

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: President Trump to Campaign in Texas]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: We're gonna get the latest now on President Trump heading to states that should be safe for Republicans ahead of the midterms, but polls signal trouble for the GOP, even in Texas, with some Republicans concerned the President is dragging them down. Chief White House correspondent Mary Bruce has the story. Good morning, Mary.

MARY BRUCE: Good morning, George. And President Trump is really ramping up his campaign travel to red states in these final weeks, hoping to push Republicans in these competitive races across the finish line. Trump is urging voters to pretend like he himself is on the ballot. But with the President's approval rating at or near record lows, there are real questions about just how much of a boost Trump will be. This morning, with 33 days until the midterm elections, President Trump heading to Texas, the reliably red state now a key battleground. Recent polling shows Democrat James Talarico with a slight edge over Republican Ken Paxton in the state's closely watched Senate race, which could determine control of Congress. Paxton, the Texas attorney general, is expected to join Trump this afternoon, even after *The New York Times* released audio of Paxton complaining that Trump's midterm convention in Dallas hurt Republican campaigns, including his own.

TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL KEN PAXTON (R): So, to be honest with you, the numbers — when we did that convention, it dropped our numbers. Everybody's dropped. Right now? Yeah, not — not — not good.

BRUCE: Paxton's campaign claims the report is "manipulated nonsense," adding "he looks forward to closing strong alongside President Trump." Asked about Paxton's comments, Trump said he hadn't heard them, but insists his convention was a hit.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: I can tell you that the convention was amazing.

BRUCE: The President hitting the road to boost Republicans in the final sprint to the midterms, urging voters to act like he's on the ballot. But polls put Trump's approval rating at or near record lows, in some cases as bad as in the aftermath of January 6. One new poll shows Trump's approval among registered voters at 37 percent, the lowest presidential approval rating right before a midterm since 1990. Texas's outgoing Republican Senator John Cornyn, with a blunt message.

SENATOR JOHN CORNYN (R-TX): When the President wants to make all these elections about himself and, you know, vote like I'm on the ticket when his favorability ratings are not what they once were, that's not a plus. That's a negative.

BRUCE: With the war with Iran now in its eighth month and prices soaring, Americans are feeling the impact. That new poll shows that nearly two-thirds of registered voters rate the strength of the U.S. economy negatively. Trump's own daughter-in-law now warning the war could hurt him.

LARA TRUMP [on *Harry Cole Saves the West*]: Well, it could cost him these midterms. I think Donald Trump's legacy has yet to be written.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Did the President's Convention Hurt Republicans?]

BRUCE: And back to those remarks by Ken Paxton criticizing Trump's midterm convention, in a speech overnight, he notably took time to praise the event, saying, "Republicans are getting united," Michael.

MICHAEL STRAHAN: All right, Mary, thank you for that. Appreciate it.