

CBS Mornings

10/29/26

7:00:11 a.m. [TEASE]

6 seconds

GAYLE KING: The Presidents clash on the midterm campaign trail and a new controversy in a key Senate race.

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7:00:28 a.m. [TEASE]

15 seconds

FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: The President wasn't even mad about the Saddam Hussein comparison. He was very upset about the Cheesecake Factory comment.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Midterm Countdown]

KING: Former President Obama and President Trump trade new attacks with the midterm election just five days away.

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7:02:43 a.m. [TEASE]

12 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Senate Race Investigation]

KING: Coming up, controversy in the Alaska te race. Republicans want an investigation of the Democratic candidate's campaign. They claim she tried to deliberately confuse the voter.

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7:03:18 a.m.

6 minutes and 21 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: America Decides; Trump & Obama's Last-Minute Messages]

NORAH O'DONNELL: Let's get started with the final sprint to Tuesday's midterm elections. President Trump is campaigning every night to try to fire up his base. He just went to Ohio for the third time this month while former President Barack Obama campaigned for Democrats in Georgia. They held rallies at the same time and launched more personal attacks against each other. Weijia Jiang is at the White House. Weijia, another morning, another day. It is heating up.

WEIJIA JIANG: A few more mornings to go, Norah. Good morning to you and good morning to

everybody. Despite sagging poll numbers, President Trump once again urged voters to envision him on the ballot this coming Tuesday while he and his predecessor traded jabs over former president Obama's joke last weekend about the Cheesecake Factory.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: Hello, Ohio.

WEIJIA JIANG: In dueling rallies, both President Trump and former president Obama responded to this recent Obama one-liner on Trump.

OBAMA: He's got the White House looking like Saddam Hussein opened a Cheesecake Factory.

JIANG: Back on the campaign trail late Wednesday, Obama went for round two.

OBAMA: The President wasn't even mad about the Saddam Hussein comparison. That part didn't bother him, but he was very upset about the Cheesecake Factory comments.

JIANG: The President fired back, defending his White House renovations.

TRUMP: Why is he spending so much time fixing up the White House? Why is he doing that? You know why? Because the White House, I think, is the number one symbol of our country.

JIANG: Trump campaigned with Ohio Republican Senator Jon Husted and, again, talked up one of his attributes —

TRUMP: I started by looking at his ass, and it was strong as hell.

JIANG: — something he has gone back to in recent weeks.

TRUMP: And I examined his ass. [SCREEN WIPE] His ass is like — it is like a pile of muscle.

JIANG: Husted, who is fighting for reelection against Democrat Sherrod Brown, made light of it to CBS's Nikole Killian.

SENATOR JON HUSTED (R-OH): Hey, I got to get to the gym more often. I have a reputation to uphold.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: America Decides; Michigan Senate Race Heats Up]

JIANG: And in the heated Michigan race for Senate, the fiancé of Democratic Congresswoman Haley Stevens said he'll support Republican Mike Rogers over Democrat Abdul El-Sayed, who defeated Stevens in the primary. Stevens's fiancé Jason Turkish told the Detroit News, "We have never seen a candidate for U.S. Senate act so recklessly toward the safety of Jews in the community as we have seen from Abdul." El-Sayed shook it off.

ABDUL EL-SAYED: There will always be some folks who have different opinions, and they're

welcome to that.

JIANG: But Stevens said she is sticking with El-Sayed.

HALEY STEVENS [on CNN's *The Source*, 10/28/26]: I still very much want our Democratic nominee — his name is Abdul — to win this race.

JIANG: Congresswoman Stevens also called on El-Sayed to denounce third-party ads not associated with his campaign that she said stoked anti-Semitism. President Trump will be back on the trail today, marking almost a month straight of travel before handing out candy to trick-or-treaters back here at the White House, Gayle.

KING: Okay. Wonder what they're passing out there. Thank you very much, Weijia. Alaska's Republican governor is calling for an investigation of the Democratic Senate nominee there. Mary Peltola is in a very tight race to unseat Republican Senator Dan Sullivan. So, it's getting a lot of attention because another Dan Sullivan is also running. Ed O'Keefe looks at a new report that has Republicans up in arms.

TRUMP: This is voter fraud at the highest level.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: America Decides; Calls for Investigation in Alaska Senate Race]

O'KEEFE: President Trump pounced as the Democratic candidate in Alaska's U.S. Senate race, Mary Peltola, pushed back on a *New York Times* report.

FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN MARY PELTOLA (D-AK): This is just another distraction. It's another diversion.

O'KEEFE: The paper reporting Peltola's campaign helped recruit a man named Dan Sullivan to enter the race for Senate as an independent in an attempt to confuse voters and pull away votes from Republican incumbent Senator Dan Sullivan.

PELTOLA: This is all stuff to sell newspapers. This is all stuff to get subscriptions.

O'KEEFE: The Peltola campaign denied any involvement in either Sullivan campaign, but *The Times* reports a Peltola staffer was asked in the summer of 2025 to "find as many people named Dan Sullivan in Alaska as you can." Now, Dan J. Sullivan, a retired teacher from a small fishing village with little political experience, is on the ballot. CBS News hasn't been able to reach him for comment, but he previously told *The Times* he had no contact with Peltola's campaign. The President said last week he ordered the Justice Department to ask a federal court to block certification of the race in the event Senator Dan Sullivan loses because of the potential for confusion.

TRUMP: The Democrat candidate who is involved in this scheme, Mary Peltola, who said she didn't know anything about it in court, she should be removed from the ballot and prosecuted,

and so should the fake Dan Sullivan.

O'KEEFE: Now, as you can see, this sample of the Alaska Senate ballot has both incumbent Dan Sullivan and Daniel Sullivan Jr. next to each other there, and you'll notice it says Dan S. Sullivan, registered Republican incumbent. That's your senator, Alaska, okay? They use a four-candidate ranked-choice voting method, so some are concerned voters might pick the wrong Sullivan and throw off the rankings. Two things to keep in mind, though: this may be considered by some to be a dirty trick, but it's not illegal. And this has happened before, kind of. In 2016, the former mayor of Anchorage named Dan Sullivan briefly challenged the state's other Republican senator, Lisa Murkowski, in a primary. At the time, he said he was hoping to take advantage of the name recognition of Senator Dan Sullivan.

KING: You know, Bill Bratton, the former police commissioner here, used to say, "It may be lawful, but it is kind of awful." That's how some people are viewing this.

O'KEEFE: They sure are.

KING: You say dirty trick, people have used it before, but, you know, you're rushing, you're going very quickly, and you just check something. So in Alaska, they should read very carefully, because it is marked.

O'KEEFE: Yeah.

KING: It's very clearly — very clearly marked.

ED O'KEEFE: We shall see.

O'DONNELL: We shall see. Ed —

O'KEEFE: The games they play.

KING: Yeah, the games they play.

O'DONNELL: Thanks for — thanks for breaking it down for us.

NATE BURLESON: Thanks, Ed.

O'DONNELL: And stay with CBS News for complete coverage of the midterm voting this Tuesday, election day, including a special episode of *America Decides*, and we'll have a full wrap-up of the election results the following day.

BURLESON: It will be the best election coverage out there.

O'DONNELL: Yes.