

*CBS Mornings*

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7:00:18 a.m. [TEASE]

4 seconds

NORAH O'DONNELL: Plus, the President goes back to Texas for a final midterm push in that critical state.

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7:00:42 a.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump in Texas]

O'DONNELL: President Trump ramps up his midterm attacks on Democrat James Talarico at two rallies in Texas.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: Talafreako stated that he wants to dismantle Texas oil.

(....)

7:02:36 a.m. [TEASE]

7 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Midterms Final Push]

GAYLE KING: Coming up, we're going to show you President Trump's last big push in the crucial Texas Senate race, trying to get Republicans to go to the polls.

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7:04:32 a.m.

5 minutes and 34 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: America Decides; Trump Rallies in Texas Amid Tight Sen. Race]

NORAH O'DONNELL: Let's turn to the midterm elections and the most expensive race of them all in Texas. President Trump returned to the state, holding two rallies to support the Republican nominee, state Attorney General Ken Paxton. They had competition last night from his Democratic opponent, James Talarico, who held his own rally nearby. Weijia Jiang is at the White House. Weijia, good morning. Things are heating up.

WEIJIA JIANG: Good morning, Norah. Good morning to everybody. This Senate race is one of the tightest contests in the country, and you know what they say: everything is bigger in Texas.

We're seeing big names, big money, and big turnout. Many counties there are already seeing record early voting numbers for a midterm election. With rallies in Lubbock —

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

JIANG: — and Corpus Christi —

TRUMP: And I need the help of Ken Paxton in the U.S. Senate.

JIANG: — President Trump made a final push for the Lone Star State to keep its U.S. Senate seat red. But Republican candidate Ken Paxton is in a fierce fight against Democrat James Talarico, who held a dueling rally last night in Lubbock.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES TALARICO (D-TX): And I appreciate all 4,000 of you that showed up here this evening. [SCREEN WIPE] That's a lot of Talafreako's in one room, so—

JIANG: More than half a billion dollars in ads alone have made it the most expensive race in U.S. history.

TALARICO: We are going up against our own Goliaths, those billionaire megadonors.

JIANG: Trump and Paxton have called Talarico a radical Democrat.

TRUMP: He voted twice for boys in girls' sports and said, as a U.S. senator, he would vote for it again.

JIANG: The President also touted his own victories, showing off a tanker filled with Venezuelan oil to be refined in Texas.

TRUMP: They refined the oil, but the oil on the ships outside is being provided to the United States at zero cost.

JIANG: U.S. oil producers and refineries are reporting massive profits, but U.S. consumers have paid an average of \$471 in higher fuel prices since the war in Iran started. Still, Trump insists it's a small price to pay for long-term gain.

TRUMP: But your country is making an absolute fortune because of the situation in the Middle East.

JIANG: Today, the President heads to Ohio, where the races for Senate and governor are also tight. GOP candidate for governor Vivek Ramaswamy was notably absent from a Republican rally last night, amid the continued backlash over that controversial ad featuring the estranged mother of his opponent, Amy Acton, Norah.

O'DONNELL: Weijia Jiang at the White House. Thank you. Chief Washington correspondent Major Garrett is here with more on how the midterms are shaping up. Major, good morning.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: America Decides; Major Garrett on Republican Midterm Mindset]

MAJOR GARRETT: Good morning.

O'DONNELL: Polling shows the Democrats have a good shot at taking back the House, possibly the Senate. The influential Cook Political Report this morning moved two ruby-red-state races toward Democrats: Kansas and Nebraska. Are Republicans bracing for a blowout?

GARRETT: They are bracing for a very long night next Tuesday. But bracing doesn't mean inevitability. We're not there yet. But politics forces people to stay optimistic in the face of pessimistic realities. The reality for Republicans is they're not going to control the House anymore. That's gone. They know that, but they have to say it to their supporters: 'We still have a chance. Don't give up hope.' So, it comes down to the Senate. And, as I talk to Republicans, three states keep coming up again and again and again: Texas, Iowa, and Michigan. All three are open Senate races, meaning no incumbent. Two are held by Republicans, Texas and Iowa. Michigan is a Democratic seat. Everyone says that night, the way it plays out, those three Senate races are going to determine control of the body. So, let's go to Texas and give you one place in Texas: Dallas. Yes, there's a lot of concentration on Latino voters in the Rio Grande Valley. They're going to be important. But main line, Bush-aligned Republicans in the Dallas suburbs and Dallas proper, if they don't show up for Ken Paxton, he's going to be in trouble in that Senate race. Let me take you to Iowa, give you another D: Dubuque. That's eastern Iowa. Trump has a rally scheduled there for Sunday. Eastern Iowa is about the transformation of that state from blue to purple to red in the Trump era. If eastern Iowa doesn't show up for Ashley Hinson, the Republican nominee in that race, that seat is in jeopardy. Now, let's go to Michigan and Detroit.

NATE BURLESON: Yeah.

GARRETT: Abdul El-Sayed needs African American votes in Detroit to come out strong. A *Detroit News* poll showing him up six yesterday had a very strong contingent of African American votes. But, if they don't, that race very much comes in jeopardy for Abdul el-Sayed. So, Dubuque, Detroit, and Dallas: watch that on election night Tuesday night.

GAYLE KING: Can we just talk about Ohio? He's going there today —

GARRETT: Yeah.

KING: — with that controversial ad, which, by the way, President Trump is supporting.

GARRETT: They're leaning into that for national purposes. It's a bad look in Ohio. Every statewide Republican is running away from that ad. So, if you're on the ballot in Ohio, that's bad. Why is it possibly helpful nationally? Because it creates conflict. Conflict, and you're against the media, you're against the Democrats. You're all siding against Ramaswamy. So, nationally, for

the MAGA movement, that has a mobilizing effect. But it is not helpful for Ohio Republicans in that state, and everyone who's on the ballot is like, 'No, no, no, we can't get close to that.'

O'DONNELL: Well, Major, thank you so much. And everyone, 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 ll wrap up of the election results the following day right here on *CBS Mornings*.

NATE BURLESON: Major, you do such a good job. Good to see you again