

NAME

Michigan U.S. Senate candidates Abdul El-Sayed and Mike Rogers debate at WOOD TV8

DATE

October 9, 2026

DURATION

55m 50s

13 SPEAKERS

Commentator

Mike Rogers (R)

Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Random Guy

Random Woman 1

Random Woman 2

Rick Albin

Speaker 8

Rep. Karen Whitsett (D)

Bobby Mukkamala

Amber Crisco

Amber Morello

William Bush

START OF TRANSCRIPT**[00:00:00] Commentator**

It's debate week in Michigan. Each candidate believes they're the best to deliver for Michigan on Capitol Hill. Republican Mike Rogers.

[00:00:10] Mike Rogers (R)

Who gave you the highest auto insurance, the highest utility rates in the Midwest.

[00:00:14] Commentator

Democrats and Democrat Abdul El-Sayed.

[00:00:18] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Shouldn't be this hard to afford. A tank of gas shouldn't be this hard to pay your rent or your mortgage.

[00:00:24] Commentator

Zeroing in on the key issues that matter most to you.

[00:00:28] Random Guy

It's so messed up. I don't even know what to say.

[00:00:31] Random Woman 1

To high right now in the grocery store. Gas. Common sense would be nice.

[00:00:36] Random Woman 2

Ai there needs to be more regulations.

[00:00:38] Commentator

A critical seat in a battleground state.

[00:00:41] Mike Rogers (R)

Over 60% of Michiganders think the state is going in the wrong direction.

[00:00:46] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

When they come for our democracy. We won't back down tonight.

[00:00:53] Commentator

You get to decide which candidate will get your vote. Good evening. From the nation's capital. I'm your host, Leland Vittert from News Nation. It's debate night, and the stakes are high, not only for Michigan, but for the country. As the balance of power in the Senate takes center stage. Our moderator for tonight's debate is news eight anchor and veteran political analyst Rick Albin. The debate will air around the state stream online and across the country on News Nation. Before we get to the questions, let's review the rules. You will each have 60s to answer a question and follow ups. Get 30 seconds. A digital clock will turn red to alert candidates. They have 10s till time is up. Each candidate will also have 30 seconds for a closing statement. Now live from your local election headquarters and the wood TV studios in Grand Rapids. This is the final night of debate week in Michigan.

[00:02:02] Rick Albin

Thank you. Leland, and welcome to News Nation. Viewers across the country and voters all across Michigan. Thank you for being here. We're going to start with the subject that will impact every single person watching. Doctor El-Sayed will begin with you. Would you support pausing the federal gas tax? And what else would you advocate doing to lower fuel prices? You have 60s, sir.

[00:02:25] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

First, Rick, thank you so much for having me. Look, I'm a doctor and I'm a dad. And as a dad, I know how much it costs me to fill up my gas tank. It is insane. \$80. \$80 to fill up your gas tank. And yes, I would support pausing the federal gas tax. But there is one thing that is actually causing this. It's the war in Iran, a war that has been led by my opponent since the beginning called it a win, win win. I don't know about you, but when I go to the gas tank, I don't feel like I'm winning. I don't feel like our country is winning. Seven months on, eight months on. How long is this going to last? We can do so much better. But here's the problem. If we don't stop this war, we don't stop it now. We're going to continue to watch as the Iranian regime choke holds the Strait of Hormuz, making our energy prices higher. And you're going to pay for it both at the gas tank and at the grocery store. And so we've got to end that war. Above and beyond pausing the gas tax. We also have to hold the oil and gas corporations who are using this moment to profiteer us, who have bought off my opponent accountable for what they're doing to raise our prices.

[00:03:25] Rick Albin

Congressman, the same question to you. Would you support pausing that gas tax? And what else would you do to lower fuel prices?

[00:03:32] Mike Rogers (R)

Yeah, I've been pretty aggressive about saying we need a pause, both on the state level and the federal level. Remember when that \$0.50 a gallon, which will help commuters went through the democratically controlled state Senate? They said no. Republicans tried to say give drivers a break. I think that's really important. The other thing we did in talking with farmers is we need some diesel help and some diesel Aggregate agrarian diesel help for us. So I've called for a diesel rebate, number one, and a pause on exports of diesel to give a temporary break. We can resume that once the war comes to an end. I do believe it's going to come to an end. We need it to come to an end. But I will say just a couple of things about my my opponent here. His policies will raise your your the cost of every gallon of gasoline. Number one, raise your utility rates, cause you \$20,000 for a Medicare for all plan that takes away private insurance from individuals. It is a disaster we cannot afford.

[00:04:37] Rick Albin

Abdul doctor El-Sayed, I want to do a follow up with you. Now the United States is producing oil and gas at near record pace, but the products are traded on the international market. And of course that's what sets the price. Should the federal government implement price controls on domestically produced production, you have 30 seconds.

[00:04:58] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Look, I definitely think that's that's something we should consider. Look, we are in an emergency. When you're paying \$5 gas, an \$8 diesel, that's an emergency. And I think we have a responsibility right now to make sure we do everything we can to address it. But you just heard something out of my opponent. He said he thinks the war is going to end. He's got a direct line to the president who's making sure the war does not end, and he's not using it because he's true, led this war the entire time. And this is not a when it ends, we need to end it. That's what you're electing a US senator to do, to stand up to Donald Trump and end this stupid war.

[00:05:28] Rick Albin

Congressman, follow up for you for 30 seconds. Would you be in favor of doing some type of price controls if these prices stay this high? You have 30 seconds.

[00:05:37] Mike Rogers (R)

No, I think you could do it through the mechanism of which I just described. And the doctor, well, he's not really a doctor. He says he's a physician. Not a matter of fact, if somebody came into his office and he tried to treat that patient, he'd go to jail. So listen to this guy and what he's trying to sell here today. You're going to find out that this guy is not what he says he is. He is actually selling the best con I think I've ever seen. This is the first round of that. And I can't wait to talk more about that.

[00:06:08] Rick Albin

You were mentioned in that comment. You have 30 seconds to respond.

[00:06:11] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

You know, my opponent here is going to make this about him and about me. But really, in the end, this is about you. It's about whether or not you can afford your gas. You can afford your groceries, whether or not you can see a doctor. Look, I have a medical degree from Columbia University. Got my credentials. He can take it up with them. But it's not really about me. It's about whether or not you can see your doctor. It's about whether or not you trust your next U.S. senator to stand up to Trump and Trumpism. But you're running because Donald Trump called you and asked you to run. You can tell he's not going to stand up to anybody.

[00:06:43] Rick Albin

30 seconds to respond. Then we'll move on.

[00:06:46] Mike Rogers (R)

Well, first of all, I'm running because in the last quarter century, we've lost 200,000 manufacturing jobs in Michigan. The last eight years, we have the highest utility rates in the Midwest, highest auto insurance rates in the country. Now you have to be 40 years old or the average new homeowner is 40 years old. Our education is now 45th in the country. That's why I'm running my opponent. Everything he's talking about, and he won't talk about how to pay for it. What he does to make sure that he's taking money out of your pocket because he can't.

[00:07:19] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

If you did that, man, that was your policy. NAFTA? Your policy.

[00:07:24] Rick Albin

We'll come back to this. We'll move on right now. I want to talk about the trade battle between the United States and Canada, what it means for Michigan jobs and Michigan prices. Congressman Rogers, a week ago, you said this at a news conference near Saginaw.

[00:07:39] Mike Rogers (R)

Any time you have that series and list of tariffs, I argue some are going to be really good for Michigan. Some are probably not going to be good for Michigan. So what I've said and committed to is going back working with the president to try to get rid of the ones that we can. There's consensus aren't helping.

[00:07:57] Rick Albin

But just yesterday, you released a new ad that said, quote, here in Michigan, we know Canada is not our enemy. We need to end this tariff war now. So in the course of a week, it seems that you've changed your tone on tariffs. Are you saying that we need to eliminate all tariffs for Canada. You have 60s.

[00:08:17] Mike Rogers (R)

I would like to see the deal made. I have actually called the white House this week. Talked to the Secretary of Commerce about getting the deal done. Canada still has some high tariffs for U.S. goods. And they did it before this started. Those should be eliminated. There are tariffs that I think are too high and not helpful for us. We ought to get rid of those. So this is about getting the best deal possible. I'd like to see it end. I think we need to end it. And I, as a matter of fact, have made those phone calls this week to make sure that we can get those things taken care of. Now again, remember, my opponent here wants to raise the cost of everything you touch. He's for an energy carbon credit that would everything you touch your groceries getting more expensive, your car more expensive, your light and electric bill more expensive. The fact that he's going to take away your private health insurance, turn it over to the government, and it would cost each family about \$20,000 a year in new taxes. This is the problem we've got to face.

[00:09:20] Rick Albin

Doctor El-Sayed, on your website you say, quote, I support targeted smart tariffs that would help protect Michigan manufacturing and incubate the industries of the future with unions at the forefront. With that said, what is a Canadian tariff that you might keep? You have 30. I'm sorry, you have 60s one.

[00:09:40] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

That's actually logical, unlike anything Donald Trump has ever actually done in office. Look, you're hearing somebody who has cheer led again a Canadian tariff policy that. We are paying \$5,600 a year for. If we were serious about using tariffs, we would do it in the way that the UAW has advocated. The UAW has advocated for smart tariffs where we actually hook it to an industrial policy. That makes sense. We're invested in high growth, high manufacturing capacities, and then we use tariffs to protect our own market. This is like everything ham fisted, chaotic, self-serving that Donald Trump does. And the issue that is making Mike move. Right. You talked about his flip flop. The reason he's flip flopping has nothing to do with policy, has nothing to do with your costs, has everything to do with his sagging poll numbers. He doesn't like the fact that this is not a pathway to power for him anymore. So all of a sudden he's reversed course. He's doing an ad, drinking and talking about the Red wings, pretending like he was not for this the entire time. Be serious, my guy. Like, just be serious. People deserve to know that they have a leader who's going to be serious about policy.

[00:10:42] Rick Albin

We're going to move on to health care unless you have a response.

[00:10:45] Mike Rogers (R)

Well, listen, he's what he's talking about. A few weeks ago he said, I will go back and fight every one of the tariffs that have been put in place. Detroit Diesel added a third shift because of those tariffs. We have the Chevy Silverado came back to Michigan. Huge billion dollar investment because of those tariffs. We saved Traverse City cherries because of those tariffs. He wants to undo it because he can't see past his own political rhetoric. We didn't change. What we said is things move. We're trying to get it wrapped up. We want a deal on those tariff deals.

[00:11:22] Rick Albin

Doctor El-Sayed 30 seconds we have to move on.

[00:11:24] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Weak, cowardly won't stand up until his poll numbers drop. This is what you can expect from a guy who's bought off \$5 million from corporations to run his previous campaigns. Voted to raise your prescription drug prices or to keep them high 19 times. He has the audacity to do an ad looking at the drug prices in Canada, except where he voted four times to keep you from buying prescription drugs in Canada. It's incoherent. The only thing he cares about is his power. And going back one more time through the revolving door to make, what, \$14 million you made?

[00:11:54] Mike Rogers (R)

You know, I can't let that stand. Let me just tell you this. I won't let this stand from a guy who is taking corporate PAC money. He snuck in the back. He snuck in the back door to Chuck Schumer. That money is raining down on him. Oh, by the way.

[00:12:09] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

How many.

[00:12:09] Mike Rogers (R)

Corporate executives.

[00:12:10] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

How many?

[00:12:11] Mike Rogers (R)

Pfizer. Pharmaceutical. Nvidia.

[00:12:13] Rick Albin

Gentlemen, we have to keep this.

[00:12:15] Mike Rogers (R)

Under.

[00:12:15] Rick Albin

15 seconds. And we're moving on to health care.

[00:12:18] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Two yachts made \$14 million. Do you guys know what Telefonica is? It's a corporation, he advised, that was helping Maduro spy on his own people. How much money do you make off them? Can you tell us how much money you made? Can you say, OK.

[00:12:30] Mike Rogers (R)

Is this like the deal that you.

[00:12:32] Speaker 8

Cut with.

[00:12:32] Mike Rogers (R)

Wayne County, where you took taxpayers money to run for the United States Senate?

[00:12:37] Rick Albin

Wrap this up. I'm going to ask the next question.

[00:12:38] Mike Rogers (R)

Who replaced him? Got paid \$100,000 less.

[00:12:41] Rick Albin

We're going to move to health care Democrat.

[00:12:43] Mike Rogers (R)

At the bottom of the deck.

[00:12:44] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I do want to talk about health care. I know he doesn't, but let's let's get on.

[00:12:47] Rick Albin

We're going to talk about health care. And guys, I'm going to tell you right now, we've got to stick to our time limits. We've got a lot to cover. I appreciate your passion, but please, let's try to keep this orderly. We're now moving to health care. Democratic State Representative Karen Whitsett said she is supporting Republican Mike Rogers in this race. Because of your Medicare for all position. Doctor said her husband has employer provided health insurance.

[00:13:15] Rep. Karen Whitsett (D)

You will lose your health insurance if the other candidate gets in office. There's no ifs, ands or buts about it. That is what Medicare for all means.

[00:13:27] Rick Albin

Doctor said you have said additional private coverage would become redundant in your plan. Could families keep their private health care? Yes or no? You have 60s.

[00:13:37] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Yes, absolutely. Absolutely. Rick. If families want to keep their private health insurance, that's fine by me. But for too many people, if you lose a job. Excuse me, excuse me. If you want to lose your. If you if you lose your job, if you turn 26, you get married, get divorced, turn 65, all ways that you can lose your health care in America. That is exactly what this guy has signed on to. He voted against the ACA, for God's sake. I want to guarantee every single person in this country cradle to grave coverage without premiums, co-pays, and deductibles, that doesn't have a network that does not pay a corporate CEO tens of millions of dollars a year, that allows you to have the security of knowing you're not going to be one of the millions of people in this country who fall into medical debt, to the tune of \$225 billion. Contrast that with him. He wants you to have to pay \$50 to see a doctor. He wants to continue to be Big Pharma's champion. He called himself Big Pharma's champion, took more money from the pharmaceutical industry than any member of Congress, more than any member of Congress in the Michigan delegation. He. This is a guy who wants to do service for the corporations. Of course, he's going to stand up for them.

[00:14:38] Rick Albin

Congressman Rogers, staying with health care. Flint physician and past president of the American Medical Association. Doctor Bobby McCullough criticized the federal health care legislation enacted last year that you said would protect Medicaid.

[00:14:55] Bobby Mukkamala

The cuts to federal health care programs, including Medicaid and Chip, will shift costs to the states and specifically to physicians and hospitals to provide uncompensated care at a time when rural hospitals and physician practices are struggling to keep their doors open.

[00:15:13] Rick Albin

The congressman the doctor says the changes will instead make health care less accessible. What specifically in that law leads you to say that Medicaid was protected? You have 60s.

[00:15:24] Mike Rogers (R)

\$50 billion to rural hospitals was a good start for that. But let me just talk about this. So when I was in Congress, I actually pushed the acceleration of generic drugs. Trust me, the pharmaceutical company is not happy about it. There are 2 million Michigan families today who are on Medicare enjoying part D prescription drugs, which I did champion because there was no prescription drug coverage under Medicare, which I thought was a terrible idea. But what my friend here just wants to do is he's kind of like a glitchy AI chat bot is say the same thing over and over and over again. But let me tell you this. He has taken money from groups associated and support the Muslim Brotherhood. He has taken money from individuals on his campaign who openly support Hamas, Hezbollah, al Qaeda. He's taken money from George Soros family. What we found out is this thing goes way back. Apparently, they paid for his education in Columbia. Now they're paying for his campaign, by the way. That's a billionaire. Last I checked.

[00:16:27] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

What degree did I get?

[00:16:28] Rick Albin

I'm going to give you a 32nd.

[00:16:30] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

What degree did I get? Columbia. I get.

[00:16:32] Mike Rogers (R)

Interviewed by.

[00:16:33] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Him as a doctor. As a doctor. I understand exactly what's happening. Now, I should say the same thing.

[00:16:37] Mike Rogers (R)

A physician, he says.

[00:16:38] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I like to say the same thing. He's done the same thing over and over and over again. You know what that is. Vote to keep your prescription drug prices high 19 times \$1 million alone from Big Pharma. Another million dollars from the health insurance corporations. Of course, he is touting their talking points. This is a guy who has not been serious about providing people health care his entire career. What he has been serious about is making sure that he can monetize his time in public office. \$14 million, two yachts, a McMansion in Florida. So at the end of the day, I'm a doctor. I want people to have health care.

[00:17:08] Rick Albin

All right. So how does a guy move on after this? 30 seconds.

[00:17:11] Mike Rogers (R)

Let me how does a guy who's had less than four years of work experience who, by the way, on the campaign trail said he had ten for every property in the United Arab Emirates? He's worth a million bucks. Somebody has to tell me how this math works. A his facts are wrong. Those are lies. But he has consistently not telling the truth. Well, let me just say it. He's lying. So he lied about being a physician. He lied now about being an Egyptian citizen or not being an Egyptian citizen. I can't figure out what he is today. But this this impact.

[00:17:45] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

He's talking about.

[00:17:45] Mike Rogers (R)

He's trying to tell you where he wants you to be. That's a con man.

[00:17:49] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

So.

[00:17:49] Rick Albin

So, Congressman, we've got to stay on time.

[00:17:51] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I just I just want to respond to this.

[00:17:53] Rick Albin

You can respond to remember correctly.

[00:17:55] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

He wanted to make this about him or me. But the question is about you. Can you afford your gas? Can you afford your groceries under this guy who's going to rubber stamp everything Donald Trump tells him to rubber stamp. We're going to continue to pay way more out the nose because he works for corporations and Donald Trump.

[00:18:10] Rick Albin

Okay, look, here's the situation. We've got dozens of questions we want to get to. You can't litigate all of these with 14 different rebuttals. So please work with me. I want you to say what you want to say. Do it within the body of an answer and we'll try to move along. Let's talk about another subject. This time it's a viewer question. And here's my colleague Amber Crisco. With that.

[00:18:31] Amber Crisco

Ice has been a source of controversy since President Trump's second term began. This question is from Deb Morello.

[00:18:40] Amber Morello

My question for both candidates with regard to Ice and Ice agents, what is your plan for holding them accountable or holding them to the same standards as other law enforcement officials? And if the plan is to abolish Ice, what is your plan for keeping our borders and citizens safe?

[00:19:00] Rick Albin

Congressman Rogers, you've been supportive of President Trump's immigration enforcement strategy. Name one instance or one circumstance in which you believe the administration went too far. You have 60s.

[00:19:14] Mike Rogers (R)

You know, I think the public efforts in Minnesota were probably not appropriate. I actually did fugitive raids when I was an FBI agent in Chicago. You always want to go in quiet, get the bad guy, get out of the neighborhood for less problems. So that's that to me, was something that they could have done differently. They made that correction. They made that adjustment. But it has been the largest decrease in murders ever recorded almost 20% across the nation. Why? They were targeting murderers and rapists who were here illegally doing bad things. As a matter of fact, just in this town. We had Rudy Garcia, who was killed by an illegal immigrant who, if he had not been here, we'd still have Ruby alive today. So if you think about what we need to do to make sure that neighborhoods and Americans are safe, that's exactly what we need to do. And I would apply the same law enforcement standards to the FBI as I do the Ice agents. I think they do fine. Doesn't mean every one of them is perfect.

[00:20:13] Rick Albin

Doctor El-Sayed, you've made your position clear. You want to abolish Ice. Let me give you a scenario. If an undocumented undocumented immigrant in Michigan commits a violent crime, serves a sentence and has a deportation order under your system, would he be deported? You have 60s.

[00:20:30] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Yes, but you don't have to do that by violating the Constitution in the way that Ice has been enabled to do by this rogue administration. Ice right now is not about immigration enforcement. Ice is about terrorizing our streets. He talked about what happened in Minneapolis. I went there, he said it was probably not right. I mean, definitely not right. They killed two people. You can keep a safe and secure southern border. I believe we have to keep a safe and secure southern border, which is crazy to me because my opponent, he voted against border funding when he was in Congress. And now he likes to talk about being a tough guy on the border. Those are not the same thing as what Ice is doing. I think we can go back to an era like INS when we enforce immigration policy at the edge of the Constitution, and we respected the Constitution in doing it. But I also think we need a pathway to citizenship for folks who are stuck in limbo right now. You've got this tough guy attitude to immigration that's not keeping us safe. In fact, it's terrorizing folks in our streets. It's not funding the southern border, which needs to be kept safe. But what it is doing, it's weaponizing an agency of the government at the tune of Donald Trump and his goons, right.

[00:21:33] Rick Albin

Congressman, in the interest of a short rebuttal of 15 seconds, he talked about one of your votes when you were in Congress.

[00:21:39] Mike Rogers (R)

You know, this is really fascinating to me. He has called for open borders, decriminalizing crossing the border, giving illegals an identification and allowing them on Medicare. You can't get a worse plan than what you hear from Abdul. Go to stop abdul.com. Every one of his deleted tweets and videos.

[00:21:59] Rick Albin

They're.

[00:21:59] Mike Rogers (R)

Very educational.

[00:22:00] Rick Albin

15 seconds.

[00:22:02] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

That's awesome. Good for you. Look, at the end of the day, I think we have to have a safe and secure southern border. That's why I wouldn't vote against border funding like him. But we also have to obey our Constitution. We are a country of laws and a country of immigrants. And I think we need a pathway to to legal immigration for folks.

[00:22:19] Rick Albin

Thank you both. I want to turn now to the war on Iran. You have both indicated you want it to come to an end. And we talked about this a few minutes ago, but what does that look like, doctor El Sayed? Can the war in Iran come to an end if the Strait of Hormuz isn't fully open. And if Iran has the ability to produce a nuclear weapon, you have 60s.

[00:22:38] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I might be old fashioned, but I believe in diplomacy, in diplomacy is what the Obama administration had used to negotiate a scenario in Iran where we did not have proliferation of, of, of nuclear material. We were at a steady state except for Donald Trump just doesn't like anything that President Obama has done. So he decided to rip it up in his first term, and then his second term decided to make war. That was completely unnecessary. So I do think that we can end the war, and we can actually, by peaceful means, diplomatically address this challenge. But look, this is what happens when you start wars. You never should be fighting. We literally taught the Iranian regime that they had to choke on the Strait of Hormuz, and now we're living in that reality. But that's what happens when you've got a ridiculous leader like Donald Trump, who does not know what he's doing and jumped into this war for God knows what reason. And the whole time my opponent backstopped it. Win, win, win. Are you winning? Are we winning? Is anyone actually winning? That's the kind of policy you're going to get from a guy who wants to be a sock puppet for the Trump administration. No thinking, no thought. Whatever. Donald Trump says jump, he says, how high?

[00:23:39] Rick Albin

I'm going to give you 10s. Once again, the question, can there be an end to the war if the street is not open? And if Iran has the ability to produce a nuclear weapon 10s with a yes or no, please?

[00:23:50] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Yes. And we do that at the edge of diplomacy rather than war. That's raising our gas prices and our grocery rates.

[00:23:57] Rick Albin

Congressman Rogers, same question to you. You every both of you have said you'd like to see this war come to an end. But if the streets aren't open and if Iran has the ability to possess a nuclear weapon, can you have an end of the war? 60s?

[00:24:10] Mike Rogers (R)

Well, this is why I've called for an end of the war. Militarily, they have set back the nuclear program at least 20 years. They've decimated their army, navy, their air force. They still have some limited capability to inflict harm on their neighbors. So you you this would be the time to wrap it up. That was the stated Intent. But this is, I think, the issue that is maybe the most important. My opponent here would not condemn the IRGC, which today is hanging 219 year old kids for saying that they want freedom in their homeland. This is the same IRGC that has killed American troops in Iraq. It has blood on their hands. Tried a terrorist attack here in the United States. If you can't condemn the IRGC, you have no business in the United States Senate. And if you think about why, you know, his supporters funnel money through from a group that supports the Muslim Brotherhood. This is a huge problem. And that is an ideological problem that we cannot allow to walk into the United States in 10s.

[00:25:17] Rick Albin

Can the war be ended if the streets are not open, and if Iran can produce a nuclear weapon?

[00:25:23] Mike Rogers (R)

Well, no, it can't if they have a nuclear weapon. But all of the information is they do not have that capability any longer. So, I mean, that's you're asking a question of a hypothetical. The information that is available says that they have been set back 20 years.

[00:25:38] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

So I just want to say he's been cheerleading this war for the better part of 20 years. And I will condemn any, any use of force against a domestic population abroad. That's not hard to do. But I also condemn a war we shouldn't be fighting because here we are fighting this stupid war because people like him have been pushing for it for 20 years. When you've got an international problem, he's got a war for that. That's his approach. Every single situation Iraq, Iran. And what other wars is he going to cheerlead? That is dangerous. We cannot have that. All right.

[00:26:05] Mike Rogers (R)

Can I tell you what's dangerous? This is important.

[00:26:07] Rick Albin

15 seconds, please.

[00:26:08] Mike Rogers (R)

He can't condemn a terrorist act that happened on our soil in the state of Michigan. He can't bring himself to condemn, condemn it.

[00:26:15] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

And you know you did not like. You absolutely.

[00:26:17] Mike Rogers (R)

Did not.

[00:26:18] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

You don't make stuff up.

[00:26:19] Mike Rogers (R)

Talking about making stuff up.

[00:26:20] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I literally.

[00:26:22] Mike Rogers (R)

Can't condemn. He can't condemn Hamas. He can't condemn the Muslim Brotherhood. Says his home is Egypt. This is all starting.

[00:26:29] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

We are going to move on.

[00:26:31] Rick Albin

We continue. We can continue this conversation in the second half.

[00:26:35] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

He does own a home in Florida. He took it off the market. I don't know for why he does.

[00:26:38] Speaker 8

He owns a home in the United Arab.

[00:26:40] Rick Albin

Emirates, staying in the Middle East. Congressman Rogers.

[00:26:43] Mike Rogers (R)

The United States.

[00:26:44] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Not in Michigan, my guy.

[00:26:47] Rick Albin

I'd like to be part of the debate, too. So let's do this. We'll stay in the Middle East. Congressman Rogers, you have pledged unconditional support for Israel's right to defend herself. Is there any action by the Israeli government that would cause you not to support sending U.S. military assistance? You have 60s.

[00:27:07] Mike Rogers (R)

Uh, pretty hypothetical question. I support, uh, just staunchly their right to exist, the right to exist for the Jewish state and the right to defend itself in a very difficult neighborhood. And if you think about why my opponent is so wrong on all of this, His biggest funders, his biggest funders are from a group that supports the Muslim Brotherhood. He gets money from people who support openly Hamas, Hezbollah, al Qaeda. His family was even included in those discussions. Listen, this is the most important thing that we do when we go back to Washington is keep America safe. I wore the uniform of the United States of America. I was a special agent with the FBI to keep America safe. These are the most important issues. The prattling and repetition of his argument does not solve the dismantling of terrorist network that America demands.

[00:28:08] Rick Albin

Got 10s. Is there anything Israel could do that would lose your support?

[00:28:12] Mike Rogers (R)

Listen, if they're talking about using nuclear weapons, I would. They would definitely lose my support. I've never heard them say that, though.

[00:28:19] Rick Albin

Doctor, you have opposed direct U.S. military funding to Israel. But if Israel were attacked tomorrow, Iran or another state actor, would you vote to provide defensive weapons necessary to protect the Israeli people? Yes or no? And you have 60s to explain.

[00:28:36] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I've been absolutely clear. I want our tax dollars spent here to provide schools here. And by here I mean Michigan and Florida. I want to make sure we've got good schools here and health care here. I want to make sure that we are taking care of people here. That is my priority. You know, you asked a hypothetical question about being attacked by Iran, but let's be honest about what happened here. Israel has pushed us to go to war in Iran. And of course, my colleague who thinks there's a war for everything went right along with it. And here we are. Israel had clear war aims. They wanted us to go to war with them. And their war aims were what? The annexation of southern Lebanon. Ask yourself, are we safer because of that war? He wants unconditional support for a foreign government. I want unconditional support for kids in our schools, unconditional support for our health care, child care, things that he would vote to defund. So he's just inconsistent to me to be running for Senate from Michigan. When you're more focused on what's happening to a foreign government than you are focused on what's happening to folks right here in Michigan. It's just it's just not serious.

[00:29:36] Rick Albin

If there was attack, would you provide defensive weapons for Israel?

[00:29:40] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I don't want our tax dollars buying weapons for other countries. I don't know what's so hard about that.

[00:29:44] Rick Albin

That's a no.

[00:29:45] Mike Rogers (R)

I'll answer the question. Absolutely. He won't. He will not. Matter of fact, he would not even support.

[00:29:52] Speaker 8

A foreign government.

[00:29:52] Mike Rogers (R)

He wouldn't even support.

[00:29:53] Speaker 8

Our.

[00:29:53] Mike Rogers (R)

Iron Dome, which.

[00:29:55] Rick Albin

We cannot do this for every question. Doctor El-Sayed, our next question addresses concerns from some in the Jewish community about your position on Israel. A supporter told Newsnation's Leland Vittert at a rally that Israel is a bigger problem, a bigger threat, I should say, to the United States than Iran. Leland, then ask you which country you consider the greater threat to the United States. And here's part of your response.

[00:30:23] Commentator

You're going to be a senator. What do you view as the biggest threat?

[00:30:25] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I've been more than extremely clear about this. I don't want our tax dollars being used to subsidize war abroad. I don't want our tax dollars being used to fund unconditionally foreign militaries. I think it's important that we be the first among equals to enforce international law against any and every country that breaks it. So this sort of like hypothetical who's a bigger threat is a dumb question. I'm sorry.

[00:30:47] Rick Albin

Doctor El-Sayed we didn't quite we got the part that you thought it was dumb but we didn't understand or kind of get to that answer. So I'm going to ask you again tonight. Who do you think is a bigger threat to the United States, Israel or Iran? You have 60s.

[00:31:01] Speaker 8

And again, Rick, I'm just going to say that that's a ridiculous hypothetical because here's what's happening right now. Our ostensible ally in Israel has lobbied us to go to war with Iran. We have watched as Iran has responded by bombing all kinds of countries in the Middle East and then choking off the world's energy supply. So this is a situation in which I don't think we should be a part. I don't want to be pushed into war by Israel. And I don't want to be in a war with Iran. I want our money spent here to buy schools and health care and child care here. I don't understand why that is so inconceivable. Now I've got a guy to my left over here who thinks that the best use of our money is to go fight wars abroad. What has that given us? It's part of the reason why he was in Congress. \$12 trillion. The national debt blew up because he's never seen a war. He didn't want us fighting. So I don't consider an ally a country that takes us to wars. We don't need to fight. And I don't want to be fighting wars. We don't need to fight. I just think that makes both of them kind of dangerous.

[00:32:03] Rick Albin

I'll ask one last time. Israel or Iran.

[00:32:06] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

That's a again, a ridiculous question. I think both of them have proven dangerous in their own way. One at risk of attacking us, one getting us into wars. We have no business fighting.

[00:32:15] Rick Albin

Thank you, Congressman Rogers, Axios reported that your allies ask AIPAC not to advertise on your behalf. And Axios also reported that you talked with the chair of AIPAC, and the next day they discontinued an ad on your behalf. Do you welcome a PACs public support, given that you do support many pro-Israeli positions, you have 60s.

[00:32:37] Mike Rogers (R)

Anybody that wants to help my campaign stop a guy who can't condemn terrorism in our own country because he's so close to the people who are supporting the Muslim Brotherhood. You bet. I'll take all of that help. As a matter of fact, I think he's a little concerned about the two properties. He owns, United Arab Emirates. I think the other one is Egypt, if I'm not mistaken. Can you correct me? Where's the other one? Yeah. No. Yeah, that's exactly right. He doesn't point.

[00:33:01] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

\$7 million in Florida. My guy.

[00:33:03] Mike Rogers (R)

Yeah. I'll talk about, you know.

[00:33:04] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

What did you sell your yachts?

[00:33:06] Mike Rogers (R)

I never owned a yacht in Florida, brother.

[00:33:07] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Oh, really? Where were.

[00:33:08] Mike Rogers (R)

You?

[00:33:08] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

You had two of them.

[00:33:09] Mike Rogers (R)

Let me tell you this one thing. Today or yesterday was October 7th. This is why you should get absolutely angry. He could not bring himself to even acknowledge the pain, the terrorism, the rape, the murders, cutting off of women's breasts, putting children in ovens and killing them in front of their families could not even muster.

[00:33:32] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

So.

[00:33:33] Mike Rogers (R)

He could not even muster.

[00:33:34] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I've condemned that, but I didn't turn it into political theater like you just did not.

[00:33:38] Mike Rogers (R)

Let me tell you this.

[00:33:39] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I just need to respond.

[00:33:40] Mike Rogers (R)

No, no.

[00:33:40] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Don't turn into. He's interrupted me for.

[00:33:42] Mike Rogers (R)

About half of my time.

[00:33:43] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I'm so sorry, but I just. I'm not somebody who tries to make political theater out of other people's pain. So I gave people pain.

[00:33:49] Mike Rogers (R)

Is political theater.

[00:33:50] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

And. And you turned it into political theater. I'm sorry. I just think that's a white jacket. Gentlemen.

[00:33:55] Rick Albin

Gentlemen, gentlemen, we're going to take a break from this pleasant conversation. And when we come back, we're going to talk about a topic that has been making headlines across the country with data centers. First, a reminder candidates enter the spin room once our debate is over. This QR code will take you to our live post-debate coverage. We'll be back in 70s. I want to take a quick aside and tell you that in 30 years of doing debates, I've never seen it continue during the commercial. But it did. Let's get right to our next question. Data centers are becoming a flashpoint for voters across Michigan, and that's the topic of our next question. Congressman Rogers, you said Michigan should, quote, take a pause probably on new data center development and have support a one year statewide moratorium that places you at odds with President Trump, who has tried to accelerate AI and data center development, is a one year pause long enough. You have 60s.

[00:35:06] Mike Rogers (R)

Well, I think you have to get some really important questions answered. It needs to be a local decision. They need to have water control systems that you're not using more and more water, they need to show up with their power. I've said that they should also 100% of every dollar. If a community wants one of these facilities, every every dollar of the generated property tax should go to defray the cost of everyone that lives in that municipality. Dollar for dollar, it should go down. There's just so many questions that people need answered. You can't Bigfoot this. I think you need that time to answer those questions. If people go forward and want one, there might be a way to get this done. I will tell you that my opponent here, who likes to attack and make lots of, you know, accusation, is actually invested into the data centers. He's got \$100,000 in a mutual fund, directly invested in the companies that do data centers. So it's really important that we have this pause, answer people's questions, and make sure a guy like this isn't making the decision on this.

[00:36:09] Rick Albin

Thank you. Congressman Doctor El-Sayed, you have called for public control of AI companies. Why should the federal government have an ownership or governing role in private AI? And you can respond to the congressman's comments as well. You have 60s.

[00:36:24] Speaker 8

What a joke. I mean, I own mutual funds. He's personally invested in the company and the company that controls the real estate for the saline data center. And I think I should ask him if he wants a moratorium, should the construction stop on his personal investment? Because I'd love it to. I've been clear. We need a terms of engagement. I've been clear that we need a government that's not bought off by corporations, not bought off by Big tech, not bought off by the very people who benefit, who have personal investment, stake in the companies that are driving us to the edge of what the people who are developing this technology say could cause real doom, real harm. And look, I think we need people who actually understand the technology. I've been very clear. We need a terms of engagement on data centers. I've been very clear that we need to put AI under democracy. And if the corporations and their CEOs are right, that this is going to take nearly 50% of white collar jobs. I think it's important for the public to have a real stake, rather than private investors, to the tune of \$2.6 million in the data center. Put in your backyard alone.

[00:37:23] Rick Albin

I'm going to go to you for 30 seconds. I'm going to go to you for 30 seconds, and then we're going to move on.

[00:37:28] Mike Rogers (R)

So this to me is the most important thing. You know, rapid accusations and other things. He had a top staffer flee his campaign talking about how this guy is a manufactured candidate. He watched him say one thing to one group and say another thing to another group. This guy is so full of hypocrisy. It's just hard to fathom when he starts going through these things and rattles them off. What he's basically telling you is he will say anything to win. And by the way, that's what his sister said to him. He would say anything he needed to get elected. And this is all this nonsense that he.

[00:38:07] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Is out there. Mike, you done? You could have showed up to the last debate if you actually had things to say.

[00:38:11] Mike Rogers (R)

You could have let us up for the third debate that you turned down.

[00:38:14] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Let's be clear. So you've got a situation in which this guy personally invested in AI doesn't want to talk about AI. Instead, he just wants to point to me. But remember what I told you at the very outset. He wants to talk about himself. He wants to talk about me, but he doesn't want to talk about you. You who are worried about having a data center in your backyard. You who are worried about AI taking your job. You who are worried about the doom of AI. He does not want to talk about you because the policy is being pressed. Are the ones from Donald Trump and he will not stand up to Donald Trump. Notice Trump saying no brakes on AI even though we know it's risky. He won't say a thing.

[00:38:45] Rick Albin

All right. What I want to talk about is sticking with the next question technology for a moment. Flock cameras and other information devices have many people worried about privacy. Should the federal government put guardrails on these cameras? Doctor El-Sayed, you have 60s to answer.

[00:39:02] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Yes, absolutely. But I just yes, absolutely. Absolutely. I think the idea of being surveilled wherever you are without your consent is a very dangerous thing. Now Mike is going to have a hard time answering this question. I cannot wait to see what he has to say, because when he was in Congress, he literally told somebody from the stand, if you don't know, your privacy is being violated, is your privacy really being violated? It's like the peeping Tom vote he's going after everywhere, and I'm sure you want it. The question to me is, why do we continue to have a situation in which we're watching more and more technology steal more and more of our data? The very big tech corporations that are buying his campaigns, all those attack ads, we're seeing big tech and big pharma. But the big tech part is really scary because you don't know what they have on you. And he said again, another quote. We would love to have just a bit of what Google has on you. Can you imagine that? That guy right there, that's what he said. I don't think we should be surveilling people. I think it's a ridiculous thing. And yes, I think when people have their privacy violated, yeah, you really did have your privacy violated even if you didn't know it.

[00:40:01] Rick Albin

Congressman. Same question. Should the federal government put guardrails on this technology?

[00:40:06] Mike Rogers (R)

I think local government needs to do this. I'm a big believer in the Fourth Amendment, swore that oath to the Constitution when I was an FBI agent. Protecting the Fourth Amendment rights is critically important. I think the states can do it if they're just using it for citizens who have committed no crimes, I would not be for that at all. And, you know, my opponent just doesn't understand the national security infrastructure. So he's trying to jumble it all up on people. But I will tell you this. Did you not say that those programs were really, really important in catching people who were suspected of terrorists and being terrorists, committing a terrorist act? That's really, really important. And why would that bother you? Well, if you have someone in your family that might be on the are you.

[00:40:49] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Are you going to go ahead and say that I'm a go ahead and say it?

[00:40:52] Mike Rogers (R)

No, I'm.

[00:40:52] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Going to say.

[00:40:53] Mike Rogers (R)

Did you not have family.

[00:40:54] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Tiptoeing around the whole time? Just say it.

[00:40:56] Mike Rogers (R)

Say it.

[00:40:56] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I haven't been saying it. Do you know why? Do you know why? Because of your policies. Because of your policies. That's so wrong. That. That literally. You used surveillance. Use surveillance. So I'm just saying. You want to come and say something?

[00:41:07] Mike Rogers (R)

Go ahead. No, no. Well, let's do this. Let's let's let's.

[00:41:10] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Open.

[00:41:10] Mike Rogers (R)

Up this can of worms.

[00:41:12] Rick Albin

I'll give.

[00:41:12] Mike Rogers (R)

You an. I'll tell you what my mother did. She was a small.

[00:41:16] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

You go after my mom.

[00:41:17] Mike Rogers (R)

I'm not going after your mom. That's what your mom was working at. I was going off to that organization that was indicted for funneling money to al Qaeda. That's your mom? My mom worked at a local chamber of commerce. I'll put my mom up any day for that.

[00:41:30] Rick Albin

All right. We'll give you a rebuttal. And we're moving away from the subject.

[00:41:34] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

He wants this to be about anything but his own record. He's okay if the federal government.

[00:41:38] Mike Rogers (R)

Can't talk.

[00:41:38] Speaker 8

About the federal government spies on you. But he wants to make this about anybody else going after my mom. My sister got nothing to say about me. I'm a dad and a doctor. I'm trying to get money out of politics. But money in your pocket pass Medicare for all. He wants to take every corporate dollar he can to jump hoops for Donald Trump.

[00:41:54] Rick Albin

We have another viewer question. Amber Christie is back with that question.

[00:41:59] Amber Crisco

Our next question is from William Bush. His focus is on Social Security and whether it will still exist.

[00:42:07] William Bush

If you were elected. The Social Security Trust Fund is predicted to become insolvent during your term in office. There's no more kicking the can down the road. Can you please tell me two specific things you intend to propose or support in order to keep the program solvent?

[00:42:26] Rick Albin

We thank him for that question. We're going to put a finer point on it, knowing that Social Security is going to be in trouble, and it's a safety net for so many people. I'm going to give you some choices. You may come up with your own, but which alternative would you propose? Higher payroll taxes. Taking the cap off, eliminating the cap on income, a higher retirement age or lower scheduled benefits, you have 60s.

[00:42:49] Mike Rogers (R)

Well, I think there's probably more options than that. I will tell you this my family counts on Social Security. I had a brother that was disabled on disabled social Security. Really, really important for their family. My parents counted on it for their retirement. My in-laws are currently counting on Social Security. We cannot. What's happened is a scheduled 22% cut in 2032. Cannot let that happen. I think this has to be a bipartisan solution. I propose that committee put him in a room, lock the doors and say, don't come out until we have a real solution that can get bipartisan support. The other thing, and I tried this early on in my congressional career to say any money that the federal government borrows out of the Social Security fund, which I think is wrong, has to get paid back first at the next fiscal year. And what that would do is start to measure and tamp down other spending at the expense of Social Security.

[00:43:44] Rick Albin

Doctor El-Sayed, same thing. What alternative would you propose to support close that gap. Higher payroll taxes eliminating the the income cap, a higher retirement age or lower scheduled benefits? You have 60s.

[00:43:59] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I think the answer is obvious here. We should eliminate the cap, right? It's only fair that the rich should pay their fair share. People need and deserve Social Security. And I'll take it one step further. I think it's ridiculous that you get Social Security taken off your paycheck every single month, only to have to pay taxes on Social Security once it actually kicks in. I think we need to eliminate that tax. And the reality of it is that Republicans, Maga all the eras, whether it was the Neo-con era that he was a part of or the Maga era that he wants to be a part of. They've been against Social Security for a long time. Donald Trump has said very clearly that he does not believe that this is sustainable or should be something that we continue to invest in. Instead, he wants money for wars that people like Mike Rogers are perfectly happy to go and fight. So look, I think that this is a critical thing. We have to get at it. I actually think, though, that the question for us is this. Do you elect a U.S. senator in Michigan who wants to fight the Trump agenda, or do you elect a U.S. senator in Michigan who literally said that he answered the call from Donald Trump and is therefore running? Who is going to actually get to work to save Social Security.

[00:45:01] Rick Albin

To another topic. Now, you both say same Michigan need substantially more housing. Your approaches are different, doctor El-Sayed you say America needs a building boom, but you additionally want government action against large corporate investors and speculators buying housing. What type of action do you want to see happen in Congress towards this 60s?

[00:45:23] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Yeah, I just don't think big corporations should be able to buy housing and speculate on it. I don't think that that is legit. It takes housing stock off the market and creates a situation in which it increases the price of housing for folks who would be first time homeowners. I also think we just need to build a whole lot more, and we need to address a lot of the red tape that has made it very difficult for folks to get those projects zoned and licensed. But I also want to take on Airbnb and Vrbo. Now, you know, I don't know what Mike intends to do with his house in Florida, but, you know, he said that he wants to rent it out. We can do that. We do the Airbnb, Airbnb and Vrbo, this thing. So look what Airbnb and Vrbo has done is allowed very rich people to buy excess housing and then rent it on a market that artificially inflates the price of housing for everybody else. And I just think that we need to make sure that Airbnb and Vrbo pay their fair share. I also think we need a renters bill of rights to enable renters to have those rights, in case he decides to rent to somebody and decides to be a slum landlord. So I just think it's important to put to put basic, uh, curbing on the power of big corporations in our lives.

[00:46:24] Rick Albin

Congressman, your housing message is, quote, train more builders and fire more bureaucrats. I want you to explain that. And also, would you support prohibiting large investment firms and of buying thousands of single family homes? You have 60s.

[00:46:39] Mike Rogers (R)

Yeah. This whole affordability issue is absolutely critical to answer this problem. Uh, if you go to stop.com, you can see all of the costs that my opponent has talked about. He deleted it all. He didn't want you to see it. We found it news for you. You can see it at stop abdul.com. You can see the exact cost he's trying to impose. So the last eight years we've had about \$25,000 in new regulatory costs for every house, for every \$1,000, you increase the value of that house or the cost of that house. 3200 Michigan citizens can't afford that house. We have to tamp down on those regulatory environments. You know, I did the education savings plans for Michigan, about 400,000 people enjoying those plans here in the state today. And what we want to do is I want to make sure that they have the same kind of thing for new homeowners to save tax free. Have your boss kick in tax free. Have your grandma kick in tax free so you get to that 20%. You do that, you reduce the regulation. You increase the ability for them to be able to afford that down payment. It gets people into the house.

[00:47:46] Rick Albin

We're going to move on to a subject that we could have talked about for the last 40 years, although the number keeps getting higher and that's the federal debt. It's now more than \$40 trillion. Interest rates are high. Investor investors are issuing warnings, and first time home buyers are having a hard time getting into the market. Congressman Rogers, can you tell voters one significant spending cut or tax change or entitlement reform that you would support, even if it's politically unpopular, to start reducing that debt you have? 60s.

[00:48:22] Mike Rogers (R)

I was the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee in the United States Congress at the time of Iraq and Afghanistan. At that time, Russia was trying to get nuclear submarines or, excuse me, torpedoes. China was going after us in space. It was a pretty precarious time for the country. I took a look at that budget. I worked in a bipartisan way with my ranking Democrat. We sat down over the course of the summer, and we cut out \$11 billion of a \$78 billion budget. That just wasn't done back then. It was never done. Then we made sure that that money didn't get added in the six years that followed that that our cut in that budget. I think there is fat and waste in every department, and I put the Department of Defense in there as well. I think if you go after the fraud, the fraud numbers now are about \$500 billion. And you go after waste in each one of these departments, like I have done in a bipartisan way. I think you can get that math down to a good place pretty quickly.

[00:49:16] Rick Albin

Doctor El-Sayed, it seems something has changed. Can you point to a significant spending cut or entitlement reform or tax change that you would support? Even if it's not politically popular, you have 60s.

[00:49:30] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Tax billionaire wealth is that simple. We could return \$4.6 trillion simply by taxing billionaires. Look, I don't know about anybody who's going to get precious about billionaires here in a second, but I don't think it's important for a billionaire to make a second billion. I think it's more important for the average person to be able to make their first 100,000. If you could think about what you could do with \$4.6 trillion back to our federal budget, think about what it would mean for things like health care, things like child care. And the reality of it is that while my colleague was in Congress for 14 years, they accrued a \$12 trillion deficit, \$12 trillion of the 40 trillion we have, 12 trillion alone came while he was in Congress. So he's going to talk a big game about balancing budgets. It didn't really quite do that, did we? Why? Because every time his party's in power, we do two things. We cut taxes for the richest people or and we go to war. And that's exactly what Donald Trump has just done with the one big ugly bill and the Iran war. And he's backstopped the entire thing. So what do you think you're going to get with him? More deficit, more debt, only to tell us we can't have health care?

[00:50:32] Rick Albin

I'll give you 30 seconds.

[00:50:33] Mike Rogers (R)

Yeah, this is the guy. He just does not want to explain what his proposals are. That's why he does this really pretty talk. You learn that in Oxford, I guess how to talk pretty. But I will tell you what. It's dangerous. They're going to take away your personal health care. And the new cost is \$20,000 in new taxes per family. Oh, and by the way, you have to answer to the government. Oh, and by the way, he supports the death panels that Canada implemented. Do you want the government making those decisions at a more expensive cost and less access? So. Well, I'm not done yet.

[00:51:03] Rick Albin

You are, because we're at the end of the show. We're going to run out of time. 30 seconds for you, doctor.

[00:51:08] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

In case I wasn't clear, tax billionaire wealth. Look, I actually went to I learned that at Michigan where I actually went to school. I don't just parade around in the block. M the reality of it is that we can do this. It's just math. More money in, less money out. So ask yourself whether or not this war is good for you. This guy voted to keep prescription drug prices high. He's enthralled to all the corporations that have nicked and dined you. \$64,000 loan from DTE. Not true, not true.

[00:51:32] Mike Rogers (R)

Not not.

[00:51:33] Rick Albin

We've got to go. We've got to stay on time. We're getting our final question. And here it is. We have had a number of people ask questions from viewers and expressing concern about the divide between right and left. So starting with you Doctor El-Sayed. Who do you work for. Can you name one Trump policy you would have voted for because you believe it was right for Michigan. You have 60s.

[00:51:56] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

I work for the people of the state of Michigan. I have never taken a dime from a corporation to run a campaign. Oh my gosh, this guy took more money from corporate superPACs than anybody in the Michigan delegation when he was in Congress, called himself the champion of Big Pharma. I don't work for them. I don't work for big insurance who's also bought him off. I don't work for big Tech who's bought him off. I don't work for DTE, who's also bought him off. I work for the people and I believe as such, we have a responsibility to work with anybody who is going to champion the issues that people have. Actually, that policy that you asked me about, Rick, about the question of whether or not we should have corporate speculators buying housing, that's something that Donald Trump seemed to agree with me with congressional stock trading, something he's done. Also, Donald Trump agreed with me with I don't own personal stock. I'm not trying to make myself rich off of my job in public service. This guy has done exactly that, \$14 million. That's what he made when he left Congress, doing the work for the corporations he had just previously been regulating who had bought him off when he was in Congress in the first place.

[00:52:55] Rick Albin

We have to go 60s.

[00:52:56] Mike Rogers (R)

This is so offensive to me. This is the truth. Incredible. And it is not the truth. And you know it's not the truth. Like I said, interrupt. You're like that AI chatbot that's a little glitchy. You just say it over and over and you make accusations for a guy that it's your record. You did it. No, I did not. Never. I never traded a stock.

[00:53:16] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

\$64,000 in debt. Did you or did you not take it? Did you or did you not?

[00:53:19] Mike Rogers (R)

So that means you're bought off by George Soros family. That means that you're bought off by Hamas, Hezbollah, al Qaeda. Those people who are supporting you pour that money into your campaign. This is a very begged Chuck Schumer begged Chuck Schumer. Matter of fact, you had to sneak by the trash cans in the back of the building to beg for that money. So here's the guy that's saying money out of politics until it gets to shove into his pocket. That tells you that tells you.

[00:53:47] Rick Albin

10s.

[00:53:47] Mike Rogers (R)

Absolutely tells you who he is, the guy on his staff that said he will say anything to get elected and tell you one thing one time and another the next time. He's a manufactured candidate.

[00:53:58] Rick Albin

We've come to the end of our discussion. Thank you both very much. You have 30 seconds to wrap up our debate, beginning with you, Doctor El-Sayed, and you must stay on time. 30 seconds.

[00:54:08] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Look, I told you what this debate was going to be. Him pointing at me and saying all kinds of foreign names or him talking about himself. And I told you, I'm interested in you. I understand that gas is too expensive, groceries aren't affordable. I understand that it's really hard to see a doctor, and I want to solve that. And the reason we haven't is because we've got corporate politicians who are going to do the bidding of people like Donald Trump, the war in Iran, the tariff war, all the money he's taken from pharma. Ask yourself if that's helped you. I believe in money out of politics, money in your pocket. Medicare for all.

[00:54:37] Rick Albin

30 seconds Congressman.

[00:54:38] Mike Rogers (R)

We cannot afford Abdul, and we cannot risk his ideology. Think about what he's proposing. The largest, most massive tax increase in the history. Taking over your private health insurance and giving it to the government. Huge increases in your energy costs that 30% 30% alone in utilities. It's a carbon tax that affects everything that you buy. I'm Mike Rogers, United States Army officer, FBI agent. Don't listen to this guy. I will make and fight for a better Michigan.

[00:55:11] Rick Albin

Thank you candidates. I appreciate you being here. Thanks to News Nation, our broadcast partners, and to all of you who are watching, don't forget to go to wood TV plus for the Spin Room right now. For more on tonight's debate, including reaction from the candidates. And the final word is good night from Grand Rapids.

[00:55:29] Mike Rogers (R)

Thank you.

[00:55:30] Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Good luck.

END OF TRANSCRIPT



Automated transcription curated by MIRS' staff. We apologize for any misspellings.