

NBC's *Today*

04/22/26

7:00:37 a.m. [TEASE]

17 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Redistricting Fight]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Breaking overnight, Democrats score a major victory in a high-stakes showdown. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] Voters in Virginia narrowly approving plans to redraw that state's congressional map. What it could mean for the critical midterm elections and the balance of power in Washington.

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7:03:04 a.m. [TEASE]

9 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Redistricting Fight]

GUTHRIE: Also new this morning, Virginia voters have passed a new redistricting plan that could give Democrats a big advantage in that state in the upcoming midterms.

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7:06:05 a.m.

2 minutes and 52 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Democrats Gain Edge in Redistricting Fight]

CRAIG MELVIN: Well, now to a move that could shake up the approaching mid-term elections. Overnight, voters in Virginia approving a Democrat-backed redistricting plan that could swing the balance of power in the House. NBC's senior White House correspondent Gabe Gutierrez has more on the closely watched vote and the potential fallout as well. Gabe, good morning.

GABE GUTIERREZ: Craig, good morning. This is an escalating fight over how and when the lines of congressional seats are drawn. Usually, it happens every 10 years, based on population figures. But last year, President Trump pushed for Texas to do it early to give Republicans an advantage and possibly get more seats. Now, Democrats are fighting back. Overnight, a vote that could tip the balance of power in Washington. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] Democrats win a fierce fight in Virginia. Voters approving their plan to redraw the congressional map, potentially giving them up to four more seats as they try to win back the narrowly divided House of Representatives, a high stakes leading both parties to focus on Virginia in recent days.

HOUSE MINORITY LEADER HAKEEM JEFFRIES (D-NY): We're urging everyone to vote yes to stop the MAGA power grab.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: You just have to vote no. It has to vote no. You can't let this happen.

GUTIERREZ: Former President Obama even getting involved.

FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA [in ad]: Make a plan, show up, and vote yes, Virginia.

GUTIERREZ: The vote was narrow and it's part of a larger battle across the country kicked off when President Trump last year called for Republicans to launch redistricting efforts in multiple key states to help them in this year's midterm elections. Democrats countered with their own proposals in other states in Virginia, focusing their campaign on the President, who warned his supporters it could mean his opponents take over Congress.

TRUMP: The great things that we did now on a national basis is going to be destroyed.

GUTIERREZ: Trump has been hitting the road campaigning for his party.

TRUMP: This November, we gotta win the midterms.

GUTIERREZ: But the President's approval rating is sinking and as low as the point of his second term in NBC News's latest poll, partially driven by the unpopular Iran war. A challenge for the White House has it tries to hold on to that razor-thin majority. Though most self-described MAGA supporters do still approve of Trump's handling of the war, some high-profile Trump allies are speaking out. Tucker Carlson breaking with the President he helped get elected, even apologizing to followers for campaigning for Trump.

TUCKER CARLSON: I do think it's like a moment to wrestle with our own consciences. You know, we'll be tormented by it for a long time. I will be.

GUTIERREZ: Virginia's redistricting effort will likely face legal challenges going forward. The state Supreme Court has reserved the right to rule on questions surrounding the measure. But this Democratic victory in Virginia could motivate Republicans elsewhere to try to make changes. The GOP in Florida, for example, is now considering their own redistricting effort, Craig.

MELVIN: Gabe Gutierrez from the White House. Gabe, thank you.

(...)

8:03:23 a.m.

27 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Democrats Gain Edge in Redistricting Fight]

MELVIN: Virginia voters approved a redistricting plan yesterday that will redraw the state

congressional map for the remainder of the decade. The move could also boost Democrats' chances of winning four additional House seats in November's midterm elections. The constitutional amendment passed by a narrow margin, though, just over 51 percent voting "yes." But the vote may not be the final word there. The state Supreme Court is still considering whether the plan is legal.