

*CBS Mornings*

09/09/26

7:01:11 a.m.

20 seconds

MICHAEL KOSTA [on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, 09/08/26]: The Republican Party is holding its first-ever midterm convention this week.

JON STEWART [on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, 09/08/26]: I'm very busy this week, and so —

KOSTA [on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, 09/08/26]: Jon, I didn't even tell you the best part. It's happening in Dallas! 95 degrees!

STEWART [on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, 09/08/26]: I — I don't think —

KOSTA: I didn't even tell you the best part. [STEWART LAUGHS] We're going to miss the NFL kickoff for it.

STEWART [on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*, 09/08/26]: I'm not going!

(...)

8:01:11 a.m.

1 minute and 48 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Republican Midterm Convention Underway Today]

GAYLE KING: We begin this hour, though, with something very unusual on the election calendar. It's a party convention in a non-presidential year. What? Republicans are gathering right now in Dallas for that two-day midterm convention, and they will hear a speech tonight from the President. He says the event will promote GOP candidates with less than two months to go before Election Day. Ed O'Keefe is in Dallas with what to expect. Ed O'Keefe, good to see you. What can we expect, Mr. O'Keefe, today?

ED O'KEEFE: Gayle, look at this. The red carpet's been rolled out. It's got red, white and blue bunting. It says convention up there, and there are white seats over here for the President and his family and cabinet secretaries to sit. It looks like a presidential nominating convention, but it's not. They're calling this a midterm convention, the first of its kind for Republicans, a 48-hour pep rally essentially for the President and contenders in key races across the country. The President headlines tonight. The Vice President is the keynoter tomorrow night. Who else is here? Well, candidates in key contests across the country, including Texas state Attorney General Ken Paxton. He's currently trailing his Democratic opponent James Talarico in polling and in fundraising. The President says this convention is, in part, designed to make sure that Paxton doesn't allow Democrats to win their first statewide election here in the Lone Star State since

1994, back when Bill Clinton was President. Now the President also says he wants to see candidates from other key contests across the country, but CBS News has learned dozens, if not hundreds of lawmakers in those key states won't be here or won't tell us what their plans are for fear of upsetting the White House. All of that an acknowledgment the President and his sagging approval ratings, because of concerns about inflation and the war with Iran are a drag on their chances, which is 55 days ago, until Election Day, Gayle.

KING: All right, Ed, we've got it. Thank you so much.