

NBC's *Today*
08/05/26
7:00:12 a.m. [TEASE]
38 seconds

LAURA JARRETT: Key election results rolling in overnight.

CRAIG MELVIN: And they could shape the future of both parties. It is August 5, this is *Today*. Major victory.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Major Victory]

ADBUL EL-SAYED: We're still standing.

MELVIN: NBC News projecting a win for progressive Abdul el-Sayed in Michigan's closely-watched Democratic Senate primary. The stage now set for a midterm crash for the Trump-backed Republican that could decide the balance of power on Capitol Hill. We'll have the very latest and break down the results of the night's other crucial races across the country.

(....)

7:04:05 a.m.
5 minutes and 26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Primary Results]

MELVIN: But we are going to start with the overnight results of those crucial primaries spanning five states. The most closely-watched race in Michigan for the Democratic Senate nomination seen by many as a battle for the direction of the Democratic Party itself. We've got complete coverage this morning. We'll start with NBC's chief Capitol Hill correspondent Ryan Nobles. Ryan, good morning.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; NBC News Projects el-Sayed Wins MI Primary]

RYAN NOBLES: Hey, Craig, good morning. And no doubt the results in Michigan were a little closer than the polls predicted. But nonetheless, it was a good night for progressives in their efforts to takeover the Democratic Party. If Abdul el-Sayed is able to hold on in Michigan, it could be the most competitive race on the Senate map, and it will be crucial to Democrats hopes of taking back the majority. Overnight, a victory for progressive Democrats in battleground Michigan. In the closely-watched, high-stakes Democratic Senate primary, voters choosing Abdul el-Sayed as their party's Senate nominee, defeating establishment-backed Congresswoman Haley Stevens.

EL-SAYED: Tomorrow we begin to mend fences. [SCREEN WIPE] We have a responsibility to

assure that we unite to make sure that Mike Rogers never sees the inside of the U.S. Senate.

NOBLES: The former public health official ran on a populist platform, campaigning on Medicare for All and abolishing ICE, and touting endorsements from progressives, including Bernie Sanders who spoke with Kristen Welker and Hallie Jackson overnight.

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS (I-VT): I'm very proud of the campaign that he ran. It was a grassroots campaign. He had thousands and thousands of volunteers.

NOBLES: President Trump last night blasting progressive candidates like el-Sayed.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP [on FNC's *Fox News @ Night*, 08/04/26]: He's very naive, and they want to ruin the country. [SCREEN WIPE] Anybody doing what they're doing and what they're espousing, everything turns out to ashes and junk and filth.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Primary Results Ahead of Midterms]

NOBLES: He'll now face a bruising battle against the Republican nominee, former Congressman Mike Rogers, who was endorsed by Trump for an open seat. That seat critical to Democrats hopes of retaking the Senate this fall. In the Michigan governor's race, another Trump-backed candidate, John James, will face off against the Democratic nominee, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. Progressives are claiming victory in a key Michigan House primary, with activist William Lawrence defeating two Democratic challengers, setting up a race with Republican Tom Barrett in a district that President Trump carried by just one point in 2024. All of it raising the stakes for control of Congress in the midterm elections that are now just 90 days away, and while it was no doubt a good night for progressives, it was not a complete sweep. Moderates did win races in other parts of Michigan, in Missouri, and in Virginia where the more moderates won in two districts that Democrats are counting on in their effort to take back the House majority, Craig?

MELVIN: Ryan, thank you. For more on the primary results and the nail-biter in Michigan, let's bring in Kristen Welker, moderator of *Meet the Press*. Kristen, always good to have you. Let's start in Michigan with el-Sayed's win. What can we glean from the win, and what could the narrow margin mean?

KRISTEN WELKER: Great questions, Craig. It is significant he is out front this morning. He took on the party's establishment. He was outspent nearly 11-to-1, and it is the first strong showing by a progressive in a battleground state, so statewide. But look, it was a much narrower showing than expected. In fact, this morning many news outlets haven't called the race yet, all underscoring the challenges el-Sayed in a general, as you say, against Republican Mike Rogers, who's made it clearly he refers to run against el-Sayed. And that is the big question in this election cycle. Can a progressive candidate win in a purple state? El-Sayed will need to win over moderate and independent voters, and, in addition to that, in my conversations with his campaign advisers, I'm told the strategy is also to turn out people who don't typically participate in elections. Look, the bottom line, it is nearly impossible for Democrats to win the Senate without

Michigan, so the stakes could not be higher, Craig and Laura.

JARRETT: Kristen, in some ways, primaries are hard because it exposes the fractions and divisions within the party. What do you think the biggest challenges for Democrats are going into November?

WELKER: Well, the biggest challenge is just that, to unify. The race between Haley Stevens and Abdul el-Sayed was a bruising one. And, in interviews with Senator Bernie Sanders, who backed el-Sayed, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, who did not endorse, they both stress the need for Democrats to come together in the wake of this hard-fought Senate primary. But look, deep divisions remain, including over support for Israel, and many have seen el-Sayed's win a rebuke to the establishment to the Democratic Party, which went all in on Stevens. So, how will they navigate all this energy from voters on the left? Look, overall, while it was a strong night for progressives, as Ryan was just saying, it wasn't a clean sweep. In fact, former Representative Cori Bush lost her race to a more moderate candidate in a key Missouri district as one example. So, the big picture question here will this new wave of progressive enthusiasm help or hurt Democrats' chances to try to take back the Senate and the House in November, guys?

MELVIN: Alright, we shall see, Kristen Welker. Kristen, thank you. We know you'll have much more on Sunday because if it's Sunday, it's *Meet the Press*.

(...)

8:00:15 a.m.
21 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: The Results Are in]

MELVIN: Coming up, the results are in. Overnight, NBC News projecting a win for progressive Abdul el-Sayed in Michigan's closely-watched Democratic Senate primary.

EL-SAYED: Tomorrow, we begin to mend fences.

MELVIN: The stage now set for a midterm clash with a Trump-backed Republican that could decide Washington's balance of power. We're live with the very latest.

(...)

8:02:44 a.m.
3 minutes and 14 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; NBC News Projects El-Sayed Wins MI Primary]

MELVIN: We are going to begin with those crucial primaries in five states and the most closely-watched race, the Democratic Senate nomination in Michigan. It's seen by many as a

battle for the direction of the Democratic Party. And NBC's chief Capitol Hill correspondent Ryan Nobles joins us with some of those results. Ryan, good morning to you once again.

NOBLES: Hey, Craig, good morning. And it turned out to be quite a long night for Democrats in Michigan. This race was much closer than anyone anticipated, but it was a big night for progressives as the candidate Abdul el-Sayed looks to squeak out a victory over the more moderate Haley Stevens. Now, this sets up what could be the most competitive race on the Senate map heading into the midterm elections, and it's one Democrats must win if they have any hopes of taking back the majority. Overnight, a victory for progressive Democrats in battleground Michigan. In the closely-watched, high-stakes Democratic Senate primary, voters choosing Abdul el-Sayed as their party's Senate nominee, defeating establishment-backed Congresswoman Haley Stevens.

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majority. Craig?

MELVIN: Ryan Nobles for us there in Washington. Ryan, thank you.