

PEKIN DAILY TIMES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 | PEKINTIMES.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Critics think attempt a long shot with president's low approval

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump has a solution for his party's midterm woes as Republicans struggle to match Democrats' election enthusiasm and face major headwinds to keep control of Congress:

The president and his advisers have suggested he's the only one who can bring the MAGA faithful to the polls in large enough numbers to avoid a mid-term catastrophe for Republicans.

“This is a turnout race,” Republican National Committee Chair Joe Gruters said in an interview. “We need the president front and center.”

tying candidates more tightly to Trump as his low approval rating weighs on the party, with the potential to drag down midterm candidates.

“One of the problems that the party is having right now is the president’s approval rating is not good,” said longtime GOP strategist Charlie Black. “So the more candidates can get the voters to focus on them and the issues that they’re promoting, and less on the president, the better in most states and most districts.”

you think he's a drag on the ticket due to low approval ratings, concern about his handling of the economy and the ongoing war in Iran, centering the election on his performance seems especially risky," he said.

Republicans face a challenge just to get Americans to tune in to the convention. They scheduled the event for the first two dates of the NFL regular season, which always draws massive ratings. While all the major television networks and cable news channels historically air party conventions in

Amazon sued by pregnant workers

Discrimination lawsuit cites lost jobs, threats

Madeline Mitchell
USA TODAY

A nationwide class-action lawsuit filed against Amazon Sept. 8 alleges the company failed to make basic workplace accommodations for pregnant employees, and then terminated them or threatened to do so when they took breaks or time off for pregnancy-related reasons.

The lawsuit claims Amazon's discriminatory and retaliatory policies have been well-documented for years, including in several Equal Employment Opportunity Commission complaints, and have led to state investigations.

The workers' rights nonprofit A Better Balance shared the complaint exclusively with USA TODAY ahead of its filing and provided access to the four named plaintiffs.

“Ensuring the health and well-being of our employees is one of our greatest responsibilities, and we strive to provide a safe and supportive environment for everyone, which includes supporting tens of thousands of employees with pregnancy accommodations each year,” Amazon spokesperson Kelly Nantel said in a statement. “In the past year, more than 99.9% of pregnancy related accommodations requests have been approved. The accounts shared by A Better Balance contain inaccuracies and omit important details.”

One of the plaintiffs, 38-year-old Willamina Barclay, said she repeatedly requested accommodations at the Amazon warehouse in Rochester, New York, including a seated position, extra breaks, no repetitive squatting, no climbing ladders and a 15-pound limit on the weight she was required to lift. Her doctor classified her pregnancy as high-risk and she had recently miscarried at work, she said.

Amazon unreasonably delayed approving her request, the complaint states, and ultimately only granted some of those modifications.

One day in June, Barclay said she doubled over in severe abdominal pain while lifting heavy objects. She left in a wheelchair, and her sister took her directly to the hospital. The next day, Amazon sent Barclay a “Termination Warning Email” for taking too much unpaid time off, according to the complaint.

On her next work day, Barclay said, she called out with a doctor's note explaining she was suffering a pregnancy-related condition. Amazon fired her four days later, according to the complaint.

The lawsuit calls for Amazon to reform its policies and demands compensation for violations. But more than that, A Better Balance President Inimai Chettiar said, she hopes the lawsuit calls attention to pregnant workers' rights, especially as the EEOC plans to propose regulation changes to

See AMAZON, Page 2A

