**Tim Walz – and the Democratic Party**

Below you will find Tim Walz’s first speech as vice-presidential candidate. This speech was delivered at a Democratic rally in Philadelphia. A rally is an event where politicians gather their supporters.

Follow this link to listen to the speech [Tim Walz's full speech after being named Kamala Harris' VP pick calls out Donald Trump, JD Vance (youtube.com)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oi44EbGA9mA&t=2s).

Tim Walz: First speech as VP pick

August 6, 2024

Thank you. Wow. Thank you, Philadelphia. Thank you, Madam Vice President, for the trust you have put in me. But maybe more, thank you for bringing back the joy.  
I am thrilled to be on this journey with you and Doug, this incredible journey. And Pennsylvania, i know you know this, but my god, what a treasure you have in Josh Shapiro. Holy hell, can this guy bring the fire? He can bring the fire. This is a visionary leader. Also I have to tell you, everybody in America knows, when you need a bridge fixed, call that guy. Sometimes we forget you see people a little one-dimensional. But seeing a guy who cares so deeply about his family, a man with compassion, vision, and I know this from experience, there is no one you would rather go to a Springsteen concert in Jersey with than him!  
And I can’t wait for all of you in America to get to know my incredible wife, Gwen, a 29-year public school educator! Don’t ever underestimate teachers. And our two beautiful kids, Hope and Gus.  
I couldn’t be prouder to be on this ticket and to help Vice President Harris become what we all know is very good for us to think about, next President of the United States of America! From her first day as a prosecutor, as the district attorney, attorney general of the great state of California, a United States senator, and Vice President of the United States, Vice President Harris has fought on the side of the American people. She took on the predators. She took on the fraudsters. She took down the transnational gangs. She stood up against powerful corporate interests. And she never hesitated to reach across the aisle if it meant improving people’s lives. And I want all of you to hold this and don’t ever underestimate the power of this — she does it all with a sense of joy!

I know a little something about that commitment to people. I was born in West Point, Nebraska. I lived in Butte, a small town of 400 where community was a way of life. I spent summers working on the family farm. My mom and dad taught us, show generosity towards your neighbors and work for the common good. My dad served in the army during the Korean War and with his encouragement, at 17, I joined the Army National Guard. For 24 years, I proudly wore the uniform of this nation. The National Guard gave me purpose. It gave me the strength of a shared commitment to something greater than ourselves. And just as it did for my dad and millions of others, the G.l. Bill gave me a shot at a college education.  
My dad was a teacher. My brothers and sisters and I followed in their footsteps. Three out of four of us married teachers. It’s what we do. For nearly 20 years,I had the privilege of teaching high school social studies and coaching football, including winning the state championship. Don’t ever close the yearbook. Don’t ever.  
But it was my students. They encouraged me to run for office. They saw in me what I was hoping to instill in them. A commitment to the common good. A belief that one person can make a difference. So in 2006 I took a leap and I ran for congress. And because high school teachers are super optimistic, I was running in a district that had one Democrat since 1892. Well, my neighbors graced me with an opportunity to represent them in the United States House of Representatives.  I am proud of the work that we did. I worked across the aisle on veterans’ issues, on agriculture, and on ways to grow the rural economies. I learned the art of compromise without compromising my values. And now as governor of the great state of Minnesota, I bring those experiences to bear in tackling the challenges that are facing our great state. Minnesota’s strength comes from our values. Our commitment to working together. To see past our differences. Always being willing to lend a helping hand. The same values I learned on the family farm, and tried to instill in my students. I took it to the Congress and to the State Capitol and now, Vice President Harris and I are running to take the same values to the White House.  
Now, Donald Trump sees the world a little differently than us. First of all, he doesn’t know the first thing about service. He doesn’t have time for it because he is too busy serving himself. Again and again and again, Trump weakened our economy to strengthen his own hand. He mocks our laws. He sows chaos and division. That is to say nothing of his record as president. He froze in the face of the Covid crisis. He drove our economy to the ground. And make no mistake. Violent crime was up under Donald Trump. That is not even counting the crimes he committed!  
Some of us in here are old enough to remember – I see you down there, I see those old white guys — some of us are old enough to remember when it was Republicans who were talking about freedom. It turns out now, what they meant is the government should be free to invade your doctor’s office. In Minnesota, we respect our neighbors and the personal choices that they make, even if we wouldn’t make the same choice for ourselves, there is a golden rule: Mind your own damn business!  
…This includes IVF. It is personal for me and my family. When my wife and I decided to have children, we spent years going through infertility treatments. And I remember praying every night for a call for good news. The pit in my stomach when the phone rang, and the agony when we heard the treatments had not worked. It wasn’t by chance that when we welcomed our daughter into the world, we named her Hope. When the vice president and I talk about freedom, we mean the freedom to make your own health care decisions! And for our children to be free to go to school without worrying they will be shot dead in their classrooms. By the way, as you heard, I was the best shot in Congress. In Minnesota, we believe in the Second Amendment. But we also believe in common sense gun laws!  
Vice President Harris’ idea of freedom is education to be the ticket to the middle class. Not crippling debt. Air that is clean. Water that is pure. Communities that are safe! A place where we settle our political differences not through violence, but with our votes. And that is what this election is about. What direction will this country go in? Well, Donald Trump will damn sure take us backwards, let’s be clear about that. And don’t believe him when he plays dumb. He knows exactly what project 2025 will do to restrict our freedoms, to rig the economy to help the superrich.  
If Trump gets the chance to return, he’s going to pick up exactly where he left off four years ago. Only this time it will be much, much worse. Raising costs on middle-class family. He will repeal the Affordable Care Act. No doubt about it. He will gut Social Security and Medicare. And when somebody tells you who they are, believe them. He said he will ban abortion throughout this country and he will do it. Donald Trump is not fighting for you or your family. He never sat at the kitchen table like the one I grew up at, wondering how we were going to pay the bills. He sat at his country club in Mar-a-Lago wondering how he could cut taxes for his rich friends.  
And I got to tell you, his running mate shares his dangerous and backwards agenda for this country. J.D. Vance literally wrote the forward for the architect of the Project 2025 agenda. Like all regular people I grew up with in the heartland, J.D. studied at Yale, had his career funded by Silicon Valley billionaires, and wrote a bestseller trashing that community. Come on! That is not what Middle America is. And I can’t wait to debate the guy. That is, if he is willing to get off the couch and show up. So, you see what I did there?  I got to tell you — just an observation of mine that I made, I just have to say it. You know it. You feel it. These guys are creepy, and, yes, just weird as hell. That’s what you see. That’s what you see!  
So you know what’s out there. Say it with me “we aren’t going back!” (Crowd: we aren’t going back. We are not going back.)  
So we’ve got 91 days. My god, that’s easy. We will sleep when we are dead. Over those next 91 days, and every day in the White House, I will have Vice President Harris’s back. Every single day! And we will have yours!  
You know how this works. We can’t do it alone. We need you – each and everyone of you. Go over to kamala harris.com. Get on board, because we need you. Freedom to make your own choices. This leader, this compassionate, careful, joyous leader believes in each and every one of you! My

god, you came here tonight because you love this country and you are not going back!  
She believes in the opportunity for every single person to join the middle class. She believes in the promise of America. We just got to fight. We’ve just got to fight. Because, as soon-to-be President Harris says, “when we fight, we win!”

Thank you, Philadelphia. Thank you, Vice President. God bless America!

Source:

<https://newyorktheater.me/2024/08/06/gov-tim-walzs-first-speech-as-vice-presidential-candidate-video-and-transcript/>