

Kamala Harris & Charlamagne Tha God on We The People | October 15, 2024

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Speakers:

Speaker A - 0.8%

Charlamagne Tha God - 15.63%

Kamala Harris - 74.79%

Speaker D - 1.14%

Speaker E - 3.56%

Speaker F - 0.81%

Speaker G - 1.23%

Speaker H - 2.04%

Notes:

No notes.

Speaker A **00:00:00**

We, the people in audio town hall with Vice President Kamala Harris, in conversation with Charlemagne, the God. Live from Detroit, Michigan, and exclusively on iheartRadio, we'll tackle the tough questions, the pressing issues, and the future of our nation. Now here's your host, Charlamagne the God.

Charlamagne Tha God **00:00:20**

Yes, peace to the planet. Charlamagne the God here with Madam Vice President Kamala Harris. How are you?

Kamala Harris **00:00:26**

Very well. Charlamagne. How you doing?

Charlamagne Tha God **00:00:28**

Listen, we got 20 days and 60 minutes, so we just need to get to it.

Kamala Harris **00:00:30**

I'm with you, although it's 21 days.

Charlamagne Tha God **00:00:32**

How are you? Cause you did just walk in. You was kinda late, so.

Kamala Harris **00:00:35**

Well, I try to be on time. Apparently I'm 40 seconds late. You're right.

Charlamagne Tha God **00:00:39**

Well, you are black. Okay. Okay. Now, you know one thing they've been saying. A lot of your press hits get criticized. You know, folks say you come off as very scripted. They say you like to stick to your talking points. And some media says you have.

Kamala Harris **00:00:52**

That would be called discipline.

Charlamagne Tha God **00:00:54**

Ooh.

Uh huh. Okay, but go on.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:00:56

No. Okay. Some people say you have an inability to fearlessly say who you are and what you believe. I know that's not true, but what do you say to that criticism? And is it fair for SNL to make fun of it?

Kamala Harris

00:01:06

Hasn't Maya Rudolph been wonderful?

Charlamagne Tha God

00:01:08

Yes.

Kamala Harris

00:01:09

I think I have nothing but admiration for the comedy, and I think it's important to be able to laugh at yourself and each other.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:01:16

But what do you say, people, in.

Kamala Harris

00:01:17

The spirit of obviously, comedy and not belittling people, as my opponent would do.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:01:23

But what do you say to people who say, you stay on the talking points?

Kamala Harris

00:01:27

I would say you're welcome.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:01:28

Mm hmm.

Kamala Harris

00:01:29

I mean, listen, here's the thing. I love having conversations, which is why I'm so happy to be with you this afternoon. And the reality is that there are certain things that must be repeated to ensure that I have everyone know what I stand for and the issues that I think are at stake in this election.

And so it requires repetition. You know, some people say that if until someone has heard the same thing at least three times, it just doesn't stay with you. So repetition is important. And for that reason, yes, at my rallies, I say the same thing when I go to Detroit as I do and Philly as I do wherever I am to make sure that people hear and receive what I think are some of the most critical issues that are at stake in this election.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:02:13

There has to be a high level of anxiety, too, when you have these conversations, though. Cause you are running for president.

Kamala Harris

00:02:20

I mean, you know what? There is certainly a lot of, I feel the weight of, of the moment and my role. I feel an extraordinary weight of responsibility right now to do everything I can. I'm telling you, Charlamagne, when I go to bed at night, I, almost every night, in addition to my prayers, will ask, have I done everything I could do today?

00:02:47

This is a margin of error race. It's tight. I'm going, I'm going in. But it's tight. And, you know, what is at stake is truly profound and historic, many would say. And it's about, you know, some people would say this lofty notion of supporting and preserving our democracy. But it is about real issues that affect people every day, like whether we're going to maintain a \$35 cap on insulin for our seniors, whether we're going to continue to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices to bring them down, whether we are going to have, as my opponent would have, a formalized stop and frisk policy for which he has said, if a police department does not do it, they should be defunded or not.

00:03:38

There is so much at stake whether America is going to stand on its principles around the importance of sovereignty and territorial integrity and stand with our allies around the world, going to admire dictators and send, during the height of COVID and the pandemic, Covid tests that nobody could get to the president of Russia for his personal use.

00:03:58

When black people were dying every day by the hundreds during that time.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:04:02

Yeah, I feel like that one has gone over people's heads. The fact that he was sending Covid tests to Putin.

I mean, you know, I invite, I don't. Your listeners, the people we know, the number of people who lost their grandparents and parents, remember what that was like during the height of COVID and a lot of it, people were scrambling for the resources and needed tests. And Donald Trump, during that time, secretly sent Covid tests to the president of Russia, who, by the way, do not forget in the 2016 election.

00:04:36

Cause I was a member of the Senate intelligence Committee when we investigated it, targeted black voters in 2016 with missing disinformation to discourage black people from voting in that election. And this is just another of the very many examples of who Donald Trump really is.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:04:58

Yes.

Kamala Harris

00:04:58

And the danger he presents to real people.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:05:01

Sending Covid tests to Russia, that doesn't sound very America first at all. But it's not just you versus Trump. It's you versus misinformation.

Kamala Harris

00:05:07

Yes, that's true.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:05:08

Right. And one of the biggest pieces of misinformation, one of the biggest allegations against you is that you targeted and locked up thousands of black men in San Francisco for weed. Some say you did it to boost your career. Some say you did it out of pure hate for black men. Please tell us the facts.

00:05:22

What's the facts of that situation?

Kamala Harris

00:05:23

It's just simply not true. And what public defenders who are around those days will tell you. I was the most progressive prosecutor in California on marijuana cases and would not send people to jail for simple possession of weed. And as vice president, have been a

champion for bringing marijuana down on the schedule.

00:05:45

So instead of it being ranked up there with heroin, we bring it down. And my pledge is, as president, I will work on decriminalizing it, because I know exactly how those laws have been used to disproportionately impact certain populations and specifically black Mendez.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:06:02

Before we get into the talk back feature and take some questions from the audience, I do want to talk to you about the legalization of weed. Cause you're saying you want to legalize it. Now, what steps did the Biden administration take to get closer to that reality?

Kamala Harris

00:06:14

So we had to work with the DEA, and there's a certain level of bureaucracy that exists in the federal government that slows things down, but essentially to bring down how weed is classified, how marijuana is classified, to make it classified as a lesser harm. And so that took some time. There's a whole process around that.

00:06:39

But that's the work that we have done in addition to work that we have done writ large on criminal justice reform.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:06:45

Okay, let's take some calls. Let's take some. Well, not calls. Let's go to the talkback feature.

Kamala Harris

00:06:50

My question for Kamala is, why are we, and I say we because my tax dollars is sending the money. Why are we sending money to other countries when we desperately need it in our own country for homeless, housing resources, for whatever. That is my determining factor if I vote for Kamala or not.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:07:16

That's one of the reasons the America first rhetoric resonates. Cause nobody in America would complain about where money was going if american citizens every day needs were being met. So what do you say to that?

Kamala Harris

00:07:26

We can do it all. And we do so. First of all, I maintain very strongly America should never

pull ourselves away from our responsibility as a world leader. And that is in the best interest of our national security and each one of us as Americans and our standing in the world. That being said, we also have an obligation to American citizens, obviously, and people who are here to meet their everyday needs and challenges, which is why, for example, we have done the work in the last four years of bringing down the cost of prescription medication, whether it be \$35 a month for seniors for insulin, or \$2,000 a year cap on prescription medication.

00:08:12

What we have done that has been about putting \$17 billion in our HBCUs. I am proud to be the first HBCU vice president of the United States. To be the first HBCU president of the United States. Those resources are about sending them to centers of academic excellence that I know them to be.

00:08:29

The work that I continue to do is about increasing access to capital for our small businesses. It is about increasing the opportunity for home ownership, knowing that Black people are 40% less likely to be homeowners in America. We have a history of legal and procedural obstacles to that home ownership, starting with the fact nobody got 40 acres and a mule to redlining, to issues that this Detroit area and people around the country know to be real.

00:08:58

So part of my plan is that we're going to give people a \$25,000 down payment assistance to get their foot in the door to buy a home for first-time home buyers. The work that I'm going to do to increase housing supply in America, knowing that that's one of the reasons that rents and housing prices are jacked up, and to work with the private sector, cut through the red tape, and work to build more housing.

00:09:21

3 million before the end of my first term. And I give these examples, and there are many more which I will offer. So, for example, the work that I will do to extend the child tax credit to \$6,000 for young families during the first year of their child's life. Cause as you and I both know, our families all have a natural desire to parent their children well, but not always the resources.

00:09:43

So by expanding the child tax credit to the first year of child's life to \$6,000, that gives that young family the ability to buy a car seat or a crib or clothes, the things that are so important during that critical phase of that child's development, so that they can get on

the road and actually have a chance at succeeding.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:10:01

You know, you said, we can do it all, but can we? Cause, you know, Tupac famously said, you know, we got money for war, but can't feed the poor, right? And I saw President Obama say last week that, you know, you really shouldn't expect, you know, a president to rid the world of all of its problems.

00:10:19

So is it fair to tell people, hey, we can do it all? Cause that's when people get disappointed when things don't happen.

Kamala Harris

00:10:24

But I think President Obama is absolutely correct. But it doesn't mean we can't do anything.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:10:30

That's right.

Kamala Harris

00:10:31

So when I talk about extending the child tax credit, when I was vice president, I pushed that we would do it during our first year, and we reduced black child poverty in America by 50%. We did that. We can do that. My plan, that is about building up home ownership in the black community.

00:10:49

We can do that. My work, that has been about increasing access to capital, bringing billions more dollars into our community. Banks, which I've done as vice president, through cooperation and partnership with some of the big banks and tech companies to get more access to capital for our entrepreneurs, for our businesses. We've done that.

00:11:06

So we should never sit back and say, okay, I'm not gonna vote because everything hasn't been solved. I share a desire that everything should be solved, by the way. I think it is what we should all want. But that doesn't. That shouldn't stand in the way of us also knowing we can participate in a process that's about improving things.

00:11:28

And by voting in this election, you have two choices, or you don't vote, but you have two choices if you do. And it's two very different visions for our nation. One mind that is about taking us forward and progress and investing in the american people, investing in their ambitions, dealing with their challenges.

00:11:49

And the other, Donald Trump, is about taking us backward.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:11:52

The other is about fascism. Why can't we just say it?

Kamala Harris

00:11:55

Yes, we can say that.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:11:57

Yeah. Reverend Solomon Kinlock, Junior. I want you to meet him. He is the senior pastor of Triumph Church. Where's Reverend Kinloch?

Kamala Harris

00:12:05

Oh, he's here.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:12:05

Come on. Tell Secret Service. Move out the way. It's okay. It's just the reverend. Yeah. All right.

Kamala Harris

00:12:09

Hey, Reverend.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:12:10

What's up? Reverend.

Speaker D

00:12:11

Madam Vice president. Charlemagne. Thank you all for being in Detroit tonight.

Kamala Harris

00:12:15

Thank you.

Recently, Madam vice president, by one of Trump's surrogates from the black faith based community. You've been criticized by him and others for your lack of engagement to the black church. Knowing that the black church is an unrivaled place in the heart of black people, what could you speak to as it relates to a future Harris administration?

00:12:42

How you would partner with the black church to address some of the urgent needs of the black community? Doctor King talked about the fierce urgency of right now. And as a church, Triumph church is in that place.

Kamala Harris

00:12:54

So, first of all, that allegation, of course, is coming from the Trump team because they are full of missing disinformation because they are trying to disconnect me from the people I have worked with and that I am from so that they can try and have some advantage in this election. Cause otherwise they have nothing to run on.

00:13:15

I grew up in the black church. I grew up. I grew up attending 23rd Avenue Church of God in Oakland, California.

Speaker D

00:13:23

That's church.

Kamala Harris

00:13:24

Yes, that is church. My pastor is Amos C. Brown of Third Baptist Church in San Francisco, California.

Speaker D

00:13:31

Yes.

Kamala Harris

00:13:32

I have throughout my career and as vice president, and recently been actively engaged in the church and church leaders, not only so we can share in fellowship, but so we can share in what we can do together. That is about supporting the community, the strength of the community, the cohesion of the community.

00:13:54

And it is my longstanding work and therefore my pledge going forward, I will always work

closely with the church because I understand who our church leaders are and who the congregation is. We are talking about people who are driven by faith and the ability to see what is possible by faith. Where I was raised, and I know many of us were understanding that our God is a loving goddess, that our faith propels us to act in a way that is about kindness and justice and mercy.

00:14:27

That is about lifting one another up. And let's talk about the contrast here. Donald Trump and his followers spend full time trying to suggest that the measure of the strength of a leader is based on who you beat down, which is absolutely contrary to the church. I know he sells bibles, though, where our church and my church is about saying true leadership.

00:14:50

The measure of that is based on who you lift up and. Right. And then he's selling \$60 bibles or tennis shoes and trying to play people as though that makes him more understanding of the black community. Come on.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:15:08

Thank you, Reverend.

Speaker D

00:15:09

Thank you for the correction.

Kamala Harris

00:15:10

Thank you, Reverend. And God is good every day, all the time.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:15:14

There you go. Had to make sure you get that right. Now, have you seen the clip, Madam Vice president, from the griot? It's a clip that's kind of out of context, and it says that you won't do anything specifically for black people. Have you seen that? Have you?

Kamala Harris

00:15:27

I've not seen that.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:15:28

It's a clip that has you saying that you're not going to do anything specifically for black people.

Well, that's just not true. And listen, again, you said it at the beginning of this visit, Charlemagne. One of the biggest challenges that I face is missing disinformation. And it's purposeful because it is meant to convince people that they somehow should not believe that the work that I have done has occurred and has meaning.

00:16:00

My work, from the beginning of my career through today, has been about. For example, we've talked about it, whether it be on HBCUs, whether it be on healthcare. Black maternal mortality. I am singularly, many would say, one of the highest level leaders in our country to bring the issue of black maternal mortality to the stage of the White House to address it.

00:16:22

The work that I've done that has been about focusing on my knowledge and my experience and my life experience of knowing the entrepreneurship that we have in the community, the ambition, the aspirations, the dreams, and then tapping into that. So that not only has my work been about ensuring that we have some of the lowest black unemployment ever in our country, but that also knowing that that should be a baseline, that everybody has a job, and what we should be invested in is also building wealth in the community and intergenerational wealth.

00:16:57

Many, many examples of that. But again, part of the challenge that I face is that they are trying to scare people away because they know they otherwise have nothing to run on. Ask Donald Trump what his plan is for black America. Ask him. I'll tell you what it is. Look at project 2025.

00:17:20

Project 2025 tells you the plan includes making police departments have stop and frisk policies. The plan includes making it more difficult for workers to receive overtime pay. The plan includes ending the ability of Medicare to negotiate drug prices. You know what we have done? He said he would. We did. Which means that that's how we brought down the cost of prescription medication.

00:17:47

His plan includes making it more difficult for working people to get by and to destroy our democracy. You know what he says he'll do? Terminate the Constitution of the United States.

That's right.

Kamala Harris

00:17:59

Let me remind folks, you know what's in the Constitution of the United States? The Fourth Amendment, which protects you against unreasonable searches and seizures. The Fifth Amendment, the 6th Amendment, the 14th Amendment. And he's gonna terminate the constitution of the United States, which in most of those amendments, one thing or another was about a movement spurred by black people to ensure that we would be equally protected under the law.

00:18:24

Come on.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:18:25

Let's take a question from talkBack. Hi, my name is Joshua Fisher, age 31 years old, african american male from Las Vegas, Nevada. I'd like to ask Madam vice president, what laws does she have planned to make sure that there's a stop to police brutality and murders that have been going on viciously.

Kamala Harris

00:18:43

So, again, the work that I have done through my career, and the most recently, even when I was in the United States Senate to help write the George Floyd justice and policing Act. Cory Booker and I worked very closely on that.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:18:55

Could you tell people why that didn't pass? To give folks a quick civics lesson.

Kamala Harris

00:18:59

We couldn't get the votes in Congress. There's a clip somewhere of me fighting with a YDe, a republican senator, to actually. Right. To actually get it passed. We couldn't get it passed. But what we did when we came in office and during the time that I've been vice president is we passed an executive order.

00:19:23

So whereas we were trying, and I have been trying to make these things national so that everyone would have to do it. An executive order by the president and our administration says that for federal law enforcement, the following things have to happen which we, for the first time, put in place. No knock warrants, barring chokeholds.

A national database. Now, it's for federal law enforcement, but a national database for us to collect information and track police officers who have broken the law. And this is no small issue, this piece, in addition to everything else, because, as we know, we've seen plenty of examples of a police officer who committed misconduct in one jurisdiction and then goes to another jurisdiction and gets hired because there's no, there's no place that's tracking their misconduct.

00:20:09

So these are the, some of the things that we've done. And then, listen, I'm still gonna always work on getting the George Floyd justice and Policing act passed. Part of the work that I'm doing as a candidate for president of the United States includes lifting up those candidates who are running either for reelection or for the first time, to Congress, who are supportive of what we need to do on all of the issues we've been discussing, whether it be freedom to vote and passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement act, whether it be freedom to make decisions about your own body, whether it be the freedom to just be and be free from any brutality, including police brutality, when and where it occurs.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:20:48

I think a lot of the frustration comes from people who will say, sometimes politicians volunteer lies. Because, you know, yes, it's great to try to pass the George Floyd Policing act, but you probably know you can't get the votes. So why push that? Why push that on?

Kamala Harris

00:21:01

People know you can't get the votes. I don't subscribe to that approach, and I'm going to tell you why. Look, it took a long time for the Voting Rights act to get done. It took the brutality of what happened when John Lewis and all those were trying to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

00:21:23

It took a lot of work over our history to do what we have accomplished thus far, and we have to remain committed.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:21:32

How do you convince republican senators, as you just said?

Kamala Harris

00:21:35

Well, part of senators, well, part of it is that their constituents are part of this. I mean, we have plenty of folks who want this, who live in districts where they serve. And this is the point, this gets back to the earlier point about you can't let anybody take you out of the

game by not voting the solutions.

00:21:57

And maybe this is the point you're making about what President Obama said. The solutions are not going to happen just overnight. And the solutions that we all want are not going to happen in totality because of one election. But here's the thing. The things that we want and are prepared to fight for won't happen if we're not active.

00:22:16

And if we don't participate, we cannot allow circumstances to take us out the game. Because then basically what we're saying is all those people who are obstructionist, who are standing in the way of change, they're winning. Cause they're convincing people that it can't be done. So take yourself out. Don't participate. Look at that circle.

00:22:38

Look at that vicious circle then. So let's not fall for it.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:22:44

Zeke, this is my man Zeke. He's the president and CEO of New Era Detroit. He wants to talk to you about your black male agenda. Okay, good for the black community or just your agenda for the black community, period. Zeke. What's up, brother?

Speaker E

00:22:56

What up, Doe? What up, Doe? Madam Vice President Charlemagne, the guide. What up, Doe? And welcome to Detroit.

Kamala Harris

00:23:03

Yes, sir, good to be back.

Speaker E

00:23:04

I like to say the real Detroit. Cause I'm up in here. My name is Zeke Newair, founder and CEO. I've worked on the ground here in Detroit and in black communities all across the country for over the past ten years. Actually celebrating our 10th year this past August. In my ten years of organizing, we played a major role in the resurgence of pride and a change of mindset in Detroit neighborhoods across the city.

00:23:35

We are not only known for the work that we do here in Detroit, but across the country in

black communities. Having worked in over 35 cities of the blackest cities in America, saying all that to say, I'm extremely qualified to sit in front of the current vice president and which can be the next president of the United States of America.

00:23:56

As I pose my question to you, I would first like to make it known that I don't have any emotional connections to politicians. I believe that this is one of our biggest flaws in the current political process. I view politics as a business, and America is one of the biggest corporations in the world.

00:24:14

With that being said, I'm here on behalf of the business of the black community. With all that black Americans have been through and contribute to the success of America, I feel that there should be an in depth investigation or evaluation of the lack of resources and current living conditions in black communities nationwide.

00:24:36

My question to you is, what's your stance on reparations? We all know that America became great, you know, off the backs of free black labor. How progressive are you on making it a priority in righting America's wrongs? It's understood that you are running for president for all people of America. Asking for specifics for black communities doesn't mean don't do for others.

00:25:04

But black Americans are heavily asked to vote Democrat and every election for over half a century with very little in return. What are your plans? To address these very important issues and change that narrative.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:25:19

Thank you, Zeke.

Kamala Harris

00:25:19

I appreciate that. Thank you. And thank you for your work. So, to your point. Yes, I am running to be a president for all Americans. That being said, I do have clear eyes about the disparities that exist and the context in which they exist, meaning history. To your point. So my agenda. Well, first of all, on the point of reparations, it has to be studied.

00:25:46

There's no question about that. And I've been very clear about that position. In terms of

my immediate plan. I will tell you a few of the following one, as it relates to the economy, which is a lot of what you have addressed. Look, I grew up in the middle class. My mother, you know, worked hard, raised me and my sister.

00:26:06

And by the time I was in high school, she was able to afford our first home. I know what it means for an individual and a family to have home ownership. I also know, in the context of history, nobody got 40 acres and a mule. We have a history of a number of things, including redlining.

00:26:25

Detroit knows it well. A history of, for example, something that still exists that I've worked on to address, which is racial bias and home appraisals. And we know home ownership is black families are 40% less likely to be homeowners than others. And that home ownership is one of the surest ways to build intergenerational wealth.

00:26:46

Right? Cause when you own a home, that's when, if your child says, daddy, I want to go to college, you can say, sweetheart, don't have to take out a loan, I'll take some equity out of the house. Or if your child says, I want to start a small business. Same point, right? So my plan includes making sure that for first time home buyers, they have a \$25,000 down payment assistance to just get their foot in the door, because we know folks will work hard, they'll save and pay that monthly mortgage.

00:27:14

Second point is to bring down the cost of housing generally, because one of the issues is we have a housing supply shortage. And so that's about working with the private sector in terms of our small businesses, which are part of the backbone of the economy of the black community and part of the backbone of America's economy writ large.

00:27:34

My second mother, the woman who helped raise us, was a small business owner. I know who our small business owners are, and I have convened black small business owners way before I was running for president in my official office at the White House to talk with young entrepreneurs, mostly young, about the work that they are doing.

00:27:52

That is about clean energy, work, technology, as well as the traditional, you know, whether it be a barber shop or a restaurant. One of the big issues facing black entrepreneurs and

black small businesses is access to capital. Cause unlike my opponent, who got handed \$400 million on a silver platter and then filed bankruptcy six times, don't forget that calls himself a businessman.

00:28:15

Not everybody has access to the capital, but we know in the community we do not lack for ambition, aspirations, dreams, hard work ethic. And so my work has been, as vice president, to increase billions of dollars into community banks. And as vice president, part of that work will also be to change the tax deduction for startup small businesses from five thousand dollars to fifty thousand dollars, because nobody can start a small business on \$5,000.

00:28:47

And if you don't otherwise have intergenerational wealth, how are you going to be able to do it? Second point on small business is this. I'm going to do basically, it's a program that is about a \$20,000 non refundable loan to a certain to basically businesses that don't have access to wealth and don't have those relationships, which is going to directly impact a lot of small business, black owned small businesses.

00:29:14

That \$20,000 nonrefundable loan is what would help somebody if they need to buy equipment, right? If they need to buy an extra chalk, depending on what that business is, which we know that's a big part of what holds back our small businesses. Just having enough capital to actually pay for the things that allow you to then put your hard work into play to actually grow your business.

00:29:37

The other piece, and this is something that is critically important is to see black folks, and in particular, black men as a whole human being, and understand that we are talking about sons, we are talking about fathers, we are talking about grandsons, we are talking about grandparents, we are talking about uncles. And so I say that as a preface to say two other things, and then I will keep going.

00:30:02

One to deal with. I mean, you like that you caught that.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:30:08

Okay. Filibuster. Ma'am.

Go ahead. To deal with healthcare for black people, and black men in particular. We know that we still have a lot of work to do to increase, for example, the high risk that we have for colon cancer, for prostate cancer. Right. And to increase screenings and to make sure that people are actually going to get the screenings, not to mention the higher risk for sickle cell.

00:30:33

So part of my agenda is about what we will do to deal with and highlight what we've got to do to focus on black men's health. And then a similar point is, 40% of caregivers are men. And we know culturally, we take care of our elders. And we have a lot of men in the community who are in the sandwich generation who are trying to take care of their young kids and take care of an elder parent or relative.

00:31:03

And it's overwhelming for people to be able to do both. And a lot of people have to end up thinking about leaving their job to just do it.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:31:10

That's right.

Kamala Harris

00:31:10

So my plan is this one, in order for people to then afford assistance for hiring healthcare, home health care, they basically have to go broke to be eligible for Medicaid. My plan is this. Let's have Medicare. And this is. I've mapped it out, and we can make it work. Medicare, cover the cost of home health care for seniors, which means that you are looking at individuals in the context of their whole family.

00:31:41

Because what we know is, again, understanding the culture, understanding the reality, lots of people are having to leave work in order to do that. So these are some examples of my agenda. And overall, it is an agenda that understands, by the way. Cause we've talked already a lot about criminal justice, that the needs of the black community are not just about criminal justice.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:32:03

Mm mm. We need that money.

Kamala Harris

00:32:04

It's about. Yeah. Because here's the thing. We have brought down black unemployment. I

said this earlier to one of the lowest levels in history. But I'm very clear. The community is not gonna stand up and applaud just cause everybody has a job. That should be a baseline. My agenda is about tapping into the ambitions and the aspirations, knowing that folks want to have an opportunity, if they want, they should have a meaningful opportunity to build wealth, including intergenerational wealth.

00:32:35

And that's my agenda.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:32:37

You know, there's a couple of things that you said.

Kamala Harris

00:32:39

I appreciate you. Thank you.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:32:40

Thank you. There was a couple of things that you said that people would say were talking points. But it's really just your story, even though they are becoming your greatest hits when you talk about the middle class and your godmother being a small business owner. But that's just your story.

Kamala Harris

00:32:53

It's my story. Look, I've been in this race 70 days. Some people are just getting to know me. Other people have known me, and I owe it. Listen, I feel very strongly I need to earn every vote, which is why I'm here having this candid conversation with you and your listeners. I have to earn people's support, and I am working to do that.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:33:14

Before we go to another talk back call, I want to say there was a time I had a politician tell me once that if you're running for a national election, it's bad electoral strategy to say you are going to do things specifically for black people, which is why a lot of politicians don't speak directly to their plans for black people.

00:33:30

Is that a thing?

Kamala Harris

00:33:33

I don't know that that's true. I think that what is true is that I am running to be president

for everybody. But I am clear eyed about the history and the disparities that exist for specific communities, and I'm not going to shy away from that. It doesn't mean that my policies aren't going to benefit everybody, because they are.

00:33:52

Everything I just talked about will benefit everybody. Small business owners, whatever their race, their age, their gender, their geographic location, are going to benefit from the fact that I'm going to extend tax deductions to \$50,000. Every first time homeowner, wherever they are, whatever their race, will benefit. If they are a first time home buyer with a \$25,000 down payment assistance, everyone is going to benefit from my plan to extend the child tax credit to \$6,000 for the first year of their child's life.

00:34:20

That's going to benefit everybody. But I do realize, again, that on the issue of home ownership, for example, black people are 40% less likely to own a home.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:34:29

So do you, you know, do you feel like President Obama stepped on your rollout? Because I know you've been working on this black male agenda for a long time and you've been doing the outreach, you know, which was the opportunity economy tour and things like that. But then he made the statements that he made last week.

00:34:44

So everybody thinks this is a reaction to that.

Kamala Harris

00:34:47

Oh, no, no, no. I mean, you just have to. No, obviously not. I've been doing this for quite some time, including before I was running for president.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:34:54

Let's go to talk about Eddie.

Speaker F

00:34:56

Hi, I'm Bobby from Georgia, and I have a question for Kamala Harris. Could you please respond to Trump's claim that he's going to use the Alien Enemies act of 1798 to round up immigrants if he wins the election? This law was last used to put Asian Americans in internment camps during World War Two.

And I have a sneaking suspicion that if Trump wins, he's going to use this law to put anyone that doesn't look white in camps. And I'm scared.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:35:26

Mm.

Kamala Harris

00:35:29

Yeah. So you've hit on a really important point and expressed it. I think so. Well, which is he is achieving his intended effect to make you scared. He is running full time on a campaign that is about instilling fear. Not about hope, not about optimism, not about the future, but about fear. And so this is yet another example.

00:35:56

Look what he did in saying that those legal immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, were eating their pets. He. And by the way, the hypocrisy of it abounds, because on the issue of immigration, let's be clear. Some of the most conservative members of the United States Congress, working with others, came up with a border security bill, which was the strongest, toughest border security bill in a long, long time.

00:36:27

It would have put 1500 more border agents at the border. It would have reduced the flow of fentanyl into our country, which is killing people all over our country of every race and background. It would have allowed us to do more work on prosecuting transnational criminal organizations, which I have done in my career.

00:36:44

Trump got word that that bill was afoot, knew it would fix a problem, and told his buddies in Congress to kill the bill. And you know why? Cause he would prefer to run on a problem instead of fixing a problem. And he's running his campaign in a way that he does these rallies where people, by the way, walk out and does these rallies to try and instill fear.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:37:05

Mm hmm.

Kamala Harris

00:37:06

Around an issue where he actually could be part of a solution, but he chose not to. Cause he prefers to run on a problem instead of fix a problem, call it out and see it for what it is.

But doesn't the Biden administration have to take some blame for the border, though? A lot of the blame, because, I mean, the first three years, y'all. Did get a lot of things wrong with the border.

Kamala Harris

00:37:25

Charlamagne within hours of being inaugurated, the first bill we passed before we did the Inflation Reduction act, before we did the Bipartisan Infrastructure act, before we did the Safer Communities act to deal with gun violence, first thing we dropped was a bill to fix the broken immigration system, which, by the way, Trump did not fix when he was president.

00:37:49

And you can look at every step along the way. We then tightened up the asylum application process. We then worked with what we needed to do to secure ports of entry. We did a number of things, including what we did to try and get that border security bill passed, and then also an executive order that has actually reduced significantly the number of illegal crossings and tightened up what needs to happen in between ports of entry.

00:38:19

But no, we've been working on it ever since. But so what we're working on, but here's what has to happen. Congress has to act to fix the immigration system, and it has been broken for a long time. Congress has to act, but it does not help when finally a bipartisan group got together to fix it and Donald Trump told them, hold on, don't do that.

00:38:44

Cause it won't help me politically.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:38:47

Mm hmm. Why do you allow them to call you the borders are when that's not even your. That wasn't your.

Kamala Harris

00:38:52

No, I'm not giving him permission for that.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:38:53

Oh, you're right. But, I mean, you don't push back on it. Cause that wasn't, that's not, that wasn't your role.

Fact checkers have made that clear. Look, if I responded to every name he called me, I wouldn't be focused on the things that actually help the American people. And that's my focus.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:39:09

That is true. Before we go to talk about, I want us to say something else. I don't feel like the Biden administration has treated Trump like a real threat to democracy, and that's why America doesn't realize how much of a threat he is. It's one thing to say it, but you have to act on it.

00:39:20

Don't you believe Merrick Garland should have moved faster to put Donald Trump in prison for leading an attempt to coup of this country?

Kamala Harris

00:39:26

The Department of Justice has independence in terms of how they make those decisions, as they should. And let's also be very clear. Donald Trump, what do you think? Well, Noel, no, Donald Trump has been very clear that he would weaponize the Department of Justice against his political enemies. He has been very clear that he would take out the independent folks who are in there and put in there instead his loyalists.

00:39:52

So understand, again, you talk about. Cause this brings back to exactly your point about threats to our democracy. Donald Trump would go into the Department of Justice and manipulate it in such a way that it would be used as a weapon against his political enemies.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:40:10

Yeah, he's gonna lock y'all up if he gets back in office.

Kamala Harris

00:40:12

Well, by the way, he's gonna. You should look at his words. I don't think that you, as a journalist, should feel so, so sure that 100%. I'm outta here. Journalists, judges, others. And you know who does that? Dictators do that. Other countries do that, which is say that you're going to send, as he has, the military, to go and suppress peaceful protesters.

00:40:37

That happens in other countries. That's not supposed to happen in America. So do understand when this man says what he says, how that would play out in real time.

So why is it okay for him to say he'll lock up his political opponents, but it's not okay for y'all to say he should be in prison when he's actually committed crimes?

Kamala Harris

00:40:59

Oh, I've been very clear. I think that the court should handle that, and I'm gonna handle November.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:41:08

The court should handle that. Okay, let's go to talk back. Eddie.

Kamala Harris

00:41:10

What we got are men and women in the military are sent to foreign countries to fight for their freedom. Win or lose, Donald Trump has promised to seek revenge. My question is, will our military be there to fight for our freedom after the election? Should Trump start another insurrection? Mm. Well, you raise a profound point that is very much a part of this election cycle in terms of what the American people have a choice right now.

00:41:46

January 6, Donald Trump incited a violent mob to try and undo the will of the people and undo the results of a free and fair election. That violent mob attacked the United States Capitol. Over 140 law enforcement officers were injured. Some of them were killed. And he has said since then that there will be a bloodbath after this election.

00:42:15

He has on your point about the military, referred to members of our military as suckers and losers, which is why, by the way, do see the number of military leaders who worked under his administration who are supporting me. And I will point out what everyone knows, which is that the people who worked the closest with Donald Trump when he was president, worked with him in the Oval Office, saw him at play in the Situation room.

00:42:43

His chief of staff, two secretaries of defense, his national security adviser, and his former vice president have all said he is dangerous and unfit to serve. Mark Milley, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff most recently articulated exactly that point. And again, you know, here's Charlemagne. One of the things that I think is really ironic, but at play, Donald Trump, through his way of trying to name call and demean and divide, tries to project as though those things are a sign of strength, when in fact, the man is really quite weak.

Hes weak. Its a sign of weakness that you want to please dictators and seek their flattery and favor. It's a sign of weakness that you would demean America's military and America's service members. It's a sign of weakness that you don't have the courage to stand up for the constitution of the United States and the principles upon which it stands.

00:43:53

This man is weak and he is unfit.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:43:57

So why is everybody sitting around acting like Donald Trump isn't going to plan to steal this election if he loses? Like, you know, republican officials won't certify the results of the election. We know it's Donald Trump's supreme court. Why are people acting like this is gonna be a free and fair election and he won't try to steal it?

Kamala Harris

00:44:11

Well, but those are two different points.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:44:13

Okay?

Kamala Harris

00:44:13

So it will be a free and fair election if we, the american people, stand up for that. You know, I see it as this. I think that there, democracy has, it's like two points of nature. One, there's a. A fact about a democracy that when it is intact, the strength that it possesses in terms of the protection of people's individual rights and liberties, when a democracy is intact, we protect your rights and your liberties.

00:44:43

Strength. Democracy is also very fragile. It will only be as strong as our willingness, we, the people, to fight for it. And that, as much as anything, is what's at play in this election. Fight for our democracy, flawed though it is, imperfect though it may be, because there are very two real paths right now.

00:45:08

The man has told you he intends to terminate the constitution. The man has told you all these things about his disregard and disrespect for your freedoms and liberty, including the right of a woman to make decisions about her own body. And he hand selected three members of the United States Supreme Court with the intention they would do exactly what they did.

One out of three women in America lives in a state with the Trump abortion ban. You know, every state except Virginia in the south has an abortion ban. You know, where the majority of black women live in the south, in those same states that have some of the highest rates of black maternal mortality.

00:45:45

And they want to strut around talking about this is in the interest of women and children. And they've been silent on an issue like black maternal mortality. But I know that people are aware and clear eyed, and I do believe that on election day, and early voting in Michigan starts in four days, people are going to go to the polls and they're going to vote to stand up for these principles and to stand up for their rights to freedom and liberty and to live and just be free to be.

00:46:23

I believe that.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:46:24

I wanna bring in my guy, icewear vizzle. He's very politically engaged. I wanna ask you a question while he's coming in. It's a quick question. There's a rumor that Janet Jackson is mad at you because you prosecuted her brother, the late, great Michael Jackson. That's on the Internet. Clear that up for people.

Kamala Harris

00:46:37

That's just not true.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:46:38

I know.

Kamala Harris

00:46:39

On either count.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:46:41

Oh, she's not mad at you?

Kamala Harris

00:46:42

Well, I mean, I don't know. I don't know. I have not talked to her, but certainly it's not true about her brother, Bezo Charlemagne.

What's up, Madam Vice president?

Kamala Harris

00:46:50

How you doing?

Speaker G

00:46:50

How you doing today? As we say in Detroit. What up, though? So yesterday I read that there is a new opportunity agenda, a plan for black men, which includes a proposal of forgivable loans up to \$20,000 for 1 million black entrepreneurs. What would you say to the people that would consider the timing of that, of this proposal as political timing?

00:47:13

And how would you speak to the sentiment that support for black men is only sought out during election cycles and feels that building trust requires consistent engagement and genuine investment into the community outside of election periods and political benefits for politicians, and may view that some people in the Democrat party use black Americans to play identity politics.

Kamala Harris

00:47:39

So, first of all, thank you for your question and for being here. I've been in this race about 70 days. You can look at all my work before those 70 days to know that this, what I'm talking about right now, is not new and is not for the sake of winning this election.

00:47:55

This is about a longstanding commitment, including the work that I've done as vice president and before when I was senator and before that. In fact, a lot of what I'm doing that is about my. My economic agenda and opportunity economy was born out of the work I did as vice president, before that, as senator, most recently to get access to capital for our entrepreneurs.

00:48:18

The work that I did in the Senate was about getting a couple billion more dollars into our community banks and then building on that when I became vice president I created, it's called the Economic Opportunity Council, bringing in some of the biggest banks and technology companies to put more into the community banks.

00:48:35

And I'm going to tell you one of the reasons why. Because I have been aware for years, black entrepreneurs only get 1% of venture capital funding. Of all the venture capital

funding, only 1% goes to black entrepreneurs. We don't have the same rates of access to capital, be it through family or through connections.

00:48:58

Which is why I've done the work of putting billions more dollars and working to put billions more dollars into community banks, which go directly to the community. My work around the \$20,000 is building on that and understanding that. You know, I convened, for example, I said this earlier, a group of black entrepreneurs, way before I was running for president in my official office at the white house, to hear I.

00:49:23

Some of the obstacles that they were facing. And one of them was what we need to do around getting folks the help to just be able to buy the equipment they need to run their business. And oftentimes, we find that when black entrepreneurs and black people apply for credit, they're denied at a higher rate than others.

00:49:46

We have also seen, and the data proves this, that all of those realities also tend to dissuade black folks, and black entrepreneurs in particular, from even applying for credit. So my point is to work on every way that we can approach the issue, to encourage people and to invest in their ambition. Cause I know the ambition is there.

00:50:16

I know the talent is there. I know the innovation is there, and certainly the hard work ethic. Absolutely. So this is not new work for me. And you should speak to the american.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:50:27

Rescue plan, too, because, I mean, tens of millions of dollars. I know small businesses in North Carolina that. Small black businesses that got tens of millions of dollars because of that. I hear you speak to that.

Kamala Harris

00:50:35

That's right. And that was from the first time, from when we first came in, the american rescue plan, the work that we have done, the infrastructure bill. I mean, part of that is we made a decision that we were going to increase the number of federal contracts that go to historically underrepresented businesses.

00:50:54

This was way before I was running this years ago. So this is not new work.

Let's go to the talk back feature.

Kamala Harris

00:51:01

On several occasions recently, John Lemon has stated that there's a large group of black men who believe Donald Trump sent them a personal check during COVID. Because his name was on it versus it coming from the government as a stimulus check. Can you provide some clarification on this? Speak to the stimulus. I'm so glad you raised that.

00:51:23

So here's what happened. A majority democratic Congress fought to get those stimulus checks out, fought against resistance by the Trump administration, and won because we had a majority of Democrats in Congress, and that's why those checks went out, as we all know and grew up learning Congress holds the purse strings. It was Congress that made that decision.

00:51:49

And then Donald Trump, never being one to pass up an opportunity to give himself credit when no credit is due, put his name on those checks. And sadly, it resulted in people thinking Donald Trump was responsible for and directly responsible for putting money in their pocket, when, in fact, it was a democratic majority Congress that was responsible for those checks going out.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:52:12

Why is it hard for Democrats to message their wins on the economy? Like, since World War Two, the economy has done better under a Democrat president. This is just a historical fact. But for some reason, the narrative is that the economy does better under Republicans. Why do people believe that? And why don't Democrats push back on that narrative more?

Kamala Harris

00:52:29

Well, you know, I think that part of the issue is that Democrats probably talk about it more in terms of what we are doing for people rather than the economy, when, in fact, when you do for people, the economy grows. And you are absolutely right, Charlemagne. You will look at the growth of the economy and compare it.

00:52:55

Democratic and republican administrations. Democrats have accelerated economic growth. My plan, for example. Okay, so some of the smartest economists in the country have reviewed and compared my plan to Donald Trump's plan for the economy, from

Goldman Sachs to Moody's to 16 Nobel laureates, and even most recently, the Wall Street Journal. And in comparing our two plans, the net result is my plans will strengthen the economy.

00:53:25

His plans will weaken the economy. Their reports come back and include the fact that Donald Trump's plans for the economy would accelerate inflation and invite a recession by the middle of next year. My plans would strengthen the economy as a whole. You look at, under what we've been doing, you look at the stock market as one of the strongest it's ever been.

00:53:46

Wages have outpaced inflation. Inflation is going down to, I think it's now the most recent number is 2.4%. So. But those are, you know, nobody wants to hear an Econ 101 lecture. Right? But the reality of it, to your point, is that under democratic rule, the economy gets strengthened. And certainly, when you look at my plan for my presidency, it will strengthen the economy and it will help people.

00:54:13

And as per the conversation we've been having today, perhaps the issue is that I'm gonna always think about it in the context of how am I helping working people? How am I helping families? How am I helping people in the middle class? How am I helping people who have been without access, having access?

00:54:31

That's how I talk about it. But my plan is about strengthening the economy. And I know when you strengthen the economy, that's how you do it. You do it by investing in the middle class. Let me tell you the contrast. Donald Trump thinks about the economy based on what he has done and will do, cutting taxes for billionaires and the biggest corporations.

00:54:51

That's how he thinks about the economy. He thinks about the economy, not about middle class people trying to not just get by, but get ahead. No, he wants to stop Medicare from being able to negotiate drug prices down from the big pharmaceutical companies.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:55:06

We got a couple more questions. I want to get my man Eric Thompson here. Cause we only got, like, a few more minutes. But I do want to say President Obama was out there

last week waving his finger at black men. When are Liz Cheney and Hillary Clinton gonna wave their finger at white women?

00:55:19

When are Bill Clinton and Joe Biden gonna wave their finger at white men? Because 52% of white women voted for Trump in 2016, 55% voted for Trump in 2020. They all voted against their own interests. When the finger waving gonna start at them?

Kamala Harris

00:55:33

Well, thank you for highlighting that. I do have the support of over 200 Republicans who worked for various administrations, including everyone going back to Ronald Reagan, to the Bushes, to John McCain and Mitt Romney, and including Liz Cheney. And I'm very proud to have her support. And I believe that they, who, many of them who may have voted for Trump before, are supporting me because they know the stakes are so high in terms of our very democracy and rule of law.

00:56:05

And so the finger wagon should start today.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:56:08

Audemars.

Kamala Harris

00:56:10

Well, I think what is happening is that we are all working on reminding people of what is at stake, and that is very important.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:56:20

Eric, real quick, we only got a few minutes.

Speaker H

00:56:23

Only got a few minutes. Thank you, Madam vice president, for having me. Thank you. Charlemagne the guide. So, as a employee of a mission driven, nonprofit bank, I appreciate the efforts in that bank. I work with investor Detroit, but as chief storyteller at the city of Detroit, I spend a lot of time dispelling information about the city of Detroit.

00:56:39

And so I'm sure for those of us who are like me, if Donald Trump doesn't like Detroit so much, he's not. Welcome back now.

But, okay, I don't want to interrupt you. I don't know if everybody else knows what you're talking about. Okay. Go on.

Speaker H

00:56:52

But you can get into it. I just wanted to say that we know that there's been a lot of conversation about growing the middle class. But black men have been taken out of workforce for a myriad of systemic reasons, from mass incarceration to racial bias, fear mongering. But we know that black men are not criminals.

00:57:06

They are criminalized. And that has taken black men out of the home, has taken wealth out of the home. And so, because especially in a city with such high poverty, I've heard a lot about middle class, but I would love to hear more about stair stepping from poverty into middle class so they can take advantage of the opportunities and the policies you're talking about.

Kamala Harris

00:57:23

That's right. And that's real. So, for example, the child tax credit, when we did it, when I first became vice president, we cut black child poverty by half. And, you know, when you deal with poverty for a child, that's about the whole family, right? When you look at the work that we have done that has been about dealing with prescription medication for our seniors, black people are 60% more likely to get diagnosed with diabetes and have.

00:57:56

And when you look at what people are, in terms of on the verge of bankruptcy because of medical bills and medical debt, that's very real. So us capping the cost of something like insulin and prescription medication, not to mention the work that I've been doing to ensure that medical debt does not get included on your credit score, because medical debt comes about because of a medical emergency.

00:58:18

Nobody invites it upon themselves. And back to the point about history and the reality of life. We also know the real disparities around access to meaningful healthcare, which are more likely to result in people facing chronic illness and in a medical emergency. So my work has been and included working to get medical debt not beyond your credit score, so that that thing you did not invite upon yourself would not be the reason that you can't get a lease on an apartment or anything else.

00:58:49

We have to deal with child poverty. We have to deal with poverty, period. And there are many specific ways to do it, including dealing with getting resources into the community that alleviate the burdens that hold people down. But back to Detroit. So, can you imagine? You go to a city and you say you want the votes of those people, and then you disparage the city?

Charlamagne Tha God

00:59:14

Damn.

Kamala Harris

00:59:15

And that's what he did in Detroit. And he has a tendency to mention cities that either have a historically black majority population or a black mayor.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:59:24

That's right. And that's what he did. He only did that to Detroit because Detroit is 78% black and he doesn't want America to look like that. Madam Vice President, thank you. We gotta do this again.

Kamala Harris

00:59:33

We're done.

Charlamagne Tha God

00:59:34

We only according to iHeart. We just wanna keep going. I got more questions for you, but thank you.

Kamala Harris

00:59:40

I appreciate you, charlamagne. Thank you.

Speaker A

00:59:43

This has been iHeartRadio's we the people in audio town hall with Vice President Kamala Harris. Remember, your voice matters. Stay informed, stay engaged, and most importantly, make sure to vote. Thank you for joining us.