

CBS Mornings

09/10/26

7:00:10 a.m. [TEASE]

3 seconds

GAYLE KING: Coming up, a big promise from President Trump ahead of the midterms.

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7:00:25 a.m. [TEASE]

15 seconds

KING: President Trump takes the stage at a rare midterm convention with a big offer if Republicans win the House and the Senate.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump's Big Promise]

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: You get \$5,000. It will be called the Trump dividend.

(....)

7:02:15 a.m.

4 minutes and 49 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump Headlines First GOP Midterm Convention]

KING: We're going to begin with this, though. President Trump made a huge promise at the Republicans' first-ever midterm convention. So, the President headline day — he headlined day one of this political event, hoping to make this November election all about him at a time, we should say, when his approval ratings have never been lower. Last night, though, he tried to motivate voters with a promise of a \$5,000 payout, if the GOP keeps control of Congress. Ed O'Keefe is in Dallas with a look at last night's rally. Well, Ed, it was quite a show. Good morning to you.

ED O'KEEFE: It sure was, Gayle. Good to see you. We're less than eight weeks away from Election Day, and the Republican Party is hoping that this pep rally and show of support from the President will help Republican candidates in tight races across the country.

TRUMP: Tonight, we gather in the great state of Texas.

O'KEEFE: President Trump headlining an unconventional gathering of Republicans — a mid-cycle meeting of hoping can help define midterm political history, usually that leaves to big losses for the party in the White House.

TRUMP: I'm asking you to pretend that I'm on the ballot.

O'KEEFE: In a move that critics say may not be entirely legal, the President vowed to pay up, using taxpayer money if voters turn out for Republicans.

TRUMP: I will issue a dividend to every adult citizen of the United States of America for \$5,000.

O'KEEFE: While the President was the featured speaker Wednesday night, the convention also showcased contenders in some of the most competitive races.

CONGRESSWOMAN MONICA DE LA CRUZ (R-TX): We believe in hard work, putting family first, and our faith in God.

O'KEEFE: But perhaps the biggest surprise of the night came from a Democrat.

SENATOR JOHN FETTERMAN (D-PA): Yes, I'm Senator John Fetterman of Pennsylvania.

O'KEEFE: The senator appeared in a video message to thank Trump for his work to protect Pennsylvania steel mills.

FETTERMAN: I'll always reject the extremes and socialism and anti-American way of life.

O'KEEFE: Another key focus of the convention, shoring up Texas Republicans.

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL KEN PAXTON (R-TX): If we lose Texas, we lose the common sense revolution.

O'KEEFE: U.S. Senate candidate Ken Paxton, who trails Democrat James Talarico in polls and fundraising.

PAXTON: He is the most radical Democrat in Texas history.

O'KEEFE: Anticipating the attacks, Talarico met Wednesday in Dallas with volunteers to box up food for needy Texas families, saying he is focused on voters' number one concern: the rising cost of living.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES TALARICO (D-TX): The tickets to the billionaire ball are \$20,000. We just announced that we collected more than 20,000 pounds of groceries for working families, and that is a clear contrast in this race.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: George W. Bush Reflects on 9/11 Attacks]

O'KEEFE: There was another gathering hosted here in Dallas last night by former Republican President. George W. Bush, alongside former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, marking 25 years since the 9/11 attacks. Bush kept a low public profile and rarely comments on current President Trump. Gayle.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump Headlines First GOP Midterm Convention]

KING: Hey, Ed, before you go, can we talk about that \$5,000 dividend? As I understand it, we heard the President say it goes to every adult in this country. Can he do that?

O'KEEFE: Good question, Gayle. Unclear it's entirely legal. Although, if it is a government stimulus, perhaps it is. Here's the thing, Republicans have been in control of the House and the Senate for several years, and they've never proposed anything like this. And this is the kind of thing that would give headaches to fiscal conservatives because, you add up 269 million or so adults in this country, times 5,000, it gets you, like, \$1.3 trillion. Where does that money come from? Unclear. Seems like they might be throwing money at a problem and making a big campaign promise that may never pan out.

NORAH O'DONNELL: Yeah, especially given the deficit. Ed, let me ask you this, what about the president's message that he's on the ballot. How would that work with the recent polls showing his approval at 36 percent?

O'KEEFE: Well, as one senior lawmaker put it to me, this is essentially an event designed to reach that 36 percent of the country still with the President. Turn them out in those races across the country. You're going to see the speeches and the moments from these two nights, clipped and thrown up on social media. The hope is it reaches those voters and convince them to turn out and establish at least a floor for those GOP contenders in close races. And, by the way, if you're wondering about Senator Fetterman, what was he doing last night? He issued a statement saying this is about supporting the President and his Republican Senate colleague, Dave McCormick from Pennsylvania, and their work to protect steel mills in the Keystone State. But he is a lifelong Democrat who will remain one should the Senate flip to Democrats next year, Norah.

O'DONNELL: That's an important message. Alright, eight weeks to go before the midterms. Thank you.