

# Campaign Speech at The Eclipse, Washington DC

by Kamala Harris, October 29, 2024.

*Speaking to a crowd of more than 75,000 people on October 29, 2024, Vice-president Kamala Harris delivered a campaign speech at The Ellipse in Washington DC. In an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, then president, Donald Trump delivered a controversial speech which led to his supporters storming the Capitol Building on January 6 2021. An event that has later been named the January 6 Insurrection.*

Good evening, America. Good evening, everyone, good evening and thank you for taking the time out of your busy [Applause] lives. Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you everyone

5 So, listen, one week from today you will have the chance to make a decision that directly impacts your life, the life of your family and the future of this country we love. And it will probably be the most important vote you ever cast, and this election is more than just a choice between two parties and two different candidates. It is a choice about whether we have a country rooted in Freedom for every American or ruled by chaos and division. Many of you watching have probably already cast your ballots, but I know many others are still considering who to vote for or whether you'll vote at all. So tonight, I will speak to everyone about the choice and the stakes in this election.

10 Look we know who Donald Trump is. He is the person who stood at this very spot nearly 4 years ago and sent an armed mob to the United States capital to overturn the will of the people in a free and fair election. An election that he knew he lost. Americans died as a result of that attack. 140 law enforcement officers were injured because of that attack. And while Donald Trump sat in the white house watching as the violence unfolded on television, he was told by his staff that the mob wanted to kill his own vice president and Donald Trump responded with two words: "So what?"

15 America. That's who Donald Trump is and that's who is asking you to give him another four years in the Oval Office. Not to focus on your problems but to focus on his. And Donald Trump has told us about his priorities for a second term. He has an enemies list of people he intends to prosecute. He says that one of his highest priorities is to set free the violent extremists, who assaulted those law enforcement officers on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Donald Trump intends to use the United States military against American citizens who simply disagree with him. People he calls, quote: "the enemy from within."

20 America this is not a candidate for president who is thinking about how to make your life better. This is someone who is unstable, obsessed with revenge, consumed with grievance and out for unchecked power. Donald Trump has spent a decade trying to keep the American people divided and afraid of each other. That is who he is.

But America...

30 I am here tonight to say that is not who we are, that is not who we are, that is not who we are.  
You see, what Donald Trump has never understood is that E PLURIBUS UNUM<sup>1</sup>– out of many one  
– isn't just a phrase on a dollar bill. It is a living truth about the heart of our nation.

Our democracy doesn't, it doesn't require us to agree on everything. In fact, we like good  
arguments from time to time. Just think of your own family, right? It's not the American way to  
35 not have disagreements. We don't shy away from robust debate robust debate. In fact, we like a  
good debate. don't we? We like a good debate. And the fact that someone disagrees with us does  
not make them the “Enemy Within”. That's right. They are family, neighbors, classmates, co-  
workers. They are fellow Americans and as Americans we rise and fall together.

America, for too long we have been consumed with too much division, chaos and mutual distrust  
40 and it can be easy then to forget a simple truth: It doesn't have to be this way. It doesn't have to  
be this way.

It is time to stop pointing fingers. We have to stop pointing fingers and start locking arms. It is  
time to turn the page on the drama and the conflict the fear and division. It is time for a new  
generation of leadership in America and I am ready to offer that leadership as the next president  
45 of the United States of America!

Now look, let me say, let me say, I recognize this has not been a typical campaign. Even though,  
I've had the honor of serving as your vice president for the last four years, I know, I but know  
that many of you are still getting to know who I am. Well, let me tell you.

I am someone who has spent most of my career outside of Washington DC, so I know that not all  
50 the good ideas come from here. I am not afraid of tough fights against Bad actors and Powerful  
interest, because for decades as a prosecutor and a top law enforcement officer of our biggest  
state I won fights against big banks that ripped off homeowners, against for-profit colleges that  
scammed veterans and students, against predators who abused women and children and cartels  
that trafficked in guns, drugs and human beings.

55 And I did this work, because for as long as I can remember, I have always had an instinct to  
protect. There's something about people being treated unfairly or overlooked that frankly just  
gets to me. I don't like it. It's what my mother instilled in me. A drive to hold accountable those  
who use their wealth or power to take advantage of other people. The drive to protect  
hardworking Americans who aren't always seen or heard and deserve a voice. And I will tell you.  
60 That is the kind of President I will [Applause] will be.

And look, I'll be honest with you. I'm not perfect. I make mistakes. But here's what I promise you:  
I will always listen to you even, even if you don't vote for me. I will always tell you the truth even  
if it is difficult to hear. I will work every day to build consensus and reach compromise to get  
things done. And if you give me the chance to fight on your behalf there is nothing in the world  
65 that will stand in my way.

---

<sup>1</sup> *E PLURIBUS UNUM*: (Latin) “Out of Many One”. The traditional motto of the United States of America.

So, look, in less than 90 days either Donald Trump or I will be in the Oval Office, okay? On day one... on day one... and on day one, if elected... On day one, if elected, Donald Trump would walk into that office with an enemy list.

70 When elected, I will walk in with a to-do list full of priorities of what I will get done for the American people.

And I will work with everyone: Democrats, Republicans and independents to help Americans who are working hard and still struggling to get ahead. I have been honored to serve as Joe Biden's vice president, but I will bring my own experiences in ideas to the Oval Office. My presidency will be different because the challenges we face are different. Our top priority as a nation four years ago was to end the pandemic and rescue the economy. Now our biggest challenge is to lower costs. Costs that were rising even before the pandemic and that are still too high. I get it. I still remember our mother sitting at that yellow formica table late at night, cup of tea in hand, a pile of bills in front of her, trying to make it all work. And I've heard from so many of you who are facing even greater financial pressures.

80 Donald Trump's answer to you is the same as it was the last time. Another trillion dollars in tax cuts for billionaires and big corporations and this time he will pay for it with a 20% national sales tax on everything you buy that is imported. Think about it. Clothes, food, toys, cell phones. A Trump sales tax that would cost the average family nearly \$4,000 more a year. And on top of that you will pay even more if Donald Trump finally gets his way and repeals the Affordable Care Act which would throw millions of Americans off their health insurance and take us back to when insurance companies had the power to deny people with pre-existing conditions.

Well, we are not going back. We are not going back. We are not going back because we also know Donald Trump would deliver tax cuts to his billionaire donors.

90 I will deliver tax cuts to working people and the middle class. I will make sure you have a chance not just to get by but to get ahead because I believe in honoring the dignity of work.

I will enact the first ever Federal ban on price gouging on groceries, cap the price of insulin and limit out-of-pocket prescription cost for all Americans.

I will fight to make sure that hardworking Americans can actually afford a place to live.

95 I'll never forget how our mother saved up and how excited she was when she could finally afford to buy our first home. I remember how excited she was, and I know that owning a home is not only a measure of financial security, it's about the pride of your hard work.

And as president I will fight to help first-time home buyers with your down payment, take on the companies that are jacking up rents and build millions of new homes.

100 For years, we have heard excuses about why America can't build enough housing. Enough with the excuses! I'm going to cut the red tape and work with the private sector and local governments to speed up building and get it done.

And the cost of housing isn't the only financial pressure on middle class families. I've met so many young people who have a natural desire to parent their children well, but not always the resources to do it. So, I'll fight for a child tax credit to save them some money, which, which will

105 also lift American children out of poverty. Our work to lower the cost of childcare, which is out of reach for too many working families today and for too many people in the sandwich generation who are raising young children and taking care of a parent. Juggling all of it is extremely difficult.

You know, I took care of my mother when she got sick. Cooking foods, that food that she had a taste for, finding clothes that would not irritate her skin and understand as I do that caregiving is about dignity. It is about dignity. And currently if you need home care, and you don't have some money to hire someone, you and your family need to deplete your savings to qualify for help. That's just not right so we're going to change the approach and allow Medicare to cover the cost of Home Care so seniors can get the help and care they need in their own homes.

115 Now Donald Trump has a different approach. He tried to cut Medicare and Social Security every year he was president.

Look, I believe that when people have worked hard their entire life, they deserve to retire with the benefits they have earned. Yeah, and I believe in the fundamental freedom of Americans to make decisions about their own bodies and not have their government tell them what to do.

120 I will fight to restore what Donald Trump, and his hand-selected Supreme Court Justices took away from the women of America. Today one-in-three women in America – think about it – one-in-three women in America lives in a state with a Trump abortion ban. Many with no exceptions even for rape and incest. The idea that a woman who survives a crime of a violation to her body should not have the authority to make a decision about what happens to her body next. That is immoral. That is immoral.

125 And Trump's not done. He would ban abortion nationwide, restrict access to birth control and put IVF treatments at risk and force states to monitor women's pregnancies. Just Google *Project 2025* and read the plans for yourself.

130 And look, I think we all know, one does not have to abandon their faith or deeply held beliefs to simply agree the government should not be telling her what to do with her body not the government. And when Congress passes a bill to restore reproductive freedom nationwide. As president of the United States, I will proudly sign it into law. Proudly.

And look. On another subject. Politicians have got to stop treating immigration as an issue to scare up votes in an election, and instead treat it as the serious challenge that it is, that we must finally come together to solve.

135 I will work with Democrats and Republicans to sign into law the border security bill that Donald Trump killed.

140 When I was Attorney General of a border state, I saw the chaos and violence caused by transnational criminal organizations that I took on. And when I am president, we will quickly remove those who arrive here unlawfully, prosecute the cartels and give border patrol the support they so desperately need.

At the same time, we must acknowledge we are a nation of immigrants, and I will work with Congress to pass immigration reform including an earned path to citizenship for hardworking immigrants like farm workers and our dreamers.<sup>2</sup>

145 As commander-in-chief I will make sure America has the strongest, most lethal fighting force in the world.

Donald Trump on the other hand has shown his contempt for our nation's heroes. Calls them "suckers and losers", called a four-star Marine General a, quote, "low life". I will always honor, never denigrate, the service and sacrifice of our troops and their families and fulfill our sacred obligation to care for them.

150 I will strengthen not surrender America's global leadership and I will stand with our friends because I know that our alliances keep American people safe and make America stronger and more secure.

155 Look, world leaders think that Donald Trump is an easy mark. Easy to manipulate with flattery or favor. And you can believe that autocrats like Putin and Kim Jun Un are rooting for him in this election.

I will always uphold our security, advance our national interest and ensure that the United States of America remains – as we must forever be – a champion of liberty around the world.

160 America, we know what Donald Trump has in mind more chaos, more division and policies that help those at the very top and hurt everyone else. I offer a different path, and I ask for your vote and here is my pledge to you.

I pledge to seek common ground and common-sense solutions to make your life better. I am not looking to score political points. I am looking to make progress.

165 I pledge to listen to experts, to those who will be impacted by the decisions I make and to people who disagree with me. Unlike Donald Trump, I don't believe people who disagree with me are the enemy. He wants to put them in jail. I'll give them a seat at the table.

I pledge to you to approach my work with the joy and optimism that comes from making a difference in people's lives and I pledge to be a president for all Americans and to always put country above party and self-love.

170 You know, I love our country with all my heart, and I believe in its promise because I've lived it. I grew up as a child of the Civil Rights Movement. My parents would take me to marches in a stroller where crowds of people of all races, faiths and walks of life came together to fight for the ideals of freedom and opportunity.

175 I've lived the promise of America. I saw how hard our mother worked to give her daughters the same chances this country gave her. Growing up I was blessed to have family by blood and family by love, who instilled in me the values of community, compassion and faith that have always defined our nation at its best.

---

<sup>2</sup> Children of illegal immigrants who have largely been raised in the USA.

I've lived the promise of America. I've spent my life fighting for the people who have been hurt and counted out, but never stopped believing that in our country anything is possible.

180 I've lived. Lived the promise of America and I see the promise of America in all of you in all of you. I see it.

I see it in the young people who are voting for the first time, who are determined to live free from gun violence and to protect our planet and to shape the world they inherit.

I see it in the women who refuse to accept a future without reproductive freedom and the men who support them.

185 I see it in Republicans who have never voted for a Democrat before but have put the Constitution of the United States over party.

I've seen it in Americans, different in many respects but, united in our pursuit of freedom, our belief in fairness and decency and our faith in a better future.

190 America, I know the vast majority of us have so much more in common than what separates us. I know it and that's why I am in this race to fight for the people just like I always have.

Nearly 250 years ago America was born when we wrestled freedom from a petty tyrant.

Across the generations Americans have preserved that freedom expanded it and in so doing proved to the world that a government of by and for the people is strong and can endure.

195 And those who came before us, the Patriots of Normandy and Selma, Seneca Falls and Stonewall. On farmlands and factory floors they did not struggle, sacrifice and lay down their lives only to see us seed our fundamental freedoms. They didn't do that only to see us submit to the will of another petty tyrant.

These United States of America.

200 We are not a vessel for the schemes of wannabe dictators. The United States of America is the greatest idea humanity ever devised. A nation big enough to encompass all our dreams, strong enough to withstand any fracture or fissure between us and fearless enough to imagine a future of possibilities.

205 So America. Let us reach for that future. Let us fight for this beautiful country we love and in seven days we have the power – each of you has the power – to turn the page and start writing the next chapter in the most extraordinary story ever told.

I thank you all.

God bless you and may God bless the United States of America.

Thank you