

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 24

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 24			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
24	D	Tiffany Alston					
24	D	Kevin Ford Jr.	●	●	X	X	Yes
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
24	D	Crystal Carpenter	●	●	●	●	Yes
24	D	Derrick L. Coley	●	●	X	●	Yes
24	D	Andrea Fletcher Harrison					
24	D	Stanford Fraser	●	●	X	●	Yes
24	D	Bobby Henry					
24	D	Jordan McFarland					
24	D	LaTasha R. Ward	●	●	●	●	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 24 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 24 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

24	D	Crystal Carpenter	No one should be struggling to afford food, a safe place to live, or basic healthcare. When people can meet their basic needs, families are more stable, kids do better, and communities are stronger. I support maintaining—and when needed, increasing—funding in ways that are practical, effective, and actually reach the people who need it most. It’s also important that programs are easy to access and work the way they’re intended. Supporting people in tough moments isn’t just the right thing to do—it helps set folks up to get back on their feet and contribute to their communities.
24	D	Derrick L. Coley	As a sitting Delegate, I have sponsored and cosponsored legislation to support the most vulnerable among us in my District and across the State of Maryland. The two key areas that have garnered my attention this legislative session are developmental disability support and early childcare education funding.
24	D	Stanford Fraser	I believe that a country and state with as much resources as us should have a strong welfare state that supports working and middle class people. This includes making sure all Marylanders have access to food, housing and healthcare. As delegate, I will make sure to have assistance to the poor as a guiding principle.
24	D	LaTasha R. Ward	I agree that funding in Maryland’s budget must be maintained and, when necessary, increased to support our most vulnerable residents. Access to basic necessities like food, safe housing, and healthcare is not a luxury, it is a foundation for stability and opportunity. When families are struggling to meet these essential needs, it impacts everything from education outcomes to workforce participation and public safety.

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 24 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 24 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

24	D	Crystal Carpenter	I support practical, voluntary approaches that help people and businesses reduce their carbon footprint in ways that make sense for them. Incentives like tax credits and grants can be useful tools to encourage cleaner energy, improve efficiency, and lower long-term costs—especially when they are straightforward and accessible. It’s important that these efforts are balanced, cost-conscious, and designed so that small businesses, nonprofits, and everyday Marylanders can participate, not just those with the most resources.
24	D	Derrick L. Coley	I have a degree in Environmental Policy and have over 20 years of experience working in the environmental sector. Maryland must manage its carbon footprint to support communities at risk, whether from the adverse effects of flooding, air pollution, and asthma.
24	D	Stanford Fraser	Protecting the environment is one of our sacred duties. I believe we should expand sources of clean energy such as geothermal, nuclear, wind, and solar. Tax credits and grants can be used to support infrastructure that reduces our carbon footprint. And we need to make sure we have a dedicated funding source for WMATA.
24	D	LaTasha R. Ward	I agree that Maryland should support initiatives like tax credits and grants to help residents, businesses, and nonprofits reduce their carbon footprint. Investing in clean energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable practices not only protects our environment but also lowers utility costs and creates jobs. We must make these programs accessible, especially for low- and moderate-income communities, so no one is left behind in the transition to a greener economy. At the same time, I support accountability measures too.

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 24 SENATE CANDIDATES

24	D	Kevin Ford Jr.	I support expanding opportunities for students, including access to nonpublic schools. However, I do not support expanding state funding for scholarships if it diverts resources from public schools. Our priority must be fully funding and strengthening public education, which serves most students, while ensuring all families have access to high-quality, accountable learning environments.
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DISTRICT 24 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

24	D	Crystal Carpenter	Families should have access to quality education options that best meet their child's needs, and cost should not be the barrier that limits those choices. My children benefitted from Catholic school education. I support continuing to invest in scholarship programs that help low-income students access nonpublic schools, while also maintaining strong support for our public education system. The goal should be to expand opportunity in a way that is fair, transparent, and focused on student outcomes, so every child has a real chance to succeed in an environment where they can thrive.
24	D	Derrick L. Coley	The Blueprint for Maryland's Future sets benchmarks for funding focused on underserved and academically underperforming students.
24	D	Stanford Fraser	I strongly believe in our public education system. I support families who want to make a personal decision for their loved ones education. And we have some limited public resources to facilitate those decisions. But I believe public dollars should be going to our public schools.
24	D	LaTasha R. Ward	I agree that Maryland should continue expanding funding to provide scholarships for low-income students to attend the K-12 school that best meets their needs. Every child deserves access to a quality education, regardless of zip code or income. Expanding options can help families find environments where their children can thrive academically and socially. At the same time, we must continue investing in our public schools, ensuring they are well-funded, accountable, and equipped with strong academic and career pathways.

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 24 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 24 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

24	D	Crystal Carpenter	This is a deeply serious issue, and it's important that we prioritize protecting vulnerable individuals while ensuring people facing serious illness have access to high-quality care. That includes strengthening palliative care, pain management, and hospice services so that no one feels they have to face suffering alone. My approach is to ensure that individuals and families are supported with the care, respect, and resources they need during some of life's most difficult moments.
24	D	Derrick L. Coley	This is a very tough question, and human life is fragile; we should not exercise false compassion.
24	D	LaTasha R. Ward	I agree that Maryland should uphold the current law. Life is sacred, and decisions around its end must be approached with great care, compassion, and respect for human dignity. I believe in God's timing and that our role is to provide comfort, not hasten death. Instead of legalizing physician-assisted suicide, we should invest more in quality palliative care, mental health support, and resources for individuals and families facing serious illness. No one should feel alone or without options for care. Our focus should be on preserving life, supporting families, and ensuring compassionate care.

5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 24 SENATE CANDIDATES

24	D	Kevin Ford Jr.	Maryland Catholics should support my campaign because I'm committed to strengthening families, protecting human dignity, and building supportive communities. My values are rooted in faith, service, and my experience in Catholic schools. I will fight for quality education, safe communities, and economic opportunity, while supporting care for the most vulnerable. I will lead with integrity, compassion, and a focus on the well-being of our families.
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DISTRICT 24 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

24	D	Crystal Carpenter	Maryland Catholics have a strong tradition of service and community, and those values resonate with me. As a parent, I've experienced the importance of faith-based education and the role it plays in shaping young people. I'm committed to supporting families, especially those who are marginalized, and ensuring access to basic needs and opportunity. I will lead with respect, listen to different perspectives, and work to strengthen communities grounded in dignity, fairness, and care for others.
24	D	Derrick L. Coley	I am a public servant and have, over the past 20 years, strived to meet the needs of families and communities through service. Additionally, I have served as a Boy Scout Pack leader at St. Pius X Regional School (Bowie) and a Friend of Elizabeth Seton High School (Bladensburg).
24	D	Stanford Fraser	Since 2017 I've worked as a public defender in Prince George's County showing up every day for people who couldn't afford to hire a lawyer. I know what's squeezing families. Housing costs that keep climbing. Utility bills that don't stop. Jobs that don't pay enough. In 2024, I beat cancer. And when I came out the other side, I decided it was time to take this fight to Annapolis. Housing, jobs, cost of living — that's what I'm running on. And this isn't new, I've already been doing this work for years. That's why I'm running for House of Delegates, and that's why Catholics should vote for me
24	D	LaTasha R. Ward	Maryland Catholics should vote for me because my leadership is rooted in faith, service, and respect for the dignity of every human life. I believe in caring for the poor, supporting families, protecting seniors, and expanding access to quality education and healthcare. My priorities align with Catholic values of compassion, justice, and stewardship. I will lead with integrity, accountability, and a commitment to uplifting our communities, not politics. Together, we can build a Maryland that reflects our shared values and ensures every resident has the opportunity to thrive.