NBC's *Today*
11/02/26
7:00:43 a.m. [TEASE]
35 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: One Day to Go]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: One day to go. Last-minute twists in battleground races that will determine control of Congress, including a surprise endorsement in the Michigan Senate showdown.

CONGRESSWOMAN HALEY STEVENS (D-MI): I'm a proud Democrat, and I am endorsing Mike Rogers for the United States Senate.

GUTHRIE: And a major ruling from a judge in the Alaska race with two Dan Sullivans on the ballot. Plus, President Trump holding the final rally of his midterm blitz.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: Let's go out and do what we do best, which is to win, win, win.

GUTHRIE: What the latest polls are saying on the eve of election day.

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7:03:11 a.m. [TEASE]
25 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Midterm Countdown; 1 Day]

GUTHRIE: We'll start this morning by getting you caught up on the day's top stories. Something we've been doing for 75 years, including the final countdown to the midterm elections, now just one day away.

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

CRAIG MELVIN: And this morning, Democrats are dealing with a rare November surprise in Michigan. Democratic Congresswoman Hailey Stevens switching her endorsement at the 11th hour to the Republican candidate after her own loss in that heated primary battle.

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7:08:19 a.m.
6 minutes and 37 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: One Day Until Key Midterm Election]

GUTHRIE: We move now to the elections, and midterms are a day away. The final sprint is on to one of the most important elections in history. Control of Congress up for grabs. Candidates set to be out in force today, trying to win over those last-minute supporters, and there have been some 11th-hour surprises that could shake up some of the most pivotal states on the map. We'll break it down. Let's get started. NBC's Ryan Nobles is with us. We'll talk to Kristen Welker in a moment. Ryan, good morning.

RYAN NOBLES: Hey, Savannah, good morning, and it's no secret that, in order for Democrats to win back a Senate majority, they need a nearly perfect night. And, for weeks, they appeared to be headed in that direction. But now two different problems have emerged in states that are keys to their hopes of a historic evening. It is a rare November surprise.

STEVENS: I'm a proud Democrat, and I am endorsing Mike Rogers for the United States Senate.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: November Surprise in Michigan Senate Race]

NOBLES: Democratic Congresswoman Haley Stevens, who narrowly lost a bitter Senate primary to Abdul El-Sayed in Michigan, turning against the nominee and her party, endorsing Republican Mike Rogers, even attending a service at a Black church in Detroit with the GOP nominee —

FORMER CONGRESSMAN MIKE ROGERS (R-MI): It takes courage for someone to stand up and say, can't — can't do that.

NOBLES: — creating a last-minute controversy for Democrats in this close race. Stevens and El-Sayed had clashed multiple times, most recently over an ad from an outside progressive group supporting El-Sayed that called Stevens anti-Semitic, and his campaign asking her not to attend events. But top Democrats say Stevens pledged her support for El-Sayed as recently as Saturday night, before the about-face.

STEVENS: Abdul said that I was no longer welcome.

NOBLES: — pressed on the move last night.

STEVENS [on CNN's *AC360*, 11/01/26]: Look, this is about Abdul getting angrier and angrier and saying, I don't want these people in my campaign.

NOBLES: El-Sayed calling the move a distraction.

ABDUL EL-SAYED: I actually don't think about Haley Stevens.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Final Sprint to the Midterms]

NOBLES: President Trump campaigning in Iowa, pouncing on the divide among Democrats.

TRUMP: I would love her to join the Republican Party, actually.

NOBLES: Also weighing in on another key race, Alaska —

TRUMP: This behavior in our elections cannot be allowed to continue.

NOBLES: — after claims Democrats and their Senate nominee Mary Peltola recruited a candidate with the same name as the incumbent Dan Sullivan in an effort to confuse voters. The Trump administration looking for an avenue to deny the certification of the results if the incumbent Republican Dan Sullivan loses. A federal judge tossing out a lawsuit filed by the Trump DOJ that would have separated the ballots for the other Dan Sullivan. The judge writing, the Justice Department provided no workable plan to separate the ballots, which are cast privately. Peltola maintained she had nothing to do with the other candidates —

FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN MARY PELTOLA (D-AK): I am not interested in tricking voters.

NOBLES: — while the President last night closed out his run of campaign rallies.

TRUMP: I'm closing this sucker down. I'm getting out of here. I have to get a little sleep.

NOBLES: And, while President Trump did spend most of the weekend on the campaign trail, holding events in Iowa and Kansas, the day before the election, today, he'll be back in Washington, where he's expected to hold an event discussing the National Mall's Reflecting Pool, Savannah.

GUTHRIE: Alright. Ryan, thank you. We're joined by Kristen Welker, moderator of Meet the Press. Kristen, good morning. We have a new NBC News poll, a couple of big polls that came out overnight, but we got to start in Michigan.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: November Surprise in Michigan Senate Race]

KRISTEN WELKER: Absolutely.

GUTHRIE: I mean, so you have the Democrat who ran against Abdul El-Sayed suddenly in the last hour endorsing the Republican in the race.

WELKER: Yeah.

GUTHRIE: Is this going to make a difference? I mean, I think that's what it comes down to.

WELKER: That's the big question, Savannah. What a bombshell, though, on Sunday. Look, two million people, roughly, have already voted early in Michigan. That's about a quarter of the voting population. So, will it make a difference? This is going to be a close race. This is a purple state, so when you have close races like this, yes, differences like this, dramatic developments,

can have an impact around the edges. I spent the day working the phones, talking to Republican and Democratic sources in Michigan. The Democrats, not surprisingly, say they were stunned, because Haley Stevens had reassured so many of them Friday, Saturday, that she was still going to vote for el-Sayed.

GUTHRIE: You had Congressman Raskin —

WELKER: Yes!

GUTHRIE: — on your show yesterday, Sunday morning, saying, 'I've spoken to Haley Stevens last night' —

WELKER: Yes!

GUTHRIE: — 'essentially, and she's going to vote for the Democrat.'

WELKER: He said it on the air, Savannah. And he stood by that and was stunned and said he didn't know what had happened. Republicans very notably say, look, do we welcome this? Yes. But they're looking at those early voting numbers, and they're a little jittery about whether this will have an impact. Just zoom out for one second, though. This feud is over the broader issue of Israel. It's a real sign Democrats are going to have to contend with this after Tuesday.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Final Sprint to the Midterms]

MELVIN: Let's talk about the aforementioned poll.

WELKER: Yes.

MELVIN: We've got a new one here. Walk us through some of the top lines. What do we know?

KRISTEN WELKER: All right, I'm going to do my best Steve Kornacki here. Let's do President Trump's approval rating first, if you take a look. 40 percent approve of the job he's doing. Compare that, Craig and Savannah, to 2018, the midterms during his first term, when he was at 46 percent approval rating. In that midterm, Republicans lost 40 seats, but they still held on to the Senate. Now, let me take a look at the congressional ballot. It shows people prefer Democrats, 52 percent to 45 percent. That's up just a tick from September. They're also getting slightly higher marks on the issue of inflation, which is, of course, the top issue for voters, but ever so slightly. And then here's what's really notable: headwinds for both parties. If you take a look at this party favorability, check this out, guys. Democrats actually more unpopular than Republicans. So, what does that mean? That means we are looking at an election on Tuesday night, largely a referendum on President Trump. He said that himself, by the way. He said 'pretend I'm on the ballot' in all of these campaign stops that he's made, but it's also a real sign to Democrats. And I think both of these parties after Tuesday are going to have to do some real soul-searching. How are they going to regain the trust of voters when you see numbers like that, when you see voters basically saying, "we've lost faith in all of you"?

GUTHRIE: Kristen, thank you very much. Good scene-setter. Stay with NBC News for complete coverage, Decision 2026, everything you need to know as the polls open tomorrow morning on Today, and then we'll be with you throughout the night and then through the morning, bringing you the very latest results and analysis here on NBC and Peacock.

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8:04:14 a.m.
1 minute and 34 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; One Day Until Key Midterm Election]

MELVIN: We turn now to the midterm elections, just one day away. Voters heading to the polls tomorrow, with control of Congress hanging in the balance. And one key race getting a major shake-up in the final hours. NBC's Ryan Nobles here now with the very latest on all of it. Ryan, good morning to you.

NOBLES: Guys, good morning. The final sprint is on. And, while it's expected to be a good night for Democrats, the party is facing controversy in two different states are key to their hopes in winning back the Senate majority. In Michigan, Congresswoman Haley Stevens, who lost a close primary for Senate to Abdul el-Sayed, shocked her fellow Democrats by announcing that she's voting for the GOP nominee, Mike Rogers. Stevens and el-Sayed had clashed over a number of issues, but Democrats were confident that she would stay loyal to the party. Now, President Trump is asking her to join the Republican Party. The President, meanwhile, wrapped up his intense travel schedule with stops in Iowa and Kansas yesterday, and in Alaska, voters waited nearly two hours to vote in a very tight race there. Many of them reacting to the controversy surrounding the two Dans. Most voters telling our crew there that the accusations that Democrats recruited a candidate with the same name as the incumbent Dan Sullivan will not impact their vote. All we have to do now is count the votes, guys, and it'll happen tomorrow.

MELVIN: Alright, Ryan, thank you. And, of course, stay with NBC News for complete Decision 2026 coverage. We'll have everything you need to know as the polls open tomorrow morning on *Today*. And we'll be with you throughout the night, bringing you the very latest results and analysis, right here on NBC, NBC News NOW, and Peacock.