

ABC's *Good Morning America*

10/26/22

7:00:20 a.m. [TEASE]

20 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Showdown in Pennsylvania]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Good morning, America. Pennsylvania in the spotlight in the race for control of Congress. Overnight Democrat John Fetterman and Republican Dr. Mehmet Oz face off in the high-stakes election's only debate fighting for the state's open Senate seat. Fetterman's recent stroke front and center as the candidates clash over abortion and crime.

(...)

7:03:07 a.m.

3 minutes and 16 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Showdown in Pennsylvania; Fetterman & Oz Come Face-to-Face in High-Stakes Senate Debate]

STEPHANOPOULOS: First Robin, the midterms. Final votes less than two weeks away. Pennsylvania a key state for control of the Senate and last night John Fetterman squared off with Mehmet Oz in their first and only debate. Congressional correspondent Rachel Scott was on the scene in Harrisburg, good morning, Rachel.

RACHEL SCOTT: George, good morning. The stakes are high and the circumstances are unique. John Fetterman, the Democrat, is still recovering after suffering a stroke and even his campaign will tell you this is unprecedented. Never before in such a high-profile race has closed captioning been used during a debate and Fetterman addressed it head on. From the start of the debate, Democrat John Fetterman cut to the chase, directly addressing what he called "the elephant in the room."

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Showdown in Pennsylvania; Fetterman's Stroke, Abortion & Crime Take Center Stage]

LT. GOV. JOHN FETTERMAN (D-PA): I had a stroke. He's never let me forget that. And I might miss some words during this debate, mush two words together. But it knocked me down but I'm gonna keep coming back up.

SCOTT: Behind the moderators — two big monitors. Questions and answers were closed captioned, so Fetterman could read them to help with lingering auditory processing issues that doctors say are normal in recovery. Nearly six months after his stroke Fetterman would not promise to release his medical records.

FETTERMAN: To me, for transparency is about showing up. My doctor believes that I'm fit to

serve and that's what I believe is appropriate.

SCOTT: In their first and only debate the candidates on the attack.

FETTERMAN: It's the Oz rule. He's on TV and he's lying.

SCOTT: Oz hitting back.

DR. MEHMET OZ (R): This is the only debate I could get you to come to talk to me on and I had to beg on my knees to get you to come.

SCOTT: Fetterman asked if he supports President Biden's student loan forgiveness program.

FETTERMAN: It's about supporting and helping, you know, young earners — excuse me, young, young, young students to, to give them a break.

SCOTT: His campaign acknowledges ongoing auditory processing challenges are real. But on a major issue of the night — abortion — Fetterman drawing a clear contrast —

OZ: I want women, doctors, local political leaders letting the democracy that's always allowed our nation to thrive to put the best ideas forward so states can decide for themselves.

FETTERMAN: If you believe that the choice for abortion belongs between you and your doctor, that's what I fight for.

SCOTT: — while Dr. Oz zeroed in on rising crime.

OZ: We have taken away the ability of police to do their job. And that's on John Fetterman.

FETTERMAN: He has never made any attempt to try to address crime during his entire career except showing up for photo-ops here in Philadelphia.

SCOTT: The two candidates telling voters why they are the right man for the job here in Pennsylvania.

FETTERMAN: I started as a GED instructor back in Braddock over 20 years ago because I believe it's about serving Pennsylvania, not about using Pennsylvania.

OZ: I'm a surgeon, I'm not a politician. We take big problems, we focus on them and fix them. We do it by uniting, by coming together, not dividing.

SCOTT: And so in a sign of just how important this race is, Republicans are pouring more than \$6 million in the final stretch to support Dr. Oz. The political group behind it is linked to Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. One senior Republican official putting it this way saying, quote, "If we win Pennsylvania we win the majority." George, they are calling this a must win

race.

STEPHANOPOULOS: It is one of the key ones. Okay Rachel, thanks very much.

(...)

7:30:39 a.m.

22 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Right Now; 13 Days to Election Day]

STEPHANOPOULOS: A lot of headlines right now, as well. Including the countdown to the midterms. Final votes less than two weeks away. Pennsylvania a key state for control of the Senate. And last night John Fetterman squared off with Mehmet Oz in their first and only debate. Fetterman's stroke was front and center with two big monitors behind the moderators. Questions and answers were closed captioned so Fetterman could read them to help with lingering auditory processing issues that doctors do say are normal in recovery.

(...)

8:00:22 a.m. [TEASE]

13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: High-Stakes Senate Debate; Showdown in Pennsylvania]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Overnight Democrat John Fetterman and Republican Dr. Mehmet Oz face off in the high-stakes election's open debate, fight for the state's open Senate seat. Fetterman's recent stroke front and center as the candidates clash over abortion and crime.

(...)

8:02:52 a.m.

2 minutes and 25 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Showdown in Pennsylvania; Fetterman & Oz Come Face-to-Face in High-Stakes Senate Debate]

STEPHANOPOULOS: First we're gonna get to the news, starting with the midterms now less than two-weeks away from the final votes. Pennsylvania a key state for control of the Senate. Last night John Fetterman squared off with Mehmet Oz in their first and only debate. Let's go back to congressional correspondent Rachel Scott in Harrisburg. Good morning, Rachel.

SCOTT: George, good morning. The stakes are high and the circumstances were unique. Democrat John Fetterman taking the debate stage against Republican Dr. Mehmet Oz just months after Fetterman suffered a stroke. From the start of the debate Democrat John Fetterman

addressing what he called “the elephant in the room.”

FETTERMAN: I had a stroke. He’s never let me forget that. And I might miss some words during this debate, mush two words together. But it knocked me down but I’m gonna keep coming back up.

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FETTERMAN: He has never made any attempt to try to address crime during his entire career except showing up for photo-ops here in Philadelphia.

SCOTT: Republicans are pouring more than \$6 million to support Dr. Oz in the final stretch. A sign of just how critical this state is to control of the Senate, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: That’s right. If they win Pennsylvania they are likely to control the Senate. Rachel Scott, thanks very much.