

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 19

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

The 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 separate Governor and U.S. Congress surveys.**

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Candidate statements follow grid

DISTRICT 19			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
19	D	Ben Kramer					
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
19	D	Charlotte Crutchfield					
19	D	Sunil Dasgupta	●	●	X	X	Yes
19	D	Sebastian Johnson	●	●	X	X	Yes
19	D	Gabriel Sorrel	●	●	X	X	Yes
19	D	Vaughn Stewart					
19	D	Alec Stone	●	●	●	●	Yes
19	D	Christa Tichy					

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 19 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 19 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

19	D	Sunil Dasgupta	All humans should live a life of dignity. The biggest way in which we do this is by raising taxes and directing resources to those with the greatest need. For decades now, our top tax rates have not matched our own collective expectations and consequently inequality has grown not just in basic needs but also in wages. We overtax the poor and undertax the rich. A fair tax system and spending priorities are two sides of the same coin. I am running to help on both sides of this equation.
19	D	Sebastian Johnson	I will focus relentlessly on the affordability crisis. I support legislation to encourage more affordable housing development near transit, reduce red tape in permitting, and reform outdated zoning laws. I also support rent stabilization and good cause eviction to protect tenants and promote housing stability for working families. I will continue work to lower prescription drug costs through our Prescription Drug Affordability Board. I also support legislation to end tax breaks on advertising for pharmaceutical companies and use the savings to extend ACA subsidies for Marylanders.
19	D	Gabriel Sorrel	Markets cannot end hunger, and a just society requires that no person goes a day without food. I would like the state to pursue programs where bare essentials (such as bread, milk, and local fruits) are available to all residents. That could be through universal basic income, expanding SNAP, or reinventing milk delivery services. Fixing housing and healthcare are even more complex challenges, but I fundamentally believe the state must treat these as rights to be provided and not optional services available only to the well off.
19	D	Alec Stone	There is a civic responsibility, and in Maryland a long tradition, of helping those in need. Both through the public domain and with grants from the state to private charitable entities that are engaged in helping to provide necessities to low-income residents. More assistance for education and workforce is needed to help raise people out of poverty, but services that provide basic food, housing, and healthcare remain essential state priorities. I will continue to fight for these programs and for those nonprofits that implement them.

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 19 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 19 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

19	D	Sunil Dasgupta	Maryland has carbon goals which at this point are going to be hard to meet. The state has had the Empower program that provides rebates for energy efficiency. There is a grant program for green energy projects that is not working well. But most importantly rising electricity and gas rates, which most impacts the poor, put countervailing pressure. The MD House just passed a energy bill to limit Empower payments. Once again, our top tax rates do not match our collective ambition on carbon reduction. To do this right, we have work on a fair tax system. We have to work to fix this root problem.
19	D	Sebastian Johnson	I will support legislation to speed our transition to renewable energy while keeping costs down for consumers. I support the Utility RELIEF Act, which will help to reduce electric bills in the short term. The state should expedite its approval process and pressure PJM (the entity that manages our grid) to streamline approval for new renewable projects. I will also fight the construction of new data centers that generate water and noise pollution and drive up rates for residents.
19	D	Gabriel Sorrel	There is no greater threat to our society or the future of our children than global climate change, and I support the fastest approach possible to eliminating green house gases. We've seen massive economic shifts brought on by pandemics and war, so it is not a matter of if it is possible but of political will to do so.
19	D	Alec Stone	Solar panels, wind power, and electric over gas are now easier and more popular as we understand the adverse impact a conspicuously consumptive approach to business can have on the environment, now, as well as in the future. Incentivizing eco-friendly options can be popular and productive. As businesses find it cost effective to be environmentally efficient, offering credits and grants to help make that transition is both economically smart and carbon-neutral friendly. I will work with the nonprofit community and the environmental leaders on stronger partnerships for Maryland.

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 19 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 19 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

19	D	Sunil Dasgupta	Religious groups have a constitutional right to run their own schools. I support that right. The state has a responsibility in its own constitution to enforce education quality. The danger comes from the government using public resources to demand compliance from private schools that religious groups might object to. This is a slippery slope and I advocate clean lines between public and private. As with public support for food, housing, healthcare, I'll fight every day to make public schools work for poor families. I support special needs scholarships for those not being served by public schools.
19	D	Sebastian Johnson	I don't believe public dollars should subsidize private education, except in rare cases where a student's needs cannot be adequately met through the public system and they would do better in a private setting. Such aid should be income-restricted and narrowly tailored to serve those low-income students with identified needs that cannot be met in the public system.
19	D	Gabriel Sorrel	At a time when Maryland is attempting historic improvements to the public school system and faces budget shortfalls caused by the current federal administration it does not make fiscal sense to expand the Boost program, particularly when we need more time to study its effects.
19	D	Alec Stone	Maryland's constitutional educational priority is the funding of public schools, which it should and does maintain. There are many reasons parents choose to send their children to nonpublic schools. Those students, regardless of household income, are entitled to the largess of the state. Funding for school nurses and mental health professionals, safety and security improvements, and the Child Care Scholarship Program are valuable—and in today's dangerous world are necessary—to ensure Maryland remains a leader in primary education. I will champion such programs for all of the state's families.

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 19 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 19 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

19	D	Sunil Dasgupta	Life is not for any human to take, but is there too much suffering sometimes? Many years ago, my friend Ann was struck by lung cancer. After bouts of chemo, the cancer kept coming back. She decided to go into hospice. She invited me to visit with her to say goodbye. She was a surrogate grandma to my young son, so I brought him along. I still remember our visit, her peace, and her joy as seeing my 7-year-old. She passed a few days later. I cannot compel more suffering on someone like Ann. I would insist on the strong rules around such decisions, limit to terminal patients, but I'd not prohibit
19	D	Gabriel Sorrel	I cannot think of an area where I least want politicians involved than the nuanced and painful trade offs that must be made with terminally ill patients. Medical decisions must be made by patients and family with the advice of doctors and spiritual leaders, not by bureaucrats or prosecutors. Finally, we must always remember America's many attempts to coerce away harmful behaviors like drinking, drug use, or gambling: they have never succeeded in eliminating the acts, only driven them underground and made society less safe.
19	D	Alec Stone	While aware of the law's intent, I have not heard of any initiative to change its current status. This is an important and emotional issue and is complex in the range of policy aspects it raises. Maryland must balance respect for the preservation of life with the need for the state to respect the physician-patient relationship, during such vulnerable and uncertain times. Any proposals to change the law would have to be reviewed in detail and in light of whether it strikes that appropriate balance.

5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 19 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 19 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

19	D	Sunil Dasgupta	I went to a Jesuit college (St. Xavier's in Calcutta). My first full-time teaching job out of grad school was at Georgetown University (2003-2007). My worldview is shaped by Jesuit Fathers. I speak truthfully, I am analytical, I support the poor against institutional power, I admire liberation theology and am committed to public service. I will work on food, housing, and healthcare, and help make our public schools better for all. I also believe it is time now to come together across the many social and religious boundaries to preserve decency and democracy, which are both under threat.
19	D	Sebastian Johnson	I'm a longtime resident of District 19, and a proud product of Montgomery County. The investments that made my story possible – affordable housing, livable wages, excellent schooling – are out of reach for too many. As your delegate, I pledge to improve our schools, protect our seniors, and help Marylanders struggling to afford the basics. And I will resist the Trump Administration's persecution of our immigrant neighbors, their unconstitutional assault on our civil rights, and their corrupt and rigged economic agenda.
19	D	Gabriel Sorrel	Social and environmental justice are my highest priorities, and if Pope Francis and Pope Leo are any indication, I share many values with Maryland Catholics.
19	D	Alec Stone	As a person of faith, I am charged through the tenets of Judaism with "tikkun olam," to heal the world. While separation of church and state remain a guiding principle, our beliefs play a role in our understanding and action towards compassion. Recently there were remarks directed at the Pope. His gracious response was a beautiful recognition that there are higher ideals to which we should all adhere. Pope Leo is advancing a similar philosophy that resonates with most people about us all, and I am guided by those goals too. I believe our priorities are aligned to make Maryland stronger.