

DNC 2024 | Day 4 Speeches | Kamala Harris

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Speakers:

Kamala Harris - 100.0%

Notes:

- Thank you all. We gotta get to some business. Thank you so very much. Let's get to business.
- All right, so let me start by thanking my most incredible husband, Doug. Coach Tim Walls, you are going to be an incredible vice president. And to the delegates and everyone who has put your faith in our campaign, your support is humbling.
- Kamala Harris: My mother, Shamila Harris, had one of her own. She traveled from India to California to be the scientist who would cure breast cancer. Harris: She taught us to never complain about injustice, but do something about it. This is one of the reasons I became a prosecutor to protect abused victims.
- The consequences of putting Donald Trump back in the White House are extremely serious. Consider what he intends to do if we give him power again. He doesn't actually fight for the middle class. Instead, he fights for himself and his billionaire friends. Building that middle class will be a defining goal of my presidency.

- Many other fundamental freedoms are at stake. I will bring back the bipartisan border security bill that he killed, and I will sign it into law. We must also be steadfast in advancing our security and values abroad. As president, I will never waver in defense of America's security and ideals.

Kamala Harris 00:00:01

Thank you all. Okay, we gotta get to some business. We gotta get to some business. Okay. Thank you all.

Kamala Harris 00:00:09

Okay. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Kamala Harris 00:00:13

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, please. Thank you, please. Thank you so very much.

Kamala Harris 00:00:20

Thank you, everyone. Thank you, everyone. Thank you. Okay, let's get to business. Let's get to business.

Kamala Harris 00:00:26

All right, so let me start by thanking my most incredible husband, Doug, uh, for being an incredible partner to me, an incredible father to Cole and Ella, and happy anniversary, Dougie.

Kamala Harris 00:00:51

I love you so very much. To our president, Joe Biden.

Kamala Harris 00:01:02

When I think about the path that we have traveled together, Joe, I am filled with gratitude. Your record is extraordinary, as history will show, and your character is inspiring. And Doug and I love you and Jill and are forever thankful to you both.

Kamala Harris 00:01:29

Coach Tim Walls, you are going to be an incredible vice president.

Kamala Harris 00:01:44

And to the delegates and everyone who has put your faith in our campaign, your support is humbling. So, America, the path that led me here in recent weeks was no doubt

unexpected. But I'm no stranger to unlikely journeys. So my mother. Our mother, Shamila Harris, had one of her own.

Kamala Harris

00:02:12

And I miss her every day, and especially right now. And I know she's looking down, smiling.

Kamala Harris

00:02:22

I know that. So my mother was 19 when she crossed the world alone, traveling from India to California with an unshakable dream, to be the scientist who would cure breast cancer.

Kamala Harris

00:02:41

When she finished school, she was supposed to return home to a traditional arranged marriage. But as fate would have it, she met my father, Donald Harris, a student from Jamaica.

Kamala Harris

00:02:57

They fell in love and got married. And that act of self determination made my sister Maya and me growing up, we moved a lot. I will always remember that big Mayflower truck packed with all our belongings, ready to go to Illinois, to Wisconsin, and wherever our parents jobs took us. My early memories of our parents together are very joyful ones. A home filled with laughter and music.

Kamala Harris

00:03:38

Aretha, Coltrane, and miles. At the park, my mother would say, stay close. But my father would say, as he smiled, run, kamala, run. Don't be afraid. Don't let anything stop you.

Kamala Harris

00:04:01

From my earliest years, he taught me to be fearless. But the harmony between my parents did not last. When I was in elementary school, they split up, and it was mostly my mother who raised us. Before she could finally afford to buy a home, she rented a small apartment in the east bay. In the bay?

Kamala Harris

00:04:26

In the bay. You either live in the hills or the flatlands. We lived in the flats, a beautiful working class neighborhood of, uh, firefighters, nurses, and construction workers, all who tended their lawns with pride. My mother, she worked long hours. And like many working parents, she leaned on a trusted circle to help raise us.

Misses Shelton, who ran the daycare below us and became a second mother. Uncle Sherman, Aunt Mary, uncle Freddie, Auntie Chris. None of them family by blood, and all of them family by love.

Kamala Harris

00:05:22

Family who taught us how to make gumbo, how to play chess, and sometimes even let us win. Family who loved us, believed in us and told us we could be anything and do anything.

Kamala Harris

00:05:46

They instilled in us the values they community, faith, and the importance of treating others as you would want to be treated, with kindness, respect, and compassion. My mother was a brilliant five foot tall brown woman with an accent. And as the eldest child, as the eldest child, I saw how the world would sometimes treat her. But my mother never lost her cool. She was tough, courageous, a trailblazer in the fight for women's health.

Kamala Harris

00:06:31

And she taught Maya and me a lesson that Michelle mentioned the other night. She taught us to never complain about injustice, but do something about it. Do something about it.

Kamala Harris

00:06:49

That was my mother, and she taught us, and she always. She also taught us, and she also taught us. And never do anything half assed. And that is a direct quote.

Kamala Harris

00:07:07

A, uh, direct quote. I grew up immersed in the ideals of the civil rights movement. My parents had met at a civil rights gathering, and they made sure that we learned about civil rights leaders, including the lawyers like Thurgood Marshall and Constance Baker Motley, those who battled in the courtroom to make real the promise of America. So at a young age, I decided I wanted to do that work. I wanted to be a lawyer.

Kamala Harris

00:07:42

And when it came time to choose the type of law I would pursue, I reflected on a pivotal moment in my life. You see, when I was in high school, I started to notice something about my best friend Wanda. She was sad at school, and there were times she didn't want to go home. So one day, I asked if everything was all right. And she confided in me that she was being sexually abused by her stepfather.

Kamala Harris

00:08:12

And I immediately told her she had to come stay with us. And she did. This is one of the reasons I became a prosecutor, to protect people like Wanda, because I believe everyone has a right to safety, to dignity, and to justice.

Kamala Harris

00:08:39

As a prosecutor, when I had a case, I charged it not in the name of the victim, but in the name of the people. For a simple. In our system of justice, a harm against any one of us is a harm against all of us.

Kamala Harris

00:09:05

And I would often explain this to console survivors of crime, to remind them no one should be made to fight alone. We are all in this together.

Kamala Harris

00:09:23

And every day in the courtroom, I stood proudly before a judge. And I said five words. Kamala Harris, for the people.

Kamala Harris

00:09:41

And to be clear. And to be clear, my entire career, I've only had one client, the people.

Kamala Harris

00:09:55

And so, on behalf of the people, on behalf of every american, regardless of party, race, gender, or the language your grandmother speaks, on behalf of my mother and everyone who has ever set out on their own unlikely journey, on behalf of Americans like the people I grew up with, people who work hard, chase their dreams, and look out for one another. On behalf of everyone whose story could only be written in the greatest nation on earth, I accept your nomination to be president of the United States of America.

Kamala Harris

00:11:05

And with this election, and with this election, our nation, our nation, with this election, has a precious, fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism, and divisive battles of the past. A chance to chart a new way forward, not. Not as members of any one party or faction, but as Americans. And let me say, I know there are people of various political views watching tonight. And I want you to know I promise to be a president for all Americans.

Kamala Harris

00:12:03

You can always trust me to put country above party and self, to hold sacred America's fundamental principles, from the rule of law to free and fair elections, to the peaceful

transfer of power.

Kamala Harris

00:12:32

I will be a president who unites us around our highest aspirations. A president who leads and listens, who is realistic, practical, and has common sense, and always fights for the american people. From the courthouse to the White House. That has been my life's work.

Kamala Harris

00:13:05

As a young courtroom prosecutor in Oakland, California, I stood up for women and children against predators who abused them. As attorney general of California, I took on the big banks, delivered \$20 billion for middle class families who faced foreclosure, and helped pass a homeowner Bill of rights, one of the first of its kind in the nation.

Kamala Harris

00:13:39

I stood up for veterans and students being scammed by big for profit colleges, for workers who are being cheated out of their wages, the wages they were due for seniors facing elder abuse. I fought against the cartels who trafficking guns and drugs and human beings who threaten the security of our border and the safety of our communities. And I will tell you, these fights were not easy, and neither were the elections that put me in those offices. We were underestimated at practically every turn, but we never gave up, because the future is always worth fighting for.

Kamala Harris

00:14:38

And that's the fight we are in right now. A fight for America's future.

Kamala Harris

00:14:50

Fellow Americans, this election is not only the most important of our lives, it is one of the most important in the life of our nation.

Kamala Harris

00:15:09

In many ways, Donald Trump is an unserious man.

Kamala Harris

00:15:16

But the consequences. But the consequences of putting Donald Trump back in the White House are extremely serious.

Kamala Harris

00:15:28

Consider not only the chaos and calamity when he was in office, but also the gravity of

what has happened since he lost the last election. Donald Trump tried to throw away your votes. When he failed, he sent an armed mob to the United States Capitol, where they assaulted law enforcement officers. When politicians in his own party begged him to call off the mob and send help, he did the opposite. He fanned the flames.

Kamala Harris

00:16:14

And now for an entirely different set of crimes. He was found guilty of fraud by a jury of everyday Americans, and separately and separately, found liable for committing sexual abuse. And considered. Consider what he intends to do if we give him power again. Consider his explicit intent to set free violent extremists who assaulted those law enforcement officers at the Capitol.

Kamala Harris

00:16:54

His explicit intent to jail journalists, political opponents, and anyone he sees as the enemy. His explicit intent to deploy our active duty military against our own citizens. Consider the power he will have, especially after the United States Supreme Court just ruled that he would be immune from criminal prosecution.

Kamala Harris

00:17:32

Just imagine Donald Trump with no guard rails, and how he would use the immense powers of the presidency of the United States not to improve your life. Nothing to strengthen our national security, but to serve the only client he has ever had. Himself.

Kamala Harris

00:18:09

And we know, and we know what a second Trump term would look like. It's all laid out in project 2025, written by his closest advisors. And its sum, um, total, is to pull our country back to the past. But America, we are not going back. We are not going back.

Kamala Harris

00:18:34

We are not going back.

Kamala Harris

00:18:38

We are not going back to when Donald Trump tried to cut Social Security and Medicare. We are not going back to when he tried to get rid of the Affordable Care act, when insurance companies could deny people with pre existing conditions. We are not going to let him eliminate the department of education that funds our public schools.

Kamala Harris

00:19:07

We are not going to let him end programs like head start that provide preschool and

childcare for our children. America, we are not going back.

Kamala Harris

00:19:26

And, uh, we are charting. And we are charting a new way forward. Forward to a future with a strong and growing middle class. Because we know a strong middle class has always been critical to America's success. And building that middle class will be a defining goal of my presidency.

Kamala Harris

00:20:00

And I'll tell you this, is personal for me. The middle class is where I come from. My mother kept a strict budget. We lived within our means, yet we wanted for little. And she expected us to make the most of the opportunities that were available to us and to be grateful for them.

Kamala Harris

00:20:24

Because, as she taught us, opportunity is not available to everyone. That's why we will create what I call an opportunity economy. An opportunity economy where everyone has the chance to compete and a chance to succeed, whether you live in a rural area, small town, or big city. And as president, I will bring together labor and workers and small business owners and entrepreneurs and american companies to create jobs to grow our economy and to lower the cost of everyday needs like healthcare, care, and housing and groceries. We will provide access to capital for small business owners and entrepreneurs and founders.

Kamala Harris

00:21:22

And we will end America's housing shortage and protect Social Security and Medicare.

Kamala Harris

00:21:36

Now, compare that to Donald Trump, because I think everyone here knows he doesn't actually fight for the middle class. He doesn't actually fight for the middle class. Instead, he fights for himself and his billionaire friends. And he will give them another round of tax breaks that will add up to \$5 trillion to the national debt. And all the while, he intends to enact what, in effect, is a national sales tax, call it a Trump tax, that would raise prices on middle class families by almost \$4,000 a year.

Kamala Harris

00:22:19

Well, instead of a Trump tax hike, we will pass a middle class tax cut that will benefit more than 100 million Americans.

Friends, I believe America cannot truly be prosperous unless Americans are fully able to make their own decisions about their own lives, especially on matters of heart and home.

Kamala Harris

00:22:59

But tonight in America, too many women are not able to make those decisions. And let's be clear about how we got here. Donald Trump hand picked members of the United States Supreme Court to take away reproductive freedom. And now he brags about it. In his words, I did it, and I'm proud to have done it.

Kamala Harris

00:23:26

End quote. Well, I'll tell you. Over the past two years, I've traveled across our country, and women have told me their stories. Husbands and fathers have shared theirs. Stories of women miscarrying in a parking lot, developing sepsis, losing the ability to ever again have children, all because doctors are afraid they may go to jail for caring for their patients.

Kamala Harris

00:24:00

Couples just trying to grow their family, cut off in the middle of ivf treatments, children who have survived sexual assault, potentially being forced to carry a pregnancy to terminal. This is what's happening in our country because of Donald Trump. And understand, he is not done as a part of his agenda, he and his allies would limit access to birth control, ban medication abortion, and enact a nationwide abortion ban with or without Congress. And get this, get this. He plans to create a national anti abortion coordinator and force states to report on women's miscarriages and abortions.

Kamala Harris

00:25:01

Simply put, they are out of their minds.

Kamala Harris

00:25:13

And one must ask, one must ask, why exactly is it that they don't trust women? Well, we trust women. We trust women.

Kamala Harris

00:25:34

And when Congress passes a bill to restore reproductive freedom, as president of the United States, I will proudly sign it into law.

Kamala Harris

00:25:54

In this election. Many other fundamental freedoms are at stake. The freedom to live safe from gun violence in our schools, communities, and places of worship. The freedom to

love who you love openly and with pride. The freedom to breathe clean air and drink clean water, and live free from the pollution that fuels the climate crisis and the freedom that unlocks all the others.

Kamala Harris

00:26:30

The freedom to vote.

Kamala Harris

00:26:34

With this election, we finally have the opportunity to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights act and the Freedom to vote act.

Kamala Harris

00:26:52

And let me be clear, and let me be clear, after decades right in law enforcement, I know the importance of safety and security, especially at our border. Last year, Joe and I brought together Democrats and conservative Republicans to write the strongest border bill in decades. The border Patrol endorsed it. But Donald Trump believes a border deal would hurt his campaign, so he ordered his allies in Congress to kill the deal. Well, I refuse to play politics with our security, and here is my pledge to you as president, I will bring back the bipartisan border security bill that he killed, and I will sign it into law.

Kamala Harris

00:27:47

I know. I know. We can live up to our proud heritage as a nation of immigrants and reform our broken immigration system. We can create an earned pathway to citizenship and secure our border and America. We must also be steadfast in advancing our security and values abroad.

Kamala Harris

00:28:24

As vice president, I have confronted threats to our security, negotiated with foreign leaders, strengthened our alliances, and engaged with our brave troops overseas. As commander in chief, I will ensure America always has the strongest, most lethal fighting force in the world.

Kamala Harris

00:28:53

And I will fulfill our sacred obligation to care for our troops and their families. And I will always honor and never disparage their service and their sacrifice.

Kamala Harris

00:29:18

I will make sure that we lead the world into the future on space and artificial intelligence, that America, not China, wins the competition for the 21st century, and that we

strengthen, not abdicate, our global leadership. Trump, on the other hand, threatened to abandon NATO. He encouraged Putin, um, to invade our allies, said Russia could, quote, do whatever the hell they want. Five days before Russia attacked Ukraine. I met with President Zelenskyy to warn him about Russia's plan to invade.

Kamala Harris

00:30:06

I helped mobilize a global response over 50 countries to defend against Putin's aggression. And as president, I will stand strong with Ukraine and our NATO allies.

Kamala Harris

00:30:30

With respect to the war in Gaza, President Biden and I are working around the clock because now is the time to get a hostage deal and a ceasefire deal done.

Kamala Harris

00:30:50

And let me be. Let me clear, and let me be clear. I will always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself. And I will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself, because the people of Israel must never again face the horror that a terrorist organization called Hamas caused on October, including unspeakable sexual violence and the massacre of young people at a music festival. At the same time.

Kamala Harris

00:31:32

What has happened in Gaza, uh, over the past ten months is devastating. So many innocent lives lost, desperate, hungry people fleeing for safety over and over again. The scale of suffering is heartbreaking. President Biden and I are working to end this war such that Israel is secure. The hostages are released, the suffering in Gaza ends, and the palestinian people can realize their right to dignity, security, freedom and self determination.

Kamala Harris

00:32:23

And know this. I will never hesitate to take whatever action is necessary to defend our forces and our interests against Iran and Iran. Back terrorists. I will not cozy up to tyrants and dictators like Kim Jong un who are rooting for Trump. Who are rooting for Trump because, you know, they know.

Kamala Harris

00:32:52

They know he is easy to manipulate with flattery and favors. They know Trump won't hold autocrats accountable because he wants to be an autocrat himself.

Kamala Harris

00:33:08

And as president, I will never waver in defense of America's security and ideals, because in the enduring struggle between democracy and tyranny, I know where I stand and I know where the United States belongs.

Kamala Harris

00:33:39

So, fellow Americans, fellow Americans, I love our country with all my heart. Everywhere I go, everywhere I go, in, everyone I meet, I see a nation that is ready to move forward, ready for the next step in the incredible journey that is America. I see an America where we hold fast to the fearless belief that built our nation and inspired the world. That here in this country, anything is possible, that nothing is out of reach. An America where we care for one another, look out for one another, and recognize that we have so much more in common than what separates us.

Kamala Harris

00:34:51

That none of us. None of us has to fail for all of us to succeed, and that in unity, there is strength. You know, our opponents in this race are out there every day denigrating America talking about how terrible everything is. Well, my mother had another lesson she used to teach. Never let anyone tell you who you are.

Kamala Harris

00:35:28

You show them who you are, America. Um. Let us show each other and the world who we, uh, are and what we stand for. Freedom, opportunity, compassion, dignity, fairness, and endless possibilities.

Kamala Harris

00:36:04

We are the heirs to the greatest democracy in the history of the world. And on behalf of our children and our grandchildren and all those who sacrificed so dearly for our freedom and liberty, we must be worthy this moment. It is now our turn to do what generations before us have done, guided by optimism and faith. To fight for this country we love, to fight for the ideals we cherish, and to uphold the awesome responsibility that comes with the greatest privilege on earth. The privilege and pride of being an American.

Kamala Harris

00:37:19

So let's get out there. Let's fight for it. Let's get out there. Let's vote for it. And together, let us write the next great chapter in the most extraordinary story ever told.

Kamala Harris

00:37:39

Thank you. God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America. Thank you all.