

NBC's *Today*

08/06/26

7:01:11 a.m. [TEASE]

26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: War of Words]

CRAIG MELVIN: War of words. President Trump and Abdul el-Sayed trading jabs in the wake of the progressive's big victory in Michigan's Democratic Senate primary.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: Abdul el-Sayed, lovely gentleman, the man of hate.

ABDUL EL-SAYED [on CNN's *The Source*, 08/05/26]: He's more interested in saying my name in an interesting way than he is trying to solve our problems.

MELVIN: Inside the growing battle with November's midterms now less than three months away.

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7:11:35 a.m.

2 minutes and 13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump Takes Aim at el-Sayed After Michigan Win]

MELVIN: But we turn now to the push toward the critical November midterm set to determine the balance of power in Congress. President Trump and some top Republicans unleashing a series of attacks on progressive Abdul el-Sayed, the new Democratic Senate nominee in the battleground state of Michigan. NBC's chief White House correspondent, Garrett Haake, standing by with more on all of it. Garrett, good morning.

GARRETT HAAKE: Craig, this one is fascinating because El-Sayed is now the rare political figure who generates excitement on the wings of both parties, albeit for very different reasons. Progressives see him as a fighter, fresh off a tough primary, ready to battle for causes that the left cares deeply about. But Republicans now, led by the President, are painting him as an extremist, and they're hoping to make Democrats running for office all across the country answer for his sometimes controversial stances. This morning, Democrats have a new Senate nominee in Michigan, a critical battleground state, and Republicans have a new top political target.

RALLY SPEAKER: Abdul el-Sayed!

HAAKE: Just hours after Abdul El-Sayed's primary win, President Trump going on the attack.

TRUMP: Abdul El-Sayed, lovely gentleman. He's a man of hate. [SCREEN WIPE] When I watch Abdul, he's full of [EXPLETIVE].

HAAKE: El-Sayed, firing back overnight.

EL-SAYED [on CNN's *The Source*, 08/05/26]: This is a guy who can't even focus on our affordability, he's more interested in saying my name in an interesting way or calling me a lovely gentleman than he is interested in actually solving our problems.

HAAKE: Also responding to critics highlighting his opposition to aid to Israel. El-Sayed, saying he stands with Jewish people, adding:

EL-SAYED: [on CNN's *The Source*, 08/05/26]: I think there is a challenge when folks try to use the specter of anti-Semitism to extend it toward protecting a foreign government against criticism.

HAAKE: Republicans also trying to link the outspoken progressive, a supporter of programs like Medicare for All, to Democrats nationwide.

VICE PRESIDENT JD VANCE [on FNC's *The Ingraham Angle*, 08/05/26]: A lot of Americans look at this rising tide of socialism and say, "how did we get here?"

HAAKE: Vance, echoing the President, who also tried to tie the primary results to the national party in that Las Vegas speech.

TRUMP: The Communists want to take their ruinous and deadly ideology of misery and squalor to every state in America, but we're not going to let them.