

CBS Mornings

10/05/26

7:00:22 a.m. [TEASE]

7 seconds

NORAH O'DONNELL: Plus, the latest CBS News Battleground Tracker poll shows the challenges facing Republicans in the midterm elections.

(....)

7:06:44 a.m.

5 minutes and 14 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump Hits Campaign Trail Amid Midterm Concerns]

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Turning now to politics, new signs of trouble for Republicans. So, get this, if the elections were held today the latest CBS News Battleground Tracker poll mates Democrats would take control of the House of Representatives, 229 seats to 206. Voters do not approve of President Trump's handling of the economy and inflation. He's still campaigning hard, though, hoping to turn the tide. Nancy Cordes is at the White House. Nancy, good morning.

NANCY CORDES: Vlad, good morning to you. Well, another day, another red-state campaign stop planned for President Trump. This time, he's heading to Nebraska, which he won by 20 points two years ago, but where the Senate race today is a little too close for comfort.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: They are a bunch of dumb son of a [EXPLETIVE].

CORDES: President Trump deploying some coarse language to describe Democrats this weekend as the outlook for his party gets muddier. A *New York Times* poll shows Democratic candidates for governor pulling ahead of the Republican rivals in four red states.

TRUMP: Just get out and vote. If you do that, we're going to win, and we're going to win big.

CORDES: Trump was stumping for Ohio Senator John Husted, who's fending off a challenge from Sherrod Brown, who is hoping to reclaim the seat he lost two years ago.

FORMER SENATOR SHERROD BROWN (D-OH): We've got to address high costs. More money going out the door than coming in. I hope the President changes his focus and realizes how important that is.

CORDES: The Democratic inroads are forcing Republicans to make some tough choices. Over the weekend, the top GOP super PAC stopped airing ads in swing-state North Carolina, shifting those funds to Kansas instead. Ahead of the election, Trump is trying to appeal voters' bank accounts, announcing plans to send some seniors on Medicare \$90 to help with premium costs, and repeating his vow to give Americans cash if Republicans win.

TRUMP: I'm going to give all adult citizens in the United States of America \$5,000.

CORDES: It's an unusual campaign promise that other Republicans are shying away from. Arizona Democrat Mark Kelly called it corrupt.

SENATOR MARK KELLY (D-AZ) [on CBS's *Face the Nation*, 10/04/26]: I mean, this is just a payoff and he's trying to buy votes.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: CA Gov. Candidate Hilton Criticized Over New Ad]

CORDES: There is a campaign ad in California getting some attention and some backlash from within the GOP this morning. It's an add for the Republican candidate for Governor, Steve Hilton and it depicts two Gen Z women in what appears to be the start of a sexual encounter.

FEMALE GEN Z-ER #1 [in Steve Hilton ad]: I can't believe I'm doing this.

FEMALE GEN Z-ER #2 [in Steve Hilton ad]: Don't be nervous. It's not that bad.

FEMALE GEN Z-ER #1 [in Steve Hilton ad]: I've just never done anything like this before. Like, what if my dad finds out?

FEMALE GEN Z-ER #2 [in Steve Hilton ad]: Just try it. Look, give me your hand.

[COLORS IN HILTON BUBBLE]

FEMALE GEN Z-ER #1 [in Steve Hilton ad]: I think — I think I liked it.

CORDES: Some politicians are describing the ad as weird. One California GOP candidate said, "this is a clear example of why good people are walking away from the Republican Party." And another said, "I emphatically denounce the use of young women as a political tool." Now, recent polls show that Hilton is trailing his opponent Xavier Becerra by 20 points, so perhaps the goal here, Norah, was to get some of this attention.

O'DONNELL: All right. Nancy, thank you. With us now is CBS News executive director of elections and surveys, Anthony Salvanto. He has more about the CBS News battleground tracker poll and what it says about the economy. Anthony, I am so glad you are here.

ANTHONY SALVANTO: Thank you.

O'DONNELL: We know gas prices up over a dollar, grocery prices up, mortgage rates at a three-year high. Who are voters blaming for this?

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Anthony Salvanto on CBS News Battleground Tracker]

SALVANTO: So, of all of those measures that you mentioned, voters say the top one on their

minds is prices. You see that 91 percent incorporate that when they're talking about the economy. But right now, what's driving those big numbers you saw at the top is the Democrats are getting more of the voters who say that those higher prices have been difficult or a hardship. Now, the way that relates back to the administration and the Republicans is that 70 percent of voters say they think the administration's policies are making prices go up — yes, because of the Iran conflict in their minds gas prices and also food groceries, in part because they oppose the tariffs, Norah.

O'DONNELL: So, they're blaming President Trump and the Republicans in control of Congress for that. Let me ask you about Hispanic voters because they were a big factor in Trump's victory in the last election. How are they voting this year? What do we know?

SALVANTO: Yeah, exactly. Let me show you what you just mentioned there. These tight numbers between Democrats and Republicans in 2024, Republicans were hoping to build on or keep those gains this year, but you see Hispanic voters now moving back towards the Democrats. That's going to be pivotal, not just in states, but in a lot of Congressional districts where Republicans were hoping to hold on to those gains. One reason for it is that Hispanic voters even more tell us they think the administration focused too much on its deportation efforts.

O'DONNELL: Like, this may make a big difference in Texas, for instance.

SALVANTO: Absolutely. A lot of districts were redrawn hoping to hold on to Hispanic gains, they may not.

O'DONNELL: Alright. Looking forward to election night with you. Anthony Salvanto, thank you so much.