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In Heavily Arab American Areas of Michigan, 68% Of Voters Backed Biden

43,000+ Additional Voters Who Didn't Turnout For Hillary Helped Put Biden Over The Top in Crucial Swing State

(Detroit, Michigan) -- By using the recently published "Language Access Analysis," produced by Data Driven Detroit and Global Detroit, the American Community Survey's Public Use Microdata Sets and other periodic surveys conducted over the last decade, a number of Michigan municipalities can be reasonably identified that have at least a likely plurality of Arab Americans.

Unfortunately however, precisely charting the preferences, patterns and influence of Arab American voters has been greatly hampered over the decades by the lack of comprehensive precinct level data - a problem only compounded by the Trump administration's [refusal](#) to include a Middle East and North Africa (MENA) category in the latest decennial census. As such, even in Michigan, where the concentration of Arab American voters is widely assumed to be the heaviest nationally, one can only estimate the correlation of voting results and identity. Nevertheless, as the dataset below illustrates, several voting trends seem to be indicated:

- In the four municipalities that have the highest concentration of Arab Americans (Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Melvindale and Hamtramck), 68% of voters supported Joe Biden versus 30.6% who supported Trump. In these areas, voters also came back to the Democratic presidential fold after having reduced their support in 2016 for Hillary Clinton by almost 3,000 votes compared to the 2012 election. This dynamic was also manifest in the narrowing of votes for third party candidates from 5% in 2016 to only 1.5% in 2020.
- Across the three presidential elections 2012-2020 in these areas, Trump ended up gaining on average the same proportion of votes cast (31%) as Mitt Romney received in 2012. Although Trump grew his voting base in 2020 by almost 3,000 votes compared to 2012, his overall share of the votes cast remained virtually the same as Romney because Biden was able to grow his own base by more than 8,000 votes compared to Barack Obama in 2012.
- As the journalist Ali Harb (@Harbpeace) has noted, by drilling down into precinct data, the 2020 tally in majority Arab American East Dearborn is even steeper in favor of Biden: 13,286 (80.85%) to Trump's 2,780 (16.9). In the Southend as well, predominantly made up of Americans of Yemeni descent, Biden garnered 1,174 votes to Trump's 142.
- In the Sterling Heights municipality, an area with a plurality of Chaldean and Assyrian Americans, Biden was able to reverse the steep decline in support for Clinton in 2016, adding more than 6,000 votes to his column and capturing 43.6% of all presidential ballots cast

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compared to 42% for Clinton (which itself was a marked drop off from the 50.4% that Obama gained in the area in 2012).

- Nevertheless, Trump continued to add voters, increasing his support by more than 10,000 votes over Romney in 2012. Thus, although Sterling Heights voters proportionately came out more for the Democratic presidential candidate in 2020, Trump's additional 7,000 voters this time around compared to 2016 meant that the area has now gone majority Republican for two presidential election cycles.
- Overall, when one also includes Michigan municipalities that have a significant and growing Arab American population (Warren, Farmington Hills, Bloomfield, Birmingham and Troy), the 10,704 votes which gave Trump the state in 2016 were almost fully accounted for by the drop off of voters from these heavily Arab American areas.
- In contrast, **more than 43,000 additional voters came out for Biden in 2020** in these areas compared to 2016, an important factor in his nearly 150,000 vote margin in the state overall especially since some other heavily Democratic cities, such as Detroit, actually saw Trump gain a wider percentage of votes than he did in 2016 (Trump received 5,000 more votes in Detroit this time around, whereas Biden lost almost 1,000 votes in Detroit when compared to Hillary in 2016).

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Authors: Nicholas Noe & Steven Abdelatif. Special thanks to Matt Jaber Stiffler at the Arab American National Museum, the Arab American Institute and Rima Meroueh at ACCESS for their analysis and assistance in gathering the datasets. For inquiries, please email noe@mideastwire.com. For a free trial of our Mideastwire.com translation service, visit <https://www.mideastwire15years.com/>

(Excel sheet attached below)

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Category	2012 Romney	2012 Obama	Total Presidential	Dem. % of Total
Plurality of Arab Americans (MI)				
Dearborn (Wayne County)	12732	26266	39415	66.64%
Dearborn Heights (Wayne)	8386	15019	23645	63.52%
Melvindale (Wayne)	1028	2824	3884	72.71%
Hamtramck (Wayne)	535	4788	5376	89.06%
Totals	22681	48897	72320	67.61%
Percent of votes cast for either Rep. or Dem.	31.36%	67.61%	98.97%	
Plurality of Chaldean & Assyrian Americans (MI)				
Sterling Heights (Macomb County)	28107	29181	57903	50.40%
Totals	28107	29181	57903	50.40%
Percent of votes cast for either Rep. or Dem.	48.54%	50.40%	98.94%	
Emerging Arab American Areas (MI)				
Warren (Macomb)	22110	35850	58554	61.23%
Farmington Hills (Oakland)	17784	26351	44487	59.23%
Bloomfield (Oakland)	15811	11734	27710	42.35%
Birmingham (Oakland)	7136	5826	13035	44.70%
Troy (Oakland)	22316	19915	42588	46.76%
Totals	85157	99676	186374	53.48%
Percent of votes cast for either Rep. or Dem.	45.69%	53.48%	99.17%	

* Prepared by Nicholas Noe & Steven Abdelatif

2016 Trump	2016 Clinton	Total Presidential	Dem. % of Total	2020 Trump	2020 Biden	Total Presidential	Dem. % of Total
12171	24940	39231	63.57%	13239	30718	44645	68.81%
9005	13279	23524	56.45%	9749	16623	26788	62.05%
1314	2431	3911	62.16%	1525	2822	4434	63.64%
709	5307	6148	86.32%	1043	6651	7743	85.90%
23199	45957	72814	63.12%	25556	56814	83610	67.95%
31.86%	63.12%	94.98%		30.57%	67.95%	98.52%	
31496	24480	58413	41.91%	38451	30587	70204	43.57%
31496	24480	58413	41.91%	38451	30587	70204	43.57%
53.92%	41.91%	95.83%		54.77%	43.57%	98.34%	
25669	31212	59369	52.57%	29816	39698	70882	56.01%
15746	26844	44446	60.40%	16889	32277	49885	64.70%
12750	13475	27213	49.52%	13431	17140	30953	55.37%
5475	6883	12957	53.12%	6017	8731	14942	58.43%
20099	20413	42325	48.23%	21725	27061	49458	54.72%
79739	98827	186310	53.04%	87878	124907	216120	57.80%
42.80%	53.04%	95.84%		40.66%	57.80%	98.46%	