



2008 Congressional Candidate Survey (General Election)

Every election year, the Maryland Catholic Conference surveys Maryland candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives about their positions on issues of interest to Catholics. The responses of the Democratic and Republican candidates are below. The candidates were asked to either "Agree" or "Disagree" with each of 11 issue statements (Numbers 1-11). For Number 12, candidates were allowed a 75-word response in answer to the question, "Why should Maryland Catholics vote for you to represent them in Congress?" A blank response to a statement means the candidate did not choose a position or that the response was qualified. The 11 statements and final question are found at the bottom of the response grid.

NAME	PARTY	DISTRICT	A = Agree					D = Disagree					Why should Maryland Catholics vote for you to represent them in Congress? 12	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11
Frank Kratovil	D	1	D	A	A	A	D	A	A	D	D		A	We can't afford to continue with politics as usual. In Congress, I will work across party lines to expand access to health care, expand economic opportunity, ease the tax burden on middle class families, and help us become better stewards of the environment. Making progress on these tough issues requires leaders who can put principle ahead of party. As a prosecutor, I've worked hard to protect our families, and I'll do the same in Washington.
Andy Harris	R	1	A	A		D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	My record in ten years in the Maryland State Senate, working across party lines with the Maryland Catholic Conference.
Dutch Ruppensberger	D	2	D	A	A	A		A	A		D	D	D	It has been an honor to serve Maryland families in the United States House of Representatives for three terms. I have worked hard to increase the minimum wage, expand health care for children, prevent cuts to Medicare, improve the prescription drug benefit for seniors, and fight for equal pay for equal work for women. As I have for my 25 years in public service, I will continue to fight for Maryland families.
Richard Matthews	R	2	A	A	A	D			A	D	D	A	A	In addition to pro-family views, I also am a strict Constitutionalist. In regards to education, for example, I support the goals of private and religious schools, but I do not support any federal role in K-12 education. The matter should be left to the states and localities so that local values may influence school standards.

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			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
John Sarbanes	D	3														
Thomas Harris	R	3	A	A	A	A	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I'm anti-abortion.
Donna Edwards	D	4														
Peter James	R	4	A	A	A	D	D	A	A	D	D	A	A	A	A	I will fight to abolish the private banking monopoly that issues our money as debt. They charge us interest that can never be repaid. Please watch "Money as Debt" video at peterjames08.com. If we have Just Money issued by our government there would be ample money to provide for the poor through local governments and charities.
Steny Hoyer	D	5														
Collins Bailey	R	5	A		A	D	D		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Maryland Catholics and persons of faith should vote for me to represent them in Congress because we have the same values. I respect the American people and will continue to represent our values. I have been married for 33 years and have four children. I believe in limited federal Constitutional government. I will cut wasteful spending. I will promote sound money, economic and personal liberty, individual responsibility, American independence and national sovereignty.
Jennifer Dougherty	D	6	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	D	D	D	D	D	D	I will work for fair treatment for all people. I will work for diplomacy over war. I will work for responsibility in family planning matters. I will work for protections against human rights violations.
Roscoe Bartlett	R	6	A	D	A	D	D	A	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	I have a 100% pro-life voting record, including opposition to stem cell research that destroys embryos and the death penalty. I sponsored the legislation, now in place through Executive Order, to promote alternatives to stem cell research that destroys embryos. I am a devout Seventh-Day Adventist and my faith in God and Jesus Christ informs my daily life and decisions.
Elijah Cummings	D	7	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	D	D	A	A	A	I believe that fighting for the values and opportunity that are central to America is a solemn public trust. Government should work for working families.

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			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Michael Hargadon	R	7	A	D	A	D	D	A	D	A	D	A	A	I will fight to restore our liberties and our constitutional government, with a humble foreign policy. I will vote to protect life, from conception to the grave, defend the sanctity of marriage, and reestablish an honest value to our currency. I will attempt to limit the jurisdiction of our federal government and courts, to return many decisions to local and state levels. I will fight for your ability to profess our faith and morals without reproach.
Chris Van Hollen	D	8		A		A		A	A				A	Because of a shared belief that we are all God's children and that each individual should be treated with dignity and respect. That principle should guide our individual actions as well as social and economic policy.
Steve Hudson	R	8	A	A	A	A	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	Effective leadership requires more than a promise of performance. It requires a balanced perspective on life, creativity, multi-dimensional thinking, and a constructive attitude. As a husband, father, and medical doctor, I believe that I have the experience and correct motivation to serve the public. I've been endorsed by the National Right to Life Committee, Maryland Right to Life, Vets for Freedom, and Veterans for Better Government.

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STEM CELL RESEARCH:

1. Federal policy should continue to restrict the use of federal taxpayer funds for research that destroys live human embryos (*embryonic* stem cell research).

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE:

2. Congress should increase the number of visas available to refugees who are fleeing persecution abroad, and appropriate adequate funds for the U.S. refugee admissions program.

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE:

3. Federal policy should limit the use of U.S. military force in cases where there is not clear and compelling evidence of an imminent attack on the United States.
4. There should be significant annual increases in poverty-focused development assistance to reduce global poverty and increase the percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP) invested in foreign aid.

IMMIGRATION:

5. Undocumented aliens who have been living in the United States for a number of years and who do not have criminal records should be able to earn legal status by paying fines, paying back taxes, and agreeing to learn English.
6. The law should continue to permit American citizens and legal permanent residents to petition for close family members – such as children, parents, and siblings – who are living abroad to come live in the United States.

HEALTH CARE:

7. Our health care system should be reformed to ensure that there is affordable, accessible health care for all, especially for poor families with children and for persons with disabilities.

EDUCATION:

8. *Federal Financial Assistance:* Current federal law that provides educational benefits to students and teachers in private and religious schools on a basis equitable to what public school students and teachers receive should be continued and expanded.
9. *Parental Rights:* Federal financial assistance should be offered to low-income parents to choose the schools that they believe are best suited for their children.

ABORTION:

10. Federal policy should continue to restrict the use of taxpayer funds for abortion.
11. Federal agencies and states that receive federal funds should not discriminate against health care providers who do not perform or participate in abortions.

GENERAL (*Free response limited to 75 words*)

12. Why should Maryland Catholics vote for you to represent them in Congress?

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