

# MARYLAND VOTE 2026

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## MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 4

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 4

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 4			Candidate statements follow grid				
			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
<b>STATE SENATE CANDIDATES</b>							
4	D	Lara Westdorp	●	●		X	YES
4	R	William Folden					
<b>STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES</b>							
4	D	Jerry Donald	●	●	X	X	YES
4	D	Andrew Duck	●	●	X	X	YES
4	D	Paul Gilligan	●	●	X	●	YES
4	D	Alleria Stanley	●	●	X	X	YES
4	R	Jason E. Keckler	●	●	●	●	YES
4	R	April Miller			●	●	YES
4	R	Jesse T. Pippy	●	●	●	●	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 4 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

### DISTRICT 4 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

4	D	Jerry Donald	A just society is one in which we support the poor and the stranger (immigrants).
4	D	Andrew Duck	I support MEDICARE For All. If not Federally, I support a Maryland MEDICARE For All. More people with health insurance means we must increase the number of health care providers, by doubling the number of Medical Doctors and health professionals graduating from Maryland medical schools and Universities. I support Rent Stabilization. Frederick County should close the loophole letting developers “buy out” of affordable housing mandates. We should streamline the permitting process for affordable housing, and build public housing. Maryland should fund SNAP to replace Federal fund cuts..
4	D	Paul Gilligan	Care for the poor and disadvantaged is a responsibility of society.
4	D	Alleria Stanley	As a 20-year Army combat veteran, I know we leave no one behind. Maryland must increase funding to ensure low-income residents secure basic necessities. A just society protects its vulnerable. I actively champion eradicating food insecurity, expanding affordable housing, and guaranteeing comprehensive healthcare. Poverty represents a systemic policy failure, not a personal flaw. In the House of Delegates, I will leverage state resources to uplift District 4 families, directly aligning with the Maryland Catholic Conference's demand for human dignity and a preferential option for the poor.
4	R	Jason E. Keckler	Our state budget should prioritize funding basic human needs first, such as food, housing, and healthcare for our most vulnerable citizens.

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4	R	April Miller	<p>Maryland must move from a "handout" to a "hand up" model, prioritizing work and dignity. Chronic failures within the DHS—including millions in wasted costs, high SNAP errors, and lapses in foster care safety—demand immediate accountability. By streamlining services and partnering with transparent faith-based and local charities, we can maximize resources. This foundation of transparency and community-driven support is essential to protecting our most vulnerable and empowering low-income Marylanders to achieve the long-term self-sufficiency and stability they deserve.</p>
4	R	Jesse T. Pippy	<p>Although I believe our budget is becoming too large, I do believe that we should support our most vulnerable citizens. I believe that the best way to do this is by ensuring that we have a robust economy that can uplift all residents.</p>

## 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 4 SENATE CANDIDATES

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No responses.

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### DISTRICT 4 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

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4	D	Jerry Donald	I have worked hard for twelve years as a member of the Frederick County Council to make our environment cleaner. My very first bill was to strengthen our riparian buffers along our rivers and streams.
4	D	Andrew Duck	Climate change is real and is an existential threat. Maryland should restore tax credits for installing solar on homes. We should increase mass transit options, including additional MARC trains and extending Metro to Frederick. I-270 needs 2 reversible HOV lanes all the way to Frederick, not HOT lanes.
4	D	Paul Gilligan	Care for the environment is a necessity in a shared home. An irresponsible use of extraction or land use damages the public good. I was responsible for the development of the Rural Legacy Program in Frederick County.
4	D	Alleria Stanley	Maryland must fund initiatives that reduce our carbon footprint. The Catholic Conference champions protecting our common home, a moral duty I share deeply as a mother. We must actively incentivize residents, businesses, and non-profits to adopt sustainable practices through targeted tax credits and robust grants. My community leadership proves that financial support drives environmental innovation. In the House of Delegates, I will champion green infrastructure and renewable energy. I will ensure District 4 builds a sustainable, thriving environment for future generations.
4	R	Jason E. Keckler	I am a proponent of incentives such as tax credits and grant programs that encourage working toward a cleaner, safer environment.
4	R	April Miller	Maryland should embrace market-based environmental solutions that reward innovation over mandates. Targeted tax credits empower residents, businesses & non-profits to protect resources like the Chesapeake Bay while sustaining economic growth. We must demand the same transparency and oversight for green energy spending like all state funds to ensure results for taxpayers. By fostering local stewardship through accountable incentives, we can achieve a cleaner Maryland and preserve our natural beauty without burdened families being crushed by soaring energy prices or inefficient programs.
4	R	Jesse T. Pippy	I generally support tax credits, and I believe that we should encourage Marylanders to support a cleaner environment. Incentives can be an effective tool.

### 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 4 SENATE CANDIDATES

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4	D	Lara Westdorp	I would need more information. In general, I do not support using taxpayer funds to support private schools. However, if the child needs services that are not available in the public school system, it may warrant use of public funding for them to attend private schools.
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#### DISTRICT 4 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

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4	D	Jerry Donald	A strong public school system is key to being a successful state.
4	D	Andrew Duck	Every student in Maryland, regardless of income, should be provided with high quality free public education that is suited to their educational needs. Schools should be the hubs of their communities and provide "wrap around services" which address nutritional, social, and mental health needs of students and families. Families have the right to educate their children as they see fit, but the government should not subsidize religious education with tax dollars.
4	D	Paul Gilligan	The choice to attend a private school is personal and not a public dollar responsibility. I do not want the private schools to become dependent on the source of dollars that could force a change in mission down the road.
4	D	Alleria Stanley	I respect the Conference's focus on low-income students, but I maintain that public funds must stay in public schools. My platform prioritizes fully funding Maryland's public education system. District 4's vulnerable children rely entirely on our public schools. Diverting state resources to private institutions weakens this vital system. We must build equitable public schools that guarantee world-class education and equal protection for every child. I actively champion strengthening our public foundation to serve all families with dignity.
4	R	Jason E. Keckler	I am a school choice advocate and believe our tax dollars should follow the student. I fully support funding for children attending K-12 nonpublic schools, especially those in low-income households.

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4	R	April Miller	Zip codes shouldn't define a child's destiny. Parents are the primary educators and deserve the freedom to choose public, private, or parochial settings. I sponsored HB455, the 'Opt into Opportunity' Act, to leverage federal tax credits and expand educational pathways. In light of systemic failures and transparency gaps, we must support initiatives like BOOST and HB455. By ensuring funding follows the student, we foster healthy competition rather than propping up failing systems. We must empower parents with choices and hold every dollar to the highest standard of accountability.
4	R	Jesse T. Pippy	I strongly support opportunities for Maryland students to attend charter and other non-public schools best suited for their individual needs. Every student deserves an opportunity to succeed.

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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 4 SENATE CANDIDATES

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No responses.

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##### DISTRICT 4 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

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4	D	Jerry Donald	I watched my mother die a difficult death and then was told by my Catholic colleague on the Council that it was for the best. I feel people have the right to die with dignity rather than suffer because of the beliefs of others. Being pro-life should mean a life with dignity not one of suffering with no purpose.
4	D	Andrew Duck	It is not the job of government to mandate what medical treatment a patient should receive or not receive. Medical decisions should be made by the patient in consultation with their doctor, their family, and their religious leaders if desired. The government should not mandate expensive, painful medical procedures on patients who do not want them, and should allow humane treatment of pain for terminal patients. The government should ensure that patients who do want extensive medical life-saving or life-extending treatment receive the desired care regardless of cost.
4	D	Alleria Stanley	I respect the Conference's reverence for life, but witnessing degenerative disease ravage my family shapes my stance. When illness completely robs individuals of their agency, demanding mere physical existence becomes inhumane. True compassion empowers patients with end-of-life choices. I strongly oppose the 1999 ban. In the House of Delegates, I will actively champion medical aid-in-dying legislation. We must protect human dignity, prevent unnecessary suffering, and uphold in law every individual's fundamental right to bodily autonomy and peace.
4	R	Jason E. Keckler	I am against any legislation that would seek to legalize physician-assisted suicide/medical aid in dying. I believe human life is sacred and should be protected from practices seeking to end a patient's life.

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

### DISTRICT 4 SENATE CANDIDATES

4	D	Lara Westdorp	I am currently a small business owner, with a previous 30 year career in public service. As a public servant I worked at all levels of government - county, state, and federal - as an employee, volunteer, and community advocate. This experience granted me the opportunity to work for and with officials on both sides of the political aisle to develop policies that best served the American people. I am a fiscal conservative who has worked to safeguard taxpayer money and believes that the government, should be open and transparent to everyone.
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### DISTRICT 4 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

4	D	Jerry Donald	I have done my best to make the county a better place by building libraries, parks, schools and senior centers. My idea of being pro life is creating a society where life has dignity and we support those in need.
4	D	Andrew Duck	I am the 15th of 17 children and raised Catholic. I share your values of feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and showing love for your neighbor; and will ensure Maryland does that. I served 20 years in the Army including 3 deployments to Bosnia and a tour in Iraq. I took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. I will defend your freedom of religion, as instructed in the 1st Amendment and in Christ's guidance to "render unto Cesar what is Cesar's, and unto God what is God's". I will fight for all Maryland residents and protect Catholics and all religions from government interference.
4	D	Paul Gilligan	Il am product of the Catholic school system and a Jesuit collage. I have been schooled in the social responsibility and the need to act for the public good.
4	D	Alleria Stanley	As an Army combat veteran, widowed mother of five, and community leader, I find that my life centers on service. I share the Catholic Conference's commitment to human dignity, environmental stewardship, and the uplift of the vulnerable. Through my local advocacy, I actively fight poverty and demand affordable housing. While our platforms may occasionally diverge, my fierce dedication to protecting marginalized families firmly unites us. I will govern District 4 with unyielding compassion, ensuring that every Marylander has the resources they need to live a safe, dignified life.

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4	R	Jason E. Keckler	I was born and raised in a strong Catholic family and my morals and values were shaped by the Catholic church at an early age. I have dedicated my entire professional career in public service as a law enforcement officer and Maryland Parole Commissioner, where I swore an oath to protect life and uphold our laws. I have a passion for serving others and believe our community is only as strong as our most vulnerable citizens.
4	R	Jesse T. Pippy	As a Catholic myself, I believe that we should live a moral life. I also believe that we should show acts of mercy by supporting our most venerable citizens. In my eight years of legislative office, I have prioritized protecting our most vulnerable citizens.

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