

ABDUL EL-SAYED'S STORY IS A MICHIGAN STORY

Abdul Was Born And Raised In Michigan. “I was born in Oakland County, I grew up in Oakland County. I went to college at the University of Michigan. I served the city of Detroit as Health Commissioner. And now I live in Lacombe County with my in-laws.” [NBC News, “Think,” [10/23/18](#)]

Abdul's Father Emigrated To Michigan, And His Mother Was Raised In Gratiot County. “El-Sayed said he was lucky to be brought up in a diverse household, being raised by his father, Mohamad, an immigrant from Alexandria, Egypt and his stepmother, Jackie, who was born and raised in Gratiot County, Michigan. Born and raised in the state, El-Sayed said he's come to know that Michiganders are ‘really good people’ who don't ask much how a candidate prays, but what they pray for. ‘When people realize that you're asking about the issues that matter, about how you can make their lives better, you really can inspire them to think differently about who leaders should be,’ he said.” [The Arab American News, [3/9/18](#)]

The Nation: “Abdul El-Sayed, running to become the first Muslim-American governor in US history, may initially seem an unlikely figure to bridge Michigan's divides—until you hear his story. His father immigrated from Egypt in the 1970s. His white Christian stepmother hails from rural, thinly populated Gratiot County, right in the center of the state. Members of his family voted for Trump, while others fear the impact of his policies on Muslims like them.” [The Nation, [1/29/18](#)]

ABDUL BECAME A DOCTOR TO HELP PEOPLE, AND HE WENT INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AFTER HE SAW HOW THE SYSTEM FAILED PATIENTS

Abdul Pulled His Residency Application After Watching The System Fail A Patient. “An experience on a sub-internship in internal medicine at the Allen Hospital with one patient in particular—an older woman who had fallen and hit her head in a state of inebriation—proved pivotal. The house staff in the ER intended to discharge her after dressing the wound, but the young medical student suspected underlying issues. ‘Nope, you didn't do a fair assessment!’ he protested and used various ploys to keep the patient in the hospital, including holding up the completion of her patient history and physical pending her alcohol withdrawal. Ultimately he succeeded in persuading his immediate superiors to admit the patient, who, as it turned out, suffered from adrenal insufficiency brought on by HIV/AIDS. After providing basic medical treatment, Dr. El-Sayed arranged for her transfer to a rehabilitation facility that admitted individuals with AIDS. On the day before her discharge she announced that she was going home with her daughter. He urged her to try rehab, but she insisted she would be all right. Two weeks later he found her sleeping on a bench on the subway. Disgusted by an outcome he perceived as a direct function of ‘systems of failure,’ he decided to pull his application for residency and embrace public health.” [Columbia Medicina, Alumni Profile: [Abdul El-Sayed](#)]

AS DIRECTOR OF THE DETROIT HEALTH DEPARTMENT, ABDUL REBUILT THE DEPARTMENT AFTER IT WAS DISMANTLED IN 2012

Abdul “Came Into His City Role As Detroit's Health Department Was Transitioning Back Under City Control.” “El-Sayed said public service has always been his goal. He led the City of Detroit's Health Department from 2015 to 2017. In 2018, he ran a progressive campaign for governor and lost the bid. He said his past job helming Detroit's health department, which he described as a ‘rebuild,’ informs his new endeavor at the county level. He came into his city role as Detroit's health department was transitioning back into city control, post-bankruptcy, after being dismantled in 2012 due to cost-cutting measures. ‘I

learned a lot about how you design a health department to serve the needs of a really diverse community in Detroit and those experiences I'm certainly going to bring with me to the county,' he said." [Detroit Free Press, 12/6/22]

Abdul” Rebuilding Detroit Health Department “Has Prepared Him For What He Sees As A Job All About ‘Making Government Work.’” “Previously, El-Sayed served as an assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology at Columbia University. He also served as executive director of the Detroit Health Department and Health Officer for the city from 2015 to 2017, when he resigned to run in Michigan's 2018 gubernatorial election. It's that experience, he said rebuilding the city's health department post-bankruptcy to a point where it's forgiving millions in medical debt that has prepared him for what he sees as a job all about ‘making government work.’” [Bridge Michigan, 4/17/25]

ONE OF ABDUL’S PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENTS WAS HELPING GET EYEGLASSES FOR MORE THAN 6,000 KIDS

Under Abdul’s Leadership, Detroit Health Department “Built Out A Program To Deliver Every Child A Free Pair Of Glasses, At School, Within Two Weeks Of A Vision Test. Today, That Program Has Provided Over 6,000 Pairs Of Glasses.” “So, I’ll tell you, one of the programs that I’m proudest of, is a program that we created around vision deficits. We found that 30 percent of our kids who got tested for vision deficits would come back testing positive next year. That means that we knew that they needed glasses, and yet, between us, between the families, between the schools, nobody got them a pair of glasses. We knew we could solve this problem if we were willing to build a program around doing it. And, so, we built out a program to deliver every child a free pair of glasses, at school, within two weeks of a vision test. Today, that program has provided over 6,000 pairs of glasses.” [Current Affairs, [7/13/19](#)]

Abdul Told A Story Of Putting Glasses On A Little Boy In Detroit For The First Time. “Now, I remember, the day we kicked this off, at an elementary school, in Detroit, a little boy, I got to put his first pair of glasses on him, and I remember him looking at his hand, and saying, ‘you know, I’ve got wrinkles in my hand.’ And he’d never seen that before. And you think about what it means for a kid, going to a school that’s likely overcrowded, where the resources are minimal, and teachers are already being asked not to just provide basic educational services, but also, to be social workers, and parents and friends to these kids. If a kid is in the back of the class, and can’t see the blackboard, it doesn’t really matter what’s happening on the blackboard. And so, we knew that being able to give a kid a pair of glasses could mean the difference between allowing them to excel in the classroom, or a very different path.” [Current Affairs, [7/13/19](#)]

AT THE WAYNE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, ABDUL HELPED ERASE MEDICAL DEBT FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MICHIGAN FAMILIES

December 2024: “Officials Erase \$27 Million In Debt For 46,000 Residents.” “Wayne County announced Wednesday that \$27 million in outstanding medical debt will be erased for more than 46,000 residents. The county's Department of Health, Human & Veteran Services said that the debt came from a local hospital, which ‘wishes to remain anonymous but is committed to community benefit and making health care accessible,’ according to a news release ... ‘With this program, we are doing our part to address the way our national health care affordability crisis affects Wayne County residents. Medical debt is a financial anchor on too many families, often forcing them to choose basic everyday needs or being forced to pay medical bills. We are proud to work with Undue Medical Debt to help bring a measure of relief to

vulnerable families throughout Wayne County,' said Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, Wayne County health director and director of Health, Human & Veterans Services." [Detroit Free Press, 12/19/24]

AT THE WAYNE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, ABDUL FOUGHT THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

September 2023: Abdul Joined White House Officials To Discuss Upcoming Initiative To Increase NARCAN Availability In Wayne County. "Last week, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director Dr. Rahul Gupta met with several staff members at the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice (CBHJ), School of Social Work Dean Sheryl Kubiak, and Wayne County Director of Health, Human & Veteran Services Dr. Abdul El-Sayed. The one-hour virtual meeting was requested by Dr. Gupta to learn more about the initiatives of the CBHJ, including the opioid treatment ecosystems, naloxone vending machine program, crisis response, and harm reduction efforts of the CBHJ ... During the call, Director El-Sayed was joined by Costello, CBHJ Implementation Director Matt Larson, and Federal Grants Manager Bethany Hedden-Clayton to discuss an upcoming partnership to place vending machines throughout Wayne County and evaluate the impact widespread naloxone availability has. The project will 'represent a big moment in the naloxone space,' said Larson. 'It will be the largest naloxone distribution effort in the country to date.'" [Wayne State University, [1/3/23](#)]

January 2024: Wayne County Launched Initiative To Increase Access To NARCAN In Wayne County. "Amidst the staggering opioid epidemic gripping the United States, Wayne County, Michigan, has taken a pioneering step in the battle against opioid overdoses ... Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans, in collaboration with Wayne State University, has unveiled a groundbreaking initiative to deploy 100 Naloxone, a medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose (NARCAN™), vending machines across the county—a move set to make history as the single largest municipal investment in Naloxone access in the U.S ... Director of Wayne County's Department of Health, Human and Veterans Services, Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, emphasized breaking the stigma surrounding opioid use, urging everyone in Wayne County to be a hero by saving lives. 'Too often, people suffering substance use disorder die because they lack the means of stopping an overdose in its tracks,' said El-Sayed. 'Naloxone (NARCAN™) is a life-saving medication, one that should be available everywhere, including in first aid kits - if we're serious about fighting this crisis.' The initiative strives to empower communities to actively combat Fentanyl poisoning, making Naloxone an essential component of standard first aid kits." [Michigan Chronicle, 1/24/24]

September 2024: Grosse Pointe Officials Praised Arrival Of "Absolutely Free" NARCAN Machine. "As part of a program being administered through Wayne County, Grosse Pointe City just received a vending machine that distributes naloxone better known by the brand-name Narcan a nasal spray that can be used on someone experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose. City Public Safety Director John Alcorn, who made the announcement about the vending machine during a Sept. 16 Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, said the boxes with naloxone are 'absolutely free.' He said Wayne County will restock the machine as needed. 'It's open to all of the communities,' Alcorn said of the machine, which is located in the Public Safety Department lobby. 'That's great,' Grosse Pointe City Councilman Christopher Walsh said." [Grosse Pointe Times 9/24/24]

IN THE US SENATE RACE, ABDUL IS ENDORSED BY SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS

April 2025: "Ready to 'Fight for the Working Class': Sanders Endorses Abdul El-Sayed for US Senate" "Within hours of Dr. Abdul El-Sayed confirming his candidacy for U.S. Senate on Thursday, Sen. Bernie Sanders affirmed his support for the Michigan Democrat, who recently resigned as Wayne County

public health director to prepare for a run in 2026. ‘This is an unprecedented moment in American history. We need an unprecedented response,’ Sanders (I-Vt.) said in a statement. ‘We need candidates who are prepared to stand up for the working class of this country and take on the oligarchy.’” [Common Dreams, [4/17/25](#)]

ABDUL IS THE ONLY CANDIDATE FOR US SENATE WHO HAS NEVER TAKEN CORPORATE PAC MONEY

Abdul On Refusing Corporate PAC Money: “To Me, It's Central To The Problem In Our Politics.”

“Senate hopeful Abdul El-Sayed says he’s the only contender in the Democratic primary field who has never accepted such contributions, while state Sen. Mallory McMorrow only started refusing corporate PAC money this election cycle ... ‘To me, it's central to the problem in our politics,’ El-Sayed said. ‘I think anybody who says that they want to return government to one of the people, by the people and for the people, should understand that that means they're only accountable to the people, and should never even consider touching it.’” [Detroit News, [2/5/26](#)]

Detroit Metro Times: “Sayed Has Consistently Barred Corporate PAC Money, Including During His 2018 Gubernatorial Run.”

“While Sayed has consistently barred corporate PAC money, including during his 2018 gubernatorial run, McMorrow had accepted the money — until she launched her U.S. Senate campaign and pledged not to. Her state Senate campaign committee and leadership PAC accepted more than \$120,000 from corporate PACs and other business-aligned groups, including a \$500 contribution from Dow’s corporate PAC in March 2025, a month before she launched her U.S. Senate campaign. She also received nearly \$20,000 from DTE Energy, CMS Energy, and SEMCO Energy, major utilities that set energy rates for millions of Michigan residents.” [Detroit Metro Times, [3/30/26](#)]

Abdul Promised To Back Legislation To Ban Corporate PAC Money. “Both El-Sayed and McMorrow said that, if elected, they'd support Slotkin’s bill, which would require corporate PACs to wind down within a year. ‘I'd look to be a co-sponsor. It'd be really powerful if two of the co-sponsors were out of Michigan,’ El-Sayed said.” [Detroit News, [2/5/26](#)]

IN THE US SENATE RACE, ABDUL IS THE ONLY CANDIDATE WHO SUPPORTS ABOLISHING ICE

Abdul: “I’ve Come Out And Said That We Have To Abolish ICE. It Is Not Enough For Us To Continue To Step By And Think That This Is About Immigration Enforcement. It Is Not.” “El-Sayed talked about a recent trip to Minneapolis, where the Trump administration’s immigration enforcement operations are under scrutiny after federal officers killed two U.S. citizens. He said he believes such tactics could be used in any effort to nationalize elections. ‘When you look at ICE on our streets, what do you think they’re setting up for?’ El-Sayed said. ‘So I’ve come out and said that we have to abolish ICE. It is not enough for us to continue to step by and think that this is about immigration enforcement. It is not. It is about normalizing paramilitary force to take away our rights.’” [NBC News, [2/11/26](#)]

Abdul Is The Only Candidate For US Senate Who Supports Abolishing ICE. “El-Sayed, who visited Minnesota in January as anti-ICE protests escalated, wants to abolish the agency entirely, arguing ICE agents are being deployed as a ‘paramilitary force’ and that retraining or reforming won’t address the issues. ‘There’s a role for immigration enforcement, but this is not that,’ he told Bridge. Responding to the proposed Romulus facility, El-Sayed said in a statement that ICE ‘needs to get the hell out of Michigan.’

Stevens and McMorrow haven't gone that far, calling for accountability and reform instead." [Bridge Michigan, [3/16/26](#)]

Abdul Has Supported Abolishing ICE Since His 2018 Run For Governor. "And I called for the abolition of ICE because even back in 2018 you could see where this was going. When you create an agency and you allow it to flout the basic principles of our democratic republic and our Constitution, and you weaponize it against a very particular kind of people, where do you think that's gonna go? It's interesting because folks are out there being like, 'Well, then you must not believe in having a safe and secure border.' But, yes, I do. If you have a house with black mold in it, you're not saying that you wanna be homeless; you just don't want a house with black mold in it. ICE has been corrupted since the first Donald Trump administration. And what we've experienced now, what we've seen now, the shooting of a mom in the face by ICE, I hate to say it, but that's a logical consequence of the trends that we have been seeing for eight years. We should have done something about it, and we still should." [The Nation, [1/23/26](#); New York Times, [7/21/18](#)]

After Visiting Minneapolis, Abdul Reiterated His Call To Abolish ICE And Enact Comprehensive Immigration Reform. "Last Monday, Abdul visited ICE-occupied Minneapolis. There, he met with local officials, including Attorney General Keith Ellison, tribal leaders, and community advocates, witnessing firsthand a community in crisis at the hands of a hostile federal occupation. Abdul has been clear: we must secure our border and work towards comprehensive immigration reform. But Democrats must outright reject an agency that has demonstrated that it cannot operate within the bounds of the Constitution or human decency — it must be torn down and immigration enforcement must be rethought from scratch. 'The murderers of Renee Good and Alex Pretti were eight-year and ten-year agents—training isn't the issue,' said Abdul. 'ICE is a paramilitary force deployed against and our Constitutional order for the service of one would-be dictator. How many more people do they need to shoot? Ask the families of Renee Good or Alex Pretti—both American Citizens—if ICE is protecting us. There can be no justification for lawlessness in the name of the law. And now is not the time to put political convenience. Trump is trying to normalize military force on peaceful streets, tearing apart our constitutional rights one by one. Our tax dollars are being used to kill Americans on our streets rather than save lives in our hospitals like Alex did.'" [Abdul For US Senate Release, [1/25/26](#)]

ABDUL IS THE ONLY CANDIDATE FOR US SENATE WHO SUPPORTS MEDICARE FOR ALL

Bridge Michigan: "“El-Sayed Has Long Advocated For Moving Beyond The Affordable Care Act To A Single-Payer Health Care Plan, Commonly Known As ‘Medicare For All.’” “El-Sayed has long advocated for moving beyond the Affordable Care Act to a single-payer health care plan, commonly known as ‘Medicare for All,’ that would guarantee health care for all US residents regardless of age. ‘A lot of people are going to talk about health care...but some of us have lived that life,’ he told Bridge, later adding, ‘It has been the cause of my life’ ... In his campaign, El-Sayed has said he supports allowing an option for workers to keep supplemental private insurance provided by unions or employers.” [Bridge Michigan, [3/16/26](#)]

Abdul Is The Only US Senate Candidate Calling For Medicare For All. “Eight years after he pledged to bring Medicare for All to Michigan as part of his unsuccessful bid for governor, Abdul El-Sayed says he’ll fight to bring universal health care to the whole country if elected to the US Senate ... But in the race to replace retiring US Sen. Gary Peters, other major Democratic candidates instead want to give Americans a ‘public option’ for insurance coverage. They contend it’s a more politically feasible approach,

although one Peters has unsuccessfully advocated for since co-sponsoring legislation in 2019.” [Bridge Michigan, [4/29/26](#)]

WDET: “Dr. Abdul El-Sayed Has Been So Vocal About His Perspective On Healthcare That He Wrote A Book On It.” “Dr. Abdul El-Sayed has been so vocal about his perspective on healthcare that he wrote a book on it. ‘Medicare for All is government health insurance guaranteed for everyone, regardless of what circumstances you’re in,’ El-Sayed says. ‘If you like your insurance through your employer or through your union, I hope that will be there for you. But if you lose your job, if your factory shuts down, you shouldn’t be destitute without the health care that you need and deserve so.’ Instead of the government taking on the entire burden of the health care system, Mallory McMorrow prefers a public option ... For her, Medicare For All is a no-go ... For Congresswoman Haley Stevens, she wants everyone who can be covered under the Affordable Care Act to get covered.” [WDET, [3/16/26](#)]

2018: Abdul Called For Medicare For All As A Candidate For Governor. “He's a guy that ran for governor of Michigan on a platform of single payer for the state of Michigan. Statewide single payer. He is a believer in single payer for the country as well, ‘Medicare for All.’ His name is Abdul El-Sayed. He is also a Rhodes scholar, a doctor — though whenever did his residency and became a clinician — and a doctorate in public health, and taught at Columbia School of Public Health. So he is an expert in public health and public health care systems. And he studied in England where they have the National Health Service. And he has taught about public health and public health care systems. And has thought extremely deeply about the actual construction of a ‘Medicare for All’ system. He had a very detailed plan for Michigan State ‘Medicare for All.’ And he's also a political believer in the potency of ‘Medicare for All’ and single payer health care as a political project for the left and for the Democratic party.” [NBC News, “Think,” [10/23/18](#)]

ABDUL FIERCELY OPPOSES TRUMP’S WAR IN IRAN, SAYING WE SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON PROBLEMS HERE AT HOME

April 2026: “Abdul El-Sayed Denounces Iran War, Calls For Abolishing ICE In Campus Rally.” “U.S. Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed laid into corporate influence in politics and accused President Donald Trump of fighting the Iran War on Israel’s behalf while championing a Medicare-for-all platform, among other progressive policy positions, in a visit to Michigan State University Tuesday afternoon ... After Trump threatened to destroy Iran’s ‘whole civilization’ earlier in the day, El-Sayed chastised the war effort as ‘illegal and unjustifiable,’ arguing that the money spent on funding war campaigns is better spent benefiting American children, schools and the healthcare system amid an affordability crisis. (The U.S. entered into a two-week ceasefire with Iran shortly after the rally.) ‘There is no legal authority for a war that Donald Trump is using to torch our tax dollars, to destroy other people's lives rather than using them to make our lives better,’ El-Sayed said.” [The State News, [4/7/26](#)]

Abdul: “Know Why Gas Costs More? Because Of Donald Trump’s \$200 Billion War With Iran. Meanwhile, Our Schools Are Still Crumbling, Our Roads Are Full Of Potholes And You Still Cant’ Afford To See A Doctor.” “You might see U.S. Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed on a gas station screen near you calling out President Donald Trump for the war in Iran experts say is raising energy costs. In the advertisement video, El-Sayed asks, ‘Know why gas costs more? Because of Donald Trump’s \$200 billion war with Iran. Meanwhile, our schools are still crumbling, our roads are full of potholes and you still cant’ afford to see a doctor.’ The ad that aims to reach thousands of commuters will run at gas stations across Detroit, Inkster and Lansing, El-Sayed’s campaign said. ‘Instead of fixing it, Trump is spending \$200

billion of your tax dollars on a war with no justification. Now, every time you fill up, you're paying for it,' El-Sayed" said. [Michigan Chronicle, [4/1/26](#)]

ABDUL WANTS TO MAKE LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE FOR MICHIGAN FAMILIES

Abdul: "I Want Money Out Of Politics, Money Back In Your Pocket, And Medicare For All." "I want money out of politics, money back in your pocket, and Medicare for All,' El-Sayed said. In short, there's a brewing class war and politicians have made it too easy for people to become billionaires at the expense of the working class. 'The fundamental corruption of our politics has been the system that allows corporations and would be oligarchs and billionaires to buy politicians, who then rig the system so that corporations can charge you more for the things that you have to buy from them, and pay you less for the work that you have to do for them,' El-Sayed said." [WDET, [9/17/25](#)]

Abdul Supports A Host Of Policies To Address Affordability Issues In Michigan. "For El-Sayed, cost of living issues can frequently be traced back to health care, but he also argues that for many Michigan residents, 'life has become deeply unaffordable because corporations have rigged our system to make it harder for you to afford your life.' He's calling for increased support of union membership, more investment in research and development, stronger enforcement of anti-monopoly laws, elimination of corporate tax breaks and a 'steady, thoughtful and targeted' approach to tariffs to protect US manufacturing jobs." [Bridge Michigan, [3/16/26](#)]

Abdul Wants "A 'Building Boom' Of New, Affordable Housing." "In addition to advocating for a 'building boom' of new, affordable housing across the country, El-Sayed has promised to stand up to corporations, hedge funds and speculators driving up the cost of housing, as well as landlords who unfairly evict tenants." [Bridge Michigan, [3/16/26](#)]