

MARYLAND VOTE 2026

MARYLAND PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE SURVEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 7

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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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 7			Poverty	Environment	Education	Against Physician Assisted Suicide	Addl. Comments
STATE SENATE CANDIDATES							
7	D	Bill Geibler	●	●	●		
7	R	J. B. Jennings	●	●	●	X	
STATE DELEGATE CANDIDATES							
7A	D	Tom Baker					
7A	D	Ly Xinzhen Brown					
7A	D	Satish Chapagain					
7A	D	Cleveland M. Reynolds					
7A	R	Ryan Nawrocki					
7A	R	Kathy Szeliga		X	●	●	Yes
7B	D	Candace Hart	●	●		X	Yes
7B	R	Lauren Arikan					

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 7 SENATE CANDIDATES

		No responses.
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DISTRICT 7 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

7A	R	Kathy Szeliga	We all want to ensure vulnerable Marylanders have access to food, housing, and healthcare. The issue is not whether to help, but how to do it effectively. Simply increasing spending without accountability has not always improved outcomes. Before adding more funding, we should ensure current programs are efficient, targeted, and reaching those most in need. Marylanders are already struggling with a high cost of living, so we must balance compassion with fiscal responsibility. The goal should be to provide meaningful support while promoting long-term independence and protecting taxpayers.
7B	D	Candace Hart	I fully agree. Maryland should continue—and when needed, increase—its investment in programs that help low-income residents meet their basic needs. Making sure people have access to food, stable housing, and healthcare is essential for a strong and healthy community. Supporting these services protects human dignity, helps families stay stable, and ultimately reduces long-term costs for the state. Ensuring every Marylander has the foundation to live with security and opportunity is both the right thing to do and a sound policy decision.

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 7 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 7 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

7A	R	Kathy Szeliga	We all want a cleaner, healthier environment for future generations. But good intentions must be guided by common sense. Right now, Maryland families are facing energy bills that are simply too high. Programs like EmPOWER, combined with mandates, taxes, and fees, make up nearly 30% of monthly bills, placing a heavy burden on working families and seniors. America has proven we can produce reliable, affordable energy while protecting the environment. Maryland should focus on innovation and affordability, not policies that drive up costs. We can protect both our environment and our economy.
7B	D	Candace Hart	Maryland should support tax credits and grant programs that help families, small businesses, and nonprofits reduce their carbon footprint. These incentives make energy-saving upgrades more affordable, lower utility costs, and reflect our shared responsibility to care for creation and protect the health of Maryland's most vulnerable communities.

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 7 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 7 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

7A	R	Kathy Szeliga	The BOOST program is working and should be expanded. No student should be trapped in a failing school. Every Maryland student should be eligible for scholarships or vouchers, because education funding should follow the child, not the system. Parents should have the power to choose the best educational opportunity for their children. For too many families, especially those of modest means, the right school is simply out of reach. Expanding scholarships gives parents the freedom to choose the education that best meets their child’s needs.
7B	D	Candace Hart	I believe Maryland should thoughtfully continue funding scholarships that help low-income students access the K–12 nonpublic school that best meets their needs. For some families, these scholarships open doors to safer, more supportive, or more specialized learning environments they otherwise could not afford. Expanding opportunity for vulnerable students aligns with our shared commitment to dignity, educational equity, and the well-being of every child.

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 7 SENATE CANDIDATES

No responses.

DISTRICT 7 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

7A	R	Kathy Szeliga	I have voted against physician assisted suicide each time it's come up for a vote. I am pro-life from the womb to the tomb.
7B	D	Candace Hart	I believe Maryland should approach this issue with compassion and great care. While I respect the concerns behind the current law, I also believe that in rare and exceptional cases. When a person is facing a terminal, non-curable illness, fully informed, and freely choosing this option without any pressure, medical aid in dying can be an acceptable and humane choice. Any consideration of this issue must be grounded in strong safeguards, thorough medical and ethical discussions, and a continued expansion of high-quality palliative and hospice care,

5. WHY SHOULD MARYLAND CATHOLICS VOTE FOR YOU?

DISTRICT 7 DELEGATE CANDIDATES

7A	R	Kathy Szeliga	Maryland Catholics should vote for me because I believe in protecting the dignity of every person, strengthening families, and serving with integrity. My faith guides my commitment to life, religious freedom, and caring for those in need, while respecting the vital role of families and churches. I will stand up for parents' rights in education and work to make Maryland more affordable so families can thrive. Public service is about stewardship, and I will lead with accountability, common sense, and respect for the values we share as Christians.
7B	D	Candace Hart	Maryland Catholics should consider voting for me because my priorities align closely with core principles of human dignity, care for the vulnerable, and strengthening families and communities. I am committed to policies that make life more affordable for working families, expand access to quality education, protect the dignity of every person, and ensure that our state cares for those who are sick, elderly, or struggling. I believe in responsible stewardship of our environment, protecting creation while keeping costs manageable for families, nonprofits, and small businesses.