

*ABC's Good Morning America*

07/17/26

7:01:10 a.m. [TEASE]

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Overnight; The President's Speech]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Overnight, President Trump addresses the nation, making misleading claims about the 2020 election he lost to sow doubt about the upcoming midterm elections. How election officials across the country are responding.

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7:09:42 a.m.

3 minutes and 27 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: President Claims Election Security Breaches]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Now to President Trump's primetime address last night, where he continued his campaign to cast doubt on the 2020 election he lost, and the 2026 midterms he fears losing. He did it by making a series of misleading claims and citing dated intelligence that failed to demonstrate any votes were actually compromised. Senior political correspondent Rachel Scott is at the White House with the latest. Good morning, Rachel.

RACHEL SCOTT: George, good morning to you, and Republicans on Capitol Hill were hoping the President would focus on immigration, on the economy, issues they believe will be important to voters this midterm election, but instead, the President came before the American people to talk about an election that he lost six years ago, using unfounded claims to demand sweeping changes ahead of the midterms. With the midterm elections just four months away, President Trump taking to the podium in primetime to sow doubt in America's election system, making misleading claims about the election he lost six years ago.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: No country could be great without fair and honest elections. You have to trust your country.

SCOTT: In a 25-minute speech, the President making extraordinary and vague claims that officials he appointed in his first administration were part of a cover-up to keep information about foreign interference and election fraud away from him, arguing newly released documents would show efforts by China to interfere in our elections and expose flaws in the voting system.

TRUMP: They're vulnerable, and they're easily compromised, and people within our government knew that.

SCOTT: But the President provided no evidence that the outcome or any votes were altered in the 2020 election, and his claims deeply contradict the assessments his own intelligence officials gave him in 2021 that China did not attempt to influence the presidential election outcome. Trump lost in 2020 by seven million votes. He lost the Electoral College, and lost more than 60 court cases challenging the election, some in front of judges he appointed, and there's no evidence of widespread voter fraud, something his own attorney general at the time acknowledged. Still, the President has been fixated on unfounded claims of voter fraud, demanding Congress pass the SAVE America Act, a sweeping voter ID bill, alleging his administration found more than 275,000 non-citizens on the voting rolls. But at no point did the President prove people cast ballots who shouldn't have. Election officials across the country quickly responding. Nevada's Secretary of State saying: "There are numerous protections in place to prevent non-citizens...from casting a ballot." And, in Pennsylvania, the Republican Secretary of State telling *The New York Times*: "All evidence has shown that non-citizen voting is extremely rare across the country, including in Pennsylvania." Democrats warning that President Trump is laying the groundwork for challenging future election results.

CONGRESSMAN JIM HIMES (D-CT): He's laying the foundation to be able to tell America after Election Day that the election was corrupt and therefore should not be respected.

SCOTT: We just got word from both China and Russia. They are rejecting the claims that the President made last night. As he closed his speech, he demanded that Republicans on Capitol Hill passed the SAVE America Act. This is his voter ID bill, which would require proof of citizenship to register to vote. It would also severely restrict mail-in voting, but the President does not have the votes to get this through Congress. And what's more, that bill does nothing to address what the President spent most of his time focused on last night: These allegations of foreign election interference, which again, his own intelligence agencies at the time said was just simply not true, George.