

# Kamala Harris in Detroit, Michigan | September 2, 2024

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## Speakers:

Kamala Harris - 100.0%

## Notes:

Summary by ChatGPT

- Labor Day Celebration: Harris emphasizes the importance of Labor Day, celebrating the contributions of labor unions to workers' rights and the American middle class.
- Historical Significance: She reflects on Detroit's historical role in labor movements and the achievements of unions over the years, highlighting their impact on fair pay, benefits, and safe working conditions.
- Contrast with Opponents: Harris criticizes former President Donald Trump's policies, including his opposition to labor rights, minimum wage increases, and support for corporate tax cuts.

- Vision for the Future: She outlines her administration's goals, including strengthening the Affordable Care Act, supporting workers' rights through the PRO Act, and promoting economic opportunities for all Americans.

- Election Mobilization: Harris calls for voter engagement in the upcoming election, urging people to work hard, stay motivated, and ensure their voices are heard to advance a vision of freedom and opportunity for all.

**Kamala Harris** 00:00:00  
Good afternoon, Detroit.

**Kamala Harris** 00:00:06  
Always good to be in the house of labor.

**Kamala Harris** 00:00:11  
Can we hear for Tyrese?

**Kamala Harris** 00:00:19  
Tyrese, I want to thank you for your extraordinary leadership in all of your words and the heart and soul that you put into your work. Like I know all the members of Laiuna and everyone here does every day, because we love our country and we know it is at stake. Thank you, Tyree.

**Kamala Harris** 00:00:37  
Thank you.

**Kamala Harris** 00:00:41  
So, it is so good to be with so many incredible leaders and elected officials who are here. Governor Whitmer was here earlier, Senator Stabenow. Um, your next United States state senator, Representative Elisa Slotkin.

**Kamala Harris** 00:01:02  
And I always want to thank representatives dingles. There is she. There she is. There she is. Stevens, that.

**Kamala Harris** 00:01:10

And I, all of you, for the work that you do every day, and to all the labor leaders who are here, I thank you all for your extraordinary work. Don't we love Labor Day?

**Kamala Harris**

**00:01:23**

We love Labor Day. It's always been that way, right? The way we celebrate Labor Day is we know that hard work is good work. We know that when we organize, when we bring everyone together, it's a joyful moment where we are committed to doing the hard work of lifting up America's families. And I want to thank everyone here for that work and the way you do it every day, including General President Booker of the laborers, President Fane of UAW, uM, President Pringle of NEA, President Slevin of the utility workers, and President Weingarten of the AFT.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:02:17**

And thank you to all of the union members who are here this afternoon. So, on Labor Day and every day, we celebrate the dignity of work. Uh, the dignity of work. We celebrate unions because unions helped build America and unions helped build America's middle class.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:02:45**

It is true across our nation, and it is true here in Detroit. Nearly 140 years ago, in this very city, 10,000 people marched in one of our nation's first Labor Day parades. Many held signs that read, divided we can beg, united we can demand.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:03:17**

For generations in Detroit and across, ah, our nation, the brothers and sisters of labor have stood together to righteously demand fair pay, better benefits and safe working conditions. And let me say, every person in our nation has benefited from that work.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:03:43**

Everywhere I go, I tell people, look, you may not be a union member. You better thank a union member for the five day work week. You better thank a union member for sick leave, you better thank a union member for paid leave, you better thank a union member for vacation time.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:04:11**

What we know is when union wages go up, everybody's wages go up, when union workplaces are safer, every workplace is safer.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:04:30**

When unions are strong, America is strong.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:04:39**

We know what we're talking about. About the labor movement has always understood the power of the collective and the power of unity. The power of unity. And while we are fighting so much nonsense that is about trying to divide our country, trying to pull us apart. Look, uh, to what the history and the presence of labor tells us about the power of the collective and unity.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:05:12**

The spirit of that work, as much as the product of that work, is very telling and gives us really good lessons about what creates strength. And, you know, many of you know, my parents met while they were active in the civil rights movement. So when I was young, my parents. I see some young leaders here today. When I was young, my parents would take me to the meetings.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:05:37**

I see our young leaders and take me to the marches. I was in a stroller. And from a very young age, I learned that when people stand together, when we join voices, knowing that the vast majority of us have so much more in the common than what separates us, when we join those voices, we can drive extraordinary change. Which is why I believe in my heart and soul, no one should ever be made to fight alone. We are all in this together.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:06:24**

We are all in this together.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:06:29**

But I'll tell you, I think that there has been a certain backward thinking approach over the last several years, which is to suggest some folks, them folks, to suggest that the measure of the strength of a leader is based on who you beat down. Instead of what we know, the true measure of the strength of a leader is based on who you lift up.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:06:59**

Who you lift up. That's the measure of the strength of a leader.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:07:07**

Let's stop with the nonsense. And in this election, we all here know there are two very different visions for our nation, focused on the future. The other focused. Let's just get through the next 64 days.

And ours, yes, my dear brother, is focused on the future, and theirs is focused on the past. And we fight for the future. We fight for a future where all people receive dignity and respect and opportunity for not just for some, but for all. That's what we are fighting for. And so we are 64 days out from the election day.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:08:02**

And in Michigan, mail and absentee voting starts in 24 days.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:08:09**

24 days.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:08:15**

So this election. This election and our fight is a fight for the promise of America. A promise. I love you back.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:08:28**

And ours is a fight for the promise. The promise of America. A promise of freedom, of opportunity and justice, not just for some, um, but for all.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:08:45**

But what we know is, as we fight to move our nation forward. Donald Trump intends to pull us back to the past, but we're not going back. We are not going back. We're not going back.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:09:14**

And we know. We know what that would look like, right? So intends to pull us back, including back to a time before workers had the freedom to organize. As president, we will always remember, Donald Trump blocked overtime benefits from. From millions of workers.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:09:33**

Tyrese talked a bit about this and opposed efforts to raise the minimum wage. He appointed union busters to the National Labor Relations Board, and he supported so called right to work laws. And if.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:09:59**

Well, here's the thing. Here's the thing. We have a choice here, right? And we're not going back, because we also know that if Donald Trump were reelected, he intends to give tax

cuts to billionaires and big corporations. He intends to cut Social Security and Medicare.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:10:19**

He wants to impose what, in effect, is a national sales tax, tax on everyday products and basic necessities that will cost, and economists have said this, that will cost a typical american family almost \$4,000 a year. He wants to repeal the Affordable Care act and take us back to a time in our country which most of us remember, when insurance companies, you remember, had the power to deny people coverage based on a pre existing condition. Remember that?

**Kamala Harris**

**00:10:55**

People, children who had asthma, a survivor of breast cancer, a, uh, grandparent with diabetes. Look, America has tried those failed policies before, and they are failed policies, and we are not going back. We are not going back. We are not going back.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:11:22**

And instead, and instead, we fight for a future. A future where no person has to go broke just because they got sick. And so, when I am president, we will continue to strengthen the Affordable Care act. We will bring down the cost of prescription drugs, not only for some, but for all Americans.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:11:49**

We. We fight for a future where every worker has the freedom to organize.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:11:59**

And so, when I am president, we will pass the pro act and end union busting once and for all.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:12:16**

And I'll, uh, remind everybody on all these bills, we gotta elect a congress who supports that to be able to actually get that work done. We fight for a future where every person has the opportunity not just to get by, but to get ahead.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:12:37**

And so, when I am president, we will continue to build what I call an opportunity economy, so that every american has an opportunity to own a home, to start a business, to build intergenerational wealth for their family. We fight for a future where every senior can retire with dignity. And so, when I am president, we will continue to defend Social Security, Medicare, and pensions, just like we have done.

64 days. 64 days. The most important election of our lives, and probably one of the most important in the life of our nation. And here's what I'd say to all the brothers and sisters assembled. We know this is going to be a very tight race to the very end.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:13:49**

We know. We know. And I got your back. But I'm, um, telling you, we know how they play. We know what they do.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:13:59**

So let's not pay too much attention to the polls. Let's know, like labor always does. We are out here running like we are the underdog in this race, because we know what we are fighting for. We know what we stand for. And that's why we know what we fight for.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:14:27**

And we got some hard work ahead of us. But again, we all like hard work. Cause hard work is good work.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:14:35**

And to do that hard work, I'm gonna count on everyone here, all the leaders here, for your work, for your organizing, knocking on doors, and getting folks to the polls. Cause put bluntly, Michigan, y'all know how to win. You know how to win. You know how to win.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:15:00**

So today, I ask, Detroit, Michigan, are you ready to have your voices heard?

**Kamala Harris**

**00:15:09**

Do we believe in freedom? Do we believe in opportunity? Do we believe in the promise of America? And are we ready to fight for it? And when we fight, we win.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:15:28**

God bless you. God, um, bless.