

# Donald Trump Interview at Lex Fridman Podcast | September 3, 2024

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## Speakers:

Lex Fridman - 18.91%

Donald Trump - 62.02%

Donald Trump - 19.07%

## Notes:

Summary by ChatGPT

- Political Strategy: Donald Trump discussed his approach to political strategy, emphasizing his unconventional methods and how they have contributed to his success in previous elections.
- Critique of Media: Trump critiqued the mainstream media, alleging bias and discussing its impact on public perception and political discourse.

- Policy Priorities: He outlined his policy priorities, focusing on issues such as immigration, trade, and economic growth, and how he plans to address these if re-elected.

- Election Integrity: The conversation touched on concerns about election integrity, with Trump discussing his views on election security and potential reforms.

- Public Perception and Leadership: Trump addressed his relationship with the public and how his leadership style has been both praised and criticized, reflecting on the polarization in American politics.

**Lex Fridman** 00:00:00

The following is a conversation with Donald Trump on this, the Lex Friedman podcast.

**Donald Trump** 00:00:06

They get any smaller and smaller?

**Lex Fridman** 00:00:07

They get smaller, right? I mean, people, people do respect you more when you have a big camera for some reason.

**Donald Trump** 00:00:12

No, it's cool.

**Donald Trump** 00:00:13

And about 20 guys that you pay a fortune to.

**Donald Trump** 00:00:15

Right?

**Lex Fridman** 00:00:15

All right. Okay. You said that you love winning, and you have won a lot in life, in, uh, real estate, in business and tv and politics. So let me start with, uh, mindset, a psychology question. What drives you more, the love of winning or the hate of losing?

**Donald Trump** 00:00:38

Maybe equally, maybe, uh, both. I don't like losing, and I do like winning.

I've never thought of it as to.

**Donald Trump**

00:00:46

Which is more of a driving force.

**Lex Fridman**

00:00:48

You've been close with a lot of the greats in sport. Uh, you think about Tiger Woods, Muhammad Ali. You have people like Michael, uh, Jordan, who I think hate losing more than anybody. So what do you learn from those guys?

**Donald Trump**

00:01:03

Well, they do have something different. You know, the great champions have something very different, like the sports champions. And, you know, you have champions in other fields, but you see it more readily in sports. You see it over a weekend or you see it during a game, and you see that certain people stand out and they keep, uh, they keep standing out, but it's there for you. It doesn't take a lifetime to find.

**Donald Trump**

00:01:27

Out that somebody was a winner or a loser. And so the sports thing is very interesting, but, uh, you know, I play.

**Donald Trump**

00:01:35

Golf with different people. And, uh, you have, there's a different mindset among champions.

**Donald Trump**

00:01:41

There's really a very different mindset.

**Donald Trump**

00:01:43

There's a different, uh, there's a different thought process. You know, talent wise. Uh, sometimes you can't tell the difference in talent, but at the end of a weekend, they seemed to win.

**Donald Trump**

00:01:54

And its very interesting.

**Donald Trump**

00:01:56

Um, like, as an example, uh, tiger or Jack Nicklaus. He was a phenomenal winner, and he

does have a different way about him, and Tiger has a different way about.

**Donald Trump**

00:02:06

Him and Michael Jordan.

**Donald Trump**

00:02:08

And theres never one you would think that thered be one way. Uh, Arnold Palmer was the nicest guy youd ever meet. And then you have some champions that arent really nice. Uh, they're just focused on doing their job. Uh, so you have, you know, there's not one type of person, but the one thing I would say that everybody seems to have in common is they're very driven. They're driven, like, beyond.

**Lex Fridman**

00:02:36

They don't seem to give up easily.

**Donald Trump**

00:02:38

They don't give up. They don't give up, but they do seem to be, uh, you know, they have a passion that's maybe more than people that don't do as well.

**Lex Fridman**

00:02:48

You've said that politics is a dirty game in the past.

**Donald Trump**

00:02:52

It is a dirty game.

**Donald Trump**

00:02:54

It's certainly true.

**Lex Fridman**

00:02:55

Uh, so if it is a game, how do you win at that game?

**Donald Trump**

00:02:59

Well, you win at that game by getting the word out and, uh, by using sense. You have to have a feeling where it's going. You also have to have a feeling of what's right. You can't necessarily just go what's popular. You have to do what's good for a country. If you're talking about countries, you have to get the word out and you have to just continuously, like, for instance, you have a great show, you have a great podcast. It's very well watched. And I'm sitting here and I do this. A lot of people see it, and I do other things, and a lot of

people see that and I go traditional. Also, you know, you have traditional television, which is getting a little bit, um, older and maybe less significant. Could be less significant, I don't know.

**Donald Trump**

**00:03:42**

But it's changing a lot.

**Donald Trump**

**00:03:44**

Um, of the whole plane of platform is changing a lot. It's changed a lot in the last two, three years. But from a political standpoint, you have to find out what people are doing, what they're watching, and you have to get it. You have to get on. I just see that these platforms are starting to dominate. They're getting very big numbers. I did spaces with Elon, and they got numbers like nobody's ever heard before. So, you know, this is. You wouldn't do that on, like, radio. You wouldn't do that. Those numbers, no matter how good a show, you wouldn't do those numbers on radio. You wouldn't do them on television.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:04:25**

You've been successful in business. You've been successful in politics. What do you think is the difference between gaining, uh, success between the two, the two different disparate worlds?

**Donald Trump**

**00:04:34**

Yeah. And they're different. Very different. Um, I have a lot of people that are in business that are successful, and they'd like to go over to politics, and then you realize they can't speak. They choke. You know, it's hard to make a speech in front of, let's say you're talking about a big audience, but I get very big audiences, and, you know, for many people, it's virtually impossible to get up and speak for an hour and a half and have nobody leave.

**Donald Trump**

**00:05:07**

It's not an easy thing to do.

**Donald Trump**

**00:05:09**

And it's an ability, but I have many people that are very, very successful in business would love to do what I did, and yet they can't pull the trigger. And in many cases, I don't think it would work. Almost. Almost for everybody. It's not going to work. It's a very. It's a very tough thing to do. It's a big transition. And, uh, now, if you talked about people in the business and politics going into business, likewise, that wouldn't generally work out so well either. It's different talents, it's different skills. I have somebody who wants to go into politics so bad, but he's got a little problem. He's got stage fright now. He's a total killer.

But if he gets up into a stage in front of people, he doesn't do well, uh, to put it mildly, actually. I mean, he does badly.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:06:00**

So you have to be able to make hard decisions like you do in business, but also be able to captivate an audience.

**Donald Trump**

**00:06:06**

Look, if you're a politician, you have to be able to speak in front of large crowds. There are a lot of people can't do that. I've seen it. They can't even think about doing it, and they don't. There are many people in business right now. I could name them, but I don't want to embarrass anybody. They've been talking about running for president for 15 years, and they're very big in business, very well known, actually. But it takes guts to run, like for president, I can tell you, it takes guts to run. It's also a very dangerous profession, if.

**Donald Trump**

**00:06:38**

You want to know the truth, but.

**Donald Trump**

**00:06:41**

Dangerous, uh, in a different sense, too. But it takes a lot of courage.

**Donald Trump**

**00:06:45**

To run for president.

**Donald Trump**

**00:06:46**

It's not easy, but you have, and, you know, the same people as I do. There are a lot of people that would like to run for president that are very, very successful in business, but they don't have the guts to do it, and they have to give up a lot.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:07:02**

One of the great things about people from the business world is they're often great deal makers, and you're a great deal maker. And you've talked about the war in Ukraine, and, uh, that you would be able to find a deal that both Putin and Zelensky would accept. What do you think that deal looks like?

**Donald Trump**

**00:07:21**

I think the, uh, deal, and I wouldn't talk about it too much because, uh, I think I can make a deal. If I win as president elect, I'll have a deal made, guaranteed. That's a war that

shouldn't have happened. It's terrible. Look, Biden is the worst president in the history of our country, and she's probably worse than him. That's something that should have never happened, but it did happen, and now it's a much tougher deal to make than it would have been before it started. Millions of people. I think the number's going to be a lot higher when you see this all at some point, iron out. I think the numbers are going to be, the death numbers are going to be a lot higher than people think. When you take a look at the destruction and the buildings coming down all over the place in Ukraine, I think those numbers are going to be a lot higher. They lie about the numbers. They try and keep them low. They knock down a building that's two blocks long. These are big buildings. And they say, uh, one person was mildly injured. No, no, a lot of people were killed. And there are people in those buildings, and they have no chance. Once they start coming down, there's no chance. So, um, that's a war that absolutely has to get done. And then you have Israel, and then you have a lot of other places that are talking war. The world is a rough place right now, and a lot of it's because of the fact that America has no leadership. And I believe that she'll be probably worse than Biden. I watched the interview the other night. I mean, it was just a softball interview.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:08:56**

So you would like to see her do more interviews, challenged more?

**Donald Trump**

**00:08:59**

I don't know.

**Donald Trump**

**00:09:00**

I can't believe the whole thing is happening. We had a man in there that should have never been in there. They kept them in a basement. They used Covid, they cheated, but they used Covid to cheat, and they cheated without Covid, too. But, uh, you had somebody in there, and now we have a woman that is not. I mean, she couldn't do an interview. This was a really soft interview. This is an interview where they're giving her multiple choice questions, multiple guests. I call it multiple guests. And, uh, I don't think she did well. I think she did very poorly.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:09:33**

How do you think you'll do in the debate coming up? It's in a few days.

**Donald Trump**

**00:09:36**

So I've done a lot of debating only as a politician. I never debated. My first debate was the, uh, Rosie O'Donnell debate. Right, the famous Rosie O'Donnell debate. The answer. Uh, but I've done well with debates. I mean, I became president.

Then.

**Donald Trump**

**00:09:51**

The second time, I got millions more votes than I got the first time. I was told if I got 63 million, which is what I got the first time, you would win. You can't not win. And I got millions or more votes on that and lost, uh, by a whisker. And look what happened to the world with all of the wars and all of the problems, and look what happened with inflation, because inflation is just eating up our country. Eating it up. So it's too bad. But, um, there are a lot of things that could happen. We have to get those wars settled. I'll tell you, you have to get Ukraine done. That could end up in a third world war. So could the Middle East. So could the Middle East.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:10:36**

So maybe let's talk about what it takes to negotiate with somebody like Putin or Zelensky. Do you think Putin would be willing to give up any of the regions they're already captured?

**Donald Trump**

**00:10:46**

I don't know. Uh, I can tell you that all of this would have never happened and it would have been very easy because you don't have, like, that question wouldn't be asked. You know, that's a tougher question once that starts happening, because he has taken over a lot of territory now, I guess they're insurgents now, too, right? So, you know, it's a little bit interesting, um, that that's happening and that it can happen. And it's interesting that Putin has, um, allowed that to happen. Look, that's one that should have. Should have never started. We have to get it stopped. Ukraine is being demolished. They're destroying a great culture that's largely destroyed.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:11:29**

What do you think works better in those kinds of negotiations? Leverage of, let's say, friendship. The carrot or the stick? Friendship or sort of the threat of using the economic and military power.

**Donald Trump**

**00:11:43**

So it depends on who the person is. Everyone's different. Negotiation's interesting because it depends on who the person is, and then you have to guess or know through certain knowledge. Which is more important, the carrot or the stick. And with some people it's the stick, and with some people it's the carrot. Uh, I think that the stick probably is generally more successful in that we're talking about war, but, um, the kind of destruction that we're witnessing now that nobody's ever seen. I mean, it's a terrible thing and we're witnessing it all over, witnessing it, um, in all parts of the world. And a lot of things are

going to get started. Look what's going on with China. Look at Japan. They're starting to rearm. Now they're starting to rearm because China's getting taken over certain islands. There's a lot of danger in the war. Right now in the world, there's a lot of, and there's a great possibility of World War III. And we better get this thing done fast, because five months with people like her and him, he's checked out. He just goes to the beach and thinks he looks good in a bathing suit, which he doesn't. Uh, he's sort of checked out. Uh, hey, look, you know, you can't blame him. That was a coup. They took it over. They took over the presidential deal. The whole presidential thing was taken over in a coup. He had 14 million votes. She had no votes, not one. And nobody thought it was going to be her. Nobody wanted it to be her. She was, uh, a joke until six weeks ago when they said, we're going to have to politically, they felt they had to pick her. And if they didn't pick her, they thought there'd be a problem. I don't know if that's right or not. I actually don't think it's right, but, you know, they thought it was right. And now immediately, the press comes to their aid.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:13:45**

If we can go back to China on, uh, negotiation, how do we avoid war with China in the 21st century?

**Donald Trump**

**00:13:53**

Well, there are ways. Now, here's the problem. If I tell you how, and I'd love to do it, but if I give you a plan, I have a very exacting plan, how to stop Ukraine and Russia. And I have a certain idea, maybe not a plan, but an idea for China, because we do, you know, we're gonna. We're in a lot of trouble. They'll be in a lot of trouble, too, but we're in a lot of trouble. But, uh, I can't give you those plans, because if I give you those plans, I'm not going to be able to use them. They'll be very unsuccessful. Part of it is surprise. Right? But they won't be able to help us much.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:14:32**

So you have a plan of what to say to Putin?

**Donald Trump**

**00:14:34**

Yeah. No, I had a very good relationship with him, and I had a good relationship with Zelensky, too, but had a very good relationship with Putin.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:14:44**

Tough topic, but important. You said loss by whisker. I'm, uh, an independent. I have a lot of friends who are independent, many of whom like your policies, like, uh, the fact that you're a deal maker, like the fact that you can end wars, but they are troubled by, uh, what happened in the 2020 election and, um, statements about widespread fraud and this kind

of stuff. Fake electorate scheme. What can you say to those, uh, independent voters to help them decide who to vote?

## **Donald Trump**

**00:15:21**

For. Right. I think the fraud was on the other side. I think the election was a fraud, and many people felt it was that, and they wanted answers. And when you can't challenge an election, you have to be able to challenge it. Otherwise, its going to get worse, not better. And there are lots of ways to solve this problem. Go to paper ballots. Do it the easy way. I mean, the paper ballots, and you have, uh, voter id, and you have same day voting, and you have proof of citizenship, which is very important, because we have people voting that are not citizens. They just came in, and theyre loading up the payrolls. Theyre loading up everything. Theyre putting students in schools. They dont speak a word of English, and theyre taking the seats of people that are citizens of our country. So, uh, look, we have the worst border in the history of the world. We have coming into our country right now, millions and millions of people at levels that nobodys ever seen. I dont believe any countrys ever seen it. And they would use sticks and stones not to make it happen, not to let it happen. We dont do anything. And we have a person who was the border czar, who now said she wasnt really the border czar, but she was. She was the border czar, but she was in charge of the border. And we have her. And shes saying very, uh, strongly, oh, I did such a good job. She was horrible, horrible. The harm shes done. But we have people coming in from other countries all over the world, not just South America. And theyre coming in from prisons and jails. Theyre coming in from mental institutions and insane asylums. And theyre street criminals right off the street. They take them, and theyre being given to our country. Drug dealers, human traffickers, were destroying our country. This is a sin. Whats been allowed to take place over the last four years were destroying our country. And well see how that all works out. Its not even believable. And now you see, you saw in Aurora, Colorado, um, a group of very tough young thugs from Venezuela taking over big areas, including buildings. Theyre taking over buildings. They have their big rifles, but theyre taking over buildings. Were not going to let this happen. Were not going to let them destroy our country. And do you know, in those countries, crime is way down. Theyre taking them out of their prisons, which is good, good for them. I do the same thing, by the way. If I ran one of those countries, any country in the world, I would make sure that America has every one of our prisoners, every one of our criminals would be here. I can't believe they're going so slowly, but some aren't, and. But they all are doing it, and we can't let that happen. They're emptying out their prisons and their mental institutions into the United States of America. We can't let that happen.

## **Lex Fridman**

**00:18:26**

So a lot of people believe that there was some shady stuff that went on with the election, whether it's media, uh, bias, or big tech. But still, the claim of widespread fraud is the thing that bothers people.

Well, I don't focus on the past. I focus on the future. I mean, I talk about how bad the economy is, how bad inflation is now, bad things like, um, which is important. Afghanistan was, in my opinion, the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to our country. And because of that, I think Putin went in. When he said how stupid we were, Putin went in, but it was the most embarrassing moment in the history of our country. I really believe that. But, you know, we left 13 dead soldiers. Think of it, 13 dead soldiers, many soldiers, horrifically hurt, with arms and legs and everything else gone. Um, we left hostages behind. We left Americans behind. We left military equipment the likes of which nobody's ever left behind before. Billions and billions of dollars of equipment. They're now selling the equipment. They're one of the largest arms dealers in the world. And, um. Very sad. Very sad. And, you know, we were there for a long time. I was going to get out. We were getting ready to get out there, and we got interrupted by the election, but we would have been out with dignity and strength. Um, we were having very little problem with the Taliban when I was there because they knew it was going to be tough. I dealt with Abdul. Abdul was the leader, and we got along fine. He understood. Ah, but, you know, they were shooting. They were killing a lot of our people before I came down. And when I got there, I said. I spoke to him. I said, you can't do it. Don't do it anymore. We went 18 months before this happened, this horrible day happened. We went 18 months and nobody was shot at or killed.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:20:30**

What do you think that was? The carrot or the stick in that case in Afghanistan, the stick, definitely a threat of military force.

**Donald Trump**

**00:20:37**

That was the stick? Yeah. Uh, it doesn't have to be, but that was the stick.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:20:41**

Well, let me just linger on the election a little bit more for this selection. It might be a close one. What can we do to avoid the insanity and division of the previous election, whether you win or lose?

**Donald Trump**

**00:20:54**

Well, I hope it's not a close one. I mean, I don't know how people can vote for somebody that has destroyed our country, the inflation, the bad economy. But to me, in a way, the worst is what they've allowed to happen at our border, where they've allowed millions of people to come in here from places that you don't want to know about. And I can't believe that there's going to be a close election. You know, we're leading in the polls, but it looks close, but I think in the end it's not going to be a close election.

What do you think is the right way to solve the immigration crisis? Is mass deportation one of the solutions you would think about?

**Donald Trump**

**00:21:32**

Well, you've got to get the criminals out of here fast, right? Uh, you know, the people from mental institutions, you got to get them back into their mental institution. No country can afford this. You know, it's just too much money. You look at what's happening in New York and Chicago and London and lots of places, and you take a look at what's happening. There's no country can afford this. We can't afford it. And we've got to get the bad ones out immediately, and the rest have to be worked on. You know, it's happened before. Dwight Eisenhower was sort of a moderate president, moderate type person, but he hated when he saw people pouring into the country and they were nothing like now. You know, I probably got elected in 2016 because of the border. And I told people what was happening and they understood it. And I won the election. And I won the election. I think because of the border. Our border is 25 times worse right now than it was in 2016. I had it fixed, too. I had it the last week of my, the famous chart that I put up was exactly that. You know, the chart, when I looked to the right, I said, there's the chart being, uh, that was not a pleasant experience. But the chart that I put up said, and that was done by border patrol. That was the lowest number that we've ever had come into our country in recorded history, and we have to get it back to that again.

**Donald Trump**

**00:22:59**

We will.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:23:01**

Let me ask you about project 2025. So you've publicly said that you don't have any direct connection to nothing.

**Donald Trump**

**00:23:07**

I know nothing about it, and they know that, too. Uh, Democrats know that. And I purposely haven't read it because I want to say to you, I have no idea what it's all about. It's easier than saying I read it and all other things. No, I purposely haven't read it. And I've heard about it. I've heard about things that are in there that I don't like, and there are some things in there that everybody would like, but there are things that, um, I don't like at all. And I think it's, uh, unfortunate that they put it out, but it doesn't mean anything because it has nothing to do with me. Project 25 has. It has absolutely nothing to do with me.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:23:49**

You posted recently about marijuana and, uh, that you're okay with it, uh, being legalized,

but it has to be done safely. Can you explain your policy there?

**Donald Trump**

**00:24:00**

Well, I just put out a paper and first of all, medical marijuana has been amazing. I've had friends and I've had others and doctors telling me that it's been absolutely amazing, the medical marijuana. And we put out a statement that we can live with the marijuana. It's got to be a certain age, got to be a certain age to buy it. It's, uh, got to be done in a very concerted, lawful way. And the way they're doing it in Florida, I think, is going to be actually good. It's going to be very good, but it's got to be done in a good way. It's got to be done in a clean way. You go into some of these places, like in New York, it's all, it smells all marijuana. You can't, the way, you've got to have a system where there's control. And I think the way they've done it in Florida is very good.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:24:56**

Do you know anything about psychedelics? So I'm not a drug guy, but I recently did ayahuasca.

**Donald Trump**

**00:25:01**

Yeah.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:25:03**

And, uh, there's a lot of people that speak to sort of the health benefits and the spiritual benefits of these different psychedelics. I think, uh, would probably have a better world if everybody in Congress took some mushrooms, perhaps. Um, now, I know you don't, you stay away from all of that stuff. Um, I know also veterans use it for dealing with PTSD and all that kind of stuff, so it's great. And it's interesting that you're thinking about being more accepting of some of these drugs which don't just have a recreational purpose, but a medical purpose, treatment purpose.

**Donald Trump**

**00:25:42**

So we put out a statement today, we're going to put out another one probably next week. Be more specific, although I think it's pretty specific, and, uh, we'll see how that all goes. That's a referendum coming up in some states, but it's coming up and we'll see how it does. I will say it's been very hard to beat it. You take a look at the numbers. It's been very hard to beat it, so I think it'll generally pass, but you want to do it in a safe way.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:26:11**

Speaking of marijuana, let me ask you about my good friend Joe Rogan. So you had a bit of tension with him. So when he said nice things about RFK Junior, I think, uh, you've said

some not so nice things about Joe, and I think that was a bit unfair. And as a fan of Joe, I would love to see you do his podcast because he is legit, the greatest conversationalist in the world. So what's the story behind the tension?

**Donald Trump**

**00:26:38**

I don't think there was any tension. And, uh, I've always liked him, but I don't know him. I only see him when I walk into the arena with Dana and I shake his hand. I see him there and I think he's good at what he does. But I don't know about doing his podcast. I mean, I guess I'd do it, but I haven't been asked and I'm not asking them. You know, I'm not asking anybody.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:27:06**

It sounds like a challenging negotiation situation.

**Donald Trump**

**00:27:08**

No, it's not really a negotiation. And he's sort of a liberal guy, I guess, you know, from what I understand. But he likes Kennedy. This was before I found this out, before Kennedy came in with us. Hes going to be great. Hes doing bobbys going to be great. But I like that he likes Kennedy. I do, too. You know, hes a different kind of a guy, but hes got some great things going. And, um, I think hes going to be beyond politics. I think he could be quite influential in taking care of some situations that you probably would agree should be taken care of.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:27:42**

The Joe Rogan post is an example. I would love to get your psychology, uh, about behind the tweets and the post on truth. Uh, are you sometimes being intentionally provocative or are you just speaking your mind? And are there times where you regret some of the truths you've posted?

**Donald Trump**

**00:28:01**

Yeah, I do. I mean, but not that often, honestly, you know, I do a lot of reposting. The ones you get in trouble with are the reposts because you find down deep they're into some group that, uh, you're not supposed to be reposting. You don't even know if those groups are good, bad, or indifferent, but the reposts are the ones that really get you in trouble. When you do your own words, it's sort of easier. But the reposts go very quickly, and if you're going to check every single little symbol. And, uh, I don't know, it's worked out pretty well for me, I tell you. It's, uh, truth is very powerful truth. And it's my platform, and it's been very powerful. Very, very powerful. Goes everywhere. I call it my typewriter. You know, that's actually my typewriter.

What are you doing? Usually when you're composing a truth, like, are you chilling back on a couch?

**Donald Trump**

**00:28:57**

Couches, beds. Okay. A lot of different things.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:29:00**

I mean, like, late at night and just.

**Donald Trump**

**00:29:03**

I'd like to do some late at night. You know, I'm not a huge sleeper, but whenever I do them, um, you know, past, like, 03:00 they criticize you. The next day, Trump was up. True thing. Okay, Trump was true thing at 03:00 in the morning. And there should be no problem with that. And then when you think about time zones, how do they know that you're, like, you know, in a time zone, like an eastern zone, so. But every time I do it after, like, two or 03:00 it's like, why is he doing that? But it's gotten, um. I mean, you know, truth has become a very successful, uh, platform, and I like doing it, and it goes everywhere. As soon as I do it, it goes everywhere.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:29:51**

The country seems more divided than ever. What can you do to help alleviate some of that division?

**Donald Trump**

**00:29:56**

Well, you can get rid of these two people. They're terrible. They're terrible. You don't want to have them running this country. They're not equipped to run it. Joe, just. And Joe, it's a disaster. Okay? And Kamala, I think she'll end up being worse than him. We'll see. I think a lot's now, you know, the convention's over with, and I see I'm leading in just about all the polls now. They had their little honeymoon period, as they call it, and we'll see how that all goes. Who knows?

**Lex Fridman**

**00:30:28**

Um, from my personal opinion, I think you are at your best when you're talking about a positive vision of the future versus criticizing the other side.

**Donald Trump**

**00:30:38**

Yeah, I think you have to criticize, though. I think. I think they're nasty. They came up with a story that I looked down and I called soldiers that died in World War one. Suckers and losers. Okay? Now, number one, who would say that? Number two, who would say to

military people? Nobody. It was a made up story. It was just a made up story. And they like to repeat it over again. They know it was made up. I have 26 witnesses that nothing was said, they don't want to hear about that. Uh, like, she lied on McDonald's. She said that, uh, she worked at McDonald's. It's not a big lie, but it's a big lie. It's so, you know, I mean, they just went and they checked, and unless she can show something they don't talk about, the presses are going to follow up with it, but I'll keep hammering it. But she never worked at McDonalds. It was just sort of a cool thing to say, hey, I worked at McDonalds. Um, but one of the worst was two days ago I went to Arlington at the request of people that lost their children. There'll always be children to those people. You understand that that's not politically incorrect thing to say. The mother comes up, I lost my childhood, but, you know, the child is a soldier and lost the child because of Biden and because of Kamala, just as though they had the gun in their hand because it was so badly handled. It should have been done at Bagram, which is the big air base. It shouldn't have been done at a small little airport right in the middle of town where people stormed it. Um, it was a true disaster. And they asked me if I'd come and celebrate with them. Three years. Three years. They died three years ago. And I said, I'm going to try. I got to know them because I brought them here. Actually, one night, they almost all came here, and they said, I wonder if Trump will actually come and see us. I heard they were here. I came and we stayed for, like, 4 hours listening to music up on a deck right upstairs. Beautiful. And they were great people. So they called me over the last couple of weeks, and they said, we're going to have a reunion, or, uh, three year reunion. Would you be able to come? And it was very hard for me to do it logistically, but I said, I'll get it done. And I got there and we had a beautiful time. I didn't run away. I didn't, you know, I didn't just walk in, shake hands, and walk out like people do. And I wasn't looking at my watch like Joe Biden does. And it was amazing. So I did it for them. I didn't do it for me. I don't need the publicity. I mean, I get more publicity probably than anybody. You would know that better than me. But I, uh, think maybe more than anybody, maybe more than anybody that's ever lived, I don't know, but I don't think anyone could have any more. Every time you turn on television, there's like nine different stories, all on different topics, and they're all about stuff. As an example, you interview a lot of people, good people, successful people. Let's see how you do with this interview versus them. Okay. I mean, I can tell you right now, you're going to get the highest numbers you've ever had by sometimes a factor of ten. But, um, when a gold star family asks me to come in and spend time with them, and then they said, sir, we did a ceremony and then we went down to the graves, which was quite a distance away, they said, sir, would you come to the grave? And then they said, when we were there, it was very sad, actually, because these people shouldn't have died. They shouldn't have died. They died because of Biden and because of Kamala. They died because just like if they pulled the trigger, okay, now, I don't know if that's controversial to say, but I don't think it is. Ah. Afghanistan was the most incompetently run operation I think I've ever seen, military or otherwise. They're incompetent. But the families asked me if I'd go. I did go. Then the family said, could we have a picture at the tombstone of my son? And we did. Son or daughter? There was a daughter too. And I took numerous pictures with the families. I

dont know of anybody else who was in the pictures, but they were mostly families. I guess that was it. And then I left. I spent a lot of time with them. Then I left. And I get home that night and I get a call that the Biden administration with Kamala is accusing me of using Arlington for publicity. I was in use. Just the opposite. Just the opposite. And actually, did you see? It just came out. The families actually put out a very strong statement defending me. They said, we asked them to be there.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:35:41**

Well, politicians and the media can play those games. And you're right, your name gets a lot of views. You're probably legit, the most famous person in the world. But on the previous thing, in the spirit of unity, you used to be a Democrat. Setting the politicians aside, what do you respect most about people who lean left, who are democrats themselves or of that persuasion? Progressives, liberals and so on.

**Donald Trump**

**00:36:12**

Well, look, I respect the fact that everybody's in there. And, you know, to a certain extent, life is what you do while you're waiting to die. So you might as well do a good job. I, uh, think in terms of what's happening now, I think, you know, we, we have a chance to save the country. This country is going down. And I called it with Venezuela. I called it with a lot of different countries, and this country is going down if we don't win this election. The election coming up on November 5 is the most important election this country has ever had, because if we don't win it, I don't know that there'll be another election, and it's going to be a communist country or close.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:36:58**

There's a lot of people listening to this, myself included, that doesn't think that Kamala is a communist.

**Donald Trump**

**00:37:05**

Uh, well, she's a marxist.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:37:08**

Her father's a marxist.

**Donald Trump**

**00:37:09**

That's right.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:37:10**

And she's advocating a little unusual. She's advocating for some policies that are towards

the direction of, um, democratic socialism, let's say. But there's a lot of people that kind of know the way government works. And they say, well, none of those policies are going to actually come to reality. It's just being used during the campaign to, you know, groceries, uh, are too expensive. We need them cheaper. So let's talk about price controls. And that's never going to come to reality.

**Donald Trump**

**00:37:36**

It could come to reality. Look, I mean, she came out with price control. It's been tried, like, 121 different times at different places over the years, and it's never worked once. It leads to communism, it leads to socialism, it leads to having no food on the shelves, and it leads to tremendous inflation. It's just a bad idea whenever we.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:37:59**

Use terms like communism for her. And I don't know if you know this, but some people call you a fascist.

**Donald Trump**

**00:38:05**

Yeah, they do. So I figure it's all right to call them a communist. Yeah, they call me a lot worse than I call them.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:38:11**

They do, indeed. Uh, it's just sometimes it's interesting, though.

**Donald Trump**

**00:38:14**

They'll call me something that's terrible and then I'll hit them back and they'll say, isn't it terrible what Trump said? I said, wait a minute. They just called me. So I believe you have to fight fire with fire. I believe they're very evil people. These are evil people. You know, we have an enemy from the outside, and we have an enemy from within. And in my opinion, the enemy from within are radical left lunatics. And I think you have to fight back.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:38:41**

Whenever there's a lot of fighting fire with fire, it's too easy to forget that there is a middle of America that's, uh, moderate and kind of sees the good in both sides and just likes one side more than the other in terms of policies. Like I said, there's a lot of people that like your policies, that, uh, like your skill in being able to negotiate and end wars, and they don't see the, uh, impending destruction of America.

**Donald Trump**

**00:39:11**

You know, we had no wars when I was president. That's a big thing. Not since 78 years has

that happened. But we had no wars when I was president. We defeated ISIS. But that was a war that was started that we weren't anywhere near defeating. But think of it, I had no wars. And Viktor Orbán, the prime minister of Hungary, said the world has to have Trump back because everybody was afraid of Trump. Now, that's what he said. So I'm not using that term, but I think they're respecting me. China was afraid, Russia was afraid, everybody was afraid. And I don't care what word they use. Uh, probably that's even a better word if you want to know the truth. But let's use the word respect. They had respect for me. They had respect for the country. I mean, I ended the Nord Stream, two pipeline, the Russian pipeline. Nobody else could have done that. I ended it. It was done. Then Biden comes in and he gave it. He approved it. So we're defending Germany and these other countries for peanuts compared to what it's worth. And they're paying the person, we're defending them against billions and billions of dollars for energy. I said, how does that work? And we had it out with them and it worked out good. And they, uh, paid hundreds of billions of dollars or you wouldn't even have a NATO right now. You wouldn't have NATO if it wasn't for me.

### **Lex Fridman**

**00:40:33**

As the leader of the United States, you were the most powerful man in the world, as you mentioned, not only the most famous, but the most powerful. And if you become leader again, you will have unprecedented power just on your own personal psychology. What does that power do to you? Does it, is there any threat of it corrupting how you see the world?

### **Donald Trump**

**00:40:53**

No, I don't think so. Look, I've been there for four years. Uh, I could have done a big number in Hillary Clinton. I thought it looked terrible to take the president's wife and put her in prison. She's so lucky. I didn't do anything. She's so lucky. Hillary is a lucky woman, uh, because I had a lot of people pushing me, too. They wanted to see something, but I could have done something very bad. I thought it looked so bad. Think of it, you have the president of the United States and you also had secretary of state, right? She was. But you're going to put the president's wife in prison. And yet when I got out, they have all these hoaxes. They're all hoaxes. But they have all these dishonest hoaxes, just like they did in the past with Russia. Russia, Russia. That was a hoax. Uh, the 51 different, uh, agencies or agents, that was a hoax. The whole thing was a hoax. There were so many hoaxes and scams. But I didn't want to put her in jail, and I didn't. And I explained it to people. You know, they say, lock her up, lock her up. It doesn't. We won. I said, we don't want to put her in jail. We want to bring the country together. I want to bring the country together. You don't bring the country together by putting her in jail. But then when I got out, you know, they went to work on me. It's amazing. And they, uh, suffer from massive Trump derangement syndrome, tD's, and I don't know if it's curable from their standpoint.

A lot of people are very interested in footage of UFO's. The Pentagon has released a few, uh, videos, and, uh, there's been anecdotal reports from fighter pilots. So a lot of people want to know, will you help push the Pentagon to release more footage, which a lot of people claim is available?

**Donald Trump**

**00:42:54**

Oh, yeah, sure. I'll do that. I would do that. I'd love to do that. I have to do that. But, uh, they also are pushing me on Kennedy, and I did release a lot, but I had people come to me and beg me not to do it, but I'll be doing that very early on. Uh, yeah, no, but I would do that.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:43:13**

There's a moment where you had some hesitation about Epstein releasing some of the documents on Epstein. Why the hesitation?

**Donald Trump**

**00:43:20**

I don't think. I mean, I'm not involved. I never went to his island, fortunately. Um, but a lot of people did.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:43:30**

Why do you think so many smart, powerful people allowed him to get so close?

**Donald Trump**

**00:43:37**

Um. Um, he was a good salesman. He was, you know, Halen Hardy type of guy. He had some nice assets that he'd throw around, like islands, but a lot of big people went to that island, but fortunately, I was not one of them.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:43:56**

It's just very strange for a lot of people that, uh, the list of clients that went to the island has not been made public.

**Donald Trump**

**00:44:04**

Yeah, it's very interesting, isn't it? Probably will be, by the way.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:44:10**

So if you're able to. You'll be.

**Donald Trump**

**00:44:12**

Yeah, certainly. Take a look at it now. Kennedy's interesting because it's so many years ago, you know, they do that for danger, too, because, you know, endangers certain people. Et cetera, et cetera. So Kennedy, uh, is very different from the Epstein thing, but yeah, I'd be inclined to do the Epstein. I'd have no problem with it.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:44:33**

That's great to hear. What gives you strength when you're getting attacked? You're one of the most attacked people in the world.

**Donald Trump**

**00:44:40**

I think, uh, you can't care that much. I know people that care so much about everything. Like what people are saying, you can't care too much because you end up choking.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:44:52**

One of the tragic things about life is that it ends. How often do you think about your death? Are you afraid of it?

**Donald Trump**

**00:44:59**

I have a friend who's very, very successful, and he's in his eighties, mid eighties, and, uh, he asked me that exact same question. I said, I turned it around, I said, well, what about you? He said, I think about it every minute of every day. And then a week later, he called me to tell me something. And he starts off the conversation by going, tick tock, tick tock. This is just dark. This is a dark person, you know, in a sense. Um, it is what it is. I mean, if you're religious, you have, I think, a better feeling toward it. You're supposed to go to heaven, ideally not hell, but you're supposed to go to heaven if you good. I think our country is missing a lot of religion. I think it really was a much better place with religion. It was almost a guide. To a certain extent, it was a guide. You want to be good to people. Without religion, there's no real, there are no guardrails. I'd love to see us get back to religion. More religion in this country.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:46:06**

Well, mister President, thank you for putting yourself out there, and thank you for talking today.

**Donald Trump**

**00:46:10**

Look, uh, I love the country. I want to see the country be great, and we have a real chance of doing it. But it's our last chance. And I appreciate it very much.

**Lex Fridman**

**00:46:19**

Thank you.

**Donald Trump**

Thank you.

**00:46:20**