

Kamala Harris in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania | October 16, 2024

Auto-transcribed by <https://aliceapp.ai> on Thursday, 17 Oct 2024.

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Words	2,505
Duration	00:25:18
Recorded on	Unknown date
Uploaded on	2024-10-17 00:04:35 UTC
At	Unknown location
Using	Uploaded to aliceapp.ai

Speakers:

Kamala Harris - 100.0%

Notes:

No notes.

Kamala Harris 00:00:00

Hi. Hi, everyone. Good afternoon. Good afternoon, Pennsylvania. Good afternoon, everyone.

Kamala Harris 00:00:12

Good afternoon, Bob and Christina. Thank you so very much for that introduction and for your friendship. And as I've said to all the friends and leaders on the stage with me, um, we had a chance to speak ahead of time. Um, I thank you all for everything that you are doing and the courage you are showing.

Kamala Harris 00:00:31

You know, this is an extraordinary climate right now, and, um, I think we all recognize the courage that you are each showing to speak out so publicly and to put, as we are saying, because we truly believe that country over parity.

Kamala Harris

00:00:48

So, thank you all. Can we please applaud Bob and Christina and all of the folks on the stage, please? Thank you. Thank you.

Kamala Harris

00:01:05

So, if you all have a seat, please do sit. Yes.

Kamala Harris

00:01:11

So, as I think everyone here knows, we meet in a place that holds a very special meaning for our country. Here on Christmas night, 1776, General George Washington and over 2000 troops crossed the icy Delaware river in darkness, then marched to Trenton, where they surprised an outpost of enemy soldiers and achieved a major victory in the American Revolution.

Kamala Harris

00:01:48

And after we won the war and achieved our independence, delegates from across the nation gathered not far from here in Philadelphia to write and to sign the Constitution of the United States.

Kamala Harris

00:02:10

And we remember and reflect on what that moment was, knowing that leading up to that, that work, to write, to compose the Constitution of the United States, that work was not easy. The founders often disagreed, often quite passionately. But in the end, the Constitution of the United States laid out the foundations of our democracy, including the rule of law, that there would be checks and balances, that we would have free and fair elections and a peaceful transfer of power.

Kamala Harris

00:03:09

And these principles and traditions have sustained our nation for over two centuries. Sustained because generations of Americans from all backgrounds, from all beliefs, have cherished them, upheld them, defended them. And now the baton is in our hands. So I am joined today by over 100 republican leaders from across Pennsylvania and across our country who are supporting my candidacy for president of the United States.

Kamala Harris

00:03:58

And I am deeply honored to have their support.

Kamala Harris

00:04:02

Some served in state houses, some in the United States Congress. Some worked for other republican presidents and presidential nominees, including Mitt M. Romney, John McCain, George W. Bush, George Hw. Bush, and Ronald Reagan.

Kamala Harris

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And some today served in Donald Trump's own administration. We also have with us republican voters from here in Pennsylvania and beyond who have been active in their republican parties for years, who have supported republican candidates up and down the ticket. Now, I say all that to make an obvious point in a typical election year, you all being here with me might be a bit surprising, dare I say, unusual.

Kamala Harris

00:05:00

But not in this election. Not in this election.

Kamala Harris

00:05:05

Because at stake in this race are the democratic ideals that our founders and generations of Americans before us have fought for. At stake in this election is the constitution of the United States, its very self. We are here today because we share a core belief that we must put country before party.

Kamala Harris

00:05:53

Indeed, because. And we chant that with such great pride, because we all know, we all have so much more in common than what separates us. And at some point in the career of the folks who joined me on stage, one of the other things that we have in common is in our careers, we have each sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

Kamala Harris

00:06:25

And so we know that sacred oath must always be honored and never violated, and that we should expect anyone who seeks the highest office in our land would meet that standard. We here know the constitution is not a relic from our past, but determines whether we are a country where the people can speak, speak freely, and, ah, even criticize the president without fear of being thrown in jail or targeted by the military.

Kamala Harris

00:07:14

Where the people can worship as they choose, without the government interfering.

Where you can vote without fear that your vote will be thrown away.

Kamala Harris

00:07:36

All of this and more depends on whether or not our leaders honor their oath to the Constitution. I have sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution six times, including as vice president, as a United States senator, and as the top law enforcement officer of the largest state in our country.

Kamala Harris

00:08:03

And I have never wavered from upholding that oath. And this is a profound difference between Donald Trump and me. He who violated the oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States. And make no mistake, he who, if given the chance, will violate it again.

Kamala Harris

00:08:30

Donald Trump lost the 2020 election.

Kamala Harris

00:08:43

He refused to accept the will of the people and the results of a free and fair election. He sent a mob, an armed mob, to the United States Capitol, where they violently assaulted police officers, law enforcement officials, and threatened the life of his own vice president. And he refused to engage in the peaceful transfer of power.

Kamala Harris

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Were it not for the courage and patriotism of Vice President Pence that day, Donald Trump might have actually succeeded in overturning the will of the American people. Let's reflect on that.

Kamala Harris

00:09:39

And now Donald Trump is telling us how he intends to use power if he is elected again. He has stated that one of the biggest threats America faces is, quote, the enemy from within.

Kamala Harris

00:10:02

The enemy from within.

Kamala Harris

00:10:07

But know where that language harkens back to. Understand. And let us be clear about what he is saying. He considers any American who doesn't support him or bend to his will to be an enemy to our country. Uh, and further, he says that as commander in chief, he

would use our military to go after them.

Kamala Harris

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Honestly, let that sink in. Use of, uh, the american military to go after, um, american citizens. And we know who he would target first because he has targeted them and attacked them before. Journalists whose stories he doesn't like. Nonpartisan election officials who refuse to cheat by finding extra votes for him.

Kamala Harris

00:11:13

Judges who insist on following the law instead of following him. It is clear Donald Trump is increasingly unstable and unhinged, and he is seeking unchecked power.

Kamala Harris

00:11:45

Consider what his closest advisors have said. His national security advisor, two defense secretaries, his former chief of staff, his own vice president, all have warned America, Donald Trump is unfit to serve or listen to General Milley, Donald Trump's top general. He has called Trump, and I quote, fascist to the core and said, quote, no one has ever been as dangerous to this country.

Kamala Harris

00:12:33

So think about that. General Milley served in uniform for more than 40 years, commanding american forces around the world. He has confronted some of America's worst enemies. And he is saying, no one has ever been as dangerous to our country as Donald Trump. America must heed this warning, because anyone who tramples on our democratic values, as Donald Trump has, anyone who has called for the, quote, termination of the constitution of the United States, as Donald Trump has, must never again stand behind the seal of the president of the United States state.

Kamala Harris

00:13:40

Never again. Never again.

Kamala Harris

00:14:01

And to those, and to those who are watching, if you share that view, no matter your party, no matter who you voted for last time, there is a place for you in this campaign.

Kamala Harris

00:14:24

The coalition we have built has room for everyone who is ready to turn the page on the chaos and instability of Donald Trump. And I pledge to you to be a president for all Americans.

And I take that pledge seriously. I take that pledge quite seriously. So, as I've mentioned, many of you know, I spent a career as a prosecutor in law enforcement. And I will tell you, I never asked, uh, a victim or a witness, are you a Republican or are you a Democrat? I never asked of anyone who needed help, if anyone who deserved attention, wherever were they registered and who did they vote for.

Kamala Harris

00:15:23

The only question I ever asked was, are you okay? And that is the kind of president I pledge to you that I will be.

Kamala Harris

00:15:37

That is my pledge to you, because we have too much to do and too much good work to do, to be relegated to requiring each of us to be in some silo, disconnected from each other. There's too much good to be done. And the challenges that we face as a nation require us.

Kamala Harris

00:16:06

If we truly want to create solutions and strengthen our nation, the approach truly requires that we understand we're all in this together. This is so much more than rhetoric or a campaign.

Kamala Harris

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It really is about tapping into the spirit of who we are as Americans, because we are all in this together. We are all in this together. And so I pledge to be a president who actively works to unite us around our highest aspirations. I pledge to you to be a president who is realistic and practical and has common sense and to always fight for the American people.

Kamala Harris

00:17:10

Unlike Donald Trump, who, frankly, as we have seen, cares more about running on problems than fixing problems. I want to fix problems, which means working across the aisle. It requires working across the aisle. It requires embracing good ideas from wherever they come. That is why I have pledged to appoint a Republican in my cabinet.

Kamala Harris

00:17:47

That is why I have pledged to establish a council on bipartisan solutions, to recommend to me common sense solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing our country.

Kamala Harris

00:18:07

Because nobody has a corner on the good ideas. They actually come from many places. And one should, especially if they want to be a leader, one should welcome those ideas,

and those ideas which are about, in particular, strengthening the middle class, securing our border, defending our freedoms, and maintaining our leadership in the world.

Kamala Harris

00:18:38

And all of this is to also say that I believe for America to be the world's strongest democracy, we must have a healthy two party system.

Kamala Harris

00:18:52

Because it is when we have a healthy two party system that leaders are then required to debate the merits of policy and to work, yes, across the aisle, regularly and routinely, to get things done. And I have experienced firsthand how important and rewarding that kind of bipartisan cooperation can be. So I'll tell you, when I was a United States senator, I served on the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Kamala Harris

00:19:28

It was actually my favorite committee for a number of reasons, but specifically this. There, we dealt with some of the most pressing issues affecting national security.

Kamala Harris

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There. We would talk about hotspots around the world and what we needed to do to focus on keeping America safe and secure. And to do that, we would review classified information which required us to meet in a secure room. Adam, you know, it's called a skiff, okay? When we would go in that room, with all due respect, no cameras were allowed, no press, and we would roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Kamala Harris

00:20:15

I'm, um, telling you, senators of both parties would walk in that room, m take off their suit jackets, roll up their sleeves, have a cup of coffee on the table, and we would have real conversations, real conversations as Americans, because we understood that what happened in that room, well, the stakes were so high, and therefore, it could not be.

Kamala Harris

00:20:42

We could not afford to let it be about whether one was a Democrat or a Republican. The stakes were too high. We were in that room, and it was all about us as Americans, about doing what is in the best interest of the safety and security of our nation. I love that work.

Kamala Harris

00:21:04

And it was what we have as the theme of today. It was country over party, in action, in action.

So I know it can be done. And that is the standard of leadership and the aspiration that I have in terms of how we will work when, with your help, I am elected president of the United States.

Kamala Harris

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So thank you. Thank you. Thank you. So we gotta get to work. We gotta get to work.

Kamala Harris

00:21:49

So let me just say an obvious point. There's a fundamental choice in this election, a very fundamental choice, a choice between the leadership that I pledge to offer to America, leadership that brings folks together, that builds consensus and focuses on making life better for you, with the knowledge that we have so much more in common than what separates us.

Kamala Harris

00:22:16

And on the other hand, the choice of someone who I think we can guarantee will sit in the Oval Office plotting retribution, stew in his own grievances, and think only about himself and not you. So, as I have said, our campaign is not a fight against something. It is a fight for something.

Kamala Harris

00:22:47

It is a fight for the fundamental principles upon which we were founded. It is a fight for a new generation of leadership that is optimistic about what we can achieve together. Republicans, Democrats and independents who want to move past the politics of division and blame and get things done on behalf of the american people.

Kamala Harris

00:23:19

And when it all comes down to it, I know we are all here together this beautiful afternoon because we love our country. We love our country.

Kamala Harris

00:23:39

And we are here because we know the deep privilege and pride that comes with being an american and the duty that comes along with it. And the duty that comes along with it.

Kamala Harris

00:24:03

Imperfect though we may be, America is still that shining city upon a hill that inspires people around the world.

And I do believe it is one of the highest forms of patriotism to fight for the ideals of our country. So to people from across Pennsylvania and across our nation, let us together stand up for the rule of law, for our democratic ideals, and for the constitution of the United States. And in 20 days, we have the power to chart a new way forward, one that is worthy of this magnificent country that we are all blessed to call home.

Kamala Harris

00:25:07

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

Kamala Harris

00:25:12

Thank you all.