

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 42

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)

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 42			Candidate statements follow grid				Addl. Comments
			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
42	D	Paul Henderson	●	●	●	X	Yes
42	D	Paul V. Konka	●	●	X	X	Yes
42	D	Stephanie Popescu					
42	R	Kevin Ford					
42	R	Matt Fox	●	●	●	X	Yes
42	R	Adam Wood	X	X	●	●	Yes
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
42A	D	Jyoti Mohan					
42A	R	Alexander Harlan					
42A	R	Dan Katz					
42A	R	Charles Edward Murphy					
42B	D	Michele Guyton					
42B	R	Jeffry K. McDonald					
42B	R	Larry A. Novak	●	●	●	X	Yes
42C	D	Corynne Courpas	●	●	X	X	Yes
42C	R	Steve Patten	●	●	●	●	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 42 SENATE CANDIDATES

42	D	Paul Henderson	More than almost any other responsibility of the state is the charge to care for those who cannot care for themselves, and to foster both an understanding of the difficulties facing our neighbors, and create circumstances so all people can eat, live and get the medical care they require.
42	D	Paul V. Konka	Maryland has the third highest median household income (about \$103,000) among states for 2024, according to the U.S. Census. It is the "right thing to do" for such a wealthy state to help those in need.
42	R	Adam Wood	We already have plenty of assistance to the poor budgeted. That said, we can eliminate waste, fraud, abuse, and inefficiencies to increase the amount of assistance that actually makes it to those in need. I do believe we are our brother's keeper, however I think government needs to also focus on teaching a man to fish, rather than just giving them a fish. If assistance programs all functioned with the efficiency, compassion, and effectiveness of the catholic charities, we would be in much better shape in this category.

DISTRICT 42 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

42B	R	Larry A. Novak	With the rising costs of food, energy and housing, it’s imperative that the state of Maryland maintain a certain amount of funding to provide relief to low income residents. Especially when children are impacted.
42C	D	Corynne Courpas	I believe that the number one function of government is to provide for our most vulnerable citizens. I support many charitable organizations with my "time and treasure". But there must be a safety net for all. Healthcare is especially difficult to provide without government support.
42C	R	Steve Patten	Supporting those in need is a moral responsibility, but compassion must be paired with accountability. Funding should be directed toward programs that truly help people achieve stability and independence, not create dependency. I support strong partnerships with faith-based and local organizations, which are often closest to those in need. We must ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively.

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 42 SENATE CANDIDATES

42	D	Paul Henderson	Care of the earth and the environment is important both immediately as it enables us to have clean water and air and raise healthy food, but it is important to set the stage for future generations to have those things as well.
42	D	Paul V. Konka	Climate change affects all of us and it is a global issue, however, we need to do our part to not make the problem worse and to at least attempt to improve the environment on which life depends.

DISTRICT 42 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

42B	R	Larry A. Novak	I agree on such initiatives. Reducing the carbon footprint helps future generations enjoy a cleaner environment.
42C	D	Corynne Courpas	I am a believer in climate change and understand the impact it has, especially on our poorest citizens. We all must take responsibility for our planet. Tax credits or grants should be encouraged for all. Businesses can have the most dramatic impact, but each of us must do our part.
42C	R	Steve Patten	Caring for our environment is important, and part of good stewardship. Incentive-based programs can help reduce our impact. However, these efforts must be balanced with affordability and reliability. Policies should be practical and cost-effective, not place additional burdens on families or small businesses. A responsible approach ensures we protect our environment while also protecting Marylanders from rising costs.

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 42 SENATE CANDIDATES

42	D	Paul Henderson	Education is the silver bullet to end the trap of poverty. For those who cannot afford private education, or who do not have the ability to home school, we must provide an education of the highest caliber to all.
42	D	Paul V. Konka	Current scholarship funding is now about \$9 million per year, but rather than increase that funding, proper attention must be given to public schools to ensure that they meet the needs of the majority of individuals who cannot afford private schools.

DISTRICT 42 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

42C	D	Corynne Courpas	In these times of budget shortfall, I believe that the priority should be to fund our public schools. They are responsible for educating all of our kids. I know that we must continue to support private schools at current levels, but I would not support increases at this time.
42C	R	Steve Patten	Every child deserves access to an education that best meets their needs. Expanding scholarships empowers families, especially those with limited means, to choose the right environment for their child. Nonpublic and faith-based schools are valuable partners in education. Parents (not government) should have the primary role in deciding what is best for their children.

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 42 SENATE CANDIDATES

42	D	Paul Henderson	Issues facing end of life are intensely private, and those decisions should always reside with the family. Physicians have a consultive role to play as circumstances dictate, but they should never be coerced into playing a role in being part of suicide.
42	D	Paul V. Konka	Some legislation should be rejected, but properly drafted legislation should be allowed that would provide medical aid when someone has a terminal illness.

DISTRICT 42 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

42B	R	Larry A. Novak	I believe if someone is of sound mind, but is suffering physically, with no chance of a full recovery, I believe they should have the right to end their life under proper, authoritative assistance.
42C	D	Corynne Courpas	I watched my dad die of pancreatic cancer. He was in my home and we had the invaluable resource of hospice. I saw him pushing the button on his morphine pump over and over. While I'm sure that the dose was controlled, I knew that he was at peace with what was coming and ready to pass. We had talked. He was at peace but I wished him more control over his final time.
42C	R	Steve Patten	Every human life has inherent dignity. I believe that life begins at conception and continues through natural death. Especially in moments of suffering and vulnerability, life should be protected. Rather than legalizing assisted suicide, we should expand access to quality palliative care, mental health support, and compassionate end-of-life care. Our responsibility is to care for those who are suffering, not to hasten death.

5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 42 SENATE CANDIDATES

42	D	Paul Henderson	I am a Catholic and believe that both individually as a Catholic person and as a legislator I have a calling to help protect and raise up the least amongst us, to welcome and care for the stranger, and to meet people where they are to help all life to flourish.
42	D	Paul V. Konka	I am the only candidate with experience in the military (retired Navy Captain), federal government, state government, private industry, and academia. I am a thoughtful individual who will listen carefully and do what is best for the citizens of District 42. I have been endorsed by the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters. I have an MBA degree (Finance and Investments) and JD. I teach business finance and personal finance for the University of Maryland Global Campus and previously taught finance at the University of Notre Dame.
42	R	Matt Fox	I am married to my beautiful wife and have 4 wonderful kids. I have dedicated my life to public safety. I will focus on making Maryland more affordable for all Marylanders.
42	R	Adam Wood	I spent 10 years passing legislation in Congress as a policy staffer. Some of the issues I tackled are healthcare, immigration, and the opioid crisis. That said, what's more important is that I care deeply. I have spent my entire career and life in positions of service. I made a promise to God a long time ago that if he saw it fit for me to continue on this Earth, that I would dedicate my life to helping others - I believe representing District 42 in Annapolis is the best way for me to apply my talents and experience in service of others.

Delegate responses are on the next page.

CONTINUED: WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 42 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

42B	R	Larry A. Novak	Maryland Catholics' votes are important to me. As a Republican candidate, I will fight to preserve freedom of religion and solid family values. Our country was built on such values and are important in maintaining a good family structure.
42C	D	Corynne Courpas	I believe in the great generosity and outreach that churches can have on our society. Although I was not raised in the Catholic faith, I learned the values that it strives to impart. I have spent much of my life volunteering in my community, serving children, women, college students, and the developmentally disabled. If you want to vote for someone who is dedicated to protecting our Earth and uplifting all Americans, I would humbly ask for your vote.
42C	R	Steve Patten	As a practicing Catholic and active parishioner at Saint Bartholomew's in Manchester, my faith guides my commitment to serve others with dignity and compassion. I believe in protecting life, supporting families, and being a responsible steward of taxpayer resources. I will work to ensure policies reflect both care for those in need and accountability in government, always respecting the values that strengthen our communities and guide us to do what is right.