

NBC's *Today*

10/05/26

7:00:11 a.m. [TEASE]

41 seconds

CRAIG MELVIN: The race is really on.

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Yeah. The crucial midterms just one month away now. It is October 8. This is *Today*. Red alert.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Red Alert]

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: I'm really in to win it.

GUTHRIE: President Trump traveling to reliable Republican strongholds four weeks from election day as our new NBC News poll shows the party on shaky ground even in the rubiest red states. High-profile Republicans sounding the alarm —

SENATOR JOHN KENNEDY (R-LA) [on NBC's *Meet the Press*, 10/05/26]: — not to believe their own lyin' checkbooks is not going to work.

TRUMP: America will never be a communist country.

GUTHRIE: — as these Trump ads, paid for by taxpayers, get prime airtime during some football. We're live in Washington straight ahead.

(...)

7:04:08 a.m.

2 minutes and 44 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Midterm Countdown]

MELVIN: But we are going to start this morning with a countdown to the crucial midterm elections. With just 29 days to go now, President Trump hitting the trail hard with control of Congress hanging in the balance.

GUTHRIE: We've got it all covered. We'll start with NBC's senior White House correspondent Gabe Gutierrez. Gabe, good morning to you.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump Hits Campaign Trail Ahead of Midterms]

GABE GUTIERREZ: Savannah, good morning. The President is spending a lot of time in traditionally red states defending areas that usually aren't all that competitive at the polls. White House officials often say he is his own best messenger. The next few weeks could put that to the

test. With about a month left until the crucial midterms, President Trump hitting the campaign trail today as Republicans scramble to keep control of Congress.

TRUMP: I'm really in to win it.

GUTIERREZ: The President in Ohio this weekend, one of four usually reliable Republican states where he has rallied his base over the past week. Today he heads to Nebraska, a state won by 20 points in 2024, but where a GOP incumbent is now trying to hold on to his Senate seat. The President, on a midterm blitz, headlining 36 events across 17 states in 30 days.

TRUMP: We're going to win big, and we're going to shove it up their [EXPLETIVE].

GUTIERREZ: Also making a new pocketbook pitch to voters, pledging \$90 rebate checks to seniors on Medicare and renewing his promise to give \$5,000 checks to every adult if Republicans win in November, though that payout would require congressional approval. But Democrats see an opening.

SENATOR MARK KELLY (D-AZ) [on CBS's *Face the Nation*, 10/04/26]: People are frustrated, and they're fed up with Washington, D.C. right now.

GUTIERREZ: Even some Republicans are worried soaring gas and grocery prices could still trouble this election.

KENNEDY [on NBC's *Meet the Press*, 10/05/26]: I think we have to tell the American people the truth. Telling them not to believe their own lying checkbooks is not going to work.

GUTIERREZ: A new NBC News/Telemundo poll finds Democrats now lead Republicans by 24 points among critical Latino voters on which party they want controlling Congress. The President's approval rating among Latinos? Just 27 percent.

TRUMP: All of these fake polls, they don't account for one thing. They don't account for the fact that Trump is out campaigning.

GUTIERREZ: And the midterms have gotten so significant that there are political ads airing during major football broadcasts. Campaign-style, pro-Trump ads began running last week. The administration paid for those ads using money intended for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, according to a U.S. official, and now an ad for a Senate race in Texas paid for by a Texas super PAC is running nationally. Angela Paxton, the separated wife of candidate Ken Paxton, who has been under scrutiny — under scrutiny during the breakup of his marriage, is now in an ad telling Republicans to hold the line.

(....)

8:00:12 a.m. [TEASE]
15 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: On the Trail]

GUTHRIE: Coming up, on the trail. The countdown to the midterms is on with President Trump making a major push.

TRUMP: I'm really in to win it.

GUTHRIE: Our latest NBC News poll showing Republicans could be facing an uphill battle. We are live with the latest.

(....)

8:02:28 a.m.

1 minute and 4 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; Trump Hits Campaign Ahead of Midterms]

GUTHRIE: We will start with the crucial midterm elections now just one month away. The President hitting the campaign trail. Control of Congress hanging in the balance. NBC senior White House correspondent Gabe Gutierrez in Washington for us with the latest. Gabe, good morning.

GUTIERREZ: Savannah, good morning. Today, President Trump heads to Nebraska, a state he last won by 20 points, but where a GOP incumbent is now trying to hold on to his Senate seat. The President was in Ohio this weekend, one of four usually reliably Republican states where he's rallied his base over the past week. The President is pledging \$90 rebate checks to seniors on Medicare. Now, the battle over the midterms is playing out during major football broadcasts. Campaign-style pro-Trump ads began running last week. Now, an ad for a Senate race in Texas is running nationally, and it includes Angela Paxton, the separated wife of candidate Ken Paxton, telling Republicans to hold the line. Now, a top issue in the midterms is the cost of living concerns, largely driven by soaring gas prices due to the Iran war.