

CBS Mornings

10/20/26

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

8 seconds

GAYLE KING: Ahead a warning sign for Republicans in Kansas. You heard that right, Kansas, as President Trump launches new attacks on the campaign trail.

(....)

7:00:31 a.m. [TEASE]

14 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Key Campaigns]

KING: President Trump pumps up the rhetoric, campaigning in red states where Democrats are gaining ground in very tight midterm races.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: If you want to see what is at stake in this election, just look at what's happening in France.

(....)

7:04:40 a.m.

2 minutes and 33 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: American Decides; Economy in Focus as Trump Rallies in Kansas]

O'DONNELL: This morning, we are just two weeks away from the crucial midterm elections which you can watch here on CBS. President Trump, who doesn't want to face a Congress run by Democrats, held a rally in Kansas last night for a Republican senator locked in a close race. Weijia Jiang is at the White House. Weija, good morning.

WEIJIA JIANG: Norah, good morning to you. Good morning to everybody. The cost of living is giving Republicans trouble in states they are used to dominating, like reliably red Kansas, which President Trump won in the past three presidential elections. Kansas has not elected a Democratic senator in nearly 100 years, but polls show a surprisingly close contest this year. Campaigning in ruby red Kansas, President Trump urged voters to re-elect Republican Senator Roger Marshall.

TRUMP: And Roger Marshall is all that stands between the people of Kansas and communists controlling the United States Senate.

JIANG: Trump launched a series of attacks against Democrats, including Michigan Senate candidate Abdul el-Sayed, who's running several states away.

TRUMP: The Democrats are the part of Abdul Mohammed el-Sayed. [CROWD BOOS] You know he got very upset because I called him Mohammed? [SCREEN WIPE] When you see burning steeples and raging fires in France, just remember, that is what the radical Democrats want to do to America. [SCREEN WIPE] They want to set loose the criminals, turn your children transgender, confiscate your money, and raise up the Palestinian flag right in the middle of your wonderful state.

JIANG: But Marshall Democratic opponent, Adam Hamilton, is a former Republican and popular pastor at the nation's largest United Methodist Church.

ADAM HAMILTON: I won't answer to a party, and I won't answer to any one person in Washington.

JIANG: Hamilton is running neck-in-neck with Marshall, with the economy a top issue for voters. Kansas cattle rancher Jason Hawkins still supports Trump, but remains undecided in the Senate race.

JASON HAWKINS: Do I vote with the party that's — that's working against my business or do I vote with the party that I don't personally align with on some of the social issues? That's the challenge.

JIANG: Trump's tariffs and the Iran war's impact on energy prices have hurt farmers and ranchers, who are paying more for supplies like diesel, fertilizer, and feed.

HAWKINS: People would see those beef prices in the store and think we're getting rich, but, you know, we're also double our diesel prices, doubled our land prices.

(....)

7:07:48 a.m.

2 minutes and 11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: America Decides; How Economic Issues Are Impacting the Midterms]

NATE BURLESON: Those red-state Democrats are riding a wave of concern over the economy. A new poll finds 68 percent of Americans disapprove of President Trump's handling of the economy. *CBS Saturday Morning* and Market Watch correspondent Kelly O'Grady is here. Kelly, good morning.

KELLY O'GRADY: Good morning.

BURLESON: So, you know, people are feeling that things are more expensive, just in general. Where are they seeing the biggest hike in prices, and then also where are they seeing some relief, if possible?

O'GRADY: I'll just call back to Weijia's piece, the big story this election when it comes to prices is energy. Very simply, we have an energy supply crunch. When you have refineries getting hit, when you have oil that is not able to flow freely through the Strait of Hormuz —

BURLESON: Right.

O'GRADY: — your supply goes down and your prices go up. So for consumers this winter, we already see it at the gas pump, right? It is up 34 percent versus last year, indirectly, also you heard the farmer in Weijia's piece, diesel prices are causing transportation costs to go up, agricultural costs, and then I want you to look at the last one on that list there, 74 percent for fuel oil. It's getting colder. I'm sure some of us have already turned on the heat.

BURLESON: Oh, that's a good point, yeah.

O'GRADY: If you heat your home with oil, analysts are saying that last year it cost \$1,750 for the winter. It is going to cost over \$2,600. So, if you're in Maine, you're in Alaska, this is why this is such an important issue when it comes to those Senate races.

O'DONNELL: You know, owning a home is synonymous with the American dream. What about first-time home buyers?

O'GRADY: Well, speaking for the group, it is tough out there. You had mortgage rates last year 6.3 percent. People were already saying that's too high. Now, it's 7.4 percent for your 30-year fixed, but we also have a supply problem that is pushing prices up. The median cost for a new home, \$410,000. I know that sounds eye popping. But I want to drive one point home further. Since 2000, your average income, it's gone up close to 110,000 percent — or — sorry — yeah, 110 percent. That sounds great, right?

BURLESON: Yeah.

O'GRADY: Well, home prices have gone up close to 150 percent, so it's getting further and further out of reach, and the American dream is to own a home. If you are renting, and your prices are going up, you feel behind.

O'DONNELL: Really important information. Kelly O'Grady, thank you very much.

BURLESON: Thanks, Kelly.