

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 28

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 28			Candidate statements follow grid				
			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
28	D	Aaron Corbin	●	●	●	●	Yes
28	D	C. T. Wilson					
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
28	D	Abena Affum-McAllister					
28	D	Debra Davis					
28	D	John D. Jones					
28	D	Edith J. Patterson					
28	D	Evan Smith	●	●	X	X	Yes
28	D	Tarina Terrell					
28	R	James Emerson Ashburn	●	X	●	●	Yes
28	R	Winfield W. Clark					

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 28 SENATE CANDIDATES

28	D	Aaron Corbin	I support maintaining and increasing funding to ensure low-income residents have access to food, housing, and healthcare. From my experiences, I know that kids can’t succeed in school without these basic needs. Maryland’s Blueprint for education is important, but during the years my family struggled with housing and transportation, I also struggled in school. We must recognize that true academic success starts with stability at home. In a nation that spends billions abroad, we must prioritize our own residents—especially children—so they have the foundation to thrive in school and life.
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DISTRICT 28 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

28	D	Evan Smith	As Christians, our obligation to the poor and downtrodden is one of the most basic and universal responsibilities we carry. And though I am not a Catholic, I am in full agreement with Pope Leo's "Dilexi te". His words on poverty are insightful, and I share his deeply held belief in the value of providing crucial aid and support to the less fortunate among us.
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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 28 SENATE CANDIDATES

28	D	Aaron Corbin	This is a major part of my campaign. I'm originally from California, which is known for its strict environmental laws—but many of those came after serious damage was already done. Other states mocked California but now face similar environmental crises. We must stop putting profit over the planet. Maryland has an opportunity to be proactive instead of reactive. If elected, I will champion bold policies like tax credits and grant programs to help residents, businesses, and nonprofits lower their carbon footprint and protect our future
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DISTRICT 28 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

28	D	Evan Smith	While the carbon footprint was initially conceived as a tool to shift the responsibility of climate change from corporations to individuals, universally applicable programs that incentivize more climate-friendly development and research are invaluable tools for addressing it.
28	R	James Emerson Ashburn	Maryland taxpayers should not be subsidizing the Green Energy Fraud.

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 28 SENATE CANDIDATES

28	D	Aaron Corbin	Maryland is rightly investing in public schools, but even the best public schools are limited by the Constitution’s Establishment Clause. Many religious families, including mine, believe their children thrive in schools that include prayer and religious teaching. My son attended Catholic school until it became unaffordable after my wife lost her job. Scholarships should be awarded but targeted to low-income families who could not otherwise access private schools that align with their values and support their children’s success.
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DISTRICT 28 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

28	D	Evan Smith	As the product of a K-8 private Christian school, I personally understand the comfort that many parents find in schooling tailored around their faith. However, I also believe in the separation of church and state, and that the quality of our public schooling system is one of the most basic metrics to judge a government by. The primary focus of the state is on the schooling system it oversees, and secondary to that focus is the system it does not. As such, expanding nonpublic school funding, especially during a budgetary crisis, is not a responsible action to take.
28	R	James Emerson Ashburn	I believe that all students should be eligible for School Choice.

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 28 SENATE CANDIDATES

28	D	Aaron Corbin	I believe physician-assisted death should only be considered in extremely narrow, well-defined circumstances—such as patients in irreversible comas with no chance of recovery. I do not support the proposed Maryland legislation, but I'm not opposed to all future efforts to update the law. Any change must include strict safeguards and cannot apply broadly to elders or disabled individuals. It must protect life while recognizing the rare cases where prolonging suffering defies compassion.
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DISTRICT 28 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

28	D	Evan Smith	Euthanasia is a difficult topic, and I understand the reasons that people have to be for or against it. That being said, I am against cruelly extending a life when there is no medical prognosis of improvement. I think there should be significant guardrails on any legislation overturning this law, and I will listen to my constituents and experts on what they should be if/when that time comes, but I cannot in good conscience rule out any changes to the law as it's currently written.
28	R	James Emerson Ashburn	All human life is sacred.

5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 28 SENATE CANDIDATES

28	D	Aaron Corbin	<p>If any organization should vote for me, I believe it's Christian and Catholic communities. I was raised Christian, my wife was raised Catholic, and faith has shaped every step of my life. From joining the military out of high school to answering the call to serve now. I've seen injustice, and I chose not to stay silent. I didn't rush into politics; I waited, prayed, and prepared. I had faith but also went to law school because faith without action is dead. I believe this is God's timing. I bring policy ideas but what makes me different is the faith I have and the heart I have for God.</p>
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DISTRICT 28 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

28	D	Evan Smith	<p>My identity as a progressive extends outwards from my identity in faith. I believe in my responsibility to serve the "widow, orphan, and foreigner in your land". The current Catholic leadership has courageously held our leadership accountable to the wrongs they commit, and if elected, I will do the same. In Annapolis, I plan to fund our schools, to push for a more sustainably green future, and to fight for our most vulnerable members of society. I will represent your needs, and I will keep my course fixed on serving Marylanders in every way I can.</p>
28	R	James Emerson Ashburn	<p>I am an advocate for fiscal responsibility. We should stop subsidizing solar and wind electrical power. Restore fossil fuel power plants to service to make residents electrical bills affordable again. Reduce the Maryland State budget to keep taxes down and keep retired residents from moving to others states.</p>
