THE BANNER

US Congressional District 2

Banner Staff

5/14/2026 4:05 p.m. EDT

2026 Voter Guide: Congress (The Banner)

What's the job: One of Maryland's eight members in the 435-member U.S. House of Representatives. Responsible for introducing and voting on legislation, approving federal spending and providing oversight of federal government operations. Elected to a two-year term.

Find your congressional district here.

Jump to a candidate

Candidates are listed in order of appearance on the ballot

Rep. Johnny Olszewski (D) | Dave Wallace (R)

Democratic

Name: Rep. Johnny Olszewski

Rep. Johnny Olszewski. (Johnny Olszewski for Congress)

Age: 44

Personal: Married, one daughter.

Education: Bachelor's degree, political science and American studies, Goucher College; master's degree, political management, George Washington University; PhD, public policy, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Experience: Member, U.S. House of Representatives, Md. District 2; Baltimore County executive; senior manager, Baltimore City Department of Transportation; member, Maryland House of Delegates, District 6; member, Baltimore County Democratic State Central Committee.

Questionnaire

Q: What would you do to restore predictability to the federal budgeting process and avoid shutdowns and threats of shutdowns?

A: Passing a federal budget is one of Congress' basic responsibilities. We must get back to the regular order of passing our 12 annual appropriations bills and end this cycle of stop-gap budgets and shutdowns that endanger our federal workers and jeopardize the critical government services that taxpayers expect and need. I will always be open to supporting bipartisan budgets that are ironclad against illegal cuts and impoundments.

I was proud to introduce the Securing Assurance for Federal Employees (SAFE) Act during the Fall 2025 government shutdown, which would block the firings of the more than 22,000 federal workers in our district, and every federal employee across the country, during a government shutdown. I also support efforts to ensure federal employees are paid — not treated as political pawns — during these shutdowns. All options should be on the table to avoid shutdowns, including multi-year budgeting, skipping recesses and tying member pay to budget passage. I voluntarily withheld my pay in solidarity with our federal workers during the 2025 full government shutdown and I support "No Budget, No Pay" proposals that incentivize Congress to work across the aisle to advance

strategic budgets that preserve the vital missions of our government.

Q: Do you support changes to existing immigration laws? Be specific on changes you would seek and how you would forge bipartisan support for them.

A: I support and will continue to support bipartisan efforts that both secure our border and create a sensible pathway to citizenship.

Instead of focusing on violent offenders, this administration's immigration enforcement has repeatedly undermined public trust, including through wrongful arrests, the deportation of American citizens and a routine disregard for widely accepted law enforcement standards. This reckless conduct turned deadly when two Americans were killed during federal enforcement operations in Minnesota. These tragedies were entirely preventable and demand immediate change to our immigration laws. I've joined other House Democrats to put forward commonsense reforms that Americans overwhelmingly support, such as prohibiting the detention or deportation of U.S. citizens, requiring federal agents to clearly identify themselves, mandating body-worn cameras, establishing clear use-of-force standards, and banning enforcement actions in sensitive locations like schools and places of worship.

Q: Should members of Congress be allowed to trade individual stocks? What policies would you support to ensure that members are acting in the public interest rather than their own financial interest?

A: Transparency and accountability are essential to restoring public trust in government. Members of Congress should be

focused on serving their constituents — not managing personal stock portfolios with potential conflicts of interest.

Even the appearance of Members of Congress using information they are uniquely privy to is wrong and further erodes trust in our democratic institutions. Simply put, members should not be able to make or direct investments while they serve. I do not and will not actively trade stock as a member of Congress. I am also a proud co-sponsor of H.R. 396, the bipartisan TRUST in Congress Act, which would require Members of Congress and their immediate family members to place their financial assets into qualified blind trusts. And I am open to considering any additional measures that would further strengthen accountability and public confidence.

Q: Describe a moment when you stood up to someone in authority.

A: My faith calls on me to protect the vulnerable at every opportunity. That is why I called for articles of impeachment against former Department of Homeland Security (DHS) secretary Kristi Noem. During her tenure, the department strayed far from its mission to protect the homeland — instead terrorizing marginalized communities, tearing families apart, and victim blaming as Americans lost their lives.

Another example is authoring a constitutional amendment to reign in the presidential pardon power. My legislation is a direct response to the abuses we have seen in which presidents of both parties have used the pardon to benefit the wealthy and well-connected.

Q: What will you bring to Congress that is missing?

A: The working-class values I learned growing up in eastern Baltimore County drive me. My upbringing, along with my professional experience before entering Congress — from teaching American government in public schools to serving in the Maryland General Assembly and as Baltimore County executive — push me every day to do more to serve our community.

Today, we face serious challenges, including the rising cost of living, weakened social safety nets, and a president who takes pleasure enriching himself at the expense of our democracy. In my first term as a U.S. congressman, I have proudly championed legislation to hold this administration accountable to Congress, the courts, and the American people. I also have a desire to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and have experience doing so. I have passed three bipartisan bills in my first year in Congress alone. I have secured a Republican co-sponsor to my constitutional amendment to reform the presidential pardon power. I have hosted bipartisan gatherings and regularly engage with Republicans in my committees to move issues important to my district forward.

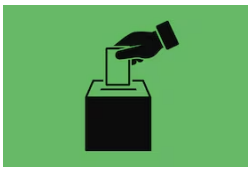
Republican

Name: Dave Wallace

Candidate did not respond to The Banner's voter guide questionnaire.

Show candidates who did not advance past June 2026 Primary

VOTER GUIDE 2026



Key Races

Statewide

US House

State S