

Kamala Harris and Liz Cheney in Ripon, Wisconsin | October 3, 2024

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Speakers:

Liz Cheney - 56.63%

Kamala Harris - 43.37%

Notes:

Summary by ChatGPT

- Unity Over Partisanship: Both Cheney and Harris emphasize the need for Americans to come together across party lines to uphold democratic values and the Constitution.
- Condemnation of Donald Trump: Cheney details Trump's actions surrounding January 6, while Harris highlights his violations of constitutional norms and calls for accountability.
- Importance of Character in Leadership: Cheney praises Harris for her dedication to public service and character, while both leaders stress the need for integrity and courage in political office.

- Commitment to Democracy: They stress that upholding the Constitution and ensuring the peaceful transfer of power are fundamental responsibilities of leadership, vital for the survival of the republic.

- Global Implications of Leadership: Harris connects domestic democracy with international issues, underscoring the importance of strong American leadership in global affairs, particularly in support of Ukraine.

Liz Cheney

00:00:00

Thank you.

Kamala Harris

00:00:04

Wow.

Liz Cheney

00:00:09

Thank you. Thank you all. Um, thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Kamala Harris

00:00:30

Boy.

Liz Cheney

00:00:32

My God, what an amazing, amazing day to be in Wisconsin. Thank you all. Thank you so much. Thank you, sheriff, for your courage and your service and for that, uh, wonderful introduction. It is, um, such a pleasure to be here today at Ripon College. Uh, and I have to tell you all, Wisconsin is special for me for a particularly important reason. Way back in 1966, when a very young Dick Cheney and Lynn Cheney were graduate students at the University of Wisconsin, I was born here. And so go badgers. Exactly. So coming back to Wisconsin always feels to me, uh, more than a little bit like coming home. I want you to know, um, the last time that I was here campaigning was, uh, 20 years ago in, ah, 2004. Although politics divided us, certainly in that year, um, we were united in our admiration for the packers legendary Bart star. And one of the most special and memorable days I had on any campaign was the day that we got to spend with him, uh, which included a personal tour of Lambeau Field. So it's very, very special to be back again. Now, you all know, um, of course, that, uh, here in Ripon, the republican party was founded. It was founded, ah, in a meeting in 1854 in, uh, the little White schoolhouse. And it was founded by people who were opposed to slavery. It was that republican party, the party of Lincoln and Eisenhower, party of Reagan and Bush. It's that party that I belonged to my entire life.

I volunteered on my first presidential campaign. I already told you how old I am, so I'll tell you. In, uh, 1976, when I was ten years old and I was sealing envelopes for President Ford's reelection campaign, I cast my first vote ever in 1984 for Ronald Reagan. I served in the state Department in both Bush administrations. And I served in the United States House of Representatives for three terms, including as the third highest ranking Republican in House leadership. So, in other words, I was a Republican even before Donald Trump started spray tanning. I am a Ronald Reagan conservative. I believe in limited government. I believe in low taxes. I believe in a strong national defense. And I believe that the private sector is the engine of growth of our economy. I believe that the family and not the government, is the most important structure in our society. I know that our security and our freedom depend upon a world in which America, with our allies, leads. And above all else, I know that the most conservative of conservative values is fidelity to our constitution. I tell you, I have never voted for a Democrat. But this year, I am proudly casting my vote for Vice President Kamala Harris.

Kamala Harris

00:05:11

Thank you.

Liz Cheney

00:05:15

M. Thank you. But mostly, we're not going back. Vice President Harris is standing in the breach at a critical moment in our nation's history. She's working to unite reasonable people from all across the political spectrum. Vice President Harris has dedicated her life to public service. I know that she loves our country, and I know that she will be a president for all Americans. As a conservative, as a patriot, as a mother, as someone who reveres our constitution, I am honored to join her in this urgent cause. As we meet here today, our republic faces a threat unlike any we have faced before. A former president who attempted to stay in power by unraveling the foundations of our republic, by refusing to accept the lawful results confirmed by dozens of courts of the 2020 election. We cannot turn away from this truth in this election. Putting patriotism ahead of partisanship is not an aspiration. It is our duty. At the very heart of our survival as a republic is the peaceful transition of power. Ronald Reagan said this was nothing short of a miracle, that every four or eight years, the most powerful office in our land, indeed, the most powerful office in the world, is passed peacefully to a new president. In the United States of America, violence does not and must never determine who rules us. Voters do. And in this country, under our constitution, our president has a particular, solemn obligation to ensure and guarantee the peaceful transfer of power. Since the beginning of the republic, every president in our history has fulfilled that duty. Every president. Until Donald Trump. When Donald Trump woke up on the morning of January 6, 2021, his intention, despite having lost the election, was that he would remain president rather than accept his loss and concede defeat. He had spent months overseeing a multipart plan to attempt to seize power and remain in office. He ignored the rulings of the courts. He corruptly pressured

state legislatures, including here in Wisconsin, to overturn the results of their elections. He told the Justice Department to lie for him. He conspired to have fake electoral votes cast, and he corruptly pressured his vice president to take illegal and unconstitutional actions. He summoned a mob to Washington, DC, with his lies, and he sent the armed mob to the United States Capitol in an effort to stop the counting of electoral votes. As the violent mob attacked our Capitol in Donald Trump's name, as they brutally beat law enforcement officers, as they hunted the vice president and the speaker of the House, Donald Trump watched the attack on television for hours. For hours, sitting in the dining room next to the Oval Office. He refused repeated pleas from his family, from his closest advisors, from the most senior officials in his campaign and in our government. To tell the mob to leave. And when Donald Trump finally did speak publicly after hours of violence after the Capitol had been invaded, he praised the rioters. He did not condemn them. That's who Donald Trump is. Those facts, those facts that we know about what Donald Trump did, including what he did when our capital was under siege, those facts do not come from Donald Trump's political opponents. Those facts come from the people closest to him. They are the ones who testified that Donald Trump did not want to stop the violent attack on our Capitol. When he learned that Vice President Pence was not going to abandon his oath and help Trump seize power, Trump sent out a tweet attacking Pence and further inflaming the mob. One of Trump's aides testified that shortly after that, this aide received a phone call alerting him that the vice president had been evacuated for his own safety from his office off the floor of the Senate. This aide recalled rushing to the dining room to tell Trump, hoping that this information would convince him to take immediate action to ensure the vice president's safety. Instead, after this aide delivered that news, Donald Trump looked up at him and said, so what? He said, so what? It is Donald Trump's closest aides who also told us this, they said that while the attack on our Capitol was happening, Donald Trump was handed a note informing him that a civilian had been shot at the door to the chamber of the United States House of Representatives. Donald Trump put the note down on the table in front of him, continued to watch the attack on television, and still refused to tell the mob to leave the Capitol. Donald Trump was willing to sacrifice our capital to allow law enforcement officers to be beaten and brutalized in his name, and to violate the law and the Constitution in order to seize power for himself. I don't care if you are a Democrat or a Republican or an independent, that is depravity, and we must never become numb to it. Any person, any person who would do these things can never be trusted with power again. We must defeat Donald Trump on November 5. In that election 20 years ago, when we were campaigning in Wisconsin and all across the country, we were campaigning as passionate conservatives. What January 6 shows us is that there is not an ounce, not an ounce of compassion in Donald Trump. He is petty, he is vindictive, and he is cruel. And Donald Trump is not fit to lead this good and great nation. Now, sometimes people will say, you know, January 6 wasn't that big a deal. Um, you know, uh, in a time when I have heard many pretty stunning things from Republicans, one of the most stunning was yesterday from your former governor, Scott Walker, who said, basically, people are over January 6. When you think about what that means, that an elected official, a former elected

official, is so willing to minimize what happened, to say things like I've heard from others, to say, don't worry. Our institutions held that day. We have a responsibility, all of us, to remind people that our institutions don't defend themselves. We the people have to do that. We the people defend our institutions and our institutions. Held on January 6 because there were brave men and women, including elected officials at every level of our government, who did their duty, who stood up for what was right, who resisted Donald Trump's efforts to pressure them to violate their oaths. And our institutions. Held, especially because of the bravery of the men and women in law enforcement and in our military, in our Capitol police, our secret service, the metropolitan police, they are the ones who defended our capital, our democracy, and our lives. Many of them fought a bloody, bloody, hours long battle on the west front of the Capitol. Go watch the video of that battle. It is sickening. They are the ones who held the line and prevented far worse from happening that day. They are the true profiles and courage. Do not let anyone lie about what happened and what they did. Our institutions also held because of vice, uh, President Mike Pence, who refused. He refused to violate his oath to the Constitution. Constitution. And that is why Mike Pence is not Donald Trump's running mate today. Instead, JD Vance is on the ticket. Vance has said. I mean, that's true. Vance has said repeatedly that he would have done what Donald Trump wanted, that he would have rejected electoral votes, he would have thrown out the votes of the people of Wisconsin because he didn't like the way that you voted. That is tyranny, and that is disqualifying. History teaches us again and again that democracies can fall. They fall to populists, they fall to strong men, strong men who beguile their fellow citizens with conspiracy theories and false emergencies. As my friend, the late Charles Krauthammer, taught us, the lesson of our history is that the task of merely maintaining strong and sturdy the structures of our constitution, constitutional order, is unending. It is the continuing and ceaseless work of every generation. And that responsibility now falls on all of us in this election. This great country of ours requires leaders of character. We must choose men and women who have what Abraham Lincoln called a, uh, sincere heart. Our nation's second president, John Adams, put it this way. On the first night he ever spent in the White House, he wrote a letter to his wife, Abigail. And his letter included a prayer. A prayer that is so special, President Kennedy had it engraved in the mantelpiece in the state dining room in the White House. And in his letter, he said, this may none but honest and. And wise men ever rule under this roof. Now, I'm confident. Just a second. I am confident that John Adams meant women, too. In this election, a broad coalition has come together to support Vice President Kamala Harris. Now, we may disagree on some things, but we are bound together by the one thing that matters to us as Americans more than any other, and that's our duty to our constitution and our belief in the miracle and the blessing of this incredible nation. We have a shared commitment, a, uh, shared commitment as Americans to ensuring that future generations live in a nation where power is transferred peacefully, where our leaders are men and women of good faith, and where our public servants set aside partisan battles to do what's right for this country. So today, I, uh, ask all of you here and everyone listening across this great country to join us. I ask you to meet this moment. I ask you to stand, in truth, to reject the

depraved cruelty of Donald Trump. And I ask you instead to help us elect Kamala Harris, her president. I know. I know that president. That a president Harris. That President Harris will be able to unite this nation. I know that she will be a president who will defend the rule of law. And I know that she will be a president who can inspire all of our children. And if I might say so, especially our, uh, little girls, to do great things, so help us right the ship of our democracy. So that history will say of us, when our time of testing came, we did our duty and we prevailed because we loved our country more. And now. And now it is my great honor to introduce you to our vice president and the next president of the United States, Kamala, um, Harris. M.

Kamala Harris

00:22:29

Can we hear it for Liz Cheney. M. It is so good to be back in Wisconsin. I thank you, everyone, for being here. Please have a seat. I thank you all for being here, but I just. I have to emphasize that, um, every time I come here, and Liz, I was actually a kid here, too, when my parents were at the University of Wisconsin. So we have that in common as well. In fact, Tony Evers always says, when I land, welcome home. Um, but I say all that to say every time that I've come here recently, one of the conversations that we have, all of us together, is how much we love our country. And that. That really is the binding factor in us all being together and taking the time to be together, to really just renew and remind everyone of what is at stake, but born out of love that we have this fight. And I want to thank you, Liz Cheney, for reminding us that. That regardless of party affiliation is a factor that binds us all. And so I thank you for your support and your leadership and your courage. I also want to thank all the, uh, other great leaders who are with us today. Governor Tony Evers, where is.

Liz Cheney

00:24:20

Hedgestheende.

Kamala Harris

00:24:23

Thank you, Mayor Grant. Thank you for the warm welcome. I want to thank Senator Tammy Baldwin, who is traveling around the state, but who I know you will re elect in November. Thank you, Sheriff Mitchak, for your support and your life of service to the people of Iowa county. And so I do want to say a bit more about Liz Cheney. Um, you all know her leadership, and, um, she has obviously, and so, um, importantly, been a leader for the people of Wyoming, but she has also been an extraordinary national leader and has served with great honor. And she not only, as she has talked today, recognizes that character is among the most important attributes of leadership, but she also personifies that attribute. And she possesses some of the qualities of character that I most respect in any individual and any leader. Courage, especially at a moment like this, where there are so many powerful forces that have been intent on trying to demean and belittle and make

people afraid, and there are many who know it is wrong, and then there are those who have the courage to speak out loud, loudly about it and the conviction to speak truth. And, you know, it is so admirable when anyone does it, and especially when it is difficult to do in an environment such as this. But Liz Cheney really is a leader who puts country above party and above self, a true patriot. And it is my profound honor, my profound honor to have your support. And I also want to thank your father, Vice President Dick Cheney, for his support and what he has done to serve our country. Um, every endorsement matters, and, um, this endorsement matters a great deal, Liz. And, um, it carries the special significance, because, as you said, we may not see eye to eye on every issue. Um, and we are going to get back to a healthy two party system, I am sure of that, where we will have vigorous debates. And as you said, you may not have supported a Democrat for president before, but as you have also said, we both love our country and we revere our democratic ideals, and we both also believe in the nobility of public service. And we know that our oath to uphold the constitution of the United States of America is a sacred oath, an oath that must be honored and must never be violated. And your words today and the reason we are all here today, I think, really, um, do underscore perhaps one of the most fundamental questions that is facing the american people in this election. Who will obey that oath? Who will abide by the oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution? Constitution of the United States of America? I have had the privilege. Thank you.

Liz Cheney

00:28:30

Thank you.

Kamala Harris

00:28:31

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. And I have sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution six times in my career, um, including as vice president, as a United States senator, and as the top law enforcement officer of the largest state in our country, responsible for upholding and enforcing the laws of the state and the laws of the United States, was the work I did, and I have never wavered in upholding that oath, and I have always executed it faithfully and without reservation. And therein lies the profound difference between Donald Trump and me. He who violated the oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America. And make no mistake, he who, if given the chance, would violate it again. Donald Trump lost the 2020 election. And as you have heard and know, he refused to accept the will of the people and the results of an election that was free and fair. As you have heard, he sent an armed mob to the United States Capitol, where they assaulted law enforcement officers. He threatened the life of his own vice president and refused to engage in the peaceful transfer of power. And let us be clear about how he intends to use power if elected again. He has called for jailing journalists, political opponents, anyone he sees and deems as being an enemy. He has pledged to destroy the independence of the Department of Justice, and he called for deploying our, uh, active duty military against our own citizens. Uh, well, I believe you and my running

mate both. Well, listen. I believe that anyone who recklessly tramples on our democratic values, as Donald Trump has, anyone who has actively and violently constructed the will of the people and the peaceful transfer of power, as Donald Trump has, anyone who has called for, I quote, termination of the Constitution of the United States, as Donald Trump has, must never again stand behind the seal of the president of the United States. Never again. Never again. And the tragic truth. The tragic truth that we are facing in this election for president of the United States is that there is actually an honest question about whether one of the candidates will uphold the oath to the Constitution of the United States. That is the tragic truth, truth of, uh, this election. That this is actually an honest question that we are having as Americans. And I know the vast majority of us agree that upholding the Constitution must be a basic requirement we expect of anyone seeking the highest office in the land. I know the vast majority of us, regardless of, of your political party, agree we must hold sacred America's fundamental principles. From the rule of law, to free and fair elections, to the peaceful transfer of power. And if you share, if you share that you, no matter your political party, there is a place for you with us and in this campaign. Because those principles I know, unite us across party lines. And in this election, I take seriously my pledge to be a president for all Americans. My entire career, my entire career, I've only had one client. The people. And when I say that, and when I say that, I mean all the people, not just those who share my party affiliation. Through all my decades in law enforcement, I never asked a victim or a witness, are you a Republican or a Democrat? The only question I ever asked was, are you okay? And that is the kind of president we deserve. And I pledge to you, that is the kind of president I will be. Because the president of the United States must not look at our country through the narrow lens of ideology or petty partisanship or self interest. The president of the United States must not look at our country as an instrument for their own ambitions. Our nation is not some spoil to be won. The United States of America is the greatest idea humanity ever devised. The nation that inspired the world to believe in the possibilities of a representative government. And so in the. Of those who would endanger our magnificent experiment. People of every party must stand together. And let me be clear. Democracy and freedom are not only at stake here at home, they are also at stake around the world. As president of the United States, I will strengthen, not abdicate, America's global leadership. Last week, I met with Ukraine's president, Zelenskyy. And the message I delivered was the same message I've shared with him every time I've seen him. I stand with Ukraine, and I always will. And I told him as I have before, I want Ukraine to prevail. By contrast, in our debate, Donald Trump couldn't even bring himself to say he wanted Ukraine to win a. Win the war. Couldn't even bring himself to say that. A war that Putin, a brutal dictator, launched against a free and independent people. Trump wants to force Ukraine to give up its sovereign territory, a bedrock principle upon which we stand and fight for. And you know who else wants them to give up their sovereign, absolutely territory?

Putin.

Kamala Harris

00:37:34

Putin. And that's not a plan for peace. It's a plan for surrender. Well, I believe that in the global struggle between tyranny and democracy, the president of the United States must always be on the side of freedom. So we are gathered here today in Ripon, not far as the congresswoman mentioned, from a small building where the republican party was born in 1854, Liz Cheney stands in the finest tradition of its leaders. And if and if people across Wisconsin and, uh, our nation are willing to do what Liz is doing, to stand up for the rule of law, for our democratic ideals and the constitution of the United States, then together, I know we can chart a new way forward, not as members of any one party, but as Americans. Americans who are United States. United in our devotion to the country we love. I thank you all. May God bless you. And may God bless the United States of America. Thank you all. Thank you.