ABC's *Good Morning America*
11/04/26
7:00 a.m. Eastern [TEASE]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Good morning America. Breaking news. The blue tsunami. Democrats sweep the country, control congress. A rebuke of President Trump. Wave crashes overnight.

SENATOR JON OSSOFF (D-GA): Georgia, you did it.

ABDUL EL-SAYED: We did it.

ANNIE ANDREWS: I think we just made some history.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Democrats win control of the House and Senate, flipping seven Senate seats. 25 in the House. Surprising gains in deep red states. And this morning, we're following the shocking race in Mississippi still too close to call. Now, the reaction from the White House after President Trump told voters to pretend he's on the ballot. The President responded overnight. What this rebuke means for the final two years of his term: confrontation or cooperation?

MICHAEL STRAHAN: A political earthquake in Texas.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES TALARICO (D-TX): We just took back Texas.

STRAHAN: Democrats winning the Senate and the governor's mansion, turning the state blue for the first time in decades.

TALARICO: Tonight, we defeated Goliath.

STRAHAN: James Talarico joins us live.

ROBIN ROBERTS: Plus, the historic wins.

EL-SAYED: You can just go on and call me senator.

ROBERTS: Michigan's Abdul El-Sayed. Now set to become the first Muslim in the Senate. Plus the first Black woman ever elected governor.

FORMER ATLANTA MAYOR KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS (D): Georgia, this win is for all of us.

ROBERTS: And the first openly gay man elected to the Senate. Voters sending a message in those tense races we've been watching closely.

AMY ACTON: Ohio has chosen unity and decency over division and hate.

STEPHANOPOULOS: We're breaking down what drove voters to the polls, from high prices to tariffs, the war with Iran, and corruption. Our powerhouse political team spread out across the country. Live from ABC News headquarters in New York City. It's Wednesday. Good morning, America. And we do say good morning, America. Two years ago, Donald Trump capped the greatest comeback in American political history. This morning, the backlash: historic wins for Democrats across the country at every level of government. President Trump told voters to pretend he was on the ballot, and they did, delivering a decisive message.

ROBERTS: That they did not. All the races have been called yet, but Democrats have taken back control of the House and the Senate, scoring stunning victories in deep red states. Here's the breakdown so far in the House. 229, Democratic; 163, Republican. For the Senate, 54 Democratic; 44, Republican.

STRAHAN: We have full team coverage of this historic election. Our reporters are across the country, with the latest on the races that flipped the balance of power. And our powerhouse political team is here in our studio, covering all the angles, breaking down what this means for both parties and the country.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Chief White House correspondent Mary Bruce starts us off. Good morning, Mary.

MARY BRUCE: Good morning, George. And this was a blowout by Democrats, ousting Republicans in deep red states voters rejecting the President's policies, sending a message to the White House loud and clear. Overnight, a blue wave crashing through Republican strongholds.

OSSOFF: Georgia, you did it.

TALARICO: We just took back Texas.

EL-SAYED: Michigan, we did it

BRUCE: Voters delivering President Trump a resounding rebuke. Democrats taking control of the House and Senate flipping red seats in Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Maine, North and South Carolina, and even in Texas, where Democrats turned the ruby-red state blue. Gina Hinojosa defeating incumbent Republican Governor Greg Abbott and Democrat James Talarico winning one of the most watched Senate contests in the country against Republican Ken Paxton.

TALARICO: Tonight, we defeated Goliath.

BRUCE: Democrats handing Republicans defeat after defeat in deep red states across the country. In South Carolina, a state that Trump won three times, Democrat Annie Andrews upsetting the President's handpicked candidate, Darline Graham, the sister of the late Senator Lindsey Graham. And in Georgia, where Senator Jon Ossoff soundly defeated Republican challenger Mike Collins, Ossoff, the only incumbent Democrat who faced a challenge a state that Trump won in 2020.

OSSOFF: For the American people have rebuked the depravity, corruption and incompetence of the failed lame-duck President Donald J. Trump.

BRUCE: And Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms making history, becoming the first Black woman to ever be elected governor of a state.

LANCE BOTTOMS: Georgia. We sent a message loud and clear.

BRUCE: Across the Midwest, Democrats scoring major victories, too. In Kansas, Adam Hamilton defeating incumbent Republican Senator Roger Marshall, becoming the first Democrat elected there in nearly a century.

ADAM HAMILTON: Herbert Hoover was President last time a Democrat was elected in Kansas. It was Prohibition, you wouldn't have been having your drinks over here!

BRUCE: And another historic first in Michigan. Abdul El-Sayed becoming the first Muslim elected to the U.S. Senate after President Trump launched Islamophobic attacks on his faith. El-Sayed sent a stark message:

EL-SAYED: Donald — look, I know you. You struggled with my name. So after J.D. swears me in and January, you could just go on and call me senator.

BRUCE: In Ohio, a clean sweep for the top two Democrats. Sherrod Brown winning his Senate race. And Dr. Amy Acton becoming the first female governor of the state after a contentious race against Republican Vivek Ramaswamy, who released an ad with Acton estranged mother, saying she couldn't be trusted.

AMY ACTON: Because of your hard work, Ohio has chosen unity and decency, over division and hate.

BRUCE: In Iowa, Josh Turek flipping that Senate seat, blue, beating Trump-backed candidate Ashley Hinson. And overnight in Maine, the end of an era: Five-term Republican Senator Susan Collins conceding her race to Democrat Troy Jackson.

FORMER MAINE SENATE PRESIDENT TROY JACKSON (D): The people of Maine have elected that logger to the United States Senate.

BRUCE: The night a massive defeat for President Trump, who put himself front and center in this election. Over and over again, urging voters to act like he was on the ballot. As the Republican defeats rolled in, Trump distancing himself.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: I wasn't on the ballot.

BRUCE: But his policies were, and voters resoundingly rejected them, from his tariffs to the war with Iran and its impact on gas prices.

TRUMP: Well, I say this congratulations to the Democrats. They did a good job. They've been looking for this one for 11 years, and they finally got it. But I don't view it as a hit on me.

BRUCE: And the President says he is willing to work with Democrats, but it's unclear exactly what that would look like. He is already vowing to be a veto machine and act as a block. And the President this morning, facing the political reality that his power over his party and the movement he built is now greatly diminished.

ROBERTS: All right. Our thanks to you, Mary, so much. And now we're going to bring in senior political correspondent Rachel Scott to break down what we know about the election results and the message voters are sending here. Rachel.

RACHEL SCOTT: It is a very strong message. Good morning to you. We're not just talking about a blue wave here. We're talking about a seismic political earthquake. And also red states that President Trump won by double digits being wiped out here in Texas, electing a Democrat for the first time in 30 years, electing a Democrat in Kansas for the first time in nearly a century. That blue wave crashing over the South, that surprising upset there in South Carolina, and then the race that we are all watching very closely this morning, we are talking about Mississippi. Yes, deep-red Mississippi. Right now, the Democratic candidate, Scott Colom, is just 43 points ahead of the incumbent Senator Hyde-Smith. At this point, this race still too close to call. Another race too close to call this morning? Alaska. We're tracking the results coming in there as well right now at this hour, Democrats have flipped seven seats. But again, they have an opportunity to expand the map even more this morning as we watch these races.

ROBERTS: And the Democrats also flipping the House, despite their efforts to change some of the maps.

SCOTT: Exactly. And so let's take a look at where this stands over in the House this morning. So far, Democrats have picked up 25 seats. Many of these races we are still watching closely. You see them here in gray. They're still too close to call at this hour. But when we talk about the way these maps were redrawn and a number of these states and in these districts, congressional Republicans and state Republicans redrawing these maps, making them less diverse, more red in hopes that it would help the Republican on the ballot. Well, guess what? It completely backfired. They redrew 15 Congressional districts. Republicans did not win so far in a single one of these districts. In fact, this morning, it is Democrats that are winning in districts that President Trump won in some cases by double digits. At least 23 Democrats so far have won in districts that President Trump won. And, of course, we keep talking about what was driving voters to the polls to this morning to send this powerful message. And it is all about the economy. Our ABC News voter poll here shows that 75 percent of voters said that the economy was not in good or poor. It was in very poor shape. They felt like the inflation had really caused a hardship to their family. Guys?

STRAHAN: Yeah. You said voters wanted to send a powerful message. The message was sent, but you have to see if it was received. Okay, Rachel. Thank you. Our team across the country has been tracking the key races throughout the night. Let's head to Whit Johnson in Texas. With the political earthquake there. Whit. Good morning.

WHIT JOHNSON: Hey, Michael. Good morning to you. This was a historic win the size of Texas, as Talarico put it in his victory speech. No Democrat had won a statewide race here in Texas in more than three decades. Until last night. James Talarico, the former teacher and seminarian, defeating state Attorney General Ken Paxton, whose campaign had been overshadowed by fraud and corruption allegations in which he's denied any wrongdoing. Talarico telling his supporters overnight people are hungry for a different kind of politics, not a politics of hate, but a politics of love. It's that message of unity and compassion that really resonated with people across Texas. Democrats and Republicans looking for change. Talarico victory also helping propel a history-making governor's race. Gina Hinojosa becoming the first Latina ever elected governor of Texas. She defeated incumbent Greg Abbott, preventing him from being elected to an unprecedented fourth term. And then overnight, after their victory speeches, Hinojosa and Talarico headed over to a Whataburger to shake hands and celebrate with supporters. Democrats are now poised to sweep every single statewide office in the state of Texas, and this marks a stunning defeat for Republicans, who poured hundreds of millions of dollars into this race led by Elon Musk and specifically a major loss for Donald Trump, who endorsed Paxton and came right here to Texas to campaign for him four times since Labor Day, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Okay. Thanks, Whit. And it was another stunning defeat in South Carolina for the Republicans. Democrats flipped the Senate seat once held by Lindsey Graham. Deborah Roberts is in Columbia, South Carolina. And Deborah, the President wanted Graham's sister to be the senator. It backfired.

DEBORAH ROBERTS: It absolutely did, George. For 23 years, Lindsey Graham held firmly to this seat in South Carolina, a red state. But after his death and a dramatic election cycle, South Carolina clearly appeared ready to turn the page. It was a historic night in South Carolina with this state for the first time in nearly three decades, sending a Democrat to the U.S. Senate and, for the first time electing a woman to the seat. Dr. Annie Andrews, a pediatrician and mom of three, pulled off the unexpected, defeating Darline Graham, who had hoped to officially claim that seat long held by her brother. Republicans, though in the Palmetto State having mixed feelings about Graham, who struggled to connect with voters and they questioned her experience and the fact that she was handpicked by the President. In her concession speech, Graham expressing her grief, telling a room full of somber supporters that she betrayed her run a thousand times over to have her brother back, but she said God had a different plan. In the end, Annie Andrews, who managed to build a coalition of Democrats and some Republicans offering that voters called for a changing of the guard in South Carolina. Annie Andrews came to power with messages of affordability and lower health care costs. She said that now this is a new day for South Carolina, Robin.

ROBERTS: All right. Our thanks to you for your reporting there. And Maine, another flip for Democrats ending Susan Collins's 30 year career in the Senate. Will Reeve is in Bangor with more. Good morning to you. Will.

WILL REEVE: Good morning, Robin. We're just a few hours into a new era in Maine. Just a bit after midnight, five-time incumbent Republican Senator Susan Collins calling her Democratic challenger Troy Jackson to concede. Jackson, appearing at his rally, saying, "the people of Maine

have elected that logger to the United States Senate." This is a seismic event in this state. Collins is as known a quantity as it gets. She campaigned on her vast experience and her record for funneling billions of federal dollars to Maine. And, for a while last night, the margins were razor thin, and even as the Senate seats nationwide were flipping to Democrats, it seemed possible, if not likely, that Collins would once again defy political gravity and pull off the win. But ultimately, the voters here wanted a change, and Collins could not outrun that national wave of repudiation of President Trump. And we were outside or inside, rather, Senator Collins's watch party last night. The mood was jovial but uneasy a night. And then ultimately, when rumors we around. And then the statement went out that she was conceding, saying in part, it has been the honor of my life to serve the people of Maine in the United States Senate. The remaining crowd was disappointed, but they accepted that this was the end of the political road for their senator of nearly 30 years, Michael.

STRAHAN: Yeah. All right. Will, thank you for bringing that to us. We're going to go now to another historic win in Michigan. Juju Chang is in Detroit. Good morning, Juju.

JUJU CHANG: Good morning Michael. Well, Dr. Abdul El-Sayed took to the stage to thunderous applause and chants of Abdul, Abdul. His supporters clearly thrilled that he was making history as the first ever Muslim elected to the U.S. Senate. Now, you know, he has an M.D., a Ph.D. He's a Rhodes Scholar. But he came back to Michigan and worked in public health in Detroit. Now, El-Sayed faced criticism over his opposition to Israel and his response to anti-Semitism, but he also faced harsh attacks of Islamophobic — ads. He ran an unapologetic progressive campaign. He fired up a lot of youth votes, and he fought off tens of millions of negative ads against him. President Trump, you'll remember, campaigned here with his Republican opponent, Mike Rogers, the former congressman, calling him a jihadist and trying to tie him to terror groups, which of course, he denied. But also he kept reminding voters that my name and the way I pray has nothing to do with the price of groceries, has nothing to do with the price of gas. And, in fact, affordability and the cost of price of gas was what drove voters to the polls — top of mind, affordability. And that is why perhaps they have a new senator named Abdul el-Sayed, Michael

STRAHAN: Juju, thank you.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Okay, Let's bring in our political analyst. We've got former DNC chair Donna Brazile, former New Jersey governor Chris Christie. Chris, let me begin with you. We spent a lot of time on the House and the Senate Democrats also flipping five governor's seats.

CHRIS CHRISTIE: Yeah, five so far. We still haven't heard about Alaska — could go that way too. We could be up to 30 Democratic governors. And, to give you some perspective, before Donald Trump came on the scene, I was chairman of the Republican Governors Association in 2014. We had a record after that night of 31 Republican governors in the country. We could now, after 12 years of Donald Trump, be down to 20.

ROBERTS: And as you both know, the President said over and over a over again, Donna, that he — to vote like he was on the ballot. That's right. Of course, he was not. His policies were.

DONNAA BRAZILE: And the voters heard — look, the voters heard Donald Trump for once. There was, um, there was a saying last week that Democrats could not break the wall. Not only did we break the — the red wall, we dug deep into the red mud of Georgia and North Carolina. Shamari Fingers won in Alabama 2. Mississippi is now poised to have a Black United States senator. We miss a Black senator from Louisiana about two or three points in Florida by two or three points. This was a seismic shift in the politics. And why? Because in the Deep South, where I'm from, where you're from as well, the American people decided that they wanted change. They wanted a repudiation of Donald Trump policies, and they wanted to see men and women of valor. It was historic night of first. And Chris, I love you, as you well know, but let me tell you something: I love the fact that Nevada will have a Black governor — Wisconsin, Michigan — I'm — I'm — I'm tired now. Florida, Georgia. I'm counting Black governors, a his governor. We have the first openly gay senator from the state of New Hampshire. This was a historic first for many people across the country. And now, Democrats must govern.

STRAHAN: Yeah. And you're allowed to be tired. It's been a long night. It's been a long night. It's been a long season. And Chris, it's not just President's policies. He handpicked a lot of these Republican candidates —

CHRISTIE: Sure.

STRAHAN: — that lost while also pushing the gerrymander. That also backfired.

CHRISTIE: Well, look, I think part of what happened here was the American people didn't like this midterm redistricting, didn't like the fact that the leader of the country was trying to — to rig what went on in the midterm elections. And it was ineffective because it was premised, Michael, on the idea that the Hispanic voters, particularly in places like Texas and Florida, had become the possession of the Republican Party. And he miscalculated that. But more an anything else, he repelled those folks with his policies by ICE, and there's a lot of anger in the country about that. People wanted the border secured, and the President did that. But he also said all he was going to do is remove folks who had committed crimes, who were here illegally. And instead, they saw all over the country, other people being removed who had never committed a crime.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Yeah. You said it's time to govern. The Democrats want to legislate. They want to investigate. We heard President Trump last night call himself Mr. Veto and Mr. Pardon?

BRAZILE: Well, look, he's going to look for a pin, but the Democrats will have the ink. And that's because they're going to use their governing majority to not only investigate all of the pay to play schemes, but more importantly, they want to investigate why gas prices are so high. They want to investigate why people are losing their health care premiums, their health care subsidies, so this is an opportunity for Democrats to govern.

(....)

7:30 a.m. Eastern

STRAHAN: Welcome back to *GMA* with a live look at the Texas Capitol, after a political earthquake there overnight. Democrats turning the state blue for the first time in decades. Senator elect James Talarico going to join us live in our next hour.

ROBERTS: But right now, we want to check in on more of the states that had the biggest impact in this election. Georgia also turning blue with Democratic wins in the Senate. Historic win in the governor's race. Senior national correspondent Steve Osunsami is there in Atlanta with the very latest for us. Good morning to you, Steve.

STEVE OSUSAMI: Good morning to you, Robin. I've lived in this state for nearly 30 years and, up until now, Republicans have controlled every level of state government. And none of the races decided overnight were even close. Senator Jon Ossoff beat Congressman Mike Collins by more than 750,000 votes. And now there's going to be even more talk about him running for president. No question Ossoff helped everyone down ballot, including our new governor-to-be, Keisha Lance Bottoms, the former mayor of Atlanta, who beat a billionaire who outspent her with his own money. The history she makes cannot be underlined enough in a Southern state where her ancestors were enslaved, she becomes the governor at a state house that sits only a few miles from the birthplace of Martin Luther King. She becomes the first Black woman governor in the history of this country. Democrats swept statewide offices here and now, eight Black women will be the top authorities in the state of Georgia. On top of that, our U.S. Senators are Jewish and Black. There are many this morning who would say that all of this makes Georgia blue, George.

STEPHANOPOPOULOS: Big change. Steve Osunsami. Thanks very much. Let's move up to Ohio. In the Midwest, it had become a solid red state in recent years. Not last night. Democrats won the governor's race and flipped a Senate seat. Matt Rivers is in Columbus. Good morning, Matt.

MATT RIVERS: Hey. Good morning, George. It is a clean sweep for the two Democrats at the top of the ticket here in Ohio. Sherrod Brown winning his Senate race, and Amy Acton set to be the new governor. Acton will become the first female governor of this state, the first Democrat to take the office in 20 years after what became a very personal campaign. That race really turning in October after Acton's opponent, Vivek Ramaswamy, released an ad with Acton estranged mother saying that Acton shouldn't be governor, despite her mother choosing to stay with her then-husband despite him being charged with raping Acton when she was 12 years old. Now, ABC News polling also showing that Acton had high favorable ratings among the seven in ten Ohio voters who said they were dissatisfied with the economy. That economic malaise, a huge reason the former Senator Sherrod Brown, is headed back to Washington, just two years after losing his Senate seat to Republican Bernie Moreno. This time, though, facing incumbent Jon Husted. Brown leaned into a pop affordability message and it landed, winning handily in a state President Trump won by 11 points in 2024. Much like the rest of the country. Michael, a lot of very happy Democrats today here in Ohio.

STRAHAN: Oh for sure. All right, Matt, thank you for that. And, it's been nearly 100 years since Kansas sent a Democrat to the Senate. But that's about to change. Stephanie Ramos is in Overland Park, Kansas for us. Good morning, Stephanie.

STEPHANIE RAMOS: Michael, good morning. It was a historic win for Kansas last night. Democrat Adam Hamilton, a pastor and the founder of the nation's largest Methodist church, winning the U.S. Senate seat held by a Republican for nearly a century. The last time a Democrat won this seat was 1932. And remember, this is a state President Trump carried three times. Now Hamilton was running against Trump-backed Republican Senator Roger Marshall in what became the most expensive Senate race in Kansas history, with Democrats pouring tens of millions of dollars into the contest, Republicans as well. And on the campaign trail, Hamilton tapped into frustration over tariffs and their impact on farmers, while also calling for an end to the war in Iran. But his central message was about finding common ground and bringing decency back to Washington. Last night, he promised he'd become best friends with Kansas Republican Senator Jerry Moran and quoted Scripture, as he often did on the campaign trail. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. And now he will have an opportunity to take that message to Washington.

ROBERTS: And he certainly will. All right. Stephanie, thank you. Let's go now to Alaska. Trevor Ault is there with that closely watched Senate race. Good morning to you, Trevor.

TREVOR AULT: Good morning Robin. There are several races in Alaska that are still too close to call: House race, the governor's race, and, of course, that very closely watched Senate race. Have Democrat Mary Peltola trying to flip yet another seat in the Senate for the Democrats, from incumbent Republican Dan Sullivan. Now we have more than half of the vote reported so far. Dan Sullivan has a very narrow lead, but the Peltola campaign is projecting some confidence because they believe there's still a good amount of votes left to be cast from here in Anchorage that could maybe put Mary Peltola over the top. And by now, everybody knows there's more than one Dan Sullivan on the ballot here in Alaska. There's a second one that *The New York Times* had reported. The Peltola campaign, allegedly recruited to try to siphon some votes away, though Mary Peltola claims she has no idea whether or not her campaign did that. That second, Dan Sullivan's votes are coming in at under 2 percent. So pretty meager percentage so far, likely eliminated in the first round of ranked choice voting, if it goes to that. But we do know if Peltola does come back and take the lead and win this race, Republicans are going to be looking at that, looking at that vote total from the second Dan Sullivan, to see if it may ve made a difference. We've also known from the very beginning that Alaska always takes a really long time to count up their tally, even though Senate control is already decided, it still could take weeks before we know who wins this Senate seat in Alaska, guys.

(....)

7:40 a.m. Eastern

STEPHANOPOULOS: Let's get more on what's next with our chief Washington correspondent, Jon Karl, our chief global affairs anchor, Martha Raddatz. And Jon, let me begin with you. I think back to George W. Bush in the midterms, said we took a thumping. Barack Obama said the shellacking.

JONATHAN KARL: Shellacking!

STEPHANOPOULOS: We're not going to hear that from President Trump, but he is going to be facing challenges like he's never faced before.

JONATHAN KARL: Oh, there's no doubt. Look, this election was, in large part, a repudiation of Donald Trump and of a Congress that had done nothing to hold him accountable. So, as the votes were coming in on Election Day, Chuck Schumer told me the Democrats will fight Trump tooth and nail. In fact, you're going to see this happening even before the new Congress is sworn in. There is already an impeachment resolution of Pete Hegseth that was filed by a Republican by Thomas Massie. I expect you're going to see action on that. Perhaps not impeachment, but action on that immediately. And, look, every one of these committees in Congress, House and Senate will now be controlled by a Democrat, most of whom see as one of their primary jobs is to holding this administration accountable. Now, that said, they didn't get elected to impeach Trump. They didn't get elected to hold hearings, investigative hearings. They will be under pressure to try to get something done, and no fewer than three incoming senators that I spoke to during this campaign from red states — Talarico in Texas, Adam Hamilton in Kansas and Josh Turek in Iowa — told me that they would and believed they could work with Donald Trump if elected to the Senate.

ROBERTS: We heard over and over from voters that affordability was a major factor. So was the war in Iran. And so what do these election results mean for U.S. foreign policy, Martha, going forward?

MARTHA RADDATZ: Well, I think not only it was affordability a the war, but they connected those two, and that's why they knew they were and still are paying higher prices for gas, diesel, groceries, you name it. So, I think going forward right now — we have 50,000 troops in the Middle East trying to get ships through the Strait of Hormuz. They're starting to get through. But you cannot maintain that. So, what he does to end the war, which as we know, he said a couple of times, it's already over, and we won, is the big question going forward. He already has options on the table if he wants to renew larger strikes. And there's certainly been talk about that. Whether he will do that now or not, perhaps that's one way to say victory. They can't get a nuclear weapon now if they start bombing the nuclear facilities again, whatever. He knows that that is a huge issue and he's already got this huge repudiation of him in the votes, so what does he do about it?

STEPHANOPOULOS: Corruption another big theme for the Democrats. Incoming House chairman last night said his message to White House staffers, allies of President Trump, others involved in perceived corruption: "Lawyer up."

KARL: Yeah, I mean, they've already started doing that even before the votes were counted. But look, Trump retains tremendous power even without control of Congress. Obviously, immunity himself from the Supreme Court, and he has those executive powers that he has pushed the limits of and expect he will do even more so now without control of Congress, and he's used the Justice Department to go after his political enemies. I expect you will see that happening as well. But, you know, again, the voters sent a very loud message. The question is, will that message be heard? Trump also fancies himself a deal-maker. I don't think that's what you're going to see initially. But the question is, can he deal with the Democratic Congress to get anything done that

voters demanded in this election?

STEPHANOPOULOS: We shall see. Thank you both very much. Let's go to Sam.

SAM CHAMPION: All right. The voters made some big decisions over night.

SCOTT: Yes.

CHAMPION: And this is a morning of many firsts. And Rachel is going to go through them for us.

SCOTT: Historic first from Florida to Nevada. I'll have more on the candidates from both parties making history.

(....)

7:48 a.m.

CHAMPION: With voters making history all around the country overnight, let's bring in senior political correspondent Rachel Scott with the first big things of the night. All a night of firsts, Rachel.

SCOTT: Historic night of firsts for both parties. And I want to start here with governors because for the first time in U.S. history, next year, there will be five governors, all serving at the same time. So, in Florida, Republican Byron Donalds elected as that state's first Black governor, Keisha Lance Bottoms, winning there as governor in the state of Georgia. She is the first woman Black woman to be elected governor in the United States. David Crowley there in Wisconsin and over in Nevada, Aaron Ford. This trend starts to continue. I mean, take a look at this Texas — Texas electing its first Latina governor. And then there, Amy Acton becoming the first woman elected governor of Ohio, Deb Haaland becoming the first female Indigenous governor, and then Xavier Becerra out in California, the first elected Latino governor. Over to the Senate now, two historic. First to note, Chris Pappas, the first openly gay man elected to the U.S. Senate, and then Abdul El-Sayed becoming the first Muslim senator in U.S. history. An extraordinary night of firsts for all of these candidates, from both parties. Something to celebrate on both sides this morning.

STRAHAN: Mmmm!

ROBERTS: So much history. Congratulations to them all.

(....)

8:01 a.m. Eastern

STEPHANOPOULOS: First, look at the top stories breaking at eight. We start with the historic wins for Democrats across the country, Whit Johnson standing by after the political earthquake in

Texas.

ROBERTS: But first to our chief White House correspondent, Mary Bruce, with Democrats taking back control of the House and the Senate scoring stunning victories in deep red states along the way. Good morning again, Mary.

BRUCE: Well, good morning, Robin. And voters are sending President Trump a resounding rebuke with this massive blue wave. Democrats handing Republicans defeat after defeat in deep red states, flipping seats in Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Maine, North and South Carolina, even Texas. Across the Midwest, Democrats scoring major victories in Kansas, Adam Hamilton defeating incumbent GOP Senator Roger Marshall, becoming the first Democrat elected there in nearly a century. And in Michigan, a historic first Abdul El-Sayed, becoming the first Muslim elected to the U.S. Senate, after President Trump launched Islamophobic attacks on his faith. And over in Maine, the end of a political era, five term Republican Senator Susan Collins conceding to Democrat Troy Jackson. All in all, the night, a massive defeat for President Trump, who repeatedly told voters to act like he was on the ballot, Michael.

STRAHAN: All right, Mary, thank you. And in just a few moments, we're going to hear from Texas Senator-elect James Talarico. But first, lets go back to Whit Johnson in Austin with the political earthquake. Good morning again, Whit.

JOHNSON: Hey, Michael, good morning to you. This was a historic win the size of Texas, as Talarico put it in his victory speech. No Democrat had won a statewide race here in Texas in more than three decades. Until last night, James Talarico, the former teacher and seminarian, defeating the state Attorney General, Ken Paxton. Talarico telling his supporters overnight people are hungry for a different kind of politics, not a politics of hate, but a politics of love. It's that message of unity and compassion that really resonated with people across Texas, Democrats and Republicans looking for change. Talarico's victory also helping propel a history making governor's race. Gina Hinojosa becoming the first Latina ever elected governor of Texas. She defeated incumbent Greg Abbott, preventing him from being elected to an unprecedented fourth term. As we noted, this marks a stunning defeat for Republicans who spent hundreds of millions of dollars on this race here Texas, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And let's bring in the man who called himself David, beating Goliath — Senator-elect James Talarico. Senator-elect, thank you for joining us this morning.

TALARICO: Thanks for having me.

STEPHANOPOULOS: So, just a sweeping win for Democrats across the board in Texas. Your victory, the victory in the governor's race, other statewide races. Just two years ago, Donald Trump won the state of Texas by 14 points. What determined the difference?

TALARICO: Well, this was bigger than the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. Texans from all corners of our state demanded change. And now, change is on the way. This election is about working people coming together across all the divisions in our politics to change this broken, corrupt political system, to get big money out of our politics, to unrig this economy, and

unrig this government, so that it can actually work for all of us again.

STEPHANOPOULOS: The question is now, how do you deliver on that promise of change, particularly on the cost of living?

TALARICO: Well, I want to work with my Republican colleagues in the U.S. Senate, with my Democratic colleagues. I want to work with President Trump over these last two years of his term to deliver for working people in my state and across this country. In the state house, I worked with both parties to pass 60 bipartisan bills to lower people's costs, the cost of housing, the cost of child care, the cost of prescription drugs, including insulin. And I want to do that in the U.S. Senate. I think we could repeal these tariffs to lower grocery prices. I think we could suspend the federal gas tax and the federal diesel tax to provide some relief at the pump, and I hope that we can end this disastrous war on Iran, so that we can bring down prices across the board.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Hard to see President Trump reversing on either the tariffs or the war with Iran. How will you convince him?

TALARICO: Well, I think the people of this country may have convinced him. Last night, they delivered a resounding message that they want the President, they want both parties in Congress to focus on them, to focus on making their lives easier, and better, and less stressful, and that's not a Democratic thing or a Republican thing. That is just good government, and I think that's what the people of Texas demanded last night. And — and I heard them, our campaign heard them. And now the world hears them.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Texas on the front lines for the fights over immigration and border security. You say both parties have failed. How do you fix it?

TALARICO: Well, we need to bring both parties together to pass comprehensive immigration reform that includes border security. I'm a border security Democrat. We have to know who's coming into our country. But we should also fight for more legal pathways for hard-working immigrants to come here and contribute to our economy, make us richer and stronger as a nation, and we should pass a pathway to citizenship for our neighbors who have been here for ars and decades so they can come out of the shadows. We have to crack down on this secret police force of masked men in unmarked vehicles who are kidnapping people off the street here in Texas, who are murdering our neighbors, like Lorenzo Salgado in Houston. We have to have accountability, so we can protect all of our neighbors, including our immigrant neighbors.

STEPHANOPOULOS: You said you want to pursue a politics of love. For a lot of Americans who may be hearing you for the first time this morning, spell out what that means.

TALARICO: Yeah, I think we are all tired of this politics of division, this politics of hate, this politics of fear. I'm tired of being pitted against my neighbor. I'm tired of being told to hate my neighbor. My granddad was a Baptist preacher in South Texas. He told me that we follow a barefoot rabbi who gave us two commandments: love God and love neighbor, because there is no love of God without love of neighbor, and I'm called to love all of my neighbors, not just my

neighbors who look like me or pray like me or vote like me, and that's what this campaign was built on. A deep love for all of our neighbors, and it's how we built this coalition that won Texas by looks like double digits. I think it's a model for what politics can look like in our state and in our country in the years ahead.

STEPHANOPOULOS: James Talarico, congratulations and thanks for your time this morning. Coming up in *GMA* morning menu, Rachel Scott standing by with more on the historic midterm elections and the message voters are sending.

(....)

8:13 a.m. Eastern

STRAHAN: We're back now *GMA* with the historic midterm elections and the message voters are sending. Let's go back to senior political correspondent Rachel Scott to break it down for Rachel.

SCOTT: And we are still tracking these election results coming in, so let me bring you up to speed on the state of play right now. So far, Democrats have flipped at least seven states over in the Senate. You were just talking to James Talarico, the first Democrat to win in Texas in nearly 30 years, Kansas sending a Democrat to the Senate for the first time in nearly a century. That blue wave crashing over the South there South Carolina, that stunning upset. But of course, we are watching very closely this race here in Mississippi right now. It is the Democrat, Scott Colom, 43 — 43 votes ahead of the incumbent Hyde-Smith. Right now, this is still too close to project with 96 percent of the vote in. But we're also watching Alaska as well. These results still coming in as well. Only 72 percent of the vote in as it stands right now, so Democrats still have an opportunity to pick up even more seats over in the Senate.

STRAHAN: Yeah, some tight races there, Rachel. Democrats are also flipping the House despite the redistricting efforts.

SCOTT: Yes. And so, right now, so far, Democrats have flipped at least 25 seats over in the House, this number growing and growing overnight. And we're still waiting on a number of races to be projected. You could see them highlighted here in gray. Now, of course, one thing that we're watching very closely, this redistricting effort, right? Republicans redrawing the maps in a lot of these states to make them more competitive and favorable for Republicans, in some cases, making them less diverse. It happened here in the Rio Grande Valley. But you could see there it's still very blue. I want to take you to just the number here. This big number. Republicans tried to redraw 15 congressional districts. They have not won a single one of these races. Democrats winning and every single one of them so far, and Democrats even expanding into some deep red territory. So far, at least 23 Democrats winning in districts that President Trump won in, sometimes by double digits, guys.

STRAHAN: And in the economy, clearly driving voters to the polls.

SCOTT: It is. And so our ABC News voter poll asked voters about the economy. And take a look

at this. 75 percent of voters said that the economy is in not so good or poor shape. 79 percent of voters said they felt like inflation had caused their family hardship in the past year, and we heard about this talking to so many voters across the country. They said this was the number one issue, driving them to the polls. And you see the message that they're sending to the White House. And to the President this morning, guys.

ROBERTS: We're going to give you a message you're going to get some rest now.

STRAHAN: Yes, definitely.

SCOTT: I still got to wait on Mississippi to come in.

ROBERTS: Okay. All right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Looks pretty fresh. We're going to go to Michigan now. Another historic win there. Their first Muslim senator in American history. Juju Chang is in Detroit. Good morning, Juju.

CHANG: Good morning George. You know Dr. Abdul El-Sayed took to the stage here in Motor City to thunderous chants of Abdul. Abdul making history as the first Muslim ever elected to the U.S. Senate. Now, you know he has an M.D. He has a Ph.D. He worked for a time in public health here in Detroit. But when he ran for office, El-Sayed faced criticism over his staunch opposition to Israel, and to his response to anti-Semitism, while also enduring harsh Islamophobic attack ads. You'll recall President Trump came here and campaigned alongside his rival, Mike Rogers, the former congressman. They tried calling him a jihadist, and tying him to terrorists causes. But El-Sayed denied that and kept telling voters that my name, and the way I pray has nothing to do with the price of gas or the price of gasoline. Now, another economic issue here in Michigan is often referred to as Trump's tariff war with Canada. It has raised the cost of goods here. It has cost jobs in the auto industry, according to research, and El-Sayed often likes to quote the statistic that it has cost, on average, Michiganders, their households $5,600, far more than any other state, since those tariffs went into effect. And that's part of the affordability issue that was top of mind for Michiganders as they went into the polls, and perhaps why they have a new senator named El-Sayed, George.

STEPHANOPOULOS: A lot of anger over those prices. Okay, Juju, thanks very much.