

# MARYLAND VOTE 2026

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## MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 45

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 45

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](https://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 45			Candidate statements follow grid				
			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
<b>STATE SENATE CANDIDATES</b>							
45	D	Cory V. McCray					
<b>STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES</b>							
45	D	Jackie Addison					
45	D	Chanel A. Branch	●	●	●	●	Yes
45	D	George Johnson	●	●	●	●	Yes
45	D	Stephanie Smith					
45	D	Robert Stokes					
45	D	Caylin Young					

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 45 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

### DISTRICT 45 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

45	D	Chanel A. Branch	I agree with this because everyone deserves access to basic needs like food, housing, and healthcare, no matter their income. In a state like Maryland, keeping or increasing funding helps people stay stable and avoid bigger problems like homelessness or serious health issues. It also benefits the whole community—when people have their basic needs met, they’re more able to work, stay healthy, and contribute to society.
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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 45 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

### DISTRICT 45 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

45	D	Chanel A. Branch	I agree with this because it makes it easier for people and businesses in Maryland to make environmentally friendly choices. Tax credits and grants help lower the cost of things like clean energy, so reducing your carbon footprint is more realistic. It also leads to cleaner air and can create new jobs, which benefits everyone.
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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 45 SENATE CANDIDATES

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No responses.

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#### DISTRICT 45 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

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45	D	Chanel A. Branch	I agree with this because it gives low-income students in Maryland more chances to go to schools that fit their needs. Expanding scholarships helps make education more fair, not just based on money. It can also help students succeed long-term by putting them in environments where they can do their best.
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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 45 SENATE CANDIDATES

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No responses.

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#### DISTRICT 45 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

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45	D	Chanel A. Branch	I support keeping this law in place because it protects the value and dignity of human life. From a Catholic perspective, every life is sacred, and we should not support actions that intentionally end it. Instead, the focus should be on providing compassionate care, like pain management and emotional support, for those who are suffering. In Maryland, maintaining this law helps ensure that care—not ending life—is the priority.
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## 5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

### DISTRICT 45 SENATE CANDIDATES

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No responses.

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### DISTRICT 45 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

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45	D	Chanel A. Branch	Maryland Catholics should consider voting for me because my priorities align with values such as human dignity and care for vulnerable people. My primary focus is on issues like education, reducing violence, and strengthening communities—especially efforts that support families and at-risk youth. I believe in protecting life, promoting peace, and advancing the common good. Ultimately, I aim to address practical community challenges in Maryland in a way that promotes fairness, opportunity, and care for others.
45	D	George Johnson	I am a Christian that believes in Jesus Christ. I believe that there is sanctity in life and it should be protected.

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