

ABC's *Good Morning America*

10/26/26

7:00:10 a.m. [TEASE]

13 seconds

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Trump and Obama on the campaign trail. Eight days until the final votes.

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7:00:23 a.m. [TEASE]

28 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Final Sprint; 8 Days to Go]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Final sprint. With eight days until the final votes, President Trump blitzing more red states after rallying in Michigan, attacking Democrat Abdul el-Sayed. Former President Obama also on the trail in Ohio and Michigan, helping Democrats make their closing argument with control of the Senate at stake, and the rising cost of living top of voters' minds.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Election Lawsuits; Unprecedented Action]

All this as the Justice Department takes unprecedented legal action in two states, creating uncertainty about the voting

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7:03:07 a.m.

5 minutes and 43 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Midterms Elections 8 Days Away]

STEPHANOPOULOS: We're going to begin, though, with the midterm elections. Eight days until the final votes. Presidents Trump and Obama held dueling rallies in Michigan. The President unleashing inflammatory and false attacks on Democrat Abdul el-Sayed. Obama, arguing, we've been down this road before. Jay O'Brien is tracking the latest at the White House. Good morning, Jay.

JAY O'BRIEN: George, good morning to you. We are in that final sprint now to Election Day, just eight days away. Tens of millions of votes have already been cast, and Republicans and Democrats bringing in their closers. President Trump and former President Obama. This morning, the midterm elections only eight days away, and both parties deploying their heavyweights for a closing pitch.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: A very special hello to Michigan.

O'BRIEN: In Michigan, President Trump rallying with former Republican congressman Mike Rogers, who's facing off against Democrat Abdul el-Sayed in a tight race that could decide control of the Senate. The President calling el-Sayed, who would be the nation's first Muslim senator, an Islamic extremist, even comparing electing el-Sayed to the September 11 attacks.

TRUMP: Abdul Mohammed el-Sayed, a man who should never be allowed inside the halls of our great, beautiful Capitol building.

O'BRIEN: El-Sayed has called Trump's attacks on his faith Islamophobic and a distraction from voters' concerns about the economy.

ABDUL EL-SAYED: They're trying to get you to question my love of this country.

O'BRIEN: The unabashed progressive joined by President Obama over the weekend, who called the attacks on el-Sayed familiar.

FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: We have seen this movie before! I starred in it.

O'BRIEN: Obama taking aim at what he says is President Trump's preoccupation with White House renovations.

OBAMA: There is just gold everywhere. What's — what's up with the gold? I mean, he's got the White House looking like Saddam Hussein opened a Cheesecake Factory.

O'BRIEN: All of it, as more than 28 million Americans have already cast their ballots. The rising cost of living top of mind for voters —

JEFF SANDBORN: Here's a soybean.

O'BRIEN: — including here at Jeff Sandborn's Michigan farm. He's undecided on the Senate race and tells us the rising price of diesel to run his machines is a top concern. [TO SANBORN] Have you ever seen diesel this high?

SANDBORN: No, not that I can think of. It's went up, but never this rapidly.

O'BRIEN: President Trump has headed to Mississippi today. Then on to Texas and Ohio, typically Republican strongholds that have seen their races tighten in recent weeks. Former President Obama campaigns in Georgia Wednesday, Robin.

ROBIN ROBERTS: Eight days away. All right. Jay, our thanks to you. In advance of the elections, the Trump administration has filed lawsuits in California and Alaska, an extraordinary intervention, a process that's run by the state's chief Justice correspondent Pierre Thomas has the latest. Good morning, Pierre.

PIERRE THOMAS: Robin, good morning. So far, DOJ is seeking to intervene in two states that

could have a major impact on the makeup of Congress. We've seen nothing like it in recent times, and states are defiant, basically saying: See you in court. With voters already casting ballots, the Trump administration is taking new, unprecedented legal action to challenge state elections and assert federal power as states hit back in a fight that creates uncertainty down the stretch to the midterm elections. In Alaska DOJ filed a lawsuit less than two weeks before Election Day to block certification of that state's election if the Republican Senate candidate narrowly loses. At issue are the names appearing on Alaska's ballot. Republican Senator Dan Sullivan, who's running for reelection, but another candidate, retired school teacher Daniel J. Sullivan, is also running, which Blanche argues could sow confusion. Attorney General Todd Blanche denying the Department of Justice is laying the groundwork to overturn election results.

ATTORNEY GENERAL TODD BLANCE [on CNN's *State of the Union*, 10/25/26]: We should not have a candidate who has to worry about another candidate being on the ballot for no other reason than to confuse voters.

THOMAS: Still, neither Blanche nor President Trump, who says he told the Justice Department to file the lawsuit, have cited any law they believe would be broken.

TRUMP: I think it's illegal because it's unfair. I mean, it's unfair. You don't — you want — you want fairness in voting.

THOMAS: The Constitution says states, not the federal government, have jurisdiction over their own elections. Critics claim DOJ, at Trump's bidding, is overstepping its authority.

SENATOR ADAM SCHIFF (D-CA) [on NBC's *Meet the Press*, 10/25/26]: It's not the federal government's business to run Alaskan elections. It's Alaska's business to do that. And they've already adjudicated this question. And the Justice Department knows this, but it just shows how complicit they are now in the Trump campaign to try to subvert the elections.

THOMAS: This comes as DOJ is demanding California's state election officials set aside more than 20,000 ballots that they claim likely belong to non-citizens, requesting Social Security numbers and other personal information on those potential voters. According to the Brennan Center, since May of 2025, the administration has filed lawsuits against 30 states to hand over election-related records. 26 have been dismissed. DOJ also threatening California state election officials with prison time if they allow non-citizens to vote. A three-judge panel holding an emergency hearing on Sunday, with at least two judges appearing highly skeptical of DOJ's actions.

U.S. CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS MARK BENNETT: How can it preempt something that is expressly authorized by a provision of the Constitution?

THOMAS: One of the judges on the appellate panel did suggest that stopping non-citizens from voting should be a priority. Something viewers should keep in mind: Credible studies have shown no evidence of widespread voter fraud or evidence of non-citizens voting in big enough

numbers to have a significant impact on elections. But guys, eight days before the election, some of these issues could end up before the Supreme Court. George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Pierre Thomas, thanks very much.

(....)

8:00:13 a.m. [TEASE]

15 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Final Sprint; 8 Days to Go]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Final sprint. Only eight days until the final votes. President Trump blitzing more red states, while former President Obama also hit the trail, helping Democrats make their closing argument with control of the Senate at stake and the rising cost of living top of voters' minds.

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8:01:38 a.m.

1 minute and 19 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking at 8; Midterm Elections 8 Days Away]

STEPHANOPOULOS: We start with the midterm elections. Eight days until the final votes. President Trump and Obama held dueling rallies in Michigan. The President unleashing inflammatory and false attacks on Democrat Abdul el-Sayed. Obama, arguing, we've been down this road before. Let's go back to Jay O'Brien at the white house. Good morning, Jay.

O'BRIEN: George, good morning again to you. We are in that final sprint now to Election Day, just eight days away. Republicans and Democrats bringing out their closers. President Trump and former President Obama, both rallying in Michigan over the weekend, home to that critical Senate race that could decide control of that chamber. Democrat Abdul el-Sayed versus former Republican Congressman Mike Rogers. The President attacking el-Sayed, who would be the nation's first Muslim senator, repeatedly trying to link him to Islamic extremists, even comparing electing el-Sayed to the September 11 attacks. El-Sayed has vehemently denied any links to Islamic extremism, and former President Obama compared those attacks that el-Sayed faces to those that he faced while in office, and he blasted the President for what he called his preoccupation with White House renovations. It all comes as more than 28 million Americans have already cast their ballots in early voting. President Trump heads to Mississippi tonight and then on to Texas and Ohio, typically Republican strongholds that have seen their races tighten in recent weeks. Former President Obama travels to Georgia on Wednesday, Robin.

ROBERTS: Both with full schedules. All right, Jay. Thank you.