



President Donald Trump speaks to reporters in the Oval Office at the White House on Monday, February 2. *Evelyn Hockstein/Reuters*

US President Donald Trump told reporters on Monday that he is in talks

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## **House Republicans call Texas Senate special election a “wake-up call” for party ahead of midterms**

From CNN’s Alison Main, Manu Raju and Casey Riddle



Rep. Jodey Arrington speaks with CNN's Manu Raju on Monday, February 2 *CNN*

House Republicans said a special election **victory by a Democrat in a Texas state Senate district** that President Donald Trump won by double digits in 2024 should be a wake-up call to their party to focus in on their most popular messages ahead of critical midterm elections.

“I think it’s an anomaly, but I don’t think it’s something that you want to brush off,” said Rep. Jodey Arrington of Texas.

He said his message to Republicans in Washington, DC, is to keep delivering results.

“Let’s keep attacking the cost-of-living crisis that was thrust on this country after four years of failed policies and unbridled spending. Let’s not try to put it in neutral and coast in, that’s unacceptable,” he continued.

Arrington said Republicans need to address issues like health care affordability and cracking down on fraud in order to overcome the barriers they face.

“I see this as a good reminder to Republicans that historically, we are fighting uphill, not downhill, because of the current power dynamic, and that happens all the time,” he said.



Rep. Tom Cole talks with CNN's Raju Manu on Monday. *CNN*

Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma attributed the Democratic victory to a phenomenon where “minority parties usually do well in off year

He warned that Republicans need to “take into account and recognize they’re going to be facing that reality,” but he said he didn’t think it would be quite the same in November.

Asked if Republicans need to change course, Cole responded, “It should be a wake-up call because I think most Republicans are satisfied with what the Trump administration has done.”

Swing-district Rep. Don Bacon said the victory should be a “warning” to Republicans. The Nebraska Republican who is retiring after this term said the party and Trump would be “better off” focusing on border and inflation issues.

“But there’s all this other stuff going on, whether it’s tariffs, the voters are overwhelmingly for Ukraine, and he’s not been there on that. So I think there’s so many areas that the president and our team to be stronger on,” he added.

*This post was updated with comments by Rep. Don Bacon.*



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## **Trump says DOJ should move on from Epstein files**

From CNN's Samantha Waldenberg