

NBC's *Today*

09/19/25

7:00:42 a.m. [TEASE]

8 seconds

CRAIG MELVIN: New developments overnight in that major late-night shakeup.

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: The latest on Jimmy Kimmel's removal and the larger battle over free speech today.

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7:00:55 a.m. [TEASE]

32 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; War Over Words]

GUTHRIE: War over words. Overnight, the remaining late night hosts rallying around Jimmy Kimmel.

STEPHEN COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 09/18/25]: And, to Jimmy, just let me say, I stand with you and your staff 100%.

JIMMY FALLON [on NBC's *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, 09/18/25]: He's a decent, funny, and loving guy, and I hope he comes back.

GUTHRIE: Protesters outside of Disney's headquarters says the battle over Kimmel's suspension and free speech escalates. The President, doubling down, threatening other networks could be next.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: I think their license should be taken away.

GUTHRIE: The latest just ahead.

(...)

7:04:03 a.m.

3 minutes and 47 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Kimmel Suspension Fallout]

GUTHRIE: We'll start with this late night drama unfolding in real time after ABC pulled Jimmy Kimmel live off the air indefinitely. An episode of *Celebrity Family Feud* airing in its place overnight.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Disney Protests]

MELVIN: Last night also marked the first time that other late night hosts had the chance to weigh in on the controversy. Stephen Colbert calling Kimmel's suspension "blatant censorship." We've also started to see protesters gather outside Disney headquarters accusing the company of bending to the Trump administration.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Trump's Next Move]

GUTHRIE: In the meantime, President Trump is heralding the move and now suggesting the FCC, federal regulators, should pull the plug on even more broadcasters. NBC's Liz Kreutz in Los Angeles with the very latest. Liz, good morning.

LIZ KREUTZ: Hey guys, good morning. A day after ABC decided to pull the plug on Jimmy Kimmel's show. We are seeing a growing number of people speaking out in the late night star's defense. While Kimmel himself has not spoken publicly about it yet, President Trump is now suggesting that television networks that criticize him should have their licenses pulled.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 09/18/25]: Jimmy, just let me say, I stand with you and your staff 100 percent.

KREUTZ: Overnight, Jimmy Kimmel's fellow late night hosts rallying behind him.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 09/18/25]: That is blatant censorship.

FALLON [on NBC's *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, 09/18/25]: I don't know what's going on, and, and no one does, but I — I do know Jimmy Kimmel, and he's a decent, funny, and loving guy, and I hope he comes back.

KREUTZ: ABC's decision to suspend Kimmel indefinitely coming after the comedian recently made comments on his show about Charlie Kirk's alleged assassin.

JIMMY KIMMEL [on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, 09/15/25]: [W]ith the MAGA gang desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them and doing everything they can to score political points from it.

KREUTZ: Kimmel's supporters protesting outside Disney, which owns ABC, saying the company caved to political pressure from the Trump administration, including FCC Chairman Brendan Carr, who later went on CNBC to explain his position.

FCC COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR [on CNBC's *Squawk on the Street*, 09/18/25]: The issue that arose here where lots and lots of people were upset was not a joke. It was not, you know, making fun or pillorying me or the administration or the President. It was appearing to directly mislead the American public about a significant fact.

KREUTZ: Carr also warning that the broadcast TV crackdown isn't over.

CARR [on Salem's *The Scott Jennings Show*, 09/18/25]: I think it's worthwhile to have the FCC look into whether *The View* and some of the programs that you have still qualify as bona fide news programs. [on FNC's *The Will Cain Show*, 09/18/25] I don't think this is the last shoe to drop.

KREUTZ: On Air Force One, President Trump suggested punishing broadcasters that air unfavorable coverage of him.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: I would think maybe their license should be taken away.

KREUTZ: On Wednesday before Kimmel's suspension, Carr threatened to take action against ABC over his remarks. Soon after, two of the country's largest local television station owners, Nexstar and Sinclair, said they would no longer air the show. It's more than politics at stake for these major media companies. Nexstar needs the FCC's approval for a major merger. Just two months ago, CBS announced the cancellation of *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, another Trump critic. At the time, CBS's parent company Paramount was also seeking a high profile merger. Critics say Carr is aware of the financial dynamics.

KARA SWISHER [on CNN's *AC360*, 09/17/25]: Anything you can do to shake them down on behalf of Donald Trump, he's doing now.

KREUTZ: Democrats promising an investigation and warning the FCC.

CONGRESSMAN ERIC SWALWELL (D-CA): There's going to be a Democratic majority in just over a year and to the FCC chairperson and anyone involved in these dirty deals, get a lawyer and save your records.

KREUTZ: Now, according to Bloomberg, ABC officials met with Jimmy Kimmel yesterday to discuss the show's future, but the network has still not said when, if ever, it will be back on the air, guys.

GUTHRIE: All right, Liz Kreutz with the breaking news. Thank you.

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8:00:47 a.m. [TEASE]
20 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Speaking Out]

GUTHRIE: Coming up, speaking out. Late-night hosts rally around Jimmy Kimmel amid the battle over his suspension and free speech.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 09/18/25]: That is blatant censorship.

FALLON [on NBC's *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, 09/18/25]: I don't know what's going on, and no one does.

GUTHRIE: President Trump doubling down with threats against other networks and stars. We're live with the latest developments.

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8:03:09 a.m.

1 minute and 28 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; Censorship Battle Erupts Amid Kimmel Suspension]

GUTHRIE: We'll begin with the latest developments on Jimmy Kimmel's controversial removal from the airwaves. Fellow late-night hosts and President Trump weighing in. NBC's Liz Kreutz on the story for us. Liz, good morning.

KREUZ: Hi, Savannah, good morning to you. We are hearing for the first time now from Jimmy Kimmel's fellow late-night hosts who are all rallying behind him. Here is part of what Colbert and Fallon had to say on their shows last night.

COLBERT [on CBS's *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, 09/18/25]: That is blatant censorship. [SCREEN WIPE] And Jimmy, just let me say, I stand with you and your staff 100%.

FALLON [on NBC's *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, 09/18/25]: I don't know what's going on, and no one does, but I do know Jimmy Kimmel and he's a decent, funny, and loving guy, and I hope he comes back.

KREUTZ: Now, ABC and its parent company, Disney, chose to suspend Kimmel this week after conservative backlash to comments he made about his show about the suspect in the Charlie Kirk shooting. Critics say this was Disney caving to political pressure from the Trump administration, including Brendan Carr. Kimmel supporters have now started protesting outside Disney headquarters. Meanwhile, yesterday, Carr celebrated Kimmel's suspension and warned the FCC is not done cracking down on broadcast TV. President Trump also suggested revoking licenses from broadcasters that air unfavorable coverage of him. Now, according to Bloomberg, ABC officials met with Jimmy Kimmel yesterday to discuss the show's future, but the network has still not said when, if ever, it will be back on the air. Savannah.

GUTHRIE: Liz Kreutz, thank you very much.