

ABC's *Good Morning America*

10/19/26

7:00:17 a.m. [TEASE]

3 seconds

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: The midterm scramble with 15 days to go.

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7:00:45 a.m. [TEASE]

12 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Scramble; 15 Days Until Midterms]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Just over two weeks until the final midterm votes. What's at stake in the fight for control of Congress, and with the White House under increasing pressure, President Trump at record-low approval ratings, the legal showdown over the President's plan for a golf course.

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7:08:12 a.m.

2 minutes and 49 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Republicans Scrambling to Hold Congress]

STEPHANOPOULOS: With the final votes just 15 days away, early midterm voting has already started in more than two dozen states. And with his approval ratings at a record low, President Trump heading to Kansas today to try to save a Republican Senate seat. Chief White House correspondent Mary Bruce has the story. Good morning Mary.

MARY BRUCE: Good morning, George. Yeah. 15 days to go. And Republicans this morning are facing major headwinds. The President is out blitzing these Republican strongholds. He's arguing that we are in a golden age of America, but our new poll shows that's not how many voters are feeling. This morning, with the midterms just over two weeks away, Republicans are scrambling to hold on to control of Congress and blunt the impact from President Trump's low approval.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: Our nation is doing better now than ever before.

BRUCE: But our new ABC News/*Washington Post*/Ipsos poll paints a starkly different picture. 72 percent say things in the country are headed in the wrong direction. Trump's approval rating, now at just 33 percent. That's five points lower than it was after the January 6 attack on the Capitol, a record low driven by concerns over the economy.

OHIO VOTER MONICA GALLAGHER: Everything has gone up and up and up, and you see no end in sight. It's just it's hard.

BRUCE: 71 percent of Americans now say gas is unaffordable, up from 28 percent back in February before Trump launched the war with Iran. In fact, nearly two-thirds of Americans 65 percent, say it was a mistake to use force against Iran. As we enter the final stretch, Democrats have a clear edge. 52 percent of likely voters want Democrats to be elected to the House, an eight-point lead on Republicans. In the fight for the Senate, ABC News now rates six seats currently held by Republicans as toss-ups, with the seventh seat now likely to flip to Democrats. And, as of now, nine million votes have already been cast. A reminder of the math here. Of course, Democrats would need a net gain of four seats to take the Senate, a net gain of just three to take the House.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And, Mary, over the last week, there's been a lot of turbulence inside the White House. The ambassador to Greece forced out at the top of the week, President's press secretary forced out after five days last week, and, this morning, there's going to be a federal court showdown over the President's plans to transform a public golf course.

BRUCE: Yeah, George, the President continuing his string of renovations here in Washington. He says that he sees East Potomac golf course is, "old, broken, and dilapidated," and has announced plans to move forward with construction starting on November 15. But that appears to contradict what the administration told a federal judge just last week that no agency would take action on the golf course. The judge actually recently admonished the government, even yelling at times for abruptly tearing down hundreds of trees on the golf course without giving her any notice. The President is back on social media this morning, just moments ago, saying the judge may be insane, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Mary Bruce, thanks.