

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 27

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.**

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 27			Candidate statements follow grid				
			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
27	D	Jason Fowler	●	●	X	●	Yes
27	D	Kevin M. Harris					
27	R	Al Larsen					
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
27A	D	Clifton Crosby					
27A	D	Shawn Maldon					
27A	D	Yonelle Moore Lee	●	●	X	●	Yes
27A	D	Darrell C. Odom					
27A	R	Jim Crawford					
27B	D	Rachel R. Jones					
27B	D	Jeffrie E. Long					
27B	R	Dan Thomas	●	●	●	●	Yes
27C	D	Jennifer M. Davidson					
27C	D	Rocio Mercado Garcia	●	●	●	●	Yes
27C	R	Mark N. Fisher					

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 27 SENATE CANDIDATES

27	D	Jason Fowler	Proverbs 19:17: "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done". Proverbs 28:27: "Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses". Luke 3:11 (NIV): "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same". Proverbs 22:9 (NIV): "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor".
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DISTRICT 27 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

27A	D	Yonelle Moore Lee	As an immigrant and first generation American, I support caring for those who are most vulnerable. I strongly support maintaining and, when necessary, increasing funding in Maryland’s budget to ensure low income residents have access to food, safe housing, and quality healthcare. A just society is measured by how we care for those in need. These investments strengthen families, stabilize communities, and promote long term growth. I remain committed to advancing policies that uphold human dignity, reduce poverty, and expand opportunity for all Marylanders.
27B	R	Dan Thomas	I believe there should always be a safety net for all people who fall on hard times. The funding for this safety net should be increased to keep up with inflation. But, this does not mean that the services and money provided should be a lifelong program. As a child who grew up relying on state welfare, I learned the benefits of working hard so I would not be reliant on state help.
27C	D	Rocio Mercado Garcia	As a Catholic woman, wife, mother, and teacher in Maryland, I view the budget debate on food assistance, affordable housing, and healthcare for low-income families as a matter of faith in action, not politics. Scripture states, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me" (Matthew 25:35-36). When we neglect the most vulnerable, we fail Christ Himself.

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 27 SENATE CANDIDATES

27	D	Jason Fowler	Genesis 2:15: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" (NIV). Numbers 35:34: "Do not defile the land where you live and where I dwell, for I, the Lord, dwell among the Israelites". Proverbs 12:10: "A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal". Revelation 11:18: States that God will "destroy those who destroy the earth" (NIV). Deuteronomy 22:6-7: Instructs care for wildlife, specifically ensuring the sustainability of birds rather than taking all at once.
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DISTRICT 27 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

27A	D	Yonelle Moore Lee	I support tax credits and grant programs that help Maryland residents, businesses, and nonprofits reduce their carbon footprint while strengthening our economy. Incentives for clean energy and efficiency make sustainable choices more accessible without adding financial strain. These investments protect our environment, improve public health, and create jobs. I am committed to advancing policies that promote responsible stewardship and a more sustainable future for all Marylanders.
27B	R	Dan Thomas	I believe the state should continue to provide tax breaks for residents who wish to move to solar power and other sources of power for their homes or business' that will decrease the strain on Maryland's power grid.
27C	D	Rocio Mercado Garcia	Pope Francis frames environmental stewardship as a moral duty rooted in Scripture and warns that the poorest suffer the gravest effects of ecological harm. The Vatican's Laudato Si' Action Platform further translates this vision into seven concrete goals, including responding to the cry of the Earth, embracing ecological economics, adopting sustainable lifestyles, and fostering community action. It encourages everyone to shift to renewable energy, reduce waste, and build sustainable economic systems.

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 27 SENATE CANDIDATES

27	D	Jason Fowler	As a product of both private and public schools. I do believe that some students thrive in different communities. I myself thrived in a private Catholic school setting (Cardinal Hickey Academy, Owings, MD, and DeMatha Catholic, Hyattsville, MD). I will work to insure that students are given the ability to go to schools that best benefit their academic, mechanical, technical, musical, artistic, or athletic success.
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DISTRICT 27 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

27A	D	Yonelle Moore Lee	As immediate past Chairperson of the Board of Education, I strongly support robust investment in public education, which serves the vast majority of our students and remains the foundation of opportunity. While I understand the desire for options, I believe expanding funding should prioritize strengthening public schools, addressing disparities, and ensuring every child has access to high quality education in their community. Our focus must remain on equity, accountability, and excellence for all students. Additional resources should be provided in public education for low-income students.
27B	R	Dan Thomas	I am a firm believer that a child should not have to be punished for issues that are not in their control. Such as their parent's income levels, where they live, or the lack of a quality education from some failed public school systems. I believe in charter school vouchers and state assistance to help send low-income children to better schools which include private schools. Children and parents need to have options as to where they attend school to get the best education.
27C	D	Rocio Mercado Garcia	The Catholic Church has long affirmed that parents are the primary and inalienable educators of their children. The Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Christian Education states: "Parents who have the primary and inalienable right and duty to educate their children must enjoy true liberty in their choice of schools. Parents have the right to choose a school for their children that corresponds to their own convictions. This right is fundamental," and public authorities have the duty to guarantee its effective exercise.

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 27 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

27A	D	Yonelle Moore Lee	I agree that Maryland should uphold its current law prohibiting assisted suicide. We must protect the dignity and value of every human life, especially the most vulnerable. Rather than legalizing this practice, we should invest in high quality palliative care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support for individuals and families facing serious illness. Our focus should be on compassion, care, and affirming life at every stage.
27B	R	Dan Thomas	There is no scenario in which I would support doctor assisted suicide. I would reject any legislation that would allow this practice.
27C	D	Rocio Mercado Garcia	The Catholic Church teaches that every human life possesses inherent dignity from the moment of conception until natural death. This dignity is a gift from God, not a quality granted or revocable by the state, medical professionals, or individual choice. Deliberately ending a human life through physician-assisted suicide (PAS) or "medical aid in dying" constitutes a grave moral evil that violates the Fifth Commandment: "You shall not kill" (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17).

5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 27 SENATE CANDIDATES

27	D	Jason Fowler	<p>My policies are rooted in serving the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger and treating each and every person with dignity. I believe these are the core teachings of Jesus. I believe that creating a society in this image is not only the responsibility of Catholics but the responsibility of all people. I grew up in a Catholic community, attended catholic schools from primary school through law school. I believe deeply in many of the values shared by many in the Catholic community. I encourage each person to view our website and contact us directly with questions.</p>
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DISTRICT 27 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

27A	D	Yonelle Moore Lee	<p>As a wife, mother, attorney, and elected official raised in the Catholic faith and educated in Catholic schools, I carry forward the values of service, dignity, and care for others, even though I am no longer practicing. My life and leadership reflect a deep commitment to uplifting families, protecting the vulnerable, and advancing the common good. I will work to ensure policies that reflect compassion, justice, and opportunity for all, values that resonate strongly with Catholic social teaching.</p>
27B	R	Dan Thomas	<p>As a strong conservative, I support protecting life, family, and religious freedoms. I oppose abortion expansion, will defend parental rights, and reject policies that undermine religious institutions or conscience protections. I believe in, and will strongly support values that make our communities strong. I would position myself as a check on policies many Catholics view as contrary to faith, such as expansion in areas like abortion access, gender ideology in schools, and restrictions on religious expression.</p>
27C	D	Rocio Mercado Garcia	<p>As Catholics, our vote is a moral responsibility to promote the common good, protect human dignity, and uphold Catholic Social Teaching — including the sanctity of life, subsidiarity, solidarity, and justice. Rocio Mercado-Garcia is a principled leader whose background, values, and commitments align with these teachings. A former U.S. Department of State official and a 2021 Excellence in Government Fellow with advanced education from Yale and other prestigious institutions. Her career demonstrates competence, integrity, and a dedication to public service at the highest levels.</p>