

CBS Mornings

10/01/26

7:20:50 a.m. [TEASE]

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Ahead; Paxton Leaked Audio]

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Plus, newly leaked audio reveals Senate candidate Ken Paxton is worried about the Republicans poll numbers. But we're going to tell you what he said and who it was about, in just a moment.

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7:36:46 a.m. [TEASE]

9 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Coming Up; Trump on the Trail]

KELLY O'GRADY: Up next, the countdown to the midterm elections is on, and President Trump is hitting the campaign trail. What newly leaked audio tells us about Republican concerns about a key Senate race.

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7:41:07 a.m.

2 minutes and 11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump Hits Campaign Trail in Texas]

DUTHIERS: This is October 1, so the November elections are fast approaching, and President Trump is launching a midterm push for votes. He will be campaigning in Texas today for Republican U.S. Senate candidate Ken Paxton. He is locked in a very tight race, but new leaked audio reveals Paxton is worried about the Republicans' poll numbers. Ed O'Keefe has more.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: We're doing an extremely poor job of promotion, and an extremely great job of running the country.

ED O'KEEFE: Frustrated by his sinking poll numbers, President Trump is trying to convince voters to show up for Republicans even if they're upset.

TRUMP: Even if you don't like somebody so much, it doesn't matter. It's a vote for good things.

O'KEEFE: He vowed to hold a campaign rally almost every single day between now and Election Day, but where he's headed signals the trouble his party faces. Today, he's headed back to Texas where last month he headlined an unprecedented midterm convention. But Texas GOP

U.S. Senate candidate Ken Paxton was caught on tape last week admitting the speeches and balloon drop didn't help.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Leaked Paxton Audio Shows Worry Over Poll Numbers]

TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL KEN PAXTON (R): When we did that convention, it dropped our numbers. Everybody's dropped. Right now? Yeah, not — not — not good. I wish there was something we could do to turn that around, but obviously nothing.

O'KEEFE: But, in public Wednesday, Paxton said the Republicans are in lockstep.

PAXTON: Texas is the battleground.

WOMAN IN THE CROWD: Yes, that's right.

[CHEERS]

PAXTON: And Republicans are getting united.

O'KEEFE: Even before hitting the trail, the President again used the trappings of his office to shore up struggling Republican Senate candidates. Monday, he touted plans for a new steel plant in Iowa alongside candidate Ashley Hinson and, Wednesday, he announced plans for a new liquid natural gas plant in Alaska alongside Senator Dan Sullivan. Those are big economic deals in those states, but still several years away from happening. The President also plans to rally in Durant, Oklahoma, today. Tomorrow night, it's Mobile, Alabama. Saturday, it's Dayton, Ohio. Monday, it's Grand Island, Nebraska. All of these stops are in typically ruby-red states where Republicans are locked in closer-than-expected statewide contests, and the candidates don't necessarily want to be seen alongside the President. Vlad, we'll see who shows up.

DUTHIERS: Fascinating. Ed, as always, we appreciate you. Thank you.