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The Honorable Josh Shapiro
Governor of Pennsylvania
Democratic National Convention
Wednesday, August 21, 2024
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Two-and-a-half centuries ago, in Philadelphia, a band of patriots declared their independence from a king—and set ourselves on a path of self-determination. Generation after generation has embraced that responsibility. Ordinary Americans, rising up, demanding more, seeking justice. And in every chapter of our American story, we’ve made progress and advanced the cause of freedom.

Today, we find ourselves writing the next chapter. Will we be a nation defined by chaos and extremism? Or will we choose a path of decency, honor, and continued progress?

Kamala Harris has spent her entire career making progress. Donald Trump—a man with no guardrails—wants to take away our rights and freedoms. While he cloaks himself in the blanket of freedom, what he’s offering isn’t freedom at all.

Because it’s not freedom to tell our children what books they’re allowed to read. It’s not freedom to tell women what they can do with their bodies. And it sure as hell isn’t freedom to say you can go vote, but he gets to pick the winner. That’s not freedom.

Democrats, we’re the party of real freedom. The kind of real freedom that comes when that child has a great public school with an awesome teacher because we believe in her future. Real freedom that comes when we invest in the police and in the community so that child can walk to and from school safely and get home to her mama. Real freedom that comes when she can join a union, marry who she loves, start a family on her own terms, breathe clean air and drink pure water, worship how she wants, and live a life of purpose where she’s respected for who she is. Real freedom that comes when she looks at Madam President and knows that this is a nation where anything and everything is possible. That’s real freedom, and that is what we are fighting for. Kamala’s and Tim’s names may be on the ballot, but it’s our rights and our freedoms on the line. You have the power to shape the future of this country—just like our ancestors who fought for freedom on the battlefield and sat-in at lunch counters so their kids could stand up.

Now it’s on us to organize in our communities and on our For You pages around three basic American principles: we value our freedom, we cherish our democracy, and we love this country. And listen, despite our challenges, I’ve never been more hopeful, because I see in all of you the enduring promise of America.

E pluribus unum—out of many, one—is not merely a motto from the past, but a direction for our future. You give me hope and you have the power. So let’s use that power and do the hard work necessary to win this election and write this next chapter in our American story.

Are you ready to protect our rights? Are you ready to secure our freedoms? Are you ready to defend democracy? And, are you ready to elect Kamala Harris and Tim Walz? Let’s get to work!

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