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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker Emerita of the U.S. House of Representatives
Democratic National Convention
Wednesday, August 21, 2024
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

On January 20, 2021, with the inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, we established one of the most successful presidencies of modern times.

And we quickly proved that Democrats deliver! Millions of jobs. Stronger infrastructure. A Biden child tax credit. Rescuing union pensions. Honoring our veterans. Bold climate action. Lowering the costs of prescription drugs. All thanks to President Biden's patriotic vision of a fairer America—doing so with liberty and justice for all. And I know Vice President Harris is ready to take us to new heights.

I've known Kamala Harris for decades. Personally, I know her as a person of deep faith, reflected in her community, care, and service. Officially, she is a leader of strength, with wisdom and eloquence on policy—most recently, fighting for women's right to choose. Politically, she is astute and strategic in winning difficult elections—quickly securing the nomination with dignity and grace and choosing Tim Walz as our vice president.

I had the honor of serving with Tim for 12 years in the Congress. He united Democrats, Republicans, and independents to turn a red district blue. He showed courage in voting for the Affordable Care Act, meeting the needs of his constituents despite Republican lies. And when he returned to Congress, he fought for America's heroes as the Democratic leader on the Veterans Affairs Committee.

January 6th was a perilous moment for our democracy. Never before had a president of the United States so brazenly assaulted the bedrock of our democracy, so gleefully embraced political violence, so willfully betrayed his oath of office. Let us not forget who assaulted democracy on January 6th. He did. But let us not forget who saved democracy that day. We did.

Thank God we had a Democratic House of Representatives. We returned to the Capitol that very same night. We insisted on certifying the election results on the floor of the House and Senate. And we demonstrated—to America and to the world—that American democracy prevailed.

The parable of January 6th reminds us that our democracy is only as strong as the courage and commitment of those entrusted with its care. And we must choose leaders who believe in free and fair elections and who respect the peaceful transfer of power. The choice couldn't be clearer. Those leaders are Vice President Harris and Governor Walz.

When the sun rose on January 7th, as our national anthem declares, we “gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.” Now, in this election, we are called upon to do the same. To stand together. To reject autocracy. To choose democracy.

And we will do so by electing a Democratic House with Hakeem Jeffries as speaker of the House, a Democratic Senate, Tim Walz as vice president of the United States, and Kamala Harris as president of the United States!

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