

Written by David Kopp | September 1, 2026

 Abdul El-Sayed secured an upset victory in Michigan's Democratic U.S. Senate primary over U.S. Representative Haley Stevens. Although he was outspent by more than 8:1 and faced more than 60 million dollars in outside spending supporting his opponent, Abdul managed to narrowly win the nomination. This marks a unique and hopeful victory amid growing concerns among Americans regarding campaign financing. Regardless of political leaning, it suggests that new, people-powered ways of organizing may now be able to overcome traditional, money-driven campaigning. It also stands in stark contrast to Kentucky's Republican U.S. House primary, where Representative Thomas Massie lost to Ed Gallrein after outside super PACs spent over 15.5 million dollars supporting Gallrein's campaign.