



2024 MARYLAND GENERAL ELECTION

MARYLAND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATE SURVEY

Early voting: Oct. 24-31 | Election Day: Nov. 5

ABOUT THIS GUIDE: The Maryland Catholic Conference sent candidates a survey covering policy issues of interest to Catholics. Their responses (agree/disagree and statements) are below. Before you vote, please review the responses and reflect upon the document Faithful Citizenship (mdcatholic.org/parish-elections) as you form your conscience and prayerfully discern your vote.

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.

PARTY	CANDIDATES: MD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5		1. Poverty	2. Abortion	3. Immigration	4. Education	5. Environment	6. Family	7. Conscience Rights
D	Steny	Hoyer							
R	Michelle	Talkington *	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

KEY D = Democrat R = Republican

* = provided additional comments | ✓ = agree X = disagree blank = no response

We encourage you to read additional comments provided by candidates to more fully explain their positions.

The Democratic candidate did not respond. The following pages have responses from the Republican candidate.

- 1. Poverty.** The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other similar initiatives provide funding for millions of poor Americans who cannot afford to adequately feed themselves or their families. Congress should oppose restrictions on SNAP that prevent the most vulnerable from receiving these benefits.

Michelle	Talkington (R)	With food prices continuing to rise, it is critical to ensure all Americans have food security regardless of their financial status.
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- 2. Abortion.** Congress should enact legislation permanently banning the use of taxpayer funding for abortion and banning abortion in federal healthcare facilities or from being performed by federal employees.

Michelle	Talkington (R)	The Dobbs decision sent the issue of abortion back to the states, and as such the federal government should prevent the use of federal taxpayer funding for these procedures. I agree that federal healthcare facilities should no longer offer this measure with the exception of a life-or-death circumstance, not to be confused with a choice (financial, mental health, etc.), but one of an active emergencies requiring hospitalization.
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- 3. Immigration.** Congress should pass legislation to reform immigration policy to protect children and young people, such as the Protect Vulnerable Immigrant Youth Act, to provide humanitarian protection to abused, neglected or abandoned youth.

Michelle	Talkington (R)	I would limit legislation to the protection of young people under the age of twenty years old, and be very specific about what constitutes neglect, abuse, and abandonment. Any immigration policy reform should ensure that cartels and traffickers are not incentivized, and that those children are carefully accounted for.
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- 4. Education.** Congress should enact legislation, such as the Educational Choice for Children Act, which empowers parents in every state with expanded educational options through federal tax credit incentives that will fund scholarships for K-12 students, including those attending Catholic schools.

Michelle	Talkington (R)	I am in full support of school choice and parental rights. Education has suffered drastically in the past years, and it is critical that parents are supported with the resources and the legislative rights that provide education that best suits their child.
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- 5. Environment.** Congress should pass legislation to encourage the responsible stewardship of the environment and its natural resources by protecting and promoting our national parks and wildlife preserves.

No comment provided by either candidate.

- 6. Family.** Congress should enact legislation to support families, mothers and children, such as increasing and extending the child tax credit to include unborn children, extending the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and providing increased funding for childcare programs and foster programs.

Michelle	Talkington (R)	I agree with much of this statement. Instead of increasing funding to childcare programs I would propose a solution that provides opportunities for employers and childcare provider subsidies that could offset the cost of care for working families. I will always support women, children, and families.
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7. Conscience Protections. Congress should pass legislation to ensure religious freedom and rights of conscience for healthcare workers and other government employees.

Michelle (R)	Talkington	The pandemic was a devastating blow to millions of Americans. No one should ever be put in the position to compromise their religious belief, or bodies for a medical mandate that stood in opposition to many in the medical field. We must fight to ensure this does not happen again, and that should extend to government employees.
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8. Why should Catholics vote for me?

Michelle (R)	Talkington	My Christian faith serves as the guiding compass for my decisions. There should be a balance between what is ethical and moral when creating legislation that affects millions. It is time to elect new leaders who are not easily compromised and elect those who have not become career politicians by sacrificing their faith and morality. I believe I am a strong candidate who will stand alongside others of faith to bring our nation back to the core values our founding fathers envisioned.
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