

2026 Deputy Clerk of the Year Candidate

Sara El-Rifaai, Deputy Clerk

City of Taylor

Sara El-Rifaai currently serves as the Deputy Clerk for the City of Taylor. She began her career with the city in 2014 as a temporary employee. Within just one year, through hard work, dedication, and exceptional performance she was promoted to Deputy Clerk at the remarkable age of 20. She has now proudly served the City of Taylor for more than ten years.

Sara is an active member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks, Michigan Professional Municipal Clerks, Association of Wayne County Clerks, and Taylor Goodfellows. She earned her degree in Business Administration and Human Resource Management from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2017.

Since joining the Wayne County Association of Municipal Clerks, Sara has been elected to serve as a Trustee. In this role, she has collaborated with the Wayne County Clerk's Office on a working group dedicated to developing comprehensive "best practice" guides for Wayne County clerks. These guides provide step-by-step instruction on the extensive responsibilities involved in administering elections, including programming election data and conducting pre-accuracy testing of election equipment.

In addition to her service as a Trustee, Sara is the President of the City of Taylor Goodfellows. She established the organization in 2017 and has served as its President for the past ten years. She dedicates countless hours year-round to ensure that children and families in need receive support during the holiday season and beyond. In 2022, she was honored with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award from the Taylor Rotary Club in recognition of her outstanding service and dedication to the community.

Sara has been nominated by two respected colleagues: Deputy Clerk Amy Whipple of Brownstown Township and Clerk Ellen Craig-Bragg of the City of Romulus. Whipple describes Sara as the "go-to" problem solver in the City of Taylor—knowledgeable, approachable, innovative, and a trusted resource across departments. Craig-Bragg echoes these sentiments and highlights Sara's extraordinary leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, when she oversaw vaccine scheduling for thousands of residents. Her ability to adapt, lead, and serve during times of crisis further demonstrates her exceptional commitment to public service.

