

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 12

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.**

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Candidate statements follow grid

DISTRICT 12			Candidate statements follow grid				Addl. Comments
			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
12	D	Clarence Lam					
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
12A	D	Jessica Feldmark					
12A	D	Joshua M. Heard	●	●	●	●	Yes
12A	D	Terri Hill					
12A	R	Frank Glover					
12B	D	Gary Simmons	●	●	X	●	Yes
12B	R	Blair L. Brannock					

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 12 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 12 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

12A	D	Joshua M. Heard	I support maintaining and, where necessary, increasing funding to ensure all Marylanders have access to food, housing, and healthcare. A strong safety net is essential to stability and opportunity. Investments should be targeted, accountable, and focused on long-term outcomes like workforce participation and economic mobility.
12B	D	Gary Simmons	The state will continue to develop sustainable models that benefit the residents of Maryland, through state and local government initiatives to provide resources to those who are furthest from opportunity.

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 12 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 12 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

12A	D	Joshua M. Heard	I support incentives like tax credits and grants to help residents, businesses, and nonprofits reduce their carbon footprint. We can promote sustainability while supporting economic growth by encouraging innovation, clean energy adoption, and practical environmental solutions.
12B	D	Gary Simmons	I agree that the state should support such initiatives and look toward the work that is being done to bring the necessary resources to meet the needs for this objective.

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 12 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 12 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

12 A	D	Joshua M. Heard	Families should have access to quality education that meets their children’s needs. I support expanding scholarships for low-income students while continuing to strengthen public schools. This is about opportunity, not replacement.
12 B	D	Gary Simmons	I believe we must invest in the Blueprint of Maryland to ensure that it maximizes the outcomes to provide a stable educational environment for all students.

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.

No responses.

5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 12 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 12 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

12 A	D	Joshua M. Heard	My campaign is grounded in service, dignity, and community, and these values align with Catholic social teaching. I am committed to protecting vulnerable populations, strengthening families, and promoting justice and opportunity for all.
12 B	D	Gary Simmons	Maryland Catholics should vote for me because I continue to maintain open dialogue with the faith-based community on best practices for the citizens of Maryland. I also continue to work with the faith-based communities to develop strategies and resolutions to serve the greater good, while keeping faith at the forefront of all decisions I make.