

ABC News' Oval Office interview with President Trump

A transcript of ABC News' George Stephanopoulos' Oval Office interview.

By ABC News

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Trump reacts to being down in internal polls, Don Jr testifying with Senate Committee

The president told ABC News' George Stephanopoulos in an exclusive interview, "There's no way he [Biden] beats me in Texas...my polls show that I'm winning everywhere."

ABC News

Over the course of two days, ABC News' Chief Anchor George Stephanopoulos [spent 30 hours with President Donald Trump](#), flying on [Air Force One](#) to Iowa, traveling in his armored vehicle called "The Beast," greeting him in his West Wing residence, embedding in the Oval Office for a day of meetings, and sitting down for a one-on-one interview in the White House Rose Garden.

During an interview Wednesday morning in the Oval Office, [President Trump opined on the Russia investigation](#), telling Stephanopoulos he would consider accepting damaging information about his political rivals from foreign nations.

+ (MORE: EXCLUSIVE: Trump says he would listen if foreigners offered dirt on opponents)

Below is a complete, unedited transcript of that portion of the president's exclusive interview with ABC News.

+ (MORE: Trump lashes out about being down in internal polls)

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ABC News Chief Anchor George Stephanopoulos: You're a fighter. You, you, it feels like you're in a constant kind of churn.

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President Donald Trump: Yeah, uh, my life has always been a fight. And I enjoy that I guess, I don't know if I enjoy it or not, I guess -- sometimes I have false fights, like the Russian witch hunt. That's a false fight. That's a made-up hoax. And I had a fight that --

Stephanopoulos: --the first line of his report says they had a systematic attempt at interfere in our elections.

President Trump: They did, but not me. And they also said, okay, that we rebuffed them. Okay?

Stephanopoulos: Well they said you're--

President Trump: --that the Trump campaign. Excuse me. The campaign, the Trump campaign rebuffed them. We had nothing to do with Russia.

Hillary Clinton had much more to do with Russia than anything having to do with our campaign. It said very specifically that, not only we didn't have to do, but we rebuffed them. Now, anything having to do with Russia had nothing to do with our campaign.

Stephanopoulos: Well, Paul Manafort.

President Trump: Paul Manafort, they have Paul Manafort on taxes and many other things. Nothing to do with our campaign.

Stephanopoulos: Giving polling information to the Russians.

President Trump: I don't know anything about that. What difference does polling information make? It doesn't matter. He was maybe trying to do something for an account or something. Who knows? But they said specifically that there was nothing to do, and we, in fact, rebuffed them--

Stephanopoulos: --they said there were hundreds--

President Trump: It's a phony--

Stephanopoulos: --what they said is that--

President Trump: They also said that there were bloggers in Moscow and they said specifically, about the bloggers in Moscow, had nothing to do with Trump, had nothing to do with the--and there were like 32 or 36 bloggers. We have nothing to do with bloggers in Moscow. I'll tell you, you talk about collusion, take a look at the collusion with the Democrat party and Facebook and Google and Twitter. That's called collusion, that's called real collusion. Not where somebody buys some ads and the other thing, having to do with Russia, they were also helping the Clinton campaign, you know that? It wasn't just Trump. And Putin, I will say this: if he had it, it was up to him. He would much rather have Hillary Clinton be president right now. And all of these countries would rather have Biden or anybody else but Trump.

Stephanopoulos: He said he was trying to help elect you. He said that explicitly.

President Trump: Well he might've said that after I won because it's a smart thing to say, okay? Because frankly—

Stephanopoulos: And Mueller says that he's trying to do that.

President Trump: Mueller said that we rebuffed Russia, that we pushed them away, that we weren't interested. Read the report.

Stephanopoulos: I have read the report. On that though, your son Don Jr. is up before the Senate Intelligence Committee today, and again, he was not charged with anything. In retrospect though, do you think—

President Trump: --I mean not only wasn't he charged, if you read it, with all of the horrible fake news, I mean, I was reading that my son was going to go to jail. This is a good young man. That he was going to go to jail and all of these horrible stories. And then the report comes out and they didn't even say--they hardly even talked about him.

Stephanopoulos: But should he have gone to the FBI when he got that email?

President Trump: Okay, let's put yourself in a position: you're a congressman, somebody comes up and says, "Hey I have information on your opponent." Do you call the FBI?

Stephanopoulos: If it's coming from Russia you do.

President Trump: You don't-- I'll tell you what. I've seen a lot of things over my life. I don't think in my whole life I've ever called the FBI. In my whole life. I don't--you don't call the FBI. You throw somebody out of your office, you do whatever you do—

Stephanopoulos: Al Gore got a stolen briefing book. He called the FBI.

President Trump: Well, that's different. A stolen briefing book. This isn't-- this is somebody who said, "We have information on your opponent." Oh, let me call the FBI. Give me a break, life doesn't work that way.

Stephanopoulos: The FBI Director says that's what should happen.

President Trump: The FBI Director is wrong. Because, frankly, it doesn't happen like that in life. Now, maybe it will start happening. Maybe today you think differently. But two or three years ago, if somebody comes into your office with oppo research-- they call it oppo research--with information that might be good or bad or something, but good for you, bad for your opponent, you don't call the FBI. I would guarantee you that 90 percent, could be 100 percent, of the congressmen or the senators over there, have had meetings--if they didn't they probably wouldn't be elected--on negative information about their opponent. They don't--

Stephanopoulos: From foreign countries?

President Trump: Possibly. Possibly. But they don't call the FBI. You don't call the FBI every time you hear something that maybe--now, you see the people. The meeting, it also sounds to me--I don't know anything about that meeting--but it sounds to me like it was a big nothing. That meeting was a big nothing. But I heard about my son, who is a great young man, going to jail over a meeting where somebody said, "I have information on Hillary Clinton." She's the one that should be in jail. She deleted 33--

Stephanopoulos: She should be in jail?

President Trump: She deleted 33,000 emails from--sent by the United States Congress. They gave a subpoena to Hillary Clinton for 33,000 emails. After the subpoena was gotten, she deleted them. That's called obstruction. And her lawyer should also be looked at because her lawyer--she's got to have the greatest lawyer on earth because she does that, he did the deleting, supposedly. Not only did they delete, but they acid washed them.

Stephanopoulos: That's been investigated.

President Trump: Now, that's called the-- no, no. No, no. It's being investigated I assume now.

Stephanopoulos: It's been investigated.

President Trump: I don't know, I stay uninvolved. I stay totally uninvolved and I don't talk to—

Stephanopoulos: You haven't asked the Justice Department to take a look into Hillary Clinton?

President Trump: We have a great attorney general now. I don't talk to my attorney general about that, but I'll tell you what: when you send 33,000 emails-- they requested 33,000 emails. She got the request. They deleted every one of them. Okay? If you did that, you would've been put in jail.

Stephanopoulos: Your campaign this time around, if foreigners, if Russia, if China, if someone else offers you information on opponents, should they accept it or should they call the FBI?


President Trump: I think maybe you do both. I think you might want to listen, there's nothing wrong with listening. If somebody called from a country, Norway, "we have information on your opponent." Oh, I think I'd want to hear it.

Stephanopoulos: You want that kind of interference in our elections?

President Trump: It's not an interference, they have information. I think I'd take it. If I thought there was something wrong, I'd go maybe to the FBI. If I thought there was something wrong. But when somebody comes up with oppo research, right, they come up with oppo research. Oh, let's call the FBI. The FBI doesn't have enough agents to take care of it, but you go and talk honestly to congressmen, they all do it, they always have. And that's the way it is. It's called oppo research.

Stephanopoulos: Mr. President. Thank you.

President Trump: Thank you. Okay. Fine.

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