

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 23

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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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 23			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
23	D	Raaheela Ahmed					
23	D	Ron Watson	●	●	●	●	Yes
23	R	James A. T. Amah	●	●	●	●	Yes
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
23	D	Michael Bance	●	●	●	●	Yes
23	D	Tambei Chiawah	●	●	●	●	Yes
23	D	Marvin E. Holmes					
23	D	Keenon James					
23	D	Kris Natesan					
23	D	Le Shaun Quander-Mosley					
23	D	Rebecca M. Stallworth	●	●	X	●	Yes
23	D	Kym Taylor					
23	R	Michael Riker	●	●	●	●	Yes
23	R	Kimberly Simmons Robinson	●	●	●	●	Yes

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 23 SENATE CANDIDATES

23	D	Ron Watson	Strongly agree. In fact, after joining the Governor to a visit at the Bowie food pantry, we spoke to those impacted by DOGE cuts and government shrinkage. As a result, I have introduced a bond bill for the StoreHouse Center of Excellence. The StoreHouse is the Nations First Black-run food bank serving Maryland families through consistent access to fresh, nutritious food serving 70,000 families and distributed more than 3 million pounds of food, the organization advances food security, health equity, and community-based nutrition access
23	R	James A. T. Amah	I believe access to food, housing, and healthcare is a basic right, I see state investment as essential for reducing poverty and improving long-term outcomes. I think underfunding these programs leads to higher costs later (e.g., emergency healthcare, homelessness services). In my view Maryland’s budget as a tool for promoting equity and stability.

DISTRICT 23 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

23	D	Tambei Chiawah	Studies clearly show that diverse communities, especially low income communities, communities with food deserts, and poor access to healthcare fair much bettering life and creates an abundance of opportunity to fight against poverty when given assistance with basic human rights like food, shelter and healthcare. Studies also show that this benefits other communities as well, creating a stronger, safer community for all.
23	D	Rebecca M. Stallworth	Ensuring every Marylander has access to food, housing, and healthcare is a moral and economic imperative. In Prince George's County, too many working families are one crisis away from poverty. I will protect safety net funding and oppose budgets that balance on the backs of our most vulnerable. Faith institutions are essential partners in this work. Churches are already feeding families and filling gaps government cannot reach. I will strengthen state partnerships with faith-based organizations and expand their access to grants so they can scale what they are already doing.
23	R	Michael Riker	Reducing the cost should be a must. I’m retired and the more that gets taxed or fee the more useless my pension is.
23	R	Kimberly Simmons Robinson	I believe in helping the poor physically and spiritually. I also believe in teaching people how to help themselves with new education and skills.

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 23 SENATE CANDIDATES

23	D	Ron Watson	As a member of the Senate's Education, Energy and Environment Committee, I directly influence this area. I am currently modifying the "Utility RELIEF Act" to authorize Strategic Energy Investment Funds (SEIF) to be used to fund the Green Renewable Energy Efficiency for the Nonprofits Loan Fund, and well as for loans and grants for building electrification.
23	R	James A. T. Amah	Incentives like tax credits and grants can make clean energy or efficiency upgrades more affordable. Encouraging reductions in carbon emissions can improve air quality and public health. We also have the obligation to protect what God has given us. Businesses and nonprofits may be more willing to adopt greener practices when supported financially. It positions Maryland as proactive on climate issues and sustainability.

DISTRICT 23 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

23	D	Tambei Chiawah	Supporting such an initiative would save businesses and residents a lot of money annually as well as cleaning the environment by reducing the carbon footprint, making it both practical and affordable. It would also create jobs in the energy sector which is one of the U.S's fastest growing areas.
23	D	Rebecca M. Stallworth	I support tax credits and grant programs that reduce our carbon footprint. Prince George's County communities bear a disproportionate share of environmental burdens. Incentivizing businesses, residents, and faith institutions to reduce emissions is smart policy that creates jobs and improves public health. Churches own significant land and buildings and can be meaningful partners in Maryland's environmental future through solar, energy efficiency, and community green space.
23	R	Kimberly Simmons Robinson	I agree with caring for the earth God blessed us with and doing what we can, within reason, to reduce our carbon footprint.

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 23 SENATE CANDIDATES

23	D	Ron Watson	Last year I sponsored SB 819, Public Schools - Open Enrollment - Policies and Funding. This shows my support in allowing any student to attend (based on availability) the school they believe best for their education regardless of the location. We have placed a silly constraint that public money cannot be used for nonpublic schools, forgetting that we owe our children the BEST education our state can provide. as a former School Board Member, I continue to try to change this mindset.
23	R	James A. T. Amah	I am in agreement, 1 I am a beneficiary as well, so I believe families—especially low-income families—should have access to the same school choices wealthier families do. I see scholarships as a way to match students with schools that better fit their learning needs. I feel expanding funding empowers parents rather than systems. Education is similar to the light of God. The more we get ourself educated the more we clearly, just as when we read the bible we see things differently.

DISTRICT 23 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

23	D	Michael Bance	Maryland should continue to expand access to educational opportunities for all students, including scholarship programs that help low-income families choose the school environment that best meets their child’s needs. I support responsible funding that increases access while maintaining strong accountability and quality standards. Every child deserves the chance to succeed, and empowering families with options, alongside strong public schools, helps ensure students can learn, grow, and reach their full potential.
23	D	Tambei Chiawah	When low-income students who excel in education are gifted with an advanced education, the likelihood of them succeeding greatly increases. This leads to a somewhat domino effect that puts that child in a position to break generational wealth ceilings, continue education pass K-12 and go on to not only live better lives but bring their families along with them.
23	D	Rebecca M. Stallworth	As a public school teacher whose own son attended private school, I understand the value families place on faith-based education. Public dollars must prioritize public schools that serve all children. However, I support shared services, tax credit scholarships, and wraparound funding that help low-income students access the school that best fits their needs, provided accountability standards protect the public interest.
23	R	Kimberly Simmons Robinson	I also agree with school choice, vouchers, so that parents could send their children to the school of their choice, including nonpublic schools.

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 23 SENATE CANDIDATES

23	D	Ron Watson	I have historically opposed this bill as a moderate Democrat and will continue to do so.
23	R	James A. T. Amah	I believe assisting in suicide is morally or ethically wrong under any circumstances. I believe that the state has a duty to protect life and prevent potential abuse. Maryland is also very diverse in religion and beliefs. So everyone's beliefs should be respected. Life comes from God. And God does take whom He wants when he wants. It's not a question for a man to decide, if at all a man wants to decide, feel free to decide on your own life, not on the life of another human being. Taking someone's life is a complete violation of human rights.

DISTRICT 23 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

23	D	Michael Bance	Maryland should approach this issue with great care, compassion, and respect for human dignity. I believe in upholding strong protections for life while also ensuring individuals and families have access to quality palliative care, pain management, and emotional support during end-of-life situations. This is a deeply personal and complex issue, and any consideration of changes to the law should involve thoughtful dialogue with medical professionals, faith communities, and residents to ensure decisions reflect both compassion and ethical responsibility.
23	D	Tambei Chiawah	Helping someone with suicide is inhumane, unethical, and against my religious beliefs. If someone has a medical issue, that is something only to be decided between/discussed with their doctors. Someone who is a medically trained professional and their spouse/parents/power of attorney/religious leaders. I would always support upholding this bill.
23	D	Rebecca M. Stallworth	I support upholding Maryland's current law. Quality end-of-life care, including robust palliative care and pain management, is the compassionate answer to suffering. Medical prognosis is imprecise, and history gives us reason to be cautious about who bears the burden when medicine is empowered to hasten death. Dignity in dying means ensuring everyone has access to comfort and care.
23	R	Michael Riker	To me suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. When the lord wants you to come home he is the on in charge.
23	R	Kimberly Simmons Robinson	Life is a good thing, a blessing from God, and I do not agree with taking someone's life away or helping them to die.

5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 23 SENATE CANDIDATES

23	D	Ron Watson	As a moderate Dem, my faith is important and I refuse to support the erosion of our moral fabric learned in church and through my upbringing.
23	R	James A. T. Amah	Because freedom of Maryland Catholics should consider supporting me because my priorities align with values deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching — the dignity of every human person, the importance of strong families, and our shared responsibility to care for the vulnerable. I also encourage unity because together we are much stronger.

DISTRICT 23 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

23	D	Michael Bance	Maryland Catholics should vote for me because I believe in leading with faith-driven values—service, compassion, integrity, and respect for every person. As a lifelong Prince George’s County resident, educator, and public servant, I am committed to strengthening families, supporting education, and creating opportunities for all. I believe in protecting human dignity, promoting community, and working toward the common good. My goal is to serve with humility, listen to the people, and lead in a way that reflects both strong values and practical solutions for our communities.
23	D	Tambei Chiawah	As a deeply religious man myself, I respect the work that the Catholic Church has done for Marylanders. I have had friends, family and associates who have benefited personally from the great work that comes from your organization! I myself adore the work that you all have done. I will be an advocate in Annapolis to help you continue your amazing work and helping the less fortunate.
23	D	Rebecca M. Stallworth	I share Catholic social teaching's commitment to the dignity of every person, care for the poor, protection of families, and stewardship of creation. As a public school educator and public health graduate student in Prince George's County, I fight every day for the communities these values call us to serve. My platform centers working families, affordable housing, and ensuring no one is left behind.
23	R	Michael Riker	To make Maryland a better place and have Common Senses and NO new taxes.
23	R	Kimberly Simmons Robinson	I am a believer of our Savior and Lord Jesus The Christ. I will fight for what's morally right to help make laws that are just. I understand that just because something is legal it does not make it right. Slavery was legal at one time in our country and in our state, but it did not make it right. Maryland Catholics should vote for me because I will seek God and fight for what is morally right, not politics.