



**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY**

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Mississippi  
Democratic National Convention  
Wednesday, August 21, 2024  
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

On January 6, like most of my colleagues, I had one goal: to uphold the votes of the American people—the cornerstone of American democracy.

But as you've just been reminded, members of a violent mob had another goal: to stop the peaceful transfer of power for the first time in America's history.

Thank God they failed. Because in this country, we settle our differences at the ballot box—not through violence.

It took us a long time to get here, and we are not going back. Because I remember that dark history.

It's my own history. In his life, my father never cast a vote because of Jim Crow. So I've dedicated my career to protecting the vote against violence and discrimination.

You can imagine what I felt on January 6 when I saw with my own eyes those insurrectionists trying to take that away.

They did it to rob millions of Americans of their votes. They did it because Donald Trump couldn't handle losing.

He lied about election fraud. He called his conspiracy-fed mob to Washington. He would rather subvert democracy than submit to it.

Now he's plotting again. His campaign proclaims the election won't end until the moment of inauguration.

"We win, or it was rigged."

"We win, or else."

This is Donald Trump's America.

Elections are about a choice.

Choose democracy, not political violence.

Choose the America we've always taught our children.

Choose Kamala Harris.

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