

# Mark Cuban & Kamala Harris on the Economy, Trump, and the American Dream | 10.23.24

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## Speakers:

Kamala Harris - 44.68%

Mark Cuban - 55.32%

## Notes:

Key Discussion Points

Economic Policy & Trump Criticism

Both strongly criticized Donald Trump's proposed 60% tariff on Chinese imports

Cuban warned this would increase Christmas gift prices and harm small businesses

Harris cited Goldman Sachs, Moody's, and 16 Nobel laureates predicting Trump's policies would "incite inflation and invite a recession by mid-next year"

## Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Discussed importance of supporting entrepreneurs and small business owners  
Harris emphasized need for smart government spending with measurable returns  
Cuban praised Harris's understanding of entrepreneurial challenges  
Both contrasted self-made business people with Trump's inherited wealth

## Policy Proposals

Harris discussed plans to increase housing supply and reduce regulatory red tape  
Highlighted \$6,000 tax credit proposal for childcare to help working parents  
Emphasized making the American Dream more accessible to younger generations

**Kamala Harris** 00:00:00

You know, I watched shark tank all the time.

**Mark Cuban** 00:00:01

See, I knew I liked you, and.

**Kamala Harris** 00:00:02

Then I often depending on. Cause, you know, there are a lot of reruns. I'll look it up to see how the company's doing.

**Mark Cuban** 00:00:07

Well, hopefully mine are doing well.

**Kamala Harris** 00:00:09

Hey, how are you, Mark?

**Mark Cuban** 00:00:11

Good. Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you. So excited to talk to you.

**Kamala Harris** 00:00:14

I am excited to talk with you.

So, I know it's a grind with an NBA season going city to city. So what does it feel like?

**Kamala Harris**

00:00:22

I mean, just physically, you know, long days. I start every day. I work out every morning.

**Mark Cuban**

00:00:28

And what's your workout?

**Kamala Harris**

00:00:29

Elliptical. And then I go. And I go all day long.

**Mark Cuban**

00:00:33

And are you just exhausted at the end of the day?

**Kamala Harris**

00:00:35

You know, your body doesn't lie to you when you first wake up in the morning.

**Mark Cuban**

00:00:39

Yep.

**Kamala Harris**

00:00:40

And then your brain kicks in and says, oh, everything will be fine. Right.

**Mark Cuban**

00:00:42

No workout just gets you going.

**Kamala Harris**

00:00:44

And it gets me going every morning.

**Mark Cuban**

00:00:45

So here's the other question I've been asked. We've talked about tech and innovation, how important it is to the economy and just dominating globally, right? Do you ever geek out at all?

**Kamala Harris**

00:00:53

All the time.

So tell me about that.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:00:55**

So, my mother was a scientist, right? So I grew up as a kid going to the lab. I grew up seeing her have a passion about. She wanted to end breast cancer. She wanted to find a cure, and she did make breakthroughs in breast cancer.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:01:07**

That's amazing.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:01:08**

And I probably. That's where I just. The source of my geeky, it all comes from.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:01:11**

Right? So now I gotta ask, you know, I was at your speech in Pittsburgh, and you talked about it took only a year to build the Empire State Building. And then you said that you were gonna cut permitting. You were cut the time for license, all the red tapes. So how do we take that and use it to cut the deficit?

**Kamala Harris**

**00:01:27**

So, part of it is we cannot be rote in terms of how we think about deficits, to say government spends too much. Cause I think that is overly simplistic.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:01:36**

I agree.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:01:37**

We have to ask, are we spending it in a smart way such that we are yielding a return on that investment?

**Mark Cuban**

**00:01:44**

Just a regular business.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:01:45**

But this is exactly right.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:01:47**

I get all that. Right. So here's kind of the angle. I always look at Tara's. I've known Donald Trump 25 years. He used to be okay on trade policy, but over the last 25 years, he's just lost it.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:01:55**

I don't think he pays attention to the details. And you can't be president, United States.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:01:59**

Unless you pay attention to the details.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:02:01**

Yeah, that's fine if he wants to, you know, just give speeches in random places for random reasons, but to talk about such significant policy like tariffs, much less foreign policy, he is applying a machete when a scalpel is what's necessary.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:02:18**

It makes no sense to me whatsoever. To me, I think Donald Trump is the Grinch that stole Christmas. This time next year, we're gonna be thinking about Christmas presents for all of our kids. And if he puts a 60% tariff on everything from China, those prices are going up. And now, all of a sudden, your vision of everything you wanted to have for your kids at Christmas is gone.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:02:39**

Donald Trump just crushed it. And it's not just crushing people's christmases. Those small companies that support communities. Now, all of a sudden, not only did their costs go up 60%, but their businesses were just shut.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:02:52**

Right.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:02:52**

He is going to put who knows how many small businesses out of business.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:02:57**

Goldman Sachs, Moody's, Wall Street Journal, most recently, 16 Nobel laureates have all examined our policies. Mine, as has been reviewed, will strengthen the economy. His will weaken it. It will incite inflation and invite a recession by the middle of next year.

Mark, I don't think he's ever run a company where you have to go deal with the fundamental basis of your business. He has no clue. And the worst part is, he doesn't care.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:03:25**

You know, let's not forget, he was handed so much of what he's had and has lost it.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:03:29**

Mm hmm.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:03:30**

And he doesn't understand how people like you and so many others, and this is what I love about the American people who are hardworking, who have grit, who are innovative, and who start with nothing and make something. And that's something he doesn't get.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:03:46**

No, obviously, I've been investing in startups forever. When I work with these companies, it's their whole life. They've given up something. And he doesn't realize that this person has worked five years, ten years, to save up enough money to start this business, or they just went for it, and he doesn't get that.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:04:04**

And that's where the tax credit, and that's the other reason why talking about childcare and daycare, being able to have \$6,000. So if you have a child and a newborn, you can keep on working.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:04:14**

A crib and a car seat, how are they going to actually afford, especially during that first year of the child's life right now, for so many of Gen Z, Gen X, the idea of the American dream is really elusive. It was an older concept it's tough. And a big part of it being housing supply.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:04:30**

We don't have enough, and so the prices go up. That's why I want to build more housing supply, but also work with developers and home builders to cut the red.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:04:39**

Tape and to get them hardcore entrepreneurs. Hardcore entrepreneurs, yeah. I think that is so important because, you know, one of the questions I get all the time is about work life balance, because it's a challenge. You know, you've got to pay the mortgage, you've

got to pay the rent, whatever. You got to pay the car payment and insurance.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:04:55**

It's a tough decision to go start a business. Having a \$6,000 tax credit gives you the comfort that you can get somebody to help your child. You can have some work life balance. And I don't think he's never been in that situation. Not all those people started like Donald Trump with a silver spoon, right?

**Mark Cuban**

**00:05:10**

These are people putting their life on the line.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:05:12**

It's that energy and that grit, to your point, that is gonna spur us into the future. Right? Because here's the other thing about entrepreneurs. You can't be a successful entrepreneur without actually thinking about where things going.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:05:25**

Look, we're here in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and we're gonna be talking to a bunch of kids, and I guarantee you one of them is gonna start a business. And that business just might be the next Nike, might be that. It's those kids that are gonna change the world, invent the next technology.

**Kamala Harris**

**00:05:38**

The idea of knowing that it is possible for us if we work and study something, that we can create something that improves and uplifts the human condition. Of course, that excites me to no end. Like, that's where I see where we could actually combine a lot of our areas of focus, for sure.

**Mark Cuban**

**00:05:55**

And I wanted to let you know that as an entrepreneur, as an investor, as a geek, the things that you're doing matter. I'm getting more and more people emailing me, calling me, saying maybe she really understands what it takes to be an entrepreneur, what it takes to be successful. And I know you've committed to that, so it's awesome.