

Food & Water Action  
Candidate Questionnaire  
Maryland General Assembly

**Candidate Information**

Candidate Name: Samuel "Sandy" Rosenberg

District Number: 41

Office Sought: State Delegate Party Affiliation: D Incumbent:  
Yes X No

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Candidate's Signature: /s Sandy Rosenberg Date: 4/1/2018

**A) Energy Policy**

- 1) The evidence supplied by climate change science shows that we must stop emitting greenhouse gases, primarily from burning fossil fuels, as quickly as possible if we hope to avoid the worst effects of climate change. One area in which states can play an important role in transitioning away from fossil fuels is through retail electricity policy. Do you support legislation to require all retail electricity sales in Maryland to come from clean sources – wind, solar, small hydro, and ocean tidal – by 2035? What additional policies do you support for reducing Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions?

**I would support legislation to end the use of fossil fuels for retail electricity generation in Maryland. If such legislation would result in job losses, it should also provide job retraining and other protections for affected workers. I would be**

**particularly interested in investing in clean-energy job training because this would create 21st Century jobs for Marylanders, many of whom have lost good paying jobs in the new economy.**

- 2) If we are to transition rapidly to clean energy sources, major investments will be required. We will need to build generation capacity from clean sources that is far greater than their current share of our energy portfolio. In aid of this effort, do you support public funding of construction of renewable electricity generation on public property?

**I think an innovative model could be produced in Maryland to promote both the construction of renewable electricity generation and urban revitalization. A public-private partnership could build community clean energy sources in urban environments. Vital job training could then be subsidized and directed by the State, creating a pipeline of skilled workers ready for the clean energy economy.**

- 3) Under current law, Maryland counts a variety of electricity generation sources as “renewable,” including burning municipal solid waste and poultry litter. Do you support legislation that would restrict the definition of clean renewables to wind, solar, geothermal, and ocean tidal? If not, please explain why you believe these are sources should be counted as renewable energy.

**The Renewable Portfolio Standard was designed to be updated over time, and I would support legislation to focus it on newer, more innovative, and cleaner sources of electricity generation. As mentioned previously, I would want to ensure protections for affected Maryland workers through guaranteed job retraining programs for those in the state affected by the change in policy.**

- 4) There is increasing discussion in Maryland about addressing climate change through pricing schemes such as carbon taxes. However, pricing has not been shown to be an effective climate tool and in places where taxes have been implemented, like British Columbia, GHG emissions have not gone down, but actually have risen. Would you oppose efforts to expand carbon pricing in Maryland and, if so, why?

**I support placing a price on carbon pollution generally and using any funds generated to promote clean energy alternatives and assist communities affected by climate change. In particular, the principles of environmental justice should guide policy makers in developing such legislation because the impact of climate change and pollution has fallen disproportionately on communities of color.**

## **B) Agriculture Policy**

- 5) It's widely documented that agriculture in Maryland, and in particular the Eastern Shore poultry industry, is a major contributor to the decades-long nutrient problems facing local

waterways and the Bay. Communities near these factory farms are also concerned about the negative health effects from air emissions coming from the large number of animals concentrated at these operations, yet the Maryland Department of the Environment claims that large poultry factory farms do not need to receive air permits before operating. Do you support legislation that would require the MDE to perform air monitoring at CAFOs to determine what air emissions are being released and to report its findings to the General Assembly? What other policies should the state enact to help protect residents from the negative health effects of large factory farms?

**I would support legislation to require MDE to perform air monitoring at CAFOs. Enforcement will be the key to long-term protection of air and water quality on the Eastern Shore.**

**In 2015, I was the primary sponsor of legislation to allow the Cigarette Restitution Fund to be used to provide financial assistance to farmers for implementation of state or local watershed implementation plans associated with the Chesapeake Bay total maximum daily load limits.**

6) Under current law, Maryland taxpayers subsidize the removal of excess poultry litter – a combination of manure and bedding – from poultry operations. Would you support legislation that would require the large poultry companies, such as Perdue or Tyson, to pay the cost of removing the litter from the farms with which they contract and from which they profit?

**In 2016, I co-sponsored the Poultry Litter Management Act which sought to reduce the amount of poultry litter leaching into the Chesapeake Bay by providing that the large poultry companies pay the cost of removing the litter themselves.**

### **C) Water Affordability and Access**

7) Across Maryland residents' water service rates are rapidly increasing. For many residents, especially lower income households and seniors on fixed incomes, the rates have become unaffordable. The United Nations defines affordable water service as costing no more than 3% of total household income. Do you support legislation that would require local water utilities to implement income based water service rates that cap the amount low income households pay for water service? What other measure would you support to assure residents access to safe and affordable water service?

**Yes, I would support legislation ensuring that water service rates for low-income households remain affordable.**

**Maryland should eliminate lead contamination in drinking water in our urban areas. We need to ensure that what happened in Flint Michigan and elsewhere does not happen here.**

**This year I introduced HB 276, which would define a public official to include a person employed in the executive service or management service of the Executive Branch of State government. In order to prevent another Flint, we have to ensure that public officials are held accountable for misconduct in office. By giving the Maryland State Prosecutor clear legislative guidelines on who is a public official subject to misconduct in office charges, this legislation would have made it easier to bring misconduct in office charges.**

8) In some Maryland jurisdictions inability to pay your water service bill can lead to having a tax lien placed on your house. This allows the local jurisdiction to seize the home from its owner and sell it to developers or investors. Do you support legislation that would ban tax lien sales of homes for unpaid water service bills?

**Yes. These types of policies only exacerbate the struggles of living in poverty. I co-sponsored HB 1409 (2018), which would ban the tax lien sales of homes for unpaid water service bills in Baltimore City.**

#### **D) Tax Policy**

9) Every state that levies a corporate income tax must determine, for each company doing business within its borders, how much of the company's profits it can tax. One factor that all such states use to make this determination is the percentage of the company's nationwide sales that can be attributed to the state. Ideally, all of a company's sales would be attributed to the states in which it operates, but, due to differences among states' corporate income tax rules, this is not always the case. Under these differing laws, some corporate income becomes "nowhere" income which is untaxed by any state. A popular solution to this problem, currently used in 29 states and the District of Columbia, is a "throwback" rule which mandates that sales into other states or to the federal government that are not taxable will be "thrown back" into the state of origin for tax purposes. Would you support efforts to adopt the throwback rule in Maryland?

**Yes. Doing so would make our tax system less dependent upon the sales tax.**

#### **E) Democracy**

11) Evidence from states that allow election day voter registration suggests that same day registration can increase voter participation in elections. Do you support efforts to allow election day registration in Maryland? What additional policies would you support for expanding voter participation in Maryland elections?

**Yes, I support any legislation aimed at increasing voter participation in elections. I have long been a champion of ensuring access to the ballot. That struggle now is to ensure our elections remain unmolested so that the public's faith in the ballot box itself is not eroded.**

**I introduced two bills this session aimed at enhancing public trust in the electoral process: HB767(2018) would strengthen the security of the ballot box by putting in place best practices relating to the security of voter registration lists, ballots, voting machines, and other necessary election infrastructure; HB768(2018) would require online platforms to provide the same information as print platforms related to political advertisements. Provisions in both of these bills were amended on to legislation that, as of this writing, has passed the House of Delegates.**