

ABC's *Good Morning America*

11/03/22

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

27 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Closing Argument]

ROBIN ROBERTS: Overnight, President Biden laying out the stakes with just five days until the midterms. Closing argument, President Biden saying democracy is on the ballot on Tuesday, calling it the struggle for the soul of America and calling out former President Trump. With hundreds of 2020 election deniers on ballots across the country, the President addresses the nation as Americans head to the polls.

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7:03:02 a.m.

5 minutes and 18 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Biden's Midterm Closing Argument; President; "Make No Mistake, Democracy Is on the Ballot"]

STEPHANOPOULOS: But first, the primetime warning from President Biden. With the final votes of the midterms just five days away, he declared that American democracy is under attack, called out election deniers led by former President Trump. Chief White House correspondent Cecilia Vega starts us off. Good morning, Cecilia.

CECILIA VEGA: Hey, George, good morning to you. This is a speech President Biden has very much been wanting to give, laying out the stakes for what is coming up in these midterms. He says this is a struggle for the very soul of America and that democracy is on this ballot for everyone in this country. It was a midterm closing argument and an urgent warning about the future of democracy as we know it.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: I know there's a lot at stake in these midterm elections from our economy to the safety of our streets to our personal freedoms. [SCREEN WIPE] But there's something else at stake, democracy itself.

VEGA: Right out of the gate President Biden started with a graphic description of the attack on Nancy Pelosi's husband, a personal friend.

BIDEN: It's hard to even say after the assailant entered the home asking, "where's Nancy, where's Nancy?"

VEGA: The President saying there is no place for political intimidation or violence in this country.

BIDEN: This intimidation, this violence against Democrats, Republicans and nonpartisan officials, just doing their jobs, are the consequence of lies told for power and profit.

VEGA: A political speech delivered in a telling location, just blocks away from the U.S. Capitol that was under siege on January 6th. And President Biden not mincing words about who he blames for what he calls an assault on democracy: former President Trump.

BIDEN: He's abused his power and put the loyalty to himself before loyalty to the constitution.

VEGA: But the President making it clear he does not blame all Republicans.

BIDEN: The extreme MAGA element of the Republican party which is a minority of that party but it's the driving force. [SCREEN WIPE] We can't ignore the impact it's having on our country. It's damaging, it's corrosive, and it's destructive. And I want to be very clear, this is not about me. It's about all of us.

VEGA: With nearly 300 candidates on ballots around the country who have denied or questioned the legitimacy of the 2020 election, President Biden says Americans should fear what could come next.

BIDEN: This is a path to chaos in America. It's unprecedented. It's unlawful. And it's un-American. As I've said before, you can't love your country only when you win.

VEGA: Now, as Americans complete their early ballots and they head to the polls for Tuesday, the President issued one final plea, he said he asked them to consider whether the candidates they are choosing will accept the will of the people. The answer, President Biden said, should be decisive. And, George, I do want to point out the RNC's response to this speech came out before the President even started delivering it. They said that this was desperate and dishonest.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And, Cecilia, some Democrats questioning whether the President should have been focusing on this given so many voters are focused on the economy.

VEGA: Yeah, George, the President is very well aware that voters are choosing this election based on the economy, election integrity, voter intimidation, that is not at the top of the list, but this is a speech he very much wanted to give, especially in the wake of that attack on his friend, Paul Pelosi. He very much felt like this now was the time to lay out the stakes for the midterms.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Okay, Cecilia. Let's get more on this from Rick Klein. And Rick, you're keeping an eye on the critical state offices that'll determine whether future elections will be fair and the results respected.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening Now; Five Days to High-Stakes Midterms; 2020 Election Deniers on the Ballot Across the Country]

RICK KLEIN: Yeah, this is exactly what President Biden is talking about. We've analyzed public

statements along with our partners at fivethirtyeight. And you can see candidates that denied the legitimacy of the last election are on the ballot everywhere. Almost every state has people like that running for Congress or statewide office. These are the ones that I'm most keyed in on, though, because these are battleground states that have people who deny the legitimacy of the election. Places like Nevada, Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Joe Biden flipped four states from Donald Trump last time around. Four of these states were flipped by Biden. There's one other as well. So, these are going to be some of the closest states in the nation. And now you're going to have people running the elections potentially who say the last election wasn't legitimately decided. We have never seen that before.

STEPHANOPOULOS: We have not seen that before, Rick. Five days until the final votes. More than 20 million have voted and there are a lot of signs that this election is trending Republican.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening Now; Five Days to High-Stakes Midterms; State of Play in the Battle for Control of Congress]

KLEIN: Yeah and fivethirtyeight, our partners have — have run simulations — thousands of them — to try to determine where things are headed based on the polls. And we have seen things move in the Republican direction. You see, as of this morning, Republicans about an 85 in 100 chance by their calculations to take over the House. An overwhelming favorite. And in the Senate, it's a little bit better, but keep in mind up, until the last couple of days, Democrats were slightly favored to retain the 50/50 Senate. Now we see things shift. We are in a true dead heat and I'll tell you, George, I'm looking at just three states that could determine everything, keep an eye on Nevada, which is probably the Republicans' best chance to pick up a Senate seat, Pennsylvania almost certainly with Dr. Oz and John Fetterman, the best chance that Democrats for a Republican seat have and Georgia, it was so important last time, it could be just as important this time and just as close.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Rick Klein, thanks very much. We'll have full coverage of election night on Tuesday starting at 8:00 p.m. on ABC, streaming live on ABC News live starting at 7:00.

(...)

7:31:02 a.m.  
17 seconds

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

STEPHANOPOULOS: And with the final votes in the midterms just five days away, President Biden declared last night that American democracy is under attack, called out election deniers led by former President Trump as nearly 300 candidates on ballots around the country have denied or questioned legitimacy of the 2020 election.

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8:00:23 a.m. [TEASE]  
16 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: 5 Days to Go; Biden's Midterm Closing Argument]

STEPHANOPOULOS: President Biden's primetime warning before the midterm elections, calling the vote the struggle for the soul of America and calling out former President Trump with hundreds of 2020 election deniers on ballots across the country. The President's final plea as Americans head to the polls.

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8:02:47 a.m.  
2 minutes and 26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Biden's Midterm Closing Argument; President; "Make No Mistake, Democracy Is on the Ballot"]

STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to start with that primetime warning from President Biden. With the final votes for the midterms just five days away, he declared that American democracy is under attack, called out election deniers led by former President Trump. I want to go back to our chief White House correspondent Cecilia Vega. Good morning, Cecilia.

VEGA: Hey, George, good morning, again. Listen to these numbers, nearly half of the Republican candidates running in the midterms are considered election deniers or who raised questions about the legitimacy of the 2020 election. And with that, President Biden says this race is a struggle for the soul of America. It was a midterm closing argument and an urgent warning about the future of democracy as we know it.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: I know there's a lot at stake in these midterm elections from our economy to the safety of our streets to our personal freedoms. [SCREEN WIPE] But there's something else at stake, democracy itself.

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Biden's Midterm Closing Argument; President Makes Plea to Voter Five Days to High-Stakes Election]

VEGA: Now, President Biden knows very well that the economy is the top issue for voters as they head to the polls on Tuesday, not necessarily election integrity, but he felt very much that this was a speech he had to give. He genuinely believes, George, that this election is about the future of this country. We have heard from the RNC. In fact, we heard from them before this speech even started. They said that these remarks are desperate, George, and dishonest.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Cecilia Vega, thanks very much.