CBS Mornings
11/03/26
7:10:25 p.m.
3 minutes and 7 seconds

GAYLE KING: We will bring in chief Washington correspondent, that's Major Garrett. We are all ready for a long night, Major.

MAJOR GARRETT: Good morning.

KING: Really glad that you're here at the table.

GARRETT: It is like four Super Bowls.

KING: It is very exciting.

NATE BURLESON: Yeah, it is.

KING: Let's pick up on the early voting turnout —

GARRETT: Sure.

KING: — because they say it is breaking record numbers —

GARRETT: Yes.

KING: — especially in states like — let's see, South Carolina, Maine, Texas. What, if anything, does this tell us?

GARRETT: It tells us that there's early mobilization of voters and we have some idea of who the early mobilized voters. In Texas, nearly eight million, as Norah said, driven by a Latino vote in Texas. That's already known. The suspicion is, we don't know for a fact, those will be slightly more Democratic votes than Republican votes. Florida, 5.5 million early votes. Jim DeFede, our excellent reporter in Miami, sent us a note yesterday, that Republicans are very nervous about early Democratic turnout — young African American voters turning out early in Florida. Yesterday in Georgia Rick Jackson, the Republican nominee for governor and Brian Kemp, the outgoing governor, both said early vote is surging for Democrats in Georgia. So, the early signs are that there is something beneficial going on for Democrats in terms of the early vote.

KING: Isn't that typically —

GARRETT: What it means for Republicans today is —

KING: — yeah.

GARRETT: — day of turnout has to shatter records, and it can. President Trump is the best Republican turnout machine operator in the history of modern Republican politics. He needs it today more than he has ever needed it before.

BURLESON: Now, Major, speaking of President Trump, one of the common threads on both sides when it comes to the voters is how unpopular the war with Iran is.

GARRETT: Yes.

BURLESON: President Trump, he went to mention it in his final pitch, and yet this morning we are also covering new strikes on Iran.

GARRETT: Exactly.

BURLESON: What type of impact is that going to have on voters today?

GARRETT: The biggest problem for the President in the war on Iran is two fold. One, it is inflation in gas prices which people are unhappy about. Two, they don't understand what is going on. When the President says there is no war or it's a soft war and we are doing kinetic strikes the day of the election, people are reasonably confused about what it is or isn't. When you talk to Republicans about the war in Iran they understand, no nuke for Iran, they're supportive of that. They wish the President's message was clearer, more coherent, and landed better.

NORAH O'DONNELL: And what about the President's final message yesterday standing in front of the Reflecting Pool —

GARRETT: Reflecting Pool!

O'DONNELL: — talking about infrastructure projects? He said it was the golden age of America. Do the polls show people feel it is the golden age for them?

GARRETT: They do not. Consumer confidence is very low. Interest rates are very high. Inflation is stubborn. That's a really bad three-way combination on the economy as lived by most Americans. Yes, wealthy Americans are doing fine. They're spending a lot. That's keeping the retail part of the economy very strong. But the golden age thing is really disconnected from the average American economic experience, much as it was — Joe Biden didn't call it the golden age of America, but many around Biden said the economy was better than you feel, you have a vibe session, you're not feeling it. People know what they feel and they often vote in a reflection of that.

KING: Even his own team said stay on message.

GARRETT: Yes.

KING: Please don't talk about the renovation election and it didn't work.

GARRETT: Yeah, HGTV doesn't work in major elections.

O'DONNELL: Alright, Major, as always, we love your analysis —

KING: Yes.

O'DONNELL: — on everything.