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[00:00:56] **Speaker 1** Good afternoon and welcome to Chicago, host city for the 2024 Democratic National Convention. This is a special presentation of Here and Now. Is 2024 election coverage. We're coming to you live from Media Row inside the United Center in downtown Chicago. I am senior political reporter Zach Schultz, and I am joined, as always, by our two wonderful panelists, Scott Ross, Bill McCutcheon. Thank you again for coming back. We're in the homestretch, right. Can you feel it.

[00:01:20] **Speaker 2** Over the 50 yard line?

[00:01:22] **Speaker 1** We're almost there. All right. Let's start with last night's speeches. We were previewing them yesterday in our show we had the Obamas. Which one was your home run speech of the night, Scott?

[00:01:32] **Speaker 3** Well, mine was, the former first lady, Michelle Obama. I absolutely adored her speech. I was listening to it on my phone, you know, and watching it, and I just. I ended up, like, miles away from where I thought I was going to be because it was so inspiring. And you heard them. And I think you can almost hear the echoes of that. The case that they prosecuted against Donald Trump last night. And you could see that they really it was that, you know, weird thing with, with with former first lady, which was when they go low, we go high. You know, when they go low she went for the throat. And like, you know, you know, in a way just tore him to pieces. Everything, you know, the his petty grievances, his attacks on women just over and over again, you know, and I yeah, it was just it was an incredible moment for as a Democrat to hear somebody truly who has had to endure so much, who's had to endure so much, really take him on.

[00:02:26] **Speaker 1** What did you think of her line about, Donald Trump may not want the presidency when he learns it's one of those black jobs.

[00:02:32] **Speaker 2** It was funny. You know, I think sometimes in politics, not enough people laugh and see humor in things. I agree with Scott. I thought hers was the strongest speech of the night, and I think that comes with some risk, actually, for Kamala Harris, because can she match up to that? There are a lot of Democrats who wanted Michelle Obama to sort of fill the void when when Biden was pushed off the side, she was strong last night. I mean, as a Republican, I'm glad that she's not their nominee because, she brought it last night. And, you know, for me, the surprise of the night was Doug Emhoff. You know, in sort of a quirky, almost dorky way. He was very authentic. And I thought he connected with people and and helped humanize his wife, the nominee for president. And, so I, you know, for a guy who doesn't do this for a living either. Doug Emhoff did a pretty good job last year.

[00:03:21] **Speaker 3** I mean, I mean, I 100% agree with Bill. Like, if you were looking for a tone of somebody, you were auditioning to be the first, first gentleman, that was that was the speech. And and, you know, the self-deprecation, you know. Yeah.

[00:03:34] **Speaker 2** I mean, it was very authentic, you.

[00:03:36] **Speaker 3** Know, like anybody's dad. Now, that was the kind of thing he did. And again, like that prelude to what the Obamas, the case that they prosecuted. I mean, I thought it from start to finish when Michelle Obama said, most of us will never, you know, most of us will never be afforded the grace of failing forward. You know, again, what Donald Trump has done versus what we all you know, what normal people face and the fact that, you know, we will never benefit from the affirmative action of generational wealth, after all the Republicans have done with DEA and what they claimed about the Obamas and all that sort of thing. I mean, that could not have been a better line. I think, you know, whoever Michelle Obama's speechwriter is, please, please, please teach me your craft in case I ever have to.

[00:04:23] **Speaker 2** Do that again. Well, and she delivered and she delivered it very, very well. And, you know, there was a little bit of hypocrisy. The Obamas today are not who they were 16 years ago. They were of modest means 16 years ago. They're multi, multi, multi millionaires with many, you know, 10 to $15 million homes in Hawaii and on Martha's Vineyard. So, I saw, I thought sort of the whole bootstrap pull you're up by the bootstrap was a little thick for her, but overall she delivered the speech of the night.

[00:04:54] **Speaker 1** So having to follow her, and he acknowledged it was a tough spot to have to follow was Barack Obama. And he he went for Trump in a different way, talking about crowd size, which was one of the things that Donald Trump has hit on over and over again. Crowd size matters. At the same time that the United Center was full for the Obamas, 18,000 people were estimated to be at the Pfizer forum in Milwaukee for a Kamala Harris rally and the same event. Crowd size matters in that way, and that hits Donald Trump right where it hurts him. Right, bill?

[00:05:21] **Speaker 2** Yeah, I would say I'm going to give you a good in a bad war. I thought Barack Obama was very good last night was for Joe Biden. I think he did a better job sort of setting the Biden legacy than Biden did himself on Monday night. I thought it was magnanimous, the way he treated Biden last night, he was the only one who mentioned him by name. Yeah. He was one of the guys that give them a few weeks ago. But I think the exit last night that was classy on Obama's part. You know, as it relates to some of the lines. Biden or Obama delivered. I didn't think it was his best speech. I've seen him give far better than that. I think last night he was trying to get under Trump's skin. He understands that Trump pays attention to things like crowd size. We talked about it on this set yesterday. I think it's a nothing burger, at least until the end of a campaign. And we shouldn't focus on that. We ought to focus on issues that matter to the people. Yeah.

[00:06:18] **Speaker 3** Barack Obama here is a 78 year old billionaire who has not stopped whining about his problems since he rode down his golden escalator nine years ago. Again, you could not have framed what independent voters have a problem with Trump about, which is self-interest, and about the childish way in which he attacks people. And I you know, I again, I would disagree with Bill in the sense that I do think that former President Obama delivered the goods. It's what the people there wanted. It's a convention. That place was roaring loud. And, you know, he he, you know, he stepped up for, for President Biden, which I thought was fantastic, but he really was there to be the hammer.

[00:07:00] **Speaker 1** Is it good for Kamala Harris that there's a night off in between Michelle and Barack and her speech that reset the schedule?

[00:07:08] **Speaker 3** This one. Perfect. I mean, the the the perfection of the way that they have scheduled in terms of building this to to the crescendo of her, of her speech, I think is fantastic.

[00:07:16] **Speaker 2** I would imagine they may even tone down Tim Wall speech tonight, because they do need a day between the Obamas and her just for, for comparison purposes, for sure.

[00:07:24] **Speaker 1** So talking about tonight, Tim Walz is there, but also Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson is going to be speak. Is he representing his brand the Milwaukee brand Wisconsin Democrats. What's he. What's he going to be. Yes.

[00:07:36] **Speaker 3** Yes he is. You know, again, he has been an incredibly successful mayor so far. You know, he brought, you know, the the RNC came to Milwaukee in part because of his hard work. No doubt. You know, along with the county executive, David Crowley and support from both Democrats and Republicans. And he showed that, you know, he put he put Milwaukee on stage in Milwaukee, delivered the goods. And I think that's fantastic. And, you know, I love the fact that, you know, our state's biggest city is doing the work that it needs to do to promote the city to bring people in, you know, so, yeah, we've seen, we've seen the mayor walking around here talking to the different press. I think it's phenomenal. I think it's fabulous.

[00:08:11] **Speaker 2** He isn't in a prime time slot. We used to get pretty jazzed when Tommy Thompson got national.

[00:08:16] **Speaker 1** Jim Vance does that. An effort.

[00:08:17] **Speaker 2** To tell, when Tommy got national speaking opportunities, it it isn't as big a deal as you might think unless you're in the prime time slot. But I'm sure the mayor will do a nice job tonight. And I like Scott. I think it's good that he's out representing Milwaukee and and try and encourage more people to come.

[00:08:34] **Speaker 1** Back in terms of the Milwaukee honeymoon with Republicans, will that last into the next legislative session? Will they still remember Milwaukee with good thoughts when it comes to the next budget?

[00:08:43] **Speaker 2** I think it has a lot to do with the people involved. And David Crowley and, Cavalier Johnson have established really strong relationships, assuming Republicans hold the majority in both houses, which I think they will. Yeah, I think they'll still be able to get things done. It may not be as productive as this current session was, but there was a lot to do.

[00:09:01] **Speaker 1** So, the other big speech of the night is Tim Walz. Is he going to provide the contrast with Vance, or is he there to be America's football coach? America's, you know, not quite as goofy as Doug Emhoff, but his dad.

[00:09:15] **Speaker 3** And I think a lot of the latter, I think on the campaign trail individually in states, you can, you know, as he's introducing himself to America, you can get away with more of the jabs. But I think on this stage he's probably I'd hope he'd take it. You know, JD Vance has at least one shot coming from the podium, I think. But we'll see if like, you know, we'll see how far it goes. But I think they're going to I think they're going to lean more into the idea of America's coach. You know what he did in what he did in Milwaukee? I'm sorry Minnesota. I'm not luring Graham what he did in Minnesota. And again, coming back to what the message of the night is, which is strengthening democracy, you know, protecting abortion rights or restoring abortion rights and making sure that everybody has the chance not just to get by, but to really succeed. And I think that's what you're going to hear tonight from all of them.

[00:10:00] **Speaker 1** What do you expect to see?

[00:10:01] **Speaker 2** And listen, Walz is struggling. He, we call him the great and Belcher on our side. He's he struggled with his facts about his own resume, including, oddly enough, saying his children were conceived through IVF when they weren't. His wife said they weren't. So I think Tim Walz need to introduce himself here tonight. He's going to be a punching bag for the Republicans, no question. We think there's an opportunity to show that there's an extremely liberal ticket, in contrast to the Trump, Vance ticket. And I don't think the whole Koch thing is going to work quite as well as Democrats do on the western side of the state. I mean, this is a guy who blew through an $18 billion surplus, then raise taxes another 10 billion. On top of this, a guy who thinks illegal immigrants ought to have free college tuition and free health care paid for by taxpayers. So I think the more Americans get to know Tim Walz, the less they're going to like him. And. I think there will come a point in time where the Harris campaign is going to say, maybe this wasn't the right guy.

[00:10:59] **Speaker 1** So when it comes to his record, we've already seen the attempt to the swift boat, his military service. How much does he have to set the record straight, or to clear up what he said about whether he was in a combat zone versus how others may have referred to him when he didn't correct them in that moment.

[00:11:14] **Speaker 3** What I would say is this for the independent voters, for the independent suburban women who will inevitably decide this election in the swing states like Wisconsin, they know that he served 24 years. That's all that they need to know. All this other stuff is window dressing. I understand the Republicans trying to make an issue. They did it with the Swift boats 20 years ago. It was atrocious and outrageous. And it took John Kerry 30 days to respond to it. Tim Walz took care of it on day one. It's done, I think, for voters who are going to decide this election. It's red meat for the Republicans. It's nothing for swing voters. And in fact, I think it you know, how could you attack somebody who served for 24 years? Like, how do you overcome that particular attack? And I think when it comes to Tim Walz record, it is phenomenal. He's been one of the most successful governors, Democratic or Republican. You know, I mean, he's cut taxes on all of his budgets. I think seniors get a $1,300 tax break, all of it. He did raise taxes on the wealthiest people because people like Donald Trump, because those are the people that should be paying into the shared services in which we all pay to support the things that make them able to do the business.

[00:12:21] **Speaker 2** Scott and I agree he's on the service. I give him full credit for serving 24 years. Anyone who serves in the military deserves our gratitude, no question. Full stop. Where he struggles and where we're going to have an opportunity is on the issue of trust. He calls himself, and he allowed himself to be called the command sergeant major for 15 years. He did not earn that title. He did not complete the coursework. He retired as a major sergeant. There's a big difference between those two things. I don't think you can call yourself something you did not earn and let that stand for 15 years. Now, yesterday, the thing about his wife and IVF again, it gets to trust and credibility. His record in Minnesota, I think is ripe for the picking. But his own credibility on issues, things he has said to himself even on this campaign, it's what's going to bite us.

[00:13:08] **Speaker 3** I literally hope their daughter's name is Hope because she was conceived through IVF because it wasn't IVF.

[00:13:14] **Speaker 2** There's another.

[00:13:15] **Speaker 3** Version. It was absolutely what it was. This is just a place where we are just literally going to disagree on what the terms of this debate are.

[00:13:22] **Speaker 1** So when it comes to those kind of issue, what is bigger red meat for Republicans, the actual policies that he has supported and put his signature on versus semantic arguments about things that a lot of voters really don't want to dig down into.

[00:13:33] **Speaker 2** Well, I think you're getting to the big subject here. This whole convention is about Donald Trump, and that's what Democrats want the election to be. And if if it is, they got a chance of winning Donald Trump and JD Vance and the Republicans need this convention to be about the things voters care about inflation, gas prices, mortgage, rent, electricity bills. Those are the things that voters care about immigration, open borders, a world on fire. Those are the things that Republicans are going to win on. And by Friday, if we're back on those issues, I like our chances.

[00:14:05] **Speaker 3** All the things that Bill just mentioned are things that the Democrats with Kamala Harris and Joe Biden pushed forward to do things about the Investment Recovery Act, the Inflation Act. They had a border deal that Donald Trump was able to throttle.

[00:14:19] **Speaker 2** You know, they didn't have.

[00:14:20] **Speaker 3** And then the and the last but it actually did. James Lankford, one of the most conservative members of the U.S. Senate.

[00:14:25] **Speaker 2** And it didn't pass the House.

[00:14:26] **Speaker 1** Republicans went on Fox.

[00:14:28] **Speaker 3** They were the ones who stop.

[00:14:29] **Speaker 1** The bill that.

[00:14:30] **Speaker 2** Republicans may have talked to some, no question about it, but they didn't have 60 votes to pass it in the Senate, and it was never going to pass the House. So the notion that this somehow was going to pass is false.

[00:14:40] **Speaker 3** It absolutely. It was the Republicans who killed this thing. And let's go back to the to the big issue abortion. Tim Walz signed into law the first really.

[00:14:51] **Speaker 2** Extreme abortion law in the country.

[00:14:53] **Speaker 3** The first reaction to the Dobbs decision that made women second class citizens. He signed the bill that protected abortion rights and will protect them forever in the state, even after birth. Absolutely not. That is absolutely true. And the people who have to the people who are forced to have abortions late, are not doing it by choice. They are doing it because there is a safety of a mother. The child has perished. I mean, I, I watched with near tears in my eyes, the, you know, the women talking on the first night about their experiences with it. And we should respect that and be true about the facts on this. Women do not try and have abortions. That life it is medically because they need to.

[00:15:31] **Speaker 2** Was is going to be a net negative. Anyone who walks around and says he's happy to be called a big government liberal is going to struggle on a November ballot.

[00:15:38] **Speaker 1** Let's dig into abortion just for another second, because Hadley Duvall from the state of Kentucky was on the stage and she had a quote that said, what is beautiful about a child having to carry her parent's child? She said she was raped by her stepfather at 12 and had to have an abortion. Do stories like that? I mean, how worried are you about stories like that penetrating becoming the conversation around abortion when there are a lot of Republican states.

[00:16:01] **Speaker 2** Donald.

[00:16:01] **Speaker 1** That are.

[00:16:03] **Speaker 2** Different than the traditional.

[00:16:05] **Speaker 1** Position is not consistent at all. And he still takes credit for overturning Roe v Wade and supports all the complete total abortion bans, which.

[00:16:11] **Speaker 2** Turned it back to the states. It allowed every state to determine their own destiny as it relates to the abortion issue.

[00:16:17] **Speaker 1** But which part would you want Republicans to try and win on? Either some of these near-total abortion bans, or a version of the bill that Tim.

[00:16:24] **Speaker 2** Walz, some of these near abortion bans, like in Florida, it's on the ballot in November. We'll see how that turns out. In red states like Kansas, voters rejected the the almost complete restriction on abortion. So, you know, what you're seeing in Wisconsin, what Trump has said is he supports, exceptions for rape, incest, life of the mother. He also, supports some, you know, 12 weeks or some level like that. But he doesn't support a national abortion ban. And, and I think that's what Democrats are going to try and convince voters that if he gets elected, he's going to pass some national abortion ban. Again, you need 60 votes to get through the Senate. This Senate, under any electoral scenario, is not going to get to 60. No chance. And then you got the house, too.

[00:17:13] **Speaker 3** When if the Senate is in Republican hands after this election and Donald Trump is the president and the House, you know, is Republican, there will be a nationwide abortion ban passed because the filibuster will be gone and it will pass with the 50 votes or 51 votes or 50 whatever Republicans have. Let's be let's be honest about that. The second thing is, you know, again, going back to Vice President JD Vance, you know, has called, exceptions for rape and incest inconveniences. You know, he is the most extreme, the most extreme member of the U.S. Senate when it comes to the issue of denying women their right to, reproductive freedom, which is also economic freedom. And the last thing I would say is this talking point about, like, we send it back to the States, what if suddenly the Supreme Court said, okay, businesses don't have First Amendment rights nationally? Now just goes back to the states. So depending on where you're at, you know, Citizens United be here. Sydney, I would not be here. The Republicans would scream bloody murder. And that's just like corporations spending money. Rights are fundamental. Women have the right to be first class citizens along with men. And just because they can make babies doesn't mean they should be second class citizens. And voters are going to reject Donald Trump and Republicans up and down the ticket because of this. Abortion is on the ballot and they are on the wrong side.

[00:18:25] **Speaker 2** A couple of things. Vance's position is now Trump's position. That's on the position description. If you sign up to be the vice president, you accept the positions of the presidential candidate. That's just how it works.

[00:18:35] **Speaker 3** Yeah, that's how hang Mike pence happened. Right.

[00:18:37] **Speaker 2** So I would say Democrats need abortion to be a bigger issue than it is. It's currently number three on all national polls. It's a little bit higher for Democrats, but not for independents or Republicans.

[00:18:48] **Speaker 3** It absolutely is at the top for independent women. Absolutely. And again, base those women in swing states like in Wisconsin are going to decide this election. And they've shown that they've been rejecting this. I mean, you know, post Dobbs, women keep winning or Democrats keep winning statewide elections. And, you know, even, you know, a couple of weeks ago, when we had the, when we had the, constitutional amendments, you know, so and constitutional amendments, you know, 12 or 13 of them have, have passed over the last, like, decades.

[00:19:14] **Speaker 1** So let's go back to, one of the other big issues you're talking about, which is the economy.

[00:19:18] **Speaker 2** Yeah.

[00:19:19] **Speaker 1** Yesterday you previewed that there would be a readjustment in the numbers. Why don't you break the news to our audience?

[00:19:24] **Speaker 2** So today, the Department of Labor came out with revised numbers that show 818,000 fewer jobs were created in the last 12 months, including 115,000 fewer manufacturing jobs. This is this is scandalous, in my opinion, that the Department of Labor could get out, get away with putting out statistics that are so flawed they have to revise by that big of a number.

[00:19:50] **Speaker 1** This is the.

[00:19:50] **Speaker 2** Biggest. No, this is the biggest revision in 15 years.

[00:19:55] **Speaker 3** There are constant. They're constantly revised for seasonally adjusted and such. I mean, we used to track them when, when, you know, during the George W Bush years is how they, you know, in, during Scott Walker's years because he promised we were going at 250,000 jobs and he came woefully short. And we always had to make sure that okay was a seasonally adjusted. But, listen, the fact is we lost 3 million jobs under Trump. We gained 15.2 million. Okay, I'll I'll take your talk. Point 15 to the fact 15.2 million under Kamala Harris and Joe Biden. I think that's a net 12.2 million. I think Democrats win on that, win on that.

[00:20:27] **Speaker 1** But what does that look like in terms of trend versus image? When we're talking about the optics of right before an election.

[00:20:32] **Speaker 2** Which is one that markets, it's not a good trend for Democrats. I mean, the economy still will be the number one issue for voters 75 days from now. There's no question about that.

[00:20:42] **Speaker 1** But that's also personal economy to its pocketbook.

[00:20:45] **Speaker 2** It is.

[00:20:45] **Speaker 1** A bright if I didn't lose my job, do I worry as much about fewer net jobs being.

[00:20:49] **Speaker 2** I begin and end every speech? If I were Donald Trump and JD Vance saying, are you better off today than you were four years ago? I'd still the old Ronald Reagan line, because I think most voters would say, you know what? No, I'm not.

[00:20:59] **Speaker 1** He switched to five years ago because when we get before the Covid argument.

[00:21:04] **Speaker 3** You know what I was going to say for Wisconsin sake? You know, I saw the Department of Labor, Department of Workforce Development released today, you know, nine of 12 of the major metropolitan areas in the state of Wisconsin. The, the, unemployment rate went down or stayed the same. That's a pretty good that's pretty good for a swing state like Wisconsin. 23 of the 34, you know, biggest cities. You know, that's a good thing for Wisconsin. And that's a good thing for Kamala Harris.

[00:21:31] **Speaker 2** I think we're in a unique scenario here where the governor I work for, Tommy Thompson, we always bragged about these economic numbers, too. But voters felt it right. But the difference is, or the disconnect is voters don't feel if there are good numbers out there on the economy, voters aren't feeling it. And that's going to be reflected at the ballot box.

[00:21:49] **Speaker 3** I think they felt that their child care was, you know, they were having support with their child care with internet broadband. You know, I think that they felt that. And now they're feeling that it's gone because Republicans have stood in the way of helping people, because they.

[00:22:02] **Speaker 2** Have had the white House for 12 of the last 16.

[00:22:04] **Speaker 3** Years. Does not the change? There is an intractable Republican majority that started when Barack Obama took the oath on January 20th, 2009, that Republicans were going to say no to everything in the midst of whatever crises there were. We were in the midst of a near second Great Depression, and Republicans said, absolutely not. We're not going to work with you because Mitch McConnell said, our our idea is we want to make sure that Barack Obama doesn't have a second term. We had a second term, and you would argue into a third term with Joe Biden.

[00:22:32] **Speaker 2** Harris. Yeah.

[00:22:34] **Speaker 1** I did notice when you talked about the economic development. You put Kamala Harris above Joe Biden. At the top of the ticket is.

[00:22:40] **Speaker 3** I just, you know.

[00:22:42] **Speaker 2** So on and so on.

[00:22:43] **Speaker 3** He's reaching down towards at the end of the alphabet. I like to switch it up the order of things once in a while. So Harris's before Biden. Biden always gets to be at the top alphabetically.

[00:22:51] **Speaker 2** We'll see how much she mentions him tomorrow night. She's trying to erase him from this campaign.

[00:22:55] **Speaker 1** You don't think there'll be a thank you, Joe, at the beginning?

[00:22:57] **Speaker 2** She has Jimmy. She is not to be the right thing to do.

[00:22:59] **Speaker 3** Through all the storm has been the most loyal soldier that you possibly could be. Which is why he came out when people were saying, okay, is this going to be an open deal? He's like, nope, this is my vice president. This should be the next. And that.

[00:23:10] **Speaker 2** Ended it.

[00:23:11] **Speaker 3** Did. Yeah. And Democrats, the unity for Democrats has hit an all time high.

[00:23:15] **Speaker 1** So I want to look at the national picture because the center for politics put out their most recent crystal ball. They moved the state of North Carolina to toss up and make seven toss up states, including three in the Midwest, the Big Blue, all with Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania. There are no lean states across the country. In their eyes, it's either you are solid red or solid blue, or you are a toss up. What does that tell us about where this country is in this election?

[00:23:39] **Speaker 3** Well, you know, a very wise person once said, you know, governance is about power. Campaigns are about dividing people. Break off 50% plus one. Governance is about to be is supposed to be about bringing people together. And when we have a new president and Kamala Harris and new Vice President Kamala, they will make that effort. That will happen. It will be up, you know, maybe the chastising that America is going to give the Republicans in this election will wake them up a little bit to it. I don't know if the media ecosystem on the right is going to allow to happen, but you know what? Stranger things have happened, and I want to always and again, this is a campaign about joy and hope. I'm going to hope for the best.

[00:24:16] **Speaker 2** The one thing that will bring all seven of those states in the Trump column is a great economic message. I think we've seen since Kamala Harris started to roll out her economic plan last Friday. Her numbers have gone down both on polling and across the nation and on the betting markets. I think people are saying, boy, that's a lot more liberal than I thought she was. And I think the more they get to know her and what our economic plan is, that's Donald Trump and JD Vance path to get those seven states in the win column.

[00:24:43] **Speaker 1** But at the same time span, there have been more of these states moving to toss up.

[00:24:47] **Speaker 2** And and I'm okay with that. I think it forces us to have to work harder in those states. I don't want to take anything for granted. I want to earn the white House. I think that's the best way to to ensure that you can actually get things done and govern once you're there. So I don't have any problem with seven states being in play right now, including Wisconsin. I think we're going to see Donald Trump at least four times in the next 75 days. I think we're going to see JD Vance once a week until this is over.

[00:25:12] **Speaker 1** He already said he lives here.

[00:25:13] **Speaker 3** Well, but part of the reason that seven states are there is because Kamala Harris has enjoyed a 14 point bump with Latino voters. You know, again, the the great Democratic coalition that helps Democrats win in national elections. You know, black women are beyond, you know, beyond joy that finally someone like them is going to be reflected in the presidency. And that's why there's so much enthusiasm. You heard it. You know, you hear it when that's referenced during the conventions last night. It is why Michelle Obama received such a an extraordinary reception last night. And again, that's the coalition that helps put Democrats over the over the top. And I you know, again, I think it's successful. I think it's going to be a successful project.

[00:25:55] **Speaker 1** All right. I want to switch to Wisconsin and congressional districts. We got through the third yesterday. Yeah. It's a little messy. As that race appears to be, but there's two more that are at least worth mentioning, right? We could start on the first, where Brian Style is an incumbent. It's a solid red district, or it has been. But with the changes that are going on in the suburbs, Democrats are looking at it. Peter Baka is a former member of Congress. He's been a long standing politician. Does is he doing the work because we haven't seen him down here. We're not that far away. Is he? Pound in the doors in Kenosha right now?

[00:26:26] **Speaker 3** Well, if it's by any if Peter Barker's work is any is, reflected in by his, email communications. The guys working harder than anybody because I get emails from him every single day. He's obviously, you know, he you know, he was the fundraiser for the Assembly Democrats who did very well in fundraising while even being in the minority in there, Scott Walker and Robin Vos. So he's definitely doing the work. People know him there. He's a good, solid guy. You know, I do think that, you know, for for many, many years, the first Congressional District has been kind of a shame for Democrats because there hasn't been the going after, you know, Paul Ryan had a free ride basically for 20 years. Brian Styles had a free ride for most of his, most of his short, undistinguished career. And so, yeah, so I think I think Peter's going to do very, very well on Election Day. And that is a much more Democratic seat than some of the others.

[00:27:13] **Speaker 2** It's a plus for Republicans. Seat style has won handily in each of his reelections. He has more than $4 million in the bank. He's got speaker Mike Johnson coming to Lake Geneva for an event for him on Monday night. I think, Brian, I don't believe that seat is going to be competitive. And I think Brian style will handily win reelection even today.

[00:27:33] **Speaker 1** Speaking to the Wisconsin delegation, Congressman Mark Pocan, a pretty, very liberal Democrat, said, Brian Styles, a good guy. He said he's like jello and that he doesn't have much of a flavor by himself, which was, I guess, better than his description of Van Orden. But it does says something about how that the staying power, he talk about Paul Ryan and talk about Brian Styles like they are solid middle of the ring.

[00:27:53] **Speaker 2** Parties in every corner of the district. He's he shows up, he flips pancakes. He, you know, pours beers or whatever it takes. And people give him credit from that from Kenosha to Janesville.

[00:28:03] **Speaker 3** Brian style was, you know, Paul Ryan's chauffeur, and he's an errand boy for the extreme right wing and the corruption that's in the House Republicans. I mean, this is a guy who is in charge and could release the video of fellow Republican Derek Van Orton attacking teenage pages in the Capitol. He has refused to release the video of that when it happened to a Democrat, when a Democrat pulled a fire alarm that really that video was out in two weeks.

[00:28:28] **Speaker 1** All right, let's move to the eighth. Yeah, open seat, which is probably the only reason we're talking about it. And it's got a Trump appointed Tony Weed that really no one knows. Trump endorsed Trump. Yeah. Sorry. Trump endorsed which kind of a given the appointment in winning that primary. But what do you think of Christian. What do you think of her chances of making this a real race?

[00:28:47] **Speaker 3** It is a real race because of Kristen Lively. This is a woman who travels, travels to Minnesota because of the abortion ban in Wisconsin to assist women in accessing their reproductive freedoms. She also does it in Arizona as well on native on Native American, land. This is a woman who is a doctor who cares about the district, and she outraised all three of the Republicans who are running in the race. You put abortion on the ballot. She's somebody who can win. The other thing is who came out. You know, who came out of the primary, the eighth Congressional District, for all the, you know, criticisms I've made of Reid Ribble and Mike Gallagher, you know, and even, you know, going back before that, there's one thing that's tied all the members of Congress from green Bay, and it's flip back and forth. It's the flip iest. They've all been moderates. Every single one of.

[00:29:37] **Speaker 1** Them is Tony. We going to be able to run on that or is he just the Trump brand?

[00:29:40] **Speaker 2** Well, let's start with the numbers in the seat. I'll remind your viewers from yesterday, the congressional lines did not change. They're the same as they were. This is a plus ten GOP seat. Tony Reid is the heavy favorite in this seat for this reason. Yeah, he got Trump's endorsement and he ended up distinguishing or extinguishing two pretty credible, primary opponents in on state Senator Andre Jack and former Senate President Roger Roth, who also was the nominee for lieutenant governor just two years ago. So beating those two guys was no small feat. It took more than the Trump endorsement. I think the appeal to him is he's he's literally an outsider. And I think there's a lot of voters who have said, enough with politics, let's bring in some fresh blood. And I think Tony Weed fits that bill.

[00:30:25] **Speaker 1** All right. It's a few seconds left. How much does Harris need to win the state by in order to pull Christine likely across in the eight.

[00:30:31] **Speaker 3** Point and a half?

[00:30:33] **Speaker 1** That small? Yep. What do you think.

[00:30:34] **Speaker 2** She'd need to win it by four. And that won't happen.

[00:30:37] **Speaker 1** All right. We have more time tomorrow. We have more to talk about. Thank you both for being here. Appreciate it.

[00:30:42] **Speaker 3** Great to be here.

[00:30:44] **Speaker 1** All right. We'll leave it there. Thank you for watching. The special presentation of hearing now is 2024 election coverage. Be sure to come back tomorrow. You'll find us here each day this week and tune into PBS evening coverage of the convention. We're here and now. We'll have another update on the day's events. And finally join us on Friday to wrap up the week with a special. One hour presentation of Here and Now starting at 7 p.m. I'm Zach Schultz. Thanks so much for watching. We'll see you here tomorrow.