

# MARYLAND VOTE 2026

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## MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35

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](https://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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## MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35

VOTE JUNE 11-18 (early voting) | JUNE 23 (Election Day)

Positions and statements provided by candidates to a Maryland Catholic Conference survey, plus materials at [mdcatholic.org/elections](http://mdcatholic.org/elections), are resources to help you inform your conscience before voting. **Please also see the 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 35			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
<b>STATE SENATE CANDIDATES</b>							
35	D	Neil Jennings					
35	R	Jason C. Gallion					
<b>STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES</b>							
35A	D	Gregory V. Anderson	●	●	●	X	Yes
35A	D	Michael Eckels Jr	●	●	●	●	Yes
35A	R	Michelle Christman					
35A	R	Mike Griffith					
35A	R	Teresa Reilly					
35B	D	Blessing T. Oluwadare	●	●	●	●	Yes
35B	R	Erica Berge					
35B	R	Kevin B. Hornberger					
35B	R	Derek J. Howell					

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 35 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

### DISTRICT 35 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

35A	D	Michael Eckels Jr	Ensuring that low-income Marylanders have access to essentials like food, housing, and healthcare is a core responsibility of government. Strategic investment in these areas helps stabilize families, reduces long-term costs in emergency services, and strengthens the overall economy.
35B	D	Blessing T. Oluwadare	One of my goals is to provide Food Security: like SNAP benefits, TCA MA for the low-income residents. Housing: provide affordable rents for the low income residents. Healthcare: Will also prioritize expanding Medicaid and the Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP). in behavioral health, developmental disabilities, and nursing homes to ensure service availability. Economic Relief: Also continue with the Child Care Scholarship Program to help low-income parents remain in the workforce.

## 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 35 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

### DISTRICT 35 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

35A	D	Michael Eckels Jr	We only get one Earth, and Maryland should take practical steps to protect it. Incentives like tax credits and grants help families, small businesses, and nonprofits lower energy costs while reducing emissions. It’s a smart way to support the environment and grow a cleaner, more sustainable economy.
35B	D	Blessing T. Oluwadare	strongly support state initiatives such as tax credits and grant programs to reduce carbon footprints. I will prioritize making carbon reduction affordable for everyday residents through direct financial incentives:

### 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 35 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

#### DISTRICT 35 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

35A	D	Michael Eckels Jr	Every child deserves access to the education that fits their needs, regardless of income. Expanding scholarships for low-income students gives families more options and helps ensure no student is limited by financial barriers when seeking the best learning environment.
35B	D	Blessing T. Oluwadare	I agreed by providing financial aid to low-income students (eligible for free or reduced-price meals) to attend participating nonpublic schools.

### 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 35 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

#### DISTRICT 35 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

35A	D	Gregory V. Anderson	I do not believe in a vengeful God. My heart goes out to everyone who has lost someone to suicide — whether from physical pain or emotional anguish. I carry that grief personally, and I pray that anyone considering such an end will seek help. Yet I also believe that a loving God would not condemn someone for seeking responsible, compassionate assistance to end suffering that is unbearable and without hope of relief. That deeply personal decision is, I believe, a fundamental human right.
35A	D	Michael Eckels Jr	Maryland should uphold its current law. Protecting vulnerable individuals —especially seniors, people with disabilities, and those facing serious illness—must remain a priority. The focus should be on expanding access to quality palliative care, mental health support, and compassionate end-of-life services rather than legalizing assisted suicide.
35B	D	Blessing T. Oluwadare	I will generally lean toward supporting personal autonomy and medical aid in dying (MAID), while acknowledging the ethical and legal complexities of the 1999 law.

## 5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

### DISTRICT 35 SENATE CANDIDATES

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No responses.

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### DISTRICT 35 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

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35A	D	Gregory V. Anderson	Do we want a voice in our own government? Whatever our faith or party, our current representatives have no real influence in Annapolis — none. They talk loudly about "fighting against" this or that, but their records tell a different story. Maryland has been controlled by one party since 1920 — the longest unbroken run of single-party legislative control in the country. Invisibility is not boldness. I will make District 35A's needs heard in every bill — and unlike my opponents, I will have earned that seat.
35A	D	Michael Eckels Jr	Maryland Catholics value life, family, and caring for those in need—so do I. I support policies that protect life at every stage, strengthen families, and expand access to affordable healthcare, food, and housing. I believe in school choice so every child can succeed, and I will defend religious freedom so people of faith can live their beliefs. I'm committed to serving with integrity, compassion, and a focus on uplifting the most vulnerable in our communities.
35B	D	Blessing T. Oluwadare	As a Democratic delegate in Maryland, I believe my platform and the broader Democratic agenda in our state resonate deeply with Maryland Catholic particularly our shared commitment to the "common good," the dignity of the human person, and the preferential option for the poor. While we may have different perspectives on certain issues, there are many areas where our values align to build a more just and compassionate Maryland. Solidarity with the Poor and Vulnerable, Dignity of the Immigrant, Care for Our Common Home, Supporting Families and Education. My goal is to lead with love & respect.