

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 34

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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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 Governor and U.S. Congress surveys.**

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Candidate statements follow grid

DISTRICT 34			Candidate statements follow grid				
			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
34	D	Mary-Dulany James					
34	D	Blane H. Miller					
34	R	Raj Goel					
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
34A	D	Andre V. Johnson	●	●	X	X	Yes
34A	D	Steve Johnson					
34A	R	Elliott Joseph Herneker	●	●	●	●	Yes
34B	D	Anthony Lyon	●	●	X	●	Yes
34B	R	Jake Taylor	X	X	●	●	Yes
34B	R	Sheariah Yousefi			●	●	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 34 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 34 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

34A	D	Andre V. Johnson	I fully support maintaining and when necessary, increasing funding in Maryland’s budget to ensure low-income residents have access to basic necessities like food, housing, and healthcare. These aren’t luxuries; they are fundamental to stability, public health, and economic opportunity. When we invest in our most vulnerable communities, we’re not just providing support we’re strengthening the foundation of our entire state.
34A	R	Elliott Joseph Herneker	Yes. Government has a responsibility to ensure that vulnerable residents have access to basic necessities like food, housing, and healthcare. I support maintaining these programs and improving them where needed, while also ensuring accountability and encouraging pathways to long-term stability and independence.
34B	D	Anthony Lyon	The Church's charitable mission and the generosity of other organizations isn't always enough to connect low-income families with the essentials and get them back on their feet. With access to basic necessities, residents can more fully participate in our communities, our economy, and provide for a better future for their children. Funding in Maryland's budget to support our most vulnerable neighbors should be among the last things that should be cut in attempts to balance our state's checkbook.
34B	R	Jake Taylor	We are all called to support the most vulnerable members of our society. I support measures to encourage the personal virtue of charity in our tax code and other incentive programs. However, the government using its coercive power to squeeze Marylanders' hard-earned dollars out of their pockets and funnel them into ineffective, already-bloated government programs that reinforce the cycle of poverty only harms the most vulnerable among us and must be guarded against and opposed.
34B	R	Sheariah Yousefi	Caring for the widow, the orphan, and those in need is a shared responsibility. Families, churches, and local organizations are often best equipped to respond with compassion and understanding. Government should play a supportive role by empowering these groups through grants, tax incentives, and partnerships. By strengthening community-based solutions, we can provide more personal and effective help while promoting dignity, responsibility, and the freedom for families to make the best decisions for their future.

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 34 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 34 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

34A	D	Andre V. Johnson	The State of Maryland should support targeted initiatives such as tax credits and grant programs to help residents, businesses, and nonprofits reduce their carbon footprint. These programs should be practical, accessible, and results-driven, ensuring that everyday Marylanders not just large corporations can participate and benefit. When done right, this approach strengthens our environment, lowers long-term energy costs, and drives local economic growth.
34A	R	Elliott Joseph Herneker	Yes. I support practical, incentive-based approaches like tax credits and grants that encourage residents, businesses, and nonprofits to reduce their carbon footprint. These programs promote innovation and environmental responsibility without relying on government mandates, while also supporting economic growth and job creation.
34B	D	Anthony Lyon	We are called to be good stewards of the Earth and its environment that we all share. Renewable energy and other sustainable practices aren't always, unfortunately, accessible to all or affordable. I support tax credits and grant programs that encourage our residents, businesses, and non-profits to reduce their carbon footprint without breaking the bank or the compulsion of fees.
34B	R	Jake Taylor	Provided that the programs at issue are fully incentive-based and are administered with level-headed regard for efficient energy generation, I agree. Unfortunately, this is not currently the case in Maryland. I would fight for major reforms for these programs so that smart energy sources with both less environmental and economic impact, like natural gas and nuclear, are embraced. The ability of our citizens to affordably heat and cool their homes must always be at the forefront of our energy policy.
34B	R	Sheariah Yousefi	We are called to be good stewards of our land and wildlife, but the state should focus on practical solutions. That means prioritizing tax credits and grants to modernize our energy grid and diversify our energy sources. By investing in a balanced mix—like wind, solar, and reliable baseload options such as nuclear—we can boost innovation, expand supply, and lower costs for Maryland families while protecting both our environment and economy.

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 34 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 34 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

34A	R	Elliott Joseph Herneker	Yes. I support expanding scholarship opportunities so that families, especially low-income families, have access to the educational options that best meet their children’s needs. Every student deserves the chance to succeed, and giving parents more choices helps ensure that outcome while still supporting strong schools overall.
34B	D	Anthony Lyon	I support these scholarships offered through Maryland’s BOOST program, especially for students wishing to attend a religious school. Funding for BOOST shares the same budget pool as our public schools, where the vast majority of our students are served. Funding to public schools is allocated based on enrollment. Even with enrollment lost to private schools, public schools still have fixed costs. More funding won’t fix all of the challenges in our public schools, but less funding could weaken them. Given this and our state’s fiscal health, I cannot support increasing BOOST funding at this time.
34B	R	Jake Taylor	I am a passionate proponent of school choice. Whether those schools are public, parochial, charter, or home, the education of a child is not a one-size-fits all proposition, and taxpayer dollars must be made to follow the education of our children, not the funding of a system and its administrators for the sake of that system. Introducing competition into the marketplace of education is the best thing we can do to ensure better results for our next generation of leaders.
34B	R	Sheariah Yousefi	I strongly support school choice and programs like BOOST that empower parents to choose the K–12 school best suited for their child’s needs. Every family should have the ability to make these decisions, and low-income students deserve equal access to quality education. Maryland should expand scholarships and tax credits for nonpublic schools so every child has a real opportunity to succeed, regardless of zip code or income. These programs empower parents, strengthen communities, and help children thrive.

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 34 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 34 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

34A	R	Elliott Joseph Herneker	Yes. I believe in protecting the dignity and value of every human life. Rather than legalizing physician-assisted suicide, we should focus on expanding access to quality palliative care, mental health support, and compassionate services that help individuals and families through difficult circumstances.
34B	D	Anthony Lyon	Our Catholic faith holds that all life is sacred. Because of that and independent socioeconomic concerns, I don't support physician-assisted suicide/medical aid in dying. Despite the best efforts of palliative care, I recognize though how maintaining Maryland's law can prolong the suffering of a patient and their families. The proposed End of Life Option Act, while implementing safeguards for patient autonomy and consent, doesn't address my other concerns. Legalizing this option could pressure lower-income patients and their families into ending a life because of the financial burden of care.
34B	R	Jake Taylor	As an elected official, I will always defend the sanctity and value of life. The current atrocities being committed by the MAiD program in Canada must be a cautionary tale for Marylanders that when living becomes voluntary, the value of life itself becomes optional. Life is inherently valuable, and the government, which is bound by the United States Constitution to defend the right to life, must never become a willing participant in the sadly growing trade of death.
34B	R	Sheariah Yousefi	Maryland should continue to uphold laws that protect the sanctity of life, while also expanding support for individuals and families. That includes strengthening access to mental health services, family resources, and high-quality palliative care. A balanced approach should ensure that those facing difficult circumstances receive care, dignity, and support at every stage of life.

5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 34 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 34 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

34A	D	Andre V. Johnson	<p>I live by faith in action not just words. I believe faith isn't something you talk about on Sunday and forget on Monday. It's about how you treat people especially the most vulnerable. Supporting working families. Helping those struggling with housing and food insecurity. Standing up for dignity and respect for every person. That's not politics that's living out what many children of God are taught every day.</p>
34A	R	Elliott Joseph Herneker	<p>Maryland Catholics should vote for me because I share core values of faith, family, service, and respect for human dignity. I was baptized at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, and those values continue to guide me today. I'm committed to supporting the most vulnerable, expanding educational opportunities, and strengthening families. If elected, I will serve District 34A with integrity, respect, and a strong commitment to our community.</p>
34B	D	Anthony Lyon	<p>I ask for the vote of Maryland's Catholics because my Catholic faith motivates me and my desire to serve others. My upbringing taught me to contribute my time, talent, and treasure to my community, and with my background in campaigns, running for office was the way I felt called to give back. In every interaction on the campaign trail and every position I take, I try to reflect Christ's love for everyone. Having been involved with my parish's adult choir and pastoral council, I also appreciate how churches and other faith communities are powered by volunteers and are places of community.</p>
34B	R	Jake Taylor	<p>As a lifelong, practical Catholic, I would be honored to have the vote of all my fellow Christians as we fight for our values in Annapolis and work to make our community and state a better, safer, and more prosperous place to live, work, and raise our families. My goal in public service is to pass on a stronger community to my children than the one I inherited and in which I was raised.</p>
34B	R	Sheariah Yousefi	<p>As a woman, mother, and wife of faith, I believe in the dignity of every human life, the strength of the family, and the importance of religious liberty. I will stand firmly for policies that protect the unborn, support parents and families, and defend the right to live out your faith without government interference. At a time when these values face growing pressure, I will be a voice in Annapolis for faith, family, and freedom: the principles that have long guided our communities and our nation.</p>