CITIZEN INTELLIGENCE ARCHIVE

Senate Race File #002 — Michigan

Primary Called | August 5, 2026

NOMINEE CONFIRMED — ABDUL EL-SAYED WINS DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

> **WHAT CHANGED:** NBC News projected Abdul El-Sayed the winner of the August 4 Democratic primary over Rep. Haley Stevens, overcoming an outside-spending disadvantage reported between roughly 18-to-1 and $65 million total. He advances to face Republican nominee Mike Rogers, already profiled and AIPAC-confirmed-flagged from Session 1. This is one of the largest AIPAC-linked outside-spending stories in the entire 2026 cycle — worth covering in real detail rather than a brief note.

Michigan is the only open Democratic-held Senate seat in a state Trump carried in 2024. Incumbent Gary Peters chose not to seek a third term. Whoever wins in November could determine which party controls the Senate. General election: November 3, 2026.

MIKE ROGERS (R)

Republican nominee | Former U.S. Representative 2001–2015 | Former FBI Agent | Age 62

Mike Rogers served 14 years in Congress representing mid-Michigan and chaired the House Intelligence Committee. He lost the 2024 Michigan Senate race to Elissa Slotkin by just 0.3 percentage points — under 5,000 votes. He has Trump's endorsement and ran unopposed in the Republican primary.

THE FACTS — VOTING RECORD (CARRIED FORWARD FROM SESSION 1)

Healthcare

Rogers voted AGAINST the Affordable Care Act in 2010 and repeatedly voted to repeal it. He voted for a 2011 plan to replace Medicare with a voucher system and raise the Medicare eligibility age from 65 to 67. He voted AGAINST letting the government negotiate lower drug prices, and accepted over $1 million from the health and pharmaceutical industry during his time in Congress.

Elections & Democracy

After the 2020 election, Rogers publicly said Biden won fairly and called on Trump to concede. When he ran for Senate in 2024 and 2026 with Trump's endorsement, he reversed course and promoted election conspiracy theories. His 2026 campaign includes county chairs pardoned by Trump for the fake electors plot.

Workers & Women

Rogers voted AGAINST the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act twice, and against the Paycheck Fairness Act twice.

THE FACTS — FOLLOW THE MONEY

SOURCE	NOTES	FLAG

Pro-Israel PAC money	Listed as pro-Israel on TrackAIPAC's Michigan delegation page.	■ **FLAGGED**
Health & pharma industry (career)	$1M+ from the industry over his career.	■ **FLAGGED**
Great Lakes Conservatives Fund (super PAC)	$6M war chest.	■ **FLAGGED**
Bluff Point Associates (private equity, top super PAC donor)	$100K+.	■ **FLAGGED**

AIPAC MONEY: **FLAGGED** — listed as pro-Israel on TrackAIPAC's Michigan page (Session 1 finding, unchanged).

BILLIONAIRE / DARK MONEY: **FLAGGED** — $6M super PAC, private equity donors, major corporate PACs.

> **ARCHITECT ANALYSIS — MIKE ROGERS:** Unchanged from Session 1. Rogers lost by under 5,000 votes last cycle and will not make the same mistakes twice, but his record is clear: he voted to gut the healthcare system millions of Michiganders depend on, voted against equal pay protections twice, and reversed his own public statement on the legitimacy of the 2020 election once it became politically convenient to do so.

ABDUL EL-SAYED (D) — CONFIRMED NOMINEE

Democratic nominee | Former Wayne County Health Director | Physician | Age 39 | Detroit, Michigan | Won August 4, 2026 primary over Rep. Haley Stevens

El-Sayed ran for Michigan governor in 2018 as a progressive and has Bernie Sanders' and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's endorsement. He defeated four-term Rep. Haley Stevens in the Democratic primary, overcoming a massive outside-spending disadvantage, and now advances to face Rogers.

THE FACTS — RECORD & POSITIONS

Healthcare

Supports Medicare for All — full government healthcare for every American, eliminating premiums, deductibles, and most co-pays.

Israel-Gaza Policy — The Defining Issue of This Primary

El-Sayed characterized Israel's war in Gaza as a central issue of his campaign and took aim at Stevens' AIPAC and for-profit insurance donations directly in debate. He said he wanted to court Jewish voters without moderating his actual positions. This primary was widely covered nationally as a test case for the Democratic Party's internal divide over Israel policy and AIPAC's role in primaries — and El-Sayed won it.

Record

No legislative voting record — his track record is in public health, leading Wayne County's health department during the pandemic.

THE FACTS — FOLLOW THE MONEY

SOURCE	NOTES	FLAG
AIPAC — direct	$0. Per FEC-filing-based tracking (FundVoter), El-Sayed has $0 in AIPAC-linked direct contributions across a campaign that raised $14.5 million overall.	**CONFIRMED CLEAN — $0 direct**
AIPAC's United Democracy Project — spent AGAINST him	AIPAC's super PAC, United Democracy Project, was the largest single funder of the outside-spending effort to defeat El-Sayed and elect Stevens instead — estimates range from roughly $10 million to over $30 million specifically from UDP, as part of a combined $50–65 million in outside spending backing Stevens across six aligned super PACs. This is money that worked AGAINST El-Sayed, the functional opposite of an AIPAC funding flag.	**NOT A FLAG — this is opposition spending, not funding to him**
Small donors / grassroots	$14.5+ million raised, dominated by small-dollar individual contributions — more than double Stevens' haul in the final pre-primary quarter.	**CLEAN**
Corporate PAC money	None found — consistent with his public no-corporate-PAC positioning.	**CLEAN**
Super PAC pledge — a real nuance	El-Sayed pledged to refuse all super PAC support. American Priorities PAC, an anti-AIPAC group, publicly said it would spend on his behalf anyway, despite his pledge and without his campaign's coordination or apparent endorsement of the move. This is not a broken pledge in the way other candidates' pledge-gaps have been in this archive — it is outside spending he did not solicit and cannot legally coordinate with — but voters should know it exists.	**■ WATCH — outside spending contrary to his stated pledge, not his own money**

AIPAC MONEY: **CONFIRMED CLEAN** — $0 direct. Notably, AIPAC's own super PAC spent tens of millions specifically to defeat him — the clearest case in this archive of AIPAC money working against a candidate rather than for one.

DARK MONEY / CORPORATE PAC: **CLEAN** — small-dollar dominated; one outside PAC's unsolicited spending on his behalf is worth noting but does not reflect his own fundraising practices.

> **ARCHITECT ANALYSIS — ABDUL EL-SAYED:** This is one of the starkest money-test results in the entire archive. A candidate who took $0 in AIPAC money faced an estimated $30–60 million in outside spending — much of it specifically organized by AIPAC's own super PAC — and won anyway. Whatever else is true about this race, it is a direct, real-world data point on whether AIPAC-aligned money can reliably buy a primary outcome in 2026: here, it could not. His lack of a legislative record remains the honest counterpoint — voters are taking his positions on faith rather than a voting history, the same tension this archive has flagged for other first-time candidates.

STATUS: NOMINEE CONFIRMED. Both candidates' money pictures are settled and clear — Rogers flagged on both AIPAC and dark money; El-Sayed clean on both, with the added, unusual data point of AIPAC's own super PAC spending heavily against him. General election November 3, 2026, rated one of the most competitive races in the country.

CHANGELOG (August 5, 2026):
— Democratic primary called: Abdul El-Sayed defeats Haley Stevens, confirmed by NBC News projection
— Built full new El-Sayed profile: record, Israel-Gaza positioning (central to the primary), funding
— Confirmed El-Sayed's AIPAC status: $0 direct, and a notable case of AIPAC's super PAC (United Democracy Project) spending an estimated $10-30M+ specifically to defeat him
— Flagged the American Priorities PAC situation as outside spending contrary to his own pledge, distinct from the pledge-vs-own-filing gaps found in other candidates' profiles this cycle
— Rogers profile carried forward unchanged from Session 1 — already AIPAC-confirmed-flagged

"I don't tell you how to vote. I give you the X-ray. You decide."

— Uma | PixelMagic / MindTraveler | People Over Party