MEMO

TO: Interested Parties

DATE: November 2, 2026

FROM: Mercury Public Affairs

SUBJECT: The Jewish Majority Michigan Early Vote Exit Survey Research Findings

Overview

This memorandum reports key findings from a survey of 482 Jewish voters in Michigan who voted early in the 2026 General Election. The survey, conducted in late October 2026, provides findings concerning opinions and attitudes regarding electoral preferences, vote choice, and issues such antisemitism and US policy toward Israel.

The findings of this survey present a clear picture regarding Dr. Abdul El-Sayed's support within Michigan's Jewish community. While El-Sayed receives a majority of support from Jewish voters casting early ballots, critically, El-Sayed faces significant challenges and substantially underperforms his Democratic counterparts as well as the Democratic enrollment share of this cohort.

This underperformance is credited with El-Sayed's positions regarding Israel, concerns about antisemitism, and his comments and actions regarding the Jewish community.

El-Sayed's Substantial Democratic Underperformance

Dr. El-Sayed received 60% of votes from Jewish early voters who cast ballots in the Michigan Senate election. Accounting for the statistically significant share of the electorate that left the US Senate ballot blank, El-Sayed received 57% of all early Jewish ballots cast in the general election. This reflects a substantial underperformance compared to El-Sayed's Democratic counterparts, and even the Democratic share of enrollment:

- 5% of Jewish early voters left the US Senate ballot blank, while only 1% did so for the gubernatorial ballot.
- Of Senate voters, El-Sayed underperformed the Democratic share of enrolment by 3%; conversely, Rogers outperformed the Republican share by 21%.
- Democratic nominee for Michigan Governor, Jocelyn Benson, secured 79% of the vote to El-Sayed's 60%, outperforming him by 19%.

- Of respondents who recalled voting for Elissa Slotkin for Senate in 2024, 33% did not vote for Abdul El-Sayed in 2026: 23% voted for Mike Rogers, 3% for another candidate, and 7% left the Senate race blank.
- Similarly, of respondents who recalled voting for Kamala Harris in 2024, 29% did not vote for Abdul El-Sayed for Senate in 2026: 18% voted for Mike Rogers, 4% for another candidate, and 7% left the Senate race blank.
- Further illustrating the dissatisfaction among many Jewish Democratic voters, 24% of these voters said they voted differently than they typically do when it came to the US Senate ballot.

El-Sayed's Positions Regarding Israel, Concerns About Antisemitism Causing this Underperformance

A significant amount of cross-over voting exists, with voters choosing Republican Mike Rogers for senate, and Democrat Jocelyn Benson for governor, based on El-Sayed's positions on Israel and concerns about antisemitism:

- 71% of Jewish early voters who cast their ballots for Rogers in the Senate contest and Benson in the gubernatorial race stated Israel was one of the most important factors regarding their vote for Senate (vs only 19% for El-Sayed-Benson voters).
- Similarly, 90% of these Rogers-Benson voters stated concerns about antisemitism as one of the most important factors regarding their vote for Senate (vs only 21% for El-Sayed-Benson voters).
- The top reasons Jewish early voters gave for either not voting for El-Sayed or leaving the Senate ballot blank included:
    - El-Sayed's positions on Israel – 92%
    - Concerns about antisemitism – 92%
    - El-Sayed's comments after the attack at Temple Israel – 87%
    - How El-Sayed treated or spoke about Michigan's Jewish community – 84%
    - People El-Sayed campaigned with or accepted support from – 74%
- Further, 88% of early voting Jewish Democrats who did not vote for El-Sayed said they would have been very likely to have voted for the Democratic nominee if it had been a different candidate.
- 92% of early voting Jewish Democrats who voted for Republican Mike Rogers said their vote was mainly a vote against El-Sayed, not a vote for Rogers.

Attitudes Regarding Antisemitism & Israel

Concerns about antisemitism and feelings toward Israel are driving Jewish early voters' vote preferences in the contest for US Senate, to the detriment of support for El-Sayed:

- 85% of Jewish early voters are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism.
- 58% believe that the rise in antisemitism is linked to the normalization of anti-Zionism, with 86% of Rogers-Benson voters stating this position vs 39% of El-Sayed-Benson voters.
- 71% are very or somewhat emotionally attached toward Israel, with a similar number stating Israel plays a very or somewhat important part in their Jewish identity, with 71% of Rogers-Benson voters stating this position vs 15% of El-Sayed-Benson voters.

Methodology

The survey was conducted October 25-31, 2026, among 482 Jewish voters in Michigan who voted early in the 2026 General Election. The survey includes Jewish Michiganders identified as Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, and Reconstructionist, as well as those who do not identify with a particular Jewish denomination. Results were weighted by sex, age, geography, education and 2024 vote recall. The margin of error for this survey at the 95% confidence level is ±4.9% on the overall sample.