

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 2

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 2			Candidate statements follow grid				Addl. Comments
			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
2	D	Eric Martin Van Buren					
2	R	Paul D. Corderman	●	●	●	●	YES
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
2A	D	John D. Leonard	●	●	X	X	YES
2A	D	Brandon Thompson					
2A	R	Dianna Palmer					
2A	R	William Valentine					
2A	R	William J. Wivell	X	X	●	●	YES
2B	D	Ocewana E. Baker	●	●	●	X	YES
2B	D	Matthew J. Schindler					
2B	R	Sean Flaherty	●	X	X	●	YES

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 2 SENATE CANDIDATES

2	R	Paul D. Corderman	I believe in creating opportunities to empower individuals to uplift themselves so that they can achieve their goals
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DISTRICT 2 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

2A	D	John D. Leonard	The true measure of a good government is how it cares for those most in need.
2A	R	William J. Wivell	I would love to agree with this statement; however, that would be fiscally irresponsible of me. MD is on a fiscal cliff - facing \$3b deficit next FY. The budget needs to be flexible. Many audits have shown anomalies in spending/funds not being properly accounted for. I have a huge concern for the middle class being priced out of MD. Property tax assessments were increased as high as 40% in the most-recent assessment cycle in Washington County.
2B	D	Ocewana E. Baker	Maintaining and increasing funding for low-income residents ensures people can access basic needs like food, housing, and healthcare. These supports help prevent homelessness, improve health outcomes, and give families stability during difficult times. When residents have their basic needs met, they are better able to work, pursue education, and contribute to their communities. Investing in these programs strengthens public health, reduces long-term social costs, and helps build a more stable and equitable Maryland for everyone.

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 2 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 2 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

2A	D	John D. Leonard	We are in an energy crunch, which is driving up electric utility costs; residential and local commercial solar - as well as other green energy generation methods - will help to alleviate costs while simultaneously addressing climate change. In addition, there is a lot that can be done in the agriculture sector to benefit our local growers and our ecosystems.
2A	R	William J. Wivell	I agree with tax credits and grant programs for promoting competitive environments, advancing best technologies/practices, and improving efficiencies -- not a one-sided approach to promote expensive green energy that has little payback. MD should not be restricting the use/expansion of natural gas to the benefit of advancing electricity production via solar/wind, especially when MD is a (40%) net importer of electricity. Electricity is unaffordable to the average Marylander, and it is a simple issue of supply/demand, and policies/taxes which account for as much as 30% of the electric bill.
2B	D	Ocewana E. Baker	Yes. The State of Maryland should support tax credits and grant programs that encourage residents, businesses, and non-profits to reduce their carbon footprint. These incentives make it more affordable to adopt clean energy, improve energy efficiency, and invest in sustainable practices. Supporting these initiatives helps reduce pollution, protect the environment, improve public health, and promote long-term economic growth through the development of green jobs and sustainable industries.

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 2 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 2 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

2A	D	John D. Leonard	If the State doesn't own it, the State shouldn't pay for it. I support the right of every family to seek out the best educational opportunities, but our public tax dollars should only go to public education.
2A	R	William J. Wivell	I have always supported the BOOST program/funding and had legislation drafted this past legislative session to enroll MD as a participant in the Federal Opportunity Act which provides a \$1,700 tax credit to individuals contributing to education scholarship granting organizations. I withdrew the request and cosponsored HB455 which was sponsored by the minority party in the House of Delegates.
2B	D	Ocewana E. Baker	Yes. The State of Maryland should continue supporting and expanding scholarships for low-income students who want to attend K–12 nonpublic schools that better meet their educational needs. Many families cannot afford private or specialized education even when it may provide a safer or more effective learning environment for their child. Expanding these scholarships increases educational choice, reduces financial barriers, and helps ensure that all students—regardless of income—have access to a quality education and the opportunity to succeed.

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 2 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 2 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

2A	D	John D. Leonard	I have cared for multiple relatives in hospice, as they deteriorated in agony and eventually passed. It is torture. You're probably thinking of a depressed 25 year-old - no, this is for 85 year-olds with stage 4 cancer; their calender is measured in weeks, months maybe, and no amount of medicine or prayer can change that. It is torture to force someone to suffer so, for no purpose. No just God, no loving God, would ever mandate that kind of barbarity.
2A	R	William J. Wivell	I respect life, whether it be the unborn, the elderly, or those suffering from chronic illness. I have voted against the physician-assisted suicide bill on multiple occasions when it came before the House of Delegates. I have also introduced pro-life legislation over the years and have spoken out against/opposed the Constitutional amendment enshrining abortion in the State constitution and other pro-abortion measures. I also oppose public funding of abortion, and physician-assisted suicide.
2B	D	Ocewana E. Baker	Yes. Maryland should uphold its current law prohibiting physician-assisted suicide. Keeping this law helps protect vulnerable individuals, including the elderly, people with disabilities, and those experiencing serious illness, from possible pressure during difficult medical situations. The state should instead focus on expanding access to high-quality palliative care, hospice services, and mental health support so patients receive compassionate care that prioritizes dignity, comfort, and protection at the end of life.

5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 2 SENATE CANDIDATES

		No responses.
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DISTRICT 2 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

2A	D	John D. Leonard	I stand for the people. Not the ones in thousand-dollar suits, not the ones at the country club - the folks you see at the diner; the ones whose yard sales you go to after seeing a facebook post. I want RESULTS - I don't care at all how such & such policy looks on paper or lines up with whatever ideology or political philosophy... Will it work? That is the only question I care about. Will it get children off the streets? Will it get food into hungry bellies? Will it help to heal our Earth? Will it help us to build happy and peaceful lives? We all need to step back and remember why we are here.
2A	R	William J. Wivell	Certified Public Accountant. Life-long practicing Catholic. Graduate of St. Mary's Catholic School, Hagerstown Community College (AA), Shepherd College (BS), and Mount Saint Mary's University (MBA). Employed by private boarding school as Dir. of Finance & Operations. Conscientious. Caring. Fiscally and socially conservative. Traditional family values. Pro-life. Live the Faith!
2B	D	Ocewana E. Baker	Catholic voters in Maryland should consider supporting me because I value the dignity of every person, strong families, and service to our communities. I support policies that protect vulnerable people, expand access to food, housing, and healthcare, and strengthen opportunities for education. My goal is to promote compassion, responsibility, and fairness while working with people of all faiths to build stronger, healthier communities across Maryland.
2B	R	Sean Flaherty	Well, I believe in common sense - my opponent voted for trans rights, tampons in men's bathrooms and voted to increase all your taxes and fees. I think the choice is quite simple. Please vote with your brains and wallets. People are leaving the state of Maryland at an astonishing rate. I would like to slow that down and want people to stay here. I support strong public safety (I back the blue), economic development and lower taxes for all Marylanders.