

NBC's *Today*

10/22/26

7:01:14 a.m. [TEASE]

18 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Heating Up]

CRAIG MELVIN: Heating up. President Trump rallying Republican voters in another deep red state overnight. Candidates clashing in races that will decide Washington's balance of power.

FORMER CONGRESSMAN MIKE ROGERS (R-MI) [TO EL-SAYED]: Are you for America or are you for these terrorist groups overseas?

ABDUL EL-SAYED: To bring into question my commitment to the Constitution is beneath you.

(...)

7:10:19 a.m.

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Midterm Blitz Rolls on as Candidates Sound Off]

MELVIN: We turn now to the sprint to the midterms, now just 12 days away. President Trump in South Carolina overnight trying to defend a key Senate seat, with control of Congress hanging in the balance.

(...)

7:10:44 a.m.

1 minute and 31 seconds

GABE GUTIERREZ: President Trump today heading to another surprising battleground — Iowa — a state he last won by double digits, but that now has a competitive Senate race. And it all comes as that campaign gets even uglier in Ohio. [YMCA] With just 12 days to go, President Trump taking his midterm message to South Carolina, a state that hasn't sent a Democrat to the Senate in almost three decades.

TRUMP: I'm asking you to pretend I'm on the ballot.

GUTIERREZ: He was interrupted by multiple protesters while trying to boost Republican Senator Darline Graham, who's facing a surprisingly competitive race with Democrat Annie Andrews. Raising the stakes, the President handpicked Graham to fill the Senate seat once held by her late brother, Lindsey Graham. In Kansas, another typically deep-red state, incumbent Republican Senator Roger Marshall is running neck and neck with challenger Adam Hamilton. The two clashing in a debate overnight over the President's war with Iran, which is unpopular

with voters.

ADAM HAMILTON: Failed to support ending the war.

SENATOR ROGER MARSHALL (R-KS): I want this war to be over just as soon as possible recalling, but we cannot let Iran have a nuclear weapon.

GUTIERREZ: In Michigan, another contentious debate between Senate hopefuls, Democrat Abdul el-Sayed and Republican Mike Rogers.

ROGERS [TO EL-SAYED]: Are you for America or are you for these terrorist groups overseas?

EL-SAYED: To bring into question my commitment to the Constitution is really beneath you. I am proud of America. I am proud to be an American.

(...)

7:13:35 a.m.

39 seconds

MELVIN: So, Gabe — so where is President Trump heading next in the midterm blitz and what can we glean from his travels about the party's strategy?

GUTIERREZ: Well, Craig, yes, we're in the home stretch. Busy few days. Heads to Iowa today, then Georgia and Michigan. Battleground Senate races that are down to the wire and, next week, he's also scheduled to go to deep-red Mississippi and Texas in the hopes of boosting the base. Now, two senior administration officials tell NBC News that the President is expected to roll out more economic announcements, what he refers to as goodies, at midterm rallies, some of which are contingent on Republicans keeping control of Congress.

MELVIN: Gabe Gutierrez from the White House for us. Gabe, thank you.