

NBC's *Today*

10/26/26

7:00:05 a.m. [TEASE]

58 seconds

CRAIG MELVIN: The midterms entering the final sprint now.

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Just about one week to go with Washington's future hanging in the balance. Good morning, it's October 26. This is *Today*. Slug fest. President Trump and former President Obama rallying their parties over the weekend in battleground Michigan.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Slugfest]

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: We're not going to surrender America to communists, jihadists.

FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: If you thought everybody cost too much before, guess what, everything costs more now.

GUTHRIE: And they get personal, trading jabs on the campaign trail.

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

TRUMP: You know, I saw Barak Hussein Obama was in Michigan, and the place was empty.

GUTHRIE: We will break down where things stand with just eight days to go until the critical midterms.

(...)

7:03:28 a.m.

3 minutes and 27 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Midterm Countdown]

CRAIG MELVIN: But we are going to start this Monday morning with a final push to the midterm elections now just eight days away.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Final Push]

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Battleground: Michigan]

GUTHRIE: President Trump continuing his campaign blitz in Mississippi today, after a stop in battleground Michigan last night. Former President Obama also campaigning there over the

weekend. A Senate race there has become very tight and very heated. We're going to get right to NBC's Gabe Gutierrez at the white house for us. Gabe, good morning.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Final Spring to Midterm Election]

GABE GUTIERREZ: Savannah, good morning. It was quite the weekend in politics, with President Trump and former President Obama making their cases in dueling midterm speeches. But the campaign is taking a much darker turn, with Trump ramping up his rhetoric against the Democratic Senate candidate in Michigan, accusing him of being a jihadist. This morning, the midterm blitz is in its final stretch, while voters are worried about the economy, some races like in battleground Michigan, are focusing on personal attacks.

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

ABDUL EL-SAYED: Donald Trump is the worst symptom of the disease of our politics.

GUTIERREZ: Donald Trump campaigning in battleground Michigan, lashing out against Democratic Senate candidate Abdul el-Sayed. El-Sayed has faced repeated attacks from Republicans over the Muslim Brotherhood. The U.S. has labeled branches of the Muslim Brotherhood terrorist organizations. Although his half-sister praised the Muslim Brotherhood in social media posts more than a decade ago, el-Sayed has repeatedly denied any ties to it.

EL-SAYED: We have no ties.

GUTIERREZ: But the President is intensifying his attacks on the Michigan-born Muslim candidate —

TRUMP: We don't want to see a jihadist senator. [SCREEN WIPE] Anyone with that record or support for jihad would be screened and unable to get a seat on an airplane. [SCREEN WIPE] He will be the only senator that would have to go through a metal detector before being allowed to go into the Senate.

GUTIERREZ: — while also praising el-Sayed's rival, Republican Mike Rogers.

TRUMP: I call him apple pie. He's, like, perfect — this guy.

GUTIERREZ: NBC's Kristen Welker pressing Rogers earlier on *Meet the Press* about whether he agrees with the President calling el-Sayed a terrorist.

FORMER CONGRESSMAN MIKE ROGERS (R-MI) [on NBC's *Meet the Press*, 10/25/26]: I've never called him a terrorist.

GUTIERREZ: Trump even attacking el-Sayed at a rally in Georgia earlier in the weekend.

TRUMP: Mohammad, as I call him. Actually, his middle name is Mohammad. You know, if you have any question about somebody from that part of the world's name, just call them Mohammad.

GUTIERREZ: Last night, el-Sayed responding to the President.

EL-SAYED: Because he can just go on and call me senator after November. [SCREEN WIPE] I will be Senator Mohammad to you, bro.

GUTIERREZ: El-Sayed also campaigning earlier this weekend in Detroit, with former President Obama.

OBAMA: And they will use division, and they may even news your name, or your faith to somehow suggest that you are dangerous. [SCREEN WIPE] We have seen this movie before! I starred in it.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; Trump and Obama Trade Jabs on Campaign Trail]

GUTIERREZ: Obama also taking aim at the President's changes to the White House.

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

GUTIERREZ: President Trump firing back on social media, calling Obama grossly incompetent president. President Trump today heading to deep-red Mississippi to campaign for another Republican incumbent facing a surprisingly tight Senate race there. Savannah?

GUTHRIE: Gabe Gutierrez, thank you very much.

(...)

8:00:08 a.m. [TEASE]
24 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Battleground Blitz]

GUTHRIE: Coming up, battleground blitz. Trump and Obama making the final push in Michigan.

TRUMP: We're not going to surrender America to communists, jihadists.

OBAMA: If you thought everything cost too much before, guess what? Everything costs more now!

GUTHRIE: As the campaigns get heated and the races get tighter, we're live with the very latest,

just eight days to those crucial midterms.

(....)

8:02:31 a.m.

2 minutes and 48 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; Final Spring to Midterm Election]

GUTHRIE: And it is the final sprint to the midterms. Eight days to go now. President Trump and former President Obama trading jabs on the campaign trail. NBC's Gabe Gutierrez at the White House with the very latest on it. Gabe, good morning.

GUTIERREZ: Savannah, good morning. President Trump today heading to deep-red Mississippi to campaign for another Republican incumbent facing a surprisingly tight Senate race there. But with just eight days to go, the midterm campaign is taking a much darker turn, with the President accusing the Democratic Senate candidate in Michigan of being a jihadist. This morning, the midterm blitz is in its final stretch, while voters are worried about the economy, some races, like in battleground Michigan, are focusing on personal attacks.

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GUTIERREZ: — while also praising el-Sayed's rival, Republican Mike Rogers.

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

GUTIERREZ: That swipe did not go unnoticed. President Trump firing back on social media, calling Obama, "a grossly incompetent president." Savannah?

GUTHRIE: Eight days out, Gabe. And if you want a closer look at the midterms including the latest voting data, our polling page, expert analysis, and more, subscriber-only content, you can go to nbcnews.com or scan the QR code on your screen if you want to subscribe right now.