

NBC's *Today*

10/27/22

7:00:19 a.m. [TEASE]

8 seconds

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Big developments overnight in two key races that could decide who's in charge in Washington.

HODA KOTB: With just 12 days to go to midterms, we're going to break it all down for you.

(...)

7:00:32 a.m. [12 seconds on Walker, 9 seconds on Fetterman]

21 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Accusations]

KOTB: New accusations. Another woman comes forward claiming Herschel Walker urged her to have an abortion.

WALKER ACCUSER: I do not believe that Herschel is morally fit to be a U.S. Senator.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Debate Fallout]

KOTB: While in Pennsylvania, John Fetterman addresses his debate performance.

LT. GOV. JOHN FETTERMAN (D): Doing that debate wasn't exactly easy.

KOTB: We've got it all covered.

(...)

7:02:38 a.m.

3 minutes and 59 seconds [1 minute and 59 seconds on Walker + 1 minute and 22 seconds on Fetterman/Oz]

KOTB: But we're going to start with another big countdown. We're talking about the one to the midterms.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Countdown to Midterms]

GUTHRIE: Yeah, 12 days to go now. The spotlight is intensifying on two major races in Georgia and Pennsylvania. What happens there could impact the lives of every American.

KOTB: Yeah. Here's what's at stake, the balance of power in the Senate and the direction of key

issues from the economy, to abortion rights, to rising crime rates. NBC's senior Washington correspondent Hallie Jackson has the very latest for us. Hey, Hallie, good morning.

HALLIE JACKSON: Hey, Hoda. Hey, Savannah. You have laid out the stakes and it is crunch time now, right, for candidates in these really important, really close races, with big guns like former presidents in both parties set to hit the campaign trail in the coming days. And the focus today turning to Georgia, where there is a new abortion allegation in one of the country's most closely watched match-ups. With less than two weeks to go this morning, the future of the Senate could hang on two key states with neck and neck races in Pennsylvania and Georgia, where there's now another twist. Republican Herschel Walker, who has campaigned on an anti-abortion platform, denying a new allegation from a second woman who says Walker pressured her to have an abortion in the early '90s.

HERSCHEL WALKER [on FNC's *Special Report with Bret Baier*, 10/26/22]: What I'm saying is there is a lie, and I have said it once, and I moved on, my campaign.

JACKSON: The anonymous woman, sharing her voice only, came forward in a Zoom conference arranged by attorney Gloria Allred. The accuser saying, after becoming pregnant in 1993, Walker encouraged her to have an abortion. He encouraged her to go back, adding she first couldn't go through with the procedure, but Walker encouraged her to go back, driving her to a Dallas clinic where she had the abortion. The woman explaining why she's speaking up now. .

WALKER ACCUSER: I am a registered independent and I voted for Donald Trump in both elections. I do not believe that Herschel is normally fit to be a U.S. Senate.

JACKSON: NBC News has not verified her allegations and the woman did not provide evidence walker was involved in her abortion.

WALKER: I'm done with this foolishness.

JACKSON: The Republican candidate and former football star also denied allegations earlier this month from another former girlfriend who said walker paid for her abortion in 2009. In a statement, the campaign for Walker's opponent, Senator Raphael Warnock, says "Walker has a problem with the truth, a problem answering questions, and a problem taking responsibility for his actions." That match-up very close, with recent polling showing Warnock leading by just five points. And in another closely watched race in Pennsylvania, a tossup with polls ranking Democratic Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman and Republican candidate Dr. Mehmet Oz within the margin of error.

FETTERMAN: Doing that debate wasn't exactly easy. [SCREEN WIPE] I knew it wasn't going to be easy after, you know, having a stroke, after five months.

JACKSON: Fetterman, appearing at a campaign rally in Pittsburgh, after raising \$2 million, his team says, in the hours after his one and only debate against Republican Mehmet Oz. Fetterman facing questions about his, at times, halting debate performance with lingering auditory

processing issues after a stroke five months ago. Oz, also on the campaign, hammering the issue of crime and on defense against a new Democratic ad highlighting his debate comments on abortion.

DEMOCRATIC AD NARRATOR: This is who Dr. Oz wants in charge of women's health care decisions.

OZ [on 10/25/22]: I want women, doctors, local — political leaders. [REWIND] Local political leaders.

GUTHRIE: Meanwhile, Hallie, the President hitting the campaign trail today. What do you expect?

JACKSON: He is. All about the economy, Savannah. In this kind of closing argument here, trying to highlight his administration's record on something we know that voters care about, the economy, plus cost of living. The top issue voters say matters to them come election day. The President's going to be in upstate New York to argue that Democrats' economic policies are better than Republicans even as many GOP candidates have pointed to high inflation in their midterm campaigns. You've also got the President's cabinet fanning out across the country, too. All of it is part of this full-court press ahead of election day, Savannah.

GUTHRIE: 12 days to go. Hallie Jackson. Thank you.

(...)

8:00:22 a.m.

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Balance of Power]

KOTB: Coming up, balance of power. All eyes on two key races with just 12 days to go to the midterms. What you need to know about the latest campaign trail twists and turns that could affect every American.

(...)

8:02:37 a.m.

1 minute and 25 seconds [45 seconds on Walker + 34 seconds on Fetterman/Oz]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Countdown to Midterms]

KOTB: Midterm voters are reacting to new developments in two key Senate races, including another potential scandal in Georgia. NBC senior Washington correspondent Hallie Jackson has the very latest. Hey, Hallie, good morning.

JACKSON: Hi, Hoda. Good morning. Let's start with Georgia where Republican Senate candidate Herschel walker, who has campaigned on an anti-abortion platform, is now denying a new allegation from a second woman who says Walker pressured her to have an abortion in the early '90s. The anonymous woman says after she became pregnant in 1993, Walker encouraged her to have an abortion, adding that she first couldn't go through with the procedure, but that Walker encouraged her to go back, driving her to a Dallas clinic where she had the abortion. Now, NBC News has not verified her allegations and the woman did not provide evidence that Walker was involved in her abortion. That Georgia Senate race, Walker versus Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock is very close. So is another in Pennsylvania with Democratic Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman up against Republican candidate Dr. Mehmet Oz. Fetterman, facing questions about his, at times, halting debate performance with lingering auditory processing issues after a stroke five months ago. And overnight at a rally, he acknowledged that doing that debate was not easy to cheers from supporters. Oz, for his part, is playing defense against a new Democratic ad highlighting his debate comments that an abortion decision is between a woman, her doctor, and local political leaders, Hoda.

KOTB: Alright, Hallie Jackson for us there in D.C. Hallie, thanks.