
To: Interested Parties

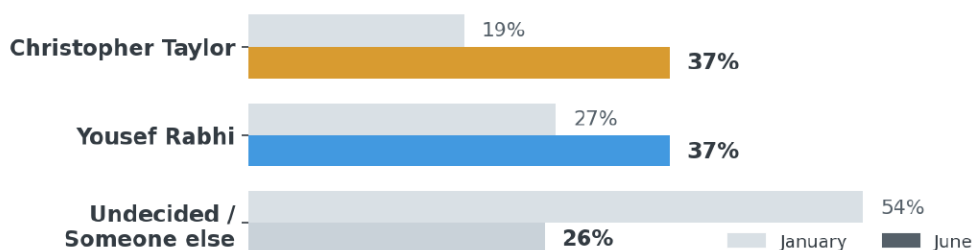
Date: July 2026

Subject: Ann Arbor Mayoral Race and the Electric Grid Takeover

Headline: The mayoral race is now a dead heat — the takeover of the electric grid is not. A majority of Ann Arbor voters already oppose the city taking over the grid, and the issue is a net liability for the candidate who champions it.

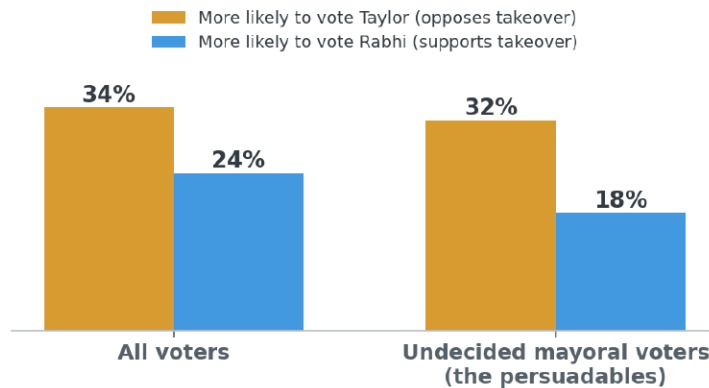
The mayoral race is now a dead heat

Since January, the mayoral contest has gone from wide open to a statistical tie. In January, Yousef Rabhi led a largely undefined field 27%–19% over Christopher Taylor, with more than half of voters unsure. By June, Taylor has erased that gap: the race stands at **37%–37%**, and the undecided bloc has collapsed from 54% to 26%. Both candidates are now well-defined — Taylor is viewed favorably by 50% of voters (29% unfavorable) and Rabhi by 47% (20% unfavorable). Voter priorities, last measured in January and unlikely to have shifted, remain dominated by housing affordability (49%), with city services a distant second (19%).

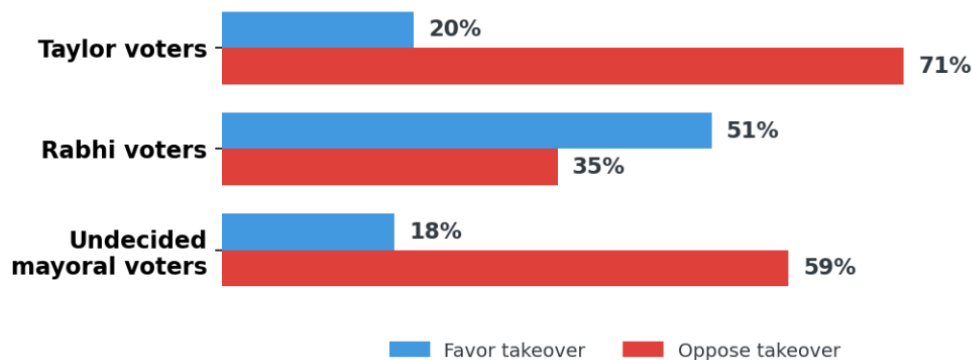


The takeover is a losing issue in the mayor's race

The takeover is a sharp dividing line between the two candidates — Rabhi supports it, Taylor opposes it — and on that line, voters break toward Taylor. Told where each candidate stands, **34% of voters say the issue makes them more likely to support Taylor, versus just 24% for Rabhi.** Among the undecided voters who will decide the race, the tilt is sharper: they favor Taylor over Rabhi on the issue by 32% to 18% — nearly two to one.



The problem for a pro-takeover candidate runs deeper than the horse race. Even Rabhi's own voters are only narrowly behind the takeover: just **51% support the takeover**, while Taylor's voters oppose it overwhelmingly (71% against) and undecided voters oppose it 59% to 18%. A candidate who champions the takeover is defending a position that barely holds his own base and alienates everyone else.



A better informed electorate has moved again the takeover

The takeover's troubles are not confined to the mayor's race. As Ann Arbor voters have learned more about the proposal, they have turned against it. Awareness has climbed from 63% to 73% since January, and the share who say they know a lot about it has jumped from 23% to 36%. Over the same period, opposition has grown from 42% to 56%, while support has fallen from 46% to 29%. The more voters understand what a city takeover would involve, the less they want it. Cost is the engine: 64% of voters expect their property taxes to rise under a takeover, and the single most persuasive argument tested — that a roughly \$1 billion debt would push taxes higher — is embraced by 68% of voters.

What this means for August

- **The takeover is a liability, not an asset.** The issue moves voters toward Taylor, not Rabhi — including the undecided voters who will decide the race.
- **Its champion's base is soft.** Only 51% of Rabhi's own voters back the takeover, and no voter group rewards the position.
- **Cost — especially taxes — is the vulnerability.** Two-thirds of voters expect higher property taxes, and the taxes argument is the most persuasive message in the survey.
- **The informed electorate is the opposed electorate.** As awareness has risen, so has opposition; support has fallen to 29% in the current environment.

Bottom line

The mayoral race is a genuine toss-up; the electric-grid takeover is not the way to win it. A majority of Ann Arbor voters oppose the takeover today, the issue breaks against the candidate who champions it, and cost concerns — especially higher taxes — anchor the opposition.

Source: surveys of Ann Arbor voters — June 27–July 1, 2026 (n=400, MOE ±4.9%) and January 26–February 1, 2026 (n=500, MOE ±4.4%). Live data collection; samples stratified by sex, age, and race/ethnicity. Subgroup findings carry larger margins of error.

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