 11 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

11A	D	Nico Sanders	<p>As CEO of Community Housing Associates, I work daily with Baltimore City residents experiencing homelessness and mental illness. I see firsthand what happens when people lack access to food, housing, healthcare and how hard it is to recover without support. Cutting these programs doesn't save money; it shifts costs to emergency rooms, shelters, and the justice system. Investing in our most vulnerable neighbors is both the right thing to do and the fiscally smart choice. As Delegate for District 11A, protecting and strengthening Maryland's safety net will always be a top priority for me.</p>
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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.

DISTRICT 11 SENATE CANDIDATES

11	R	James Simpson	Carbon is the basis of life on earth. Carbon dioxide is plant food. Plants remove CO2 (not a pollutant) from the air to produce sugars (from which all foods come) and the oxygen we breathe. Without CO2, plants die and so would we. Current CO2 level of about 430 ppm is historically low, though it's increased over the past 150 years. So-called "green" energy is unreliable, environmentally destructive, requires massive subsidies, and gas, coal and nuclear power for backup. Democrats like it because they can channel those subsidies to favored firms. Energy costs have skyrocketed as a result.
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DISTRICT 11 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

11A	D	Nico Sanders	As CEO of Community Housing Associates, I see firsthand how energy costs strain nonprofit budgets. Tax credits and grants that help residents, businesses, and nonprofits reduce their carbon footprint are smart investments. They make green upgrades accessible to everyone, not just those who can afford it. A cleaner Maryland is a healthier, more equitable one, and I will champion these efforts as Delegate for District 11A.
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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.

DISTRICT 11 SENATE CANDIDATES

11	R	James Simpson	Maryland should do a lot more to support independent charter schools, private schools and home schooling. Those who choose to home-school their kids should not be required to pay the taxes necessary to support public schools, and those taxes collected to cover public school costs should be portable, i.e. used to pay for private school tuition for those who want it. The teacher unions have entirely too much control and their abject failures make this essential. Unlikely the Democrats will support this however, as they care much more about Party donations from the unions than they do about kids.
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DISTRICT 11 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

11A	D	Nico Sanders	Every child deserves access to a quality education, regardless of their zip code or family income. Expanding scholarship funding gives low-income families the same choices that wealthier families already have. As someone who works daily with underserved communities in Baltimore City, I believe removing barriers to opportunity is essential. When a nonpublic school is the right fit for a child, that option should be available to all families, not just those who can afford it. I support expanding these scholarships as one part of a broader commitment to educational equity in Maryland.
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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.

DISTRICT 11 SENATE CANDIDATES

11	R	James Simpson	I oppose physician assisted suicide on both moral and practical grounds. While it is understandable that those dying slow, painful death due to some form of cancer or other disease may want to just get it over with, we cannot play God. Furthermore, where does it stop? Does someone suffering depression get to choose a permanent solution to what can be a temporary problem? Will doctors then get to prioritize who lives and who dies, as they effectively now do in Britain's public health system--despite laws against it--where certain people receive inadequate care and sometimes die as a result?
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DISTRICT 11 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

11A	D	Nico Sanders	Maryland's current law reflects an important commitment to protecting vulnerable individuals from irreversible decisions made during moments of crisis. In my work supporting people with serious mental illness in Baltimore City, I have seen how circumstances can change dramatically with the right care. We should focus on expanding access to quality palliative and mental health services instead.
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5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 11 SENATE CANDIDATES

11	R	James Simpson	I am surprised there is no question on this survey about abortion. It is an absolute abomination and I stridently oppose it. My Democrat opponent supports abortion up to birth! How could ANY Catholic vote for her, or any Democrat for that matter? I am a vocal opponent of their destructive agenda.
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DISTRICT 11 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

11A	D	Nico Sanders	My Christian faith drives everything I do. The call to serve the least among us is something I live out every day as CEO of Community Housing Associates, where we house Baltimore City residents experiencing homelessness and mental illness. I believe in protecting human dignity, expanding educational choices for families seeking faith-based schools, and investing in struggling communities. My values and my record are one and the same. When you vote for me, you are voting for someone who shows up for those in need every single day.
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