

**SECOND GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE HELD** – Candidates *Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson* and *U.S. Representative John James* met for their second and final debate in Detroit on Thursday.

**The bigger picture:** The debate was full of comparisons between the candidates, with each trying to place blame for Michigan's failures on their opponent. Many of the answers from the candidates mirrored what was said during the first debate last week. The debate covered hot topic issues such as lowering costs, healthcare, and data centers.

To read more, please click [here](#).

**ABDUL EL-SAYED REACHES FUNDRAISING HIGH** – *Democratic* candidate for *U.S. Senate Abdul El-Sayed* has reported over \$30 million in his most recent campaign finance report.

**Why it matters:** The most recent quarter covers July 16 through September 30, where *Dr. El-Sayed* brought in \$30.6 million in total receipts. More than triple what his opponent *Mike Rogers* brought in during the same time. *Dr. El-Sayed's* previous high was \$4.58 million, which was raised between April 1 and June 30. The staggering number is the largest single quarterly fundraising total in Michigan *U.S. Senate* history, the previous high was current *U.S. Senator Elissa Slotkin* in 2024.

To read more, please click [here](#).

**NEW MEMBER PROFILES** – As introduced in a previous edition of *This Week in Lansing, MHSA* will be continuing to introduce new legislative members in *This Week in Lansing*.

This feature is intended to introduce those that are expected to come to Lansing in 2027 given the safe seats they are running for. This is highlighting only new members in the *House* and *Senate*, so no incumbents will be highlighted. For the tenth edition of new member profiles, we will be highlighting the *22<sup>nd</sup>*, *41<sup>st</sup>*, and *74<sup>th</sup> House Districts*.

To read more, please click [here](#).

## **ODDS AND ENDS**

- The *Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety Committee* took up *House Bill 5452* for testimony only. The bill would extend the sunset to allow trial courts to impose court costs on criminal defendants to the end of 2028. Sponsor *Representative Sarah Lightner (R-Springport)* said that there have been efforts to address court funding in recent sessions but there has not been a lot of progress. The sunset has continued to be extended to ensure the operational funding for trial courts.
- The *Senate Regulatory Affairs Committee* discussed *Senate Bills 713* and *714* on Wednesday. The bills would regulate internet gaming and betting ads, requiring the ads to be approved by the *Michigan Gaming Control Board* before going live. The bills would also prohibit deceptive ads and advertising to those under the age of 21.
- Testimony on *Senate Bill 1017* was heard by the *Senate Regulatory Affairs Committee*, a bill that would add multiple provisions to the current statute that governs NIL in the state. Student athletes would be banned from entering NIL contracts that would provide compensation for the athlete if it remains in effect after the student is ineligible to participate in the sport. Contracts that were in

place from another institution would have to comply with the bill if a student transfers into Michigan.