

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 36

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.



MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY STATE DISTRICT 36

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, 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 36			Candidate statements follow grid				
			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
36	D	Nivek Johnson	●	●	●	●	Yes
36	D	John Queen					
36	R	Steve Hershey					Yes
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
36	D	Nevin Crouse					
36	D	Michelle Ravert	●	●	●	X	Yes
36	D	Crystal Woodward					
36	R	Steve Arentz					
36	R	Jeff Ghrist					
36	R	Jay A. Jacobs					

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 36 SENATE CANDIDATES

36	D	Nivek Johnson	<p>No Marylander should have to struggle to meet their basic needs. As the cost of living continues to rise, too many families are being pushed further behind. We must take action to ensure Marylanders have access to the support and tools they need to thrive—expanding financial assistance programs, increasing access to grants, and strengthening our nonprofit partners who serve on the front lines every day. At the center of this work must be a commitment to uplifting marginalized and oppressed communities. Their needs cannot be an afterthought—they must shape our priorities and our legislation.</p>
36	R	Steve Hershey	<p>While I believe government has an important role in ensuring a basic safety net for the most vulnerable, simply maintaining or increasing state spending is not always the most effective or responsible solution. I take seriously the call to support those in need—but I also believe strongly in stewardship of taxpayer resources and in policies that promote independence, opportunity, and strong families rather than long-term reliance on government programs. Responsible budgeting and compassion are not competing priorities—they must work together.</p>

DISTRICT 36 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

36	D	Michelle Ravert	<p>I have a plan to create more affordable housing in the district. I spent 25 in the financial services industry and know how private equity caused rents and home values to rise. We can use the same vehicle to fix it. Instead of producing profits for the rich, we can provide affordable housing for those that need it.</p>
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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 36 SENATE CANDIDATES

36	D	Nivek Johnson	<p>With rising energy costs and increasing gas prices, we must look for ways to help offset our carbon footprint by expanding access to clean and green energy solutions. We should also strengthen existing efforts such as recycling and composting programs, which play an important role in reducing environmental impact. The answer is yes—we should actively pursue new grant opportunities and tax credit programs that support this work. Investing in these initiatives not only helps the environment but also reduces long-term costs for Maryland families and communities.</p>
36	R	Steve Hershey	<p>As a Catholic, I believe we are called to be good stewards of creation. However, I do not believe the State should rely on tax credits or grant programs as the primary mechanism to reduce carbon emissions. Maryland has some of the most aggressive and costly climate policies in the country, these initiatives have contributed to rising utility rates that disproportionately affect families, seniors, and businesses.</p> <p>Good stewardship includes not only care for the environment, but also responsible use of taxpayer dollars and policies that do not place unnecessary financial burdens on our families.</p>

DISTRICT 36 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

36	D	Michelle Ravert	<p>Not only do I think the green tax credits should persist, I also think we should focus efforts on repurposing abandoned/unused properties. Reduce, reuse, and recycle. We should not judge how well our economy is doing by the number of new homes built.</p>
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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 36 SENATE CANDIDATES

36	D	Nivek Johnson	Maryland has both excellent public and nonpublic schools. However, there are times when public schools may face resource limitations that do not fully meet the needs of every student, leading some families to seek educational options elsewhere. I believe scholarships for nonpublic school options should be considered on a case-by-case basis, with careful attention to student need and family circumstances. I strongly believe we should prioritize expanding financial support for early childhood education and daycare access, especially for families who cannot afford these essential services.
36	R	Steve Hershey	I strongly support expanding scholarship opportunities that help low-income families choose the K-12 school that best meets their children’s needs, including nonpublic and faith-based schools. School choice should not be limited to families with financial means. Expanding access to scholarships helps ensure that parents—not government systems—can make the best educational decisions for their children. Supporting these scholarships is a practical way to promote educational opportunity, respect parental rights, and recognize the important role these schools play in serving Maryland students.

DISTRICT 36 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

36	D	Michelle Ravert	I attended Catholic school and acknowledge the benefits. My parents struggled financially to keep me and my sisters in Catholic school because they understood the quality. I would like to work toward providing that great Catholic School Education to all within our Public School System.
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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 36 SENATE CANDIDATES

36	D	Nivek Johnson	<p>This is a deeply sensitive and complex issue that raises important ethical, medical, and legal concerns. I believe the state should continue to uphold strong protections for vulnerable individuals, including those who may be experiencing serious illness, depression, or pressure due to circumstances beyond their control. Maryland should continue to invest in expanding access to high-quality palliative care, hospice services, and mental health support. The focus should be improving quality of life, pain management, and comprehensive care.</p>
36	R	Steve Hershey	<p>While I deeply respect the difficult circumstances faced by individuals and families confronting serious illnesses, I believe legalizing physician-assisted suicide raises significant ethical, medical, and policy concerns—particularly regarding protections for vulnerable individuals and the role of physicians in end-of-life decision-making.</p> <p>My approach has been to carefully consider the moral implications and the practical complexities of recent proposals. I remain committed to policies that respect life while ensuring Marylanders receive dignified and supportive end of life care.</p>

DISTRICT 36 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

36	D	Michelle Ravert	<p>Although I vehemently disagree with the law on a personal level, I feel this is a separation of church and state issue. While I would never condone the practice personally, I do not think the government should take that option from people.</p>
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5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 36 SENATE CANDIDATES

36	D	Nivek Johnson	I am running to keep everyday people first. Every Marylander—regardless of background, culture, or circumstance deserves to have their voice heard, especially those who are often marginalized or overlooked. As a lifelong Marylander, I have seen the progress and the challenges we continue to face. These experiences have shaped my commitment to service and strengthened my understanding of what families across our state need. I believe I can bring a necessary and grounded voice to the Senate one rooted in faith, experience, and a commitment.
36	R	Steve Hershey	As a Catholic and a graduate of Catholic University of America, my faith has shaped my commitment that public service should reflect both compassion and prudence. Throughout my 13 years in the Senate, I have supported expanding educational opportunity for families seeking faith-based schooling, upheld protections for life at its most vulnerable stages, and advocated for fiscally responsible policies that ensure long-term stability for Maryland families and communities. I would be honored to have the support of Maryland Catholics who share these values long upheld in Catholic teaching.

DISTRICT 36 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

36	D	Michelle Ravert	Having been raised Catholic, I embrace the values I learned and have led a life committed to service of others. While I do believe that Church and State must remain separate, I am committed to universal social equity and environmental justice.
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