

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 29

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 29			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
29	D	Chuck Borges	●	●	●	●	Yes
29	R	Jack Bailey					
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
29A	D	Jennifer Lynn Clancy	●	●	X	X	Yes
29A	R	Matt Morgan	X	X	●		Yes
29B	D	Adrienne M. Mathis					
29B	D	Kris McDonald					
29B	R	BJ Hall					
29C	D	J. W. Abney	●	●	●	X	Yes
29C	D	Mike Fechtmann					
29C	D	Eric F. Immler					
29C	D	Shaara Watts	●	●	X	X	Yes
29C	R	James McQueen	●	X		X	Yes
29C	R	Todd B. Morgan					

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 29 SENATE CANDIDATES

29	D	Chuck Borges	I firmly believe Maryland must protect and where necessary expand funding for food, housing, and healthcare for our most vulnerable residents. This is both a moral obligation and sound fiscal policy. Every dollar invested in preventive healthcare, stable housing, and nutrition saves significantly more in emergency services, incarceration, and lost productivity. Cutting these programs shifts costs, it does not eliminate them. Smart, accountable investment in our poorest residents strengthens the entire community and honors the dignity of every Marylander.
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DISTRICT 29 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

29A	R	Matt Morgan	The most effective way to help our neighbors is to empower them, not make them dependent on government. True support comes from personal responsibility, strong families, and private charity. My focus is on cutting waste, lowering taxes, and creating economic opportunities. A good job and self-reliance provide a more sustainable path to stability than a government check. Maryland families deserve policies that create opportunity and independence, not just bigger government programs. Fiscal responsibility and a belief in individual potential should guide our approach.
29C	D	J. W. Abney	Basic necessities are not a luxury. Food, housing, and healthcare are the foundation that allows people to participate in their communities and economy. In Southern Maryland, I see working families who are one emergency away from crisis. Maryland's budget should reflect our values, and that means maintaining and where necessary increasing funding to make sure our most vulnerable residents don't fall through the cracks. A strong community lifts everyone up.
29C	R	James McQueen	There has to be better oversight and help them to learn how to help themselves, and keep their kids in school.

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 29 SENATE CANDIDATES

29	D	Chuck Borges	I support tax credits and grant programs that incentivize Maryland residents, businesses, and nonprofits to reduce their carbon footprint. These are market-friendly tools that reduce regulatory burden while driving real environmental outcomes. For Southern Maryland specifically, protecting the Chesapeake Bay and our coastal communities is an economic imperative for our watermen, farmers, and tourism industries, not just an environmental one. Clean energy investment also creates local jobs. Good stewardship of God's creation and sound economic policy are not in conflict here.
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DISTRICT 29 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

29A	R	Matt Morgan	I care deeply about our environment, but we must avoid placing additional financial burdens on Maryland's families and businesses. True environmental progress comes from innovation and empowering our communities, not from government mandates that increase costs for everyone. Let's foster ingenuity so businesses and individuals create more energy for our future because it's the smart thing to do, not just because they're paid to. We need solutions grounded in reality and common sense.
29C	D	J. W. Abney	I support smart, incentive-based approaches to reducing our carbon footprint. Tax credits and grant programs that encourage residents, businesses, and nonprofits to make greener choices are practical and don't put government in the business of mandating behavior. We can protect the Chesapeake Bay and the natural beauty of Southern Maryland while also creating economic opportunity. That's not a political position, that's common sense.
29C	R	James McQueen	Why Additional Tax Credits and Grants Are Not the Answer: Limited global impact: Maryland's emissions are a tiny fraction of U.S. or world totals. Further state-level voluntary reductions via subsidies deliver marginal climate benefits while shifting costs onto taxpayers and ratepayers. Subsidies can distort markets, pick technology winners (favoring certain renewables or electrification over nuclear, advanced options, or efficiency, where it naturally pays off), and subsidize actions

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 29 SENATE CANDIDATES

29	D	Chuck Borges	I support expanding scholarship funding for low-income students to attend the nonpublic or trade school best suited for their needs. Educational choice is an equity issue: affluent families already exercise it freely. When students find the right learning environment, outcomes improve, reducing costly remediation, dropout rates, and downstream reliance on public assistance. Competition and choice strengthen the entire educational ecosystem. Every child deserves access to an environment where they can thrive, regardless of zip code or family income.
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DISTRICT 29 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

29A	D	Jennifer Lynn Clancy	I believe tax dollars should prioritize public use, especially public schools. I support parental choice and have homeschooled my children, but private or alternative education should rely on non-government funding. The BOOST program has not met expectations. Redirecting funds to public education would allow investment in programs students need, including alternative public school options. Priorities should include universal pre-K, school meals, mental health support, and expanded special education—ensuring resources serve all students effectively.
29A	R	Matt Morgan	Every child deserves to thrive in an educational environment that meets their unique needs. By expanding funding for scholarships like Maryland's BOOST program, we empower low-income families to choose the right K-12 school for their children. This provides opportunities and ensures every student gets the best possible start. Supporting these scholarships means investing in our children's futures and giving parents a greater say in their child's education. Let's ensure all Maryland kids have access to the education they deserve.
29C	D	J. W. Abney	Every child deserves access to the education that best fits their needs, not just the kids whose families can afford to choose. I support expanding scholarship opportunities for low-income students, but accountability has to come with those dollars. Public funds should follow transparent standards, and we should ensure these programs truly serve students who need them most, not function as a subsidy for families already making private school work. Get the structure right and I'm fully on board.

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29C	R	James McQueen	<p>in short, your experience shows why limiting choice strictly to low-income families misses a chunk of struggling households. A \$200k dual-income family in high-housing-cost Maryland shouldn't have to choose between a mortgage and what they believe is the right school for their kids—especially when public systems receive robust funding. Maryland could move incrementally: expand BOOST modestly for the neediest, then explore income-tiered or capped ESAs that give more families skin in the game without fully "taking from" public budgets in a disruptive way.</p>
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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 29 SENATE CANDIDATES

29	D	Chuck Borges	I support upholding Maryland's current law. Legalizing physician-assisted suicide creates serious risks of coercion for elderly, disabled, and low-income patients who may feel pressured to choose death over burdening their families or exhausting resources. The answer to end-of-life suffering is robust investment in palliative care, hospice services, and pain management, not assisted dying. Maryland should lead on compassionate care that affirms the dignity of every life rather than offering death as a healthcare solution.
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DISTRICT 29 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

29A	D	Jennifer Lynn Clancy	Facing a loved one's terminal illness underscores the need for compassion, dignity, and choice at life's end. Watching someone endure worsening pain forces us to consider how we would want to be treated. Ethical care should respect a person's ability to define their own limits of suffering. While hospice offers comfort, there may come a point when treatment prolongs distress. In those moments, having the option of a medically supported, dignified passing can provide a more humane and peaceful end.
29A	R	Matt Morgan	While I understand the desire to provide compassionate options for those suffering, I believe we must uphold Maryland's 1999 law. Legalizing physician-assisted suicide raises complex ethical questions and could place vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly or disabled, at risk of feeling pressured to end their lives. True compassion lies in providing the best possible palliative and end-of-life care, ensuring every person's final days are lived with dignity, comfort, and support. Our focus should be on improving care and offering hope, not on legalizing assisted suicide.
29C	D	J. W. Abney	This is one of the most deeply personal decisions a family can face, and I believe it should remain exactly that, a family decision made with their doctors, their faith, and their conscience. I don't think the government should be the one drawing the line on how a person and their loved ones navigate end-of-life care. I have compassion for everyone on every side of this issue, and I respect that for many, including people of faith, this is a matter of deep moral conviction. I simply believe that personal and medical decisions this profound belong with the individual and their family.
29C	R	James McQueen	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.

5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 29 SENATE CANDIDATES

29	D	Chuck Borges	I was raised Catholic, and those values never left me. The call to serve the poor, protect the vulnerable, and fight for human dignity is not a political position for me, it is a lifelong commitment. In the Senate I will be a tireless champion for food security, affordable housing, healthcare access, and educational opportunity for every family in Southern Maryland regardless of income or circumstance. You may not agree with me on every issue, but you will never question whose side I am on. I am on the side of the least among us, always.
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DISTRICT 29 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

29A	D	Jennifer Lynn Clancy	I was raised as a Roman Catholic, attended CCD, was confirmed (Esther), and teach my own 5 children the basic foundation of my faith; live as Jesus would through good works and faith. I live my life with integrity and share my helper spirit with others. Each day, I am in prayer for those vulnerable and marginalized. I seek to emulate the grace that I was given and know that I am loved as a child of God. My spiritual path is reflected best as a Progressive Catholic / Unitarian Universalist.
29A	R	Matt Morgan	As a Catholic, my commitment is to the sanctity of life, religious liberty, and the moral truths that are the foundation of our state. I will always defend the vulnerable, protect parental rights, and ensure Catholic institutions can operate according to their beliefs. I believe in limited government and policies that strengthen families by lowering the tax burden. I share the conviction to safeguard life from conception to natural death and will work to uphold these values for all Marylanders.
29C	D	J. W. Abney	Because I show up, tell the truth, and actually listen. My campaign is built on real talk, not talking points. Catholics in District 29C care about family, community, dignity, and service, and so do I. I've served this community as a band booster president, business owner, and neighbor. I don't come with a scripted agenda. I come with a commitment to represent every constituent with honesty and respect, including the values that matter most to Catholic families. That's a promise.
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29C	D	Shaara Watts	<p>Because I see the electorate as a unified bloc. We all face the same things: lack of resources, affordability, opportunities to have a better life. Religion is a fine thing. I respect it. It has no place in government.</p>
29C	R	James McQueen	<p>My approach is guided by Catholic principles. Policies should prioritize community well-being. I'll uphold my principles while engaging in dialogue and innovative ideas. I value Catholic voters' religious freedom, family life, and moral direction. I'll advocate for policies that respect conscience rights and protect faith-based churches. My focus will be on strengthening families, expanding opportunities, protecting freedoms, and fostering a stable economy. I'd be honored to serve as a voice for these principles in Annapolis, building a stronger, more just Maryland.</p>