

# Kamala Harris at Janesville, WI | 11.01.24

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## Speakers:

Kamala Harris - 100.0%

## Notes:

Summary by ChatGPT

- Support for Unions and Workers: Harris emphasized the critical role of unions in securing fair pay, better benefits, and safer working conditions for all American workers, underscoring her long-standing support for labor.

- Contrast with Trump: She contrasted her vision for America with Donald Trump's, highlighting his history of actions that she described as harmful to workers, including efforts to weaken unions and labor protections.

- Investment in American Industry: Harris discussed plans to invest in American manufacturing, particularly in sectors like steel, iron, and clean energy, aiming to ensure that these jobs stay in the U.S. and contribute to a sustainable future.

- Commitment to the Middle Class: She stressed her commitment to the middle class, advocating for measures to lower costs and bolster the standard of living for middle-income families.

- Mobilizing for Change: Harris called for active engagement in the upcoming election, urging supporters to organize, reach out to others, and emphasize the importance of voting to secure the nation's future.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:00:00**

Hey, everybody.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:00:04**

Good afternoon. Can we hear it again for Garrick?

**Kamala Harris**

**00:00:12**

Always good to be in the House of Labor.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:00:18**

It's great to be with so many leaders. Thank you, everybody, for taking the time to be here this afternoon for this conversation. But most importantly, thank you for all of your work. I proudly stand with labor. I have my whole entire career.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:00:34**

I always will. This is about the dignity of work. It is about America's workforce. It is about our future, and it's just about what is right. I thank you all so very much.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:00:45**

Thank you. And Senator Baldwin, where are you? I thank you for all you do do. Let's reelect her. To the United States Senate.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:00:58**

Governor UM Evers, thank you for being such a friend and such a leader. Peter Barca, I thank you for all your work. Let's send him to the US House of Representatives.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:01:15**

That's right. And to all the labor leaders here today, including Secretary Treasurer Noble and President Reyes, I thank you all. And all the brothers and sisters of ibew, thank you for

all the work you do. I will tell you, I think it's now an open secret I have as a dream that I will visit every IBEW local in the country.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:01:39**

I'm on my way. I'm well on my way, but I got more to do. But I am such a huge fan of what you do. I am such a huge fan of what you do because it is about the work you do every day and the apprenticeship programs. You are building America and America's future.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:01:57**

And it is such good, good work and exciting work to the benefit of everyone. So I'm so happy to be with all of you this afternoon. I thank all of the folks who are here. We have autoworkers here. We have care workers here.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:02:09**

We have team teachers here. I thank you all. Thank you.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:02:17**

So let's get to work. I love you back.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:02:23**

So, Janesville, we have just four days left. Four days left in one of the most consequential elections of our lifetime. And we have a lot of work still to do. But I know who's here. We like hard work.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:02:39**

Hard work is good work. Hard work is joyful work. And we will win. And we will win. We will win.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:02:51**

We will win. And part of the reason we will win is because we know that when you know what you stand for, you know what to fight for.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:03:03**

And we have an opportunity in this election to turn the page on a decade of Donald Trump, who had spent full time trying to have the American people point fingers at each other full time, trying to divide us. Uh, have People be afraid of each other and folks are exhausted with this stuff.

And we know that's who he is. That's not who we are. That's not who we are. And nobody understands better than a union member that as Americans, we all rise or fall together. Here in Janesville and across our nation, union members have helped lead the fight for fair pay, better benefits, safer working conditions, and every person in America benefits from your work.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:03:59**

I tell people everywhere I go, thank a union member, thank a union member. Because you may not be a member of a union, but thank a union member if you got a five day work week, thank a union member for your sick leave, thank a union member for your paid vacation leave, thank a union member for paid family leave.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:04:23**

Because it is union members that work and put blood, sweat and tears into raising the conditions of the American worker wherever they work.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:04:42**

And collective bargaining benefits our entire nation. You know, I try to explain to some folks, you know what, here's the thing about collective bargaining. I'm going to break it down for you to break down for anybody here, but to people who are not here, and I say, look, wouldn't we all want a system that says that in any negotiation the outcome would be fair?

**Kamala Harris**

**00:05:03**

Right. All reasonable people should want that.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:05:05**

In any negotiation, the outcome would be fair. All right, so if you're talking about the worker, one worker, against the company, against the corporation, is that outcome going to be faithful? No. The disparity in power is so extreme that that negotiation, if you're just requiring that worker to negotiate for better working conditions, better benefits, fairer pay, it's not going to be fair.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:05:35**

Collective bargaining says, let the collective, the workers who all stand in the same place, join together as a collective and then negotiate to better ensure just one simple thing, that the outcome is fair.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:05:53**

That's what is behind. That's what is behind this. It's about basic fairness. But sometimes you gotta fight for fairness.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:06:05**

And what we know is that when union wages go up, everybody's wages go up. When union workplaces are safer, everyone's workplace is safer. And when unions are strong, America is strong.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:06:22**

Bottom line. Bottom line. And everything that we have fought for is on the line. In this election, in less than 90 days, it's either going to be Donald Trump. Trump.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:06:36**

Or me sitting in the Oval Office.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:06:43**

But here's the thing that we want to help. I appreciate you, brother.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:06:57**

Four days. Four days. We still got work to do. And part of what I'm trying to explain to people, I appreciate you, brother, but let me tell you, part of the thing that I'm trying to help people, not who are here, obviously not the leaders who are here, but others understand, is if you're trying to kind of figure out what the stakes are, just imagine the Oval Office.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:07:17**

We've all seen it on TV.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:07:19**

And just imagine on January 20, because if he is elected, if Donald Trump is elected, he's going to be sitting in that Oval Office stewing over his enemies list because he spends full time plotting revenge and retribution full time. The man is angry, right? But you know what I'm talking about. So imagine on January 20th, it's either that him plotting over his enemies list or me working for you on my to do list.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:07:59**

That's what we're talking about. That's what we're talking about. That's what we're talking about. Because I like hard work. And at the top of my list is bringing down your cost of

living.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:08:15**

And it will be my focus every single day as president. I will always put the middle class first. I come from the middle class and I never forget where I come from. I never forget where I come from. Never.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:08:30**

And we know to strengthen the middle class, we must make sure that America, not China, wins the competition for the 21st century.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:08:42**

Under my plan, we will invent, invest in the industries that built America, like steel, iron, the electric power industry.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:08:54**

And we will ensure that the next generation of breakthroughs, from advanced batteries to cutting edge solar panels are not just invented, but built right here in America by American workers. By American workers.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:09:16**

And as part of that vision, we will invest in manufacturing communities across Wisconsin and across America. And we will retool existing factories. They've been built out, but we need to upgrade them. Uh, they are where the people are. And where those people are, uh, they don't want to have to leave, they want to stay home.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:09:40**

They want their kids and their grandkids to be where they are. So we will retool those factories. We will hire locally and work with unions to create good paying jobs, including, by the way, jobs that do not require a college degree. Because here's the thing we got to really understand and do better in understanding that a college degree, degree is not the only measure of the skills and the experience of the qualified worker.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:10:15**

Right?

**Kamala Harris**

**00:10:17**

And I'm telling you so press always ask me, what are you going to do on day one? One of

the things I'm doing on day one, because I can do it by executive order, is I will eliminate unnecessary degree requirements for federal jobs.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:10:34**

And then I will challenge the private sector to do the same as we go forward. When we win, we will also continue to fight to expand the freedom to organize by passing the pro act and work to end union busting once and for all.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:11:05**

We will protect the pensions of union workers and retirees. I've done it before. I'll do it again.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:11:16**

Because when it comes to your pension, Social Security, Medicare, those are retirement benefits that the people have earned, have earned and are due without anyone trying to take them away.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:11:37**

And for me, look, this issue is about dignity. It's about the dignity that any individual who has worked hard all their lives that they absolutely deserve, which is to retire with dignity. And it is about the dignity of work. It is about the dignity of hard work. And what should then be the benefit of those years of hard work?

**Kamala Harris**

**00:12:03**

But look, Donald Trump has a very different view of it all. Independent economists have said his plans would bankrupt Social Security in the next six years. And we know a lot of folks are out there. Their Social Security check is the only thing that they've got. He called for raising the retirement age to 70.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:12:22**

He intends to cut Social Security and Medicare. And remember, he said he was the only one. You know how he talks. He said he was the only one who could bring back America's manufacturing jobs. And then America lost nearly 200,000 manufacturing jobs when he was president, including thousands of jobs right here in Wisconsin.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:12:49**

And facts be clear, those losses started before the pandemic, okay? Making Donald Trump one of the biggest losers of manufacturing jobs in America's history.

It's the truth. And his track record for the auto industry was a disaster as well. And so as president, he promised that the auto industry would not, quote, lose one plant during his presidency. Then American auto manufacturers announced the closure of, uh, six auto plants when he was president. Janesville.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:13:35**

You know what those closures mean for communities? Thousands of union jobs lost. Factory sites sitting empty for years. Other businesses in town then forced to close. So, Wisconsin.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:13:51**

You know all about Donald Trump's big, empty promises. He promised to stop offshoring. Then he cut taxes. He cut taxes for corporations that shipped 200,000 American jobs overseas during his presidency. And he promised to bring jobs back to the United States.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:14:15**

Like his promise that Foxconn was going to invest, was going to invest \$10 billion and create 13,000 manufacturing jobs in Mount Pleasant. Do you remember that? He said Wisconsin would soon be home to a manufacturing plant that he called again, Donald Trump. Language. The eighth wonder of the world.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:14:44**

Yet another empty promise. Typical for a person that is all talk, no walk, and all that to say, we here know Donald Trump is no friend to labor. No friend to labor. He has been a union buster his entire career. He has called union leaders, quote, do sucking people.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:15:16**

He said that he supports the so called right to work laws 100%. He joked with a billionaire buddy of his about the mass firing of striking workers. And while he was president, he lowered labor standards and made it easier for companies to break labor laws and then get federal contracts. Right. And so part of why I'm here is to ask all the leaders here, let's remind all the brothers and sisters of labor about who Donald Trump really is, because he's got a lot of talk.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:15:55**

But if you pay attention to what he's actually done, if you pay attention to who he has actually stood with when people needed a defender and a friend, you'll see who he really is. And we gotta get the word out about this because there's a whole lot of misinformation about what he is and who he stands with.



And we know he does not stand with organized labor. So here's the bottom line. Donald Trump's track record is a disaster for working people and he is an existential threat to America's labor movement.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:16:35**

And everything Donald Trump intends to do if he is reelected is spelled out in Project 2025, which I still cannot believe. They put that thing in writing like they bound it, handed it out and people read it and now they can't handle that. Right. He intends to launch a full on attack on unions and the freedom to organize.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:17:03**

He will ban public sector unions.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:17:05**

I know we've got AFSCME here, right? He will roll back workplace safety protections. He, he will make it easier for companies to deny overtime pay for workers. Talk about trying to take us back. And he will appoint a union buster to run the Department of Labor, not to mention what would happen with nlr.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:17:29**

Right? So I say all this to say to the friends that America, as we all know, is ready to chart a new way forward. We are ready for a new generation of leadership for America and especially the leadership that together we all offer, that is optimistic about what we can achieve when we are working together.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:18:01**

There's a certain spirit of how we think about all this that directly relates to whether as we move forward, we will be stronger or not. And here's the thing that we all know.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:18:13**

We're not going back. We are not going back. We're not going. We're not going back. We're not going back.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:18:23**

We're not going back. We are not going back. And uh, here's the thing, Janesville. It all comes down to we are here together because we love our country. We love our country.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:18:36**

We love our country.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:18:41**

And what you all, um, know better than most is when you love something, you fight for it. You fight for it. And I do believe one of the highest forms of patriotism, of our expression of our love for our country, is to than fight for the ideals of our country. And that's what's at play in this election.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:19:00**

And it is about a fight to realize the promise of America.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:19:05**

So we got four days, and we're going to get this done, but nobody can sit by the sidelines. We got to remind everybody, you know, five days from now, you don't want to look back on these four days and have any regrets about what you could have done. And everybody here knows how to organize.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:19:22**

So I don't need to tell you that it's all about talking with each other. It's about reaching out to each other.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:19:29**

It's about in the face of a stranger, seeing a neighbor, and helping and unity and helping people understand that the vast majority of us have so much more in common than what separates us. And labor knows how to do that best. We knock on doors, know how to text and call folks, reaching out to family and friends and neighbors.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:19:56**

And we'll remind people that their vote is their voice and their voice is their power. Right?

**Kamala Harris**

**00:20:06**

So, brothers and sisters, today I ask you, are you ready to make your voices heard? Yes. Do we believe in freedom? Freedom? Do we believe in opportunity?

**Kamala Harris**

**00:20:20**

Do we believe in the promise of America? And are we ready to fight for it? And when we fight, we win. God bless you, and God bless the life. God bless you.

God bless.