

CBS Mornings

08/05/26

7:00:16 a.m. [TEASE]

6 seconds

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: And we've got the latest on a race which could upend the balance of power in Washington: the Michigan Senate primary.

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7:00:31 a.m. [TEASE]

14 seconds

DUTHIERS: A key Michigan primary that could change the balance of power is too close to call. We'll tell you what's at stake.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: High-Stakes Primaries]

ABDUL EL-SAYED: It may just be that this state hates the establishment on both sides and is looking for an alternative.

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7:02:10 a.m.

4 minutes and 6 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: El-Sayed & Stevens Primary Too Close to Call]

DUTHIERS: We're going to begin with the very close race to be Michigan's Democratic candidate for Senate, a race with major national implications. CBS News believes the contest between progressive Dr. Abdul el-Sayed and the more centrist candidate, Haley Stevens, is still too close to call. The votes are leaning toward el-Sayed. He's running on issues like housing and education. He's also been forced to defend some of his views on foreign policy. Ed O'Keefe is in Detroit. Ed, good morning. It's still very, very close.

ED O'KEEFE: Vlad, that's right. Good morning. Good to see you. You know, they designed and build fast cars in this state, but we're being reminded they don't typically count votes quickly here, despite the fact that many would like to know the results. We still don't know whether it's the progressive or the moderate who won. This morning, Michigan's high-stakes Democratic Senate primary remains undecided —

EL-SAYED: Wish I could tell you that I was declaring victory right about now. Turns out, it takes a long time to count some votes in Michigan.

O'KEEFE: — as both candidates are staying hopeful.

CONGRESSWOMAN HALEY STEVENS (D-MI): We knew that this was going to be a close race, and that's exactly what we've got.

O'KEEFE: 41-year-old epidemiologist, progressive Democrat Abdul el-Sayed likes to say he doesn't have a name for politics. Supporters like Leslie Love disagree.

LESLIE LOVE: It is a little different, but if you remember a few years ago, there was a guy from Chicago named Barack Hussein Obama who no one thought could get elected, so now, we got a doctor, Abdul e-Sayed.

O'KEEFE: His opponent, 43-year-old, four-term moderate Haley Stevens, helped run the Obama administration's bailout of Michigan's auto industry and had the support of most party leaders.

STEVENS: Friends, I am feeling good about this race.

O'KEEFE: Michigan matters nationwide to Democrats because they need to hold the Senate seat here, and in Georgia, plus win four Republican seats to retake the majority. But Democratic primary voters here admit they don't quite know what their party stands for right now.

UNIDENTIFIED BLACK FEMALE VOTER: Do we have a brain? I don't know anymore.

UNIDENTIFIED WHITE MALE VOTER: And mostly seems to be like we're not Republicans is what their brand is.

O'KEEFE: The winner of this race will face Republican former Congressman Mike Rogers, who ran for the Senate two years ago and lost by just 19,000 votes. National Republicans and super PACs are already pledging more than 40 million dollars to support him. President Trump weighed in on the race and Rogers last night.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP [on FNC's *Fox News @ Night*, 08/04/26]: Based on the polls, he'll do much better against Abdul than he's going to do against the Congresswoman.

O'KEEFE: So, again, no winner in this just yet, and part of what worries Democrats should el-Sayed prevail, Democrats outside the state many here is that he would begin at a big money disadvantage. There was more than 80 million dollars spent against him during the primary by corporate and pro-Israel groups that he's denounced. He says he doesn't want their help. The Republicans are standing by with tens of millions of dollars ready to spend against him, Vlad. It's supposed to cost money to win races.

DUTHIERS: It's an uphill battle for sure. But if you were paying close attention to the polling, it did seem at one point as if el-Sayed was going to run away with this, but obviously, it's much closer than people realize. So, what's the lesson here?

O'KEEFE: The lesson is, if you're someone who polls Michigan voters for a living, you should crawl back into bed this morning and stay there because these surveys in the last few days

certainly had suggested it would be a wider, bigger win for him, and whoever prevails is only going to do that by the narrowest of margins. Part of the issue appears to be that the polling models and what the el-Sayad campaign was anticipating were that more younger voters would show up to cast ballots. They didn't necessarily do that in the numbers that they needed to win overwhelmingly, and that will be part of what we're looking at in the coming days. The other lesson, you see a poll on social media? Just keep scrolling. Don't read them. The only poll that matters is the results of an election.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Coming Up; Abdul el-Sayed; 8AM]

DUTHIERS: Truer words never spoken. Ed O'Keefe in Detroit for us. Ed, thank you very much. In our next hour, we will be talking to Michigan Democrat, Abdul el-Sayed, so stick around for that.