

CBS Mornings

10/26/26

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

7 seconds

GAYLE KING: Ahead, it's a clash of the Presidents, you can say, on the campaign trail. Obama and Trump face off with blistering attacks.

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7:00:33 a.m. [TEASE]

21 seconds

FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: What's up with the gold? I mean, he's got the White House looking like Saddam Hussein opened a Cheesecake Factory.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Midterm Countdown]

KING: Former President Barack Obama and President Trump campaigned in Michigan, a race that could decide control of the Senate.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: Michigan needs to stand up and fight to stop a Jihadist from walking into the Capitol.

(....)

7:03:09 a.m.

6 minutes and 11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: America Decides; Obama & Trump Hold Dueling Midterm Rallies]

O'DONNELL: But we want to begin this morning with the midterm elections now just eight days away with those sides turning up the heat. Former President Obama and President Trump held dueling rallies over the weekend, with Obama ridiculing Republicans, including Trump. The current President lashed out at Obama and launched his toughest attack yet on the Democrat, who would be the first Muslim U.S. Senator. Nancy Cordes is at the White House tracking the campaign. Nancy, good morning.

NANCY CORDES: Norah, good morning to you. So here's the headline. Our latest projections continue to indicate a Democratic takeover of the House. The Republicans do still have a narrow path to maintain their majority. The contest for Senate control could come down to Ohio and Michigan, which is why President Trump and one of his predecessors both made their way to the Rust Belt this weekend. It was a Midwest split-screen moment as two Presidents hit the trail in the closing days of this race.

TRUMP: And I want him to have a metal detector.

CORDES: In Port Huron, Michigan, President Trump took aim at Senate candidate Abdul el-Sayed and his Muslim faith.

TRUMP: I'm here to keep a jihadist, Muslim Brotherhood member from becoming a United States Senator.

CORDES: El-Sayed has denied any ties to the Muslim Brotherhood and hit back at a rally with Senator Bernie Sanders.

ABDUL EL-SAYED: I don't care how he pronounces my name — [SCREEN WIPE] — because he can just go on and call me Senator after November.

OBAMA: This stuff didn't work on me, not in Michigan, it's not going to work on Abdul.

CORDES: In Michigan and earlier in Ohio, former President Barack Obama went after Trump's renovation projects and the now-ornate Oval Office.

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

CORDES: Trump voted early this weekend in his home state of Florida. Roughly 30 million Americans have already voted in person or by mail, smashing midterm records in Texas, North Carolina, and Georgia. According to the latest CBS News Model estimate, Democrats are on pace to win 229 seats in the House, 11 more than they need to take control. And with the war, with Iran still slowing the supply of oil, 50 percent of likely voters say gas prices are likely to go up if Republicans win, compared to 30 percent who say that about Democrats.

TRUMP: It's not a big hit. I thought gasoline would go up much more.

CORDES: On *Face the Nation*, Attorney General Todd Blanche defended a new lawsuit from the Department of Justice to block certification of Alaska's election if Republican Senator Dan Sullivan loses. There's another candidate on the ballot with the same name.

ATTORNEY GENERAL TODD BLANCE [on CBS's *Face the Nation*, 10/25/26]: There is no dispute that the only reason the second Dan Sullivan is running is to pull votes away in a confusing and inappropriate manner from the Dan Sullivan incumbent.

CORDES: The Democratic candidate in that Senate race, Mary Peltola, got into a car accident over the weekend. Her campaign says she suffered minor injuries and will have to move some events to later this week.

O'DONNELL: We'll be watching, Nancy. Thank you. Let's bring in Ed O'Keefe for the deeper look at the new CBS News polling. All right, Ed, let's talk first about that CBS News estimate

still has the Democrats winning with a pretty big advantage in the House.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: America Decides; Voters Weigh in on New CBS News Poll]

ED O'KEEFE: They do, but what's notable is that this estimate hasn't moved in the last two weeks, which exists, things are pretty stable again. They could get as low as 215 seats, as many as 237. There's still that narrow chance Republicans hold on, but otherwise looks like it's Democrats. And the big reason, of course, is because of the economy. Look at these numbers when it comes to how upset people are about the economy.

O'DONNELL: Yeah. Let me ask you about that. What are the top issues for voters?

O'KEEFE: Well, again, it is the economy. Here it is. 65 percent of voters tell us the U.S. economy is in bad shape. That right there, you would think, is the ballgame, because when you're the party in power, and people feel that badly and think 57 percent of them do that things are worse off than they were, that would make it really difficult for them to hold on. But this is the issue now that it's come out of nowhere, Norah, over the last several weeks? Corruption. How much is government corruption a factor in your vote? 83 percent.

O'DONNELL: That's huge.

O'KEEFE: It is, and this is an issue that began percolating, really last spring, among certain Senate candidates running in places like Texas and Georgia, but it has become a national concern. I mean, all those other issues that have been raised about people in the Trump administration who may have been finding ways to enrich themselves, just allegedly.

O'DONNELL: Let me ask you about early voting, because I think, as we're looking for tea leaves about how this election may go, we're seeing big numbers on about pace is 2022, but, in some states, really interesting.

O'KEEFE: Yeah. Well, first off, well, let's go to that early voting number. We are seeing now — and this right here starts to give us a sense in some of these key states, more than four million cast in Texas, more than 1.6 million cast in Georgia. There's not much, though, you can read into that besides the fact that a lot of people are taking advantage of more access to early voting. They're going to people all week as we wait for the results to say, "oh, look, there's more Democrats voting in this corner of that state or more Republicans showing up. Where are the young people?" The thing is, you can't compare apples to apples cycle to cycle, because things are different. States are in play, and just because they show up early doesn't mean there's going to be more of them to show up the day of.

O'DONNELL: Okay. Well, we chose these two states, or I did, because they're up big from the last midterm election.

O'KEEFE: Yes.

O'DONNELL: So, let me ask you quickly, President Trump heading to Mississippi. Why?

O'KEEFE: He won that state by 23 points. Suddenly, that race is tightened a little bit between City Heights Smith and her Democratic challenger. And over the last several weeks, what has he been doing? Going to those Republican states, ginning up support among the base, and what if we started to see the race is narrow as the Republicans get closer to the Democratic challenger, or they pull away from the Democratic challenger. The White House knows he can turn out Republican voters. They want to make sure it happens in Mississippi.

O'DONNELL: I can't wait to talk more about this with you, Ed O'Keefe. It's so good to have you here, and stay with CBS News for complete coverage of midterm voting on Election Day, November 3, including a special episode of America Decides, and we'll have a full wrap-up on the election results the following day.

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8:01:33 a.m.

2 minutes and 9 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: America Decides; Trump & Obama Join Midterm Campaigns in Key States]

O'DONNELL: But we want to begin this hour with the final push to Election Day, both parties are working hard to win over voters, with control of Congress hanging in the balance. President Trump and former President Barack Obama campaigned over the weekend. The Democrat accused Trump of historic corruption and incompetence. Trump called Obama one of the worst presidents. Nancy Cordis is at the White House. Nancy, good morning. Interesting to see the big players out on the campaign trail.

CORDES: It really was, Norah. And, when we talk about the Senate, we are talking about a handful of races that are going to determine the balance of power, and one of those races is in Michigan, which is why you saw both Presidents Trump and Obama there this weekend. Trump was in Port Huron, Michigan on Sunday. He hammered the Democratic Senate candidate, Abdul el-Sayed, going after his Muslim faith, his name, very reminiscent of the way he used to talk about President Obama's name. Obama was in Detroit and in Columbus, Ohio, where he hit Trump for the Iran War, and for his focus on building projects and renovations here in D.C. Now, according to our polling, voters care the most about the economy, about inflation, and about immigration, and a majority of those voters we polled disapprove of the way that current administration is handling those issues. Trump himself looms large over the midterm, particularly for Democrats. More than seven in ten of those Democratic voters told us they're voting for Congress to oppose the President. Now, voters do say, however, that neither party has offered a clear plan for what it wants to actually do if it wins control of Congress, and both parties get low approval ratings from voters with just a week to go until Election Day. Still, our latest CBS News model does project that Democrats are on pace to win 229 seats, and that's 11 more seats than they need to take control of the House. Republicans, I should mention, do retain

a narrow path to holding on to their House majority, and Trump insists that his rallies — he's going to be going to Mississippi today — are going to help them do that, Gayle.

KING: All right, Nancy, thank you very much. We got it.