

NBC's *Today*
10/29/26
7:00:16 a.m. [TEASE]
50 seconds

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: An unexpected twist in the final push to the midterms.

CRAIG MELVIN: A key senate seat now at the center of a major controversy. It is October 29. This is *Today*. All eyes on Alaska. A critical Senate race plunged into last-minute chaos there. The governor ordering an investigation over an alleged effort by Democrats to confuse voters by recruiting a candidate with the same name as the Republican on the ballot.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: All Eyes on Alaska]

SENATOR DAN SULLIVAN (R-AK) [on FNC's *Hannity*, 10/28/26]: Where they are treating Alaskans like they are kind of stupid.

MELVIN: President Trump weighing in from that campaign trail in Ohio.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: She should be removed from the ballot and prosecuted.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Dueling Rallies]

MELVIN: — while former President Obama holds a dueling rally for Democrats in Georgia. We'll have the latest on all of it, with the midterms now just five days away.

(...)

7:04:10 a.m.
3 minutes and 52 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Midterm Countdown; Five Days]

GUTHRIE: But we will begin with a calm down to the midterm elections just five days away now, until Election Day.

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

MELVIN: Both parties bring out some of their biggest names in this homestretch. President Trump making his third trip of the month to Ohio, while former President Obama joined Democrats in Georgia.

GUTHRIE: Meanwhile, a record number of early voters have already cast their ballots, 8 million more compared to the same time four years ago.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Alaska Controversy]

MELVIN: Also this morning, a major controversy is brewing in Alaska where the governor is now launching an investigation after a new report there that's shaking up a competitive Senate race. We've got the very latest this morning, we'll start with NBC's Gabe Gutierrez at the White House. Gabe, good morning.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Race to the Midterms]

GABE GUTIERREZ: Craig, good morning. Talk about an October surprise. A bombshell report in *The New York Times* alleging that Democrats plotted to stack the ballot in Alaska. The President is now seizing on it as control of Congress hangs in the balance. Overnight, while both parties' biggest stars hit the campaign trail, a bombshell story threatening to upend one of the midterms' closest races in usually red Alaska.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Alaska Senate Race Plunged into Chaos]

DONALD TRUMP: Oh, it's terrible what's happened in Alaska.

GUTIERREZ: The governor there now ordering an investigation after *The New York Times* reported on an alleged secret Democratic plot to sabotage the campaign of Republican Senator Dan Sullivan. *The Times*, citing interviews, text messages, and documents, reporting that top aides instructed a staffer for Democrat Mary Peltola to find as many people named Dan Sullivan in Alaska as they could. The campaign, according to *The Times*, worked with the national Democratic Party to find "would-be spoilers" to join the race. Eventually, a retired teacher from a small fishing village named Dan J. Sullivan ran. The current senator, Dan S. Sullivan, weighing in overnight.

SULLIVAN [on FNC's *Hannity*, 10/28/26]: Where they were treating Alaskans like they're kind of stupid.

GUTIERREZ: Peltola's former campaign manager, who was fired in August, telling *The Times* Peltola was "definitely aware" of the plot, though the staffer later tried to retract her statements. The Democratic Senate Campaign Committee denies the allegations, and so does the Peltola campaign.

MARY PELTOLA: This is just another distraction. It's another diversion.

GUTIERREZ: The president condemning Peltola.

TRUMP: She should be removed from the ballot and prosecuted.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Race to the Midterms]

GUTIERREZ: While speaking at a rally overnight in Ohio, Trump also defending the Republican

candidate for governor there, Vivek Ramaswamy, after that ad featuring the estranged mother of his Democratic opponent.

TRUMP: The mother said that Amy Acton, the daughter, is a liar. [SCREEN WIPE] How the hell is that his problem?

GUTIERREZ: Amy Acton, who said she has not spoken to her mother in nearly 50 years following sexual abuse allegations against her stepfather, calling the ad despicable. The president also in a days-long war of words with former president Barack Obama, speaking overnight in Georgia.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Trump and Obama Hold Dueling Rallies]

OBAMA: I joked over the weekend that he's got the White House looking like Saddam Hussein opened a Cheesecake Factory. [SCREEN WIPE] They did not dispute what I said about them being directly responsible for rising prices — [SCREEN WIPE] — but 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.

GUTIERREZ: Trump defending his White House renovations, saying Obama left it in poor condition.

TRUMP: President Obama, who doesn't understand — [BOOS] [SCREEN WIPE] — who doesn't understand cleanliness, who doesn't understand broken, cracked stone and sidewalk.

GUTIERREZ: As for Alaska, the Justice Department is also moving forward with its lawsuit seeking to allow the state to not certify the election results if the Republican incumbent, Dan Sullivan, does not win. Craig and Savannah.

MELVIN: Gabe Gutierrez for us there. Gabe, thanks.

(....)

8:00:18 a.m. [TEASE]
17 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Center Stage]

MELVIN: Coming up, center stage. President Trump and former President Obama hitting the campaign trail, dueling rallies overnight while the governor of Alaska orders an investigation over an alleged effort Democrats to confuse voters. We are live with the latest.

(....)

8:03:13 a.m.

41 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; Race to the Midterms]

MELVIN: We're gonna begin with the countdown to the midterms, now just five days away. President Trump and former President Obama on the campaign trail looking to give their candidates a boost. Meanwhile, Alaska's governor is ordering an investigation after a bombshell report in *The New York Times* that's threatening to upend one of the midterms closest races. *The Times* reporting on a secret Democratic plot to sabotage the campaign Republican senator Dan Sullivan by placing another candidate with the same name to confuse the supporters. Both Mary Peltola's campaign and Democrat — the Democrats' Senate Campaign Committee both denied *The Times* report.