

Harris rallies New Hampshire Democrats for midterm election

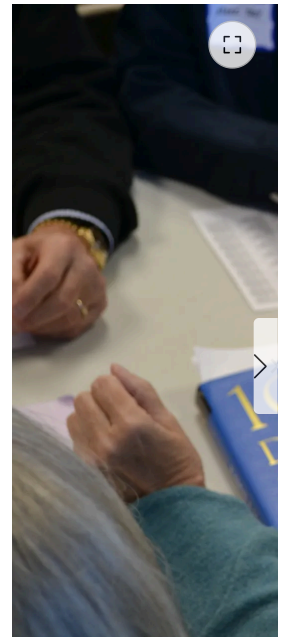
With 10 days until the general election, former Vice President Kamala Harris campaigned in New Hampshire for Senate candidate Chris Pappas, urging Democrats to intensify turnout efforts.



Gabriel Perry
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Former Vice President Kamala Harris and Congressman Chris Pappas, D-NH, visited a Democratic campaign office in Portsmouth on Saturday. GABRIEL PERRY/UNION LEADER



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Former Vice President Kamala Harris, 10 days out from the midterm election, came to New Hampshire on Saturday in support of Rep. Chris Pappas's bid for the U.S. Senate.

At a Portsmouth campaign office, Harris entered to raucous applause from Democratic Party volunteers who were busy working the phones, calling registered voters ahead of the election. Harris emphasized that now is the time to apply the most pressure and not to let up.

The most recent polling out of the Saint Anselm College Survey Center at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics found Democrats are leading the generic congressional ballot 52% to 43% with Pappas, a Democrat, maintaining a seven-point margin over former U.S. Sen. John E. Sununu, a Republican.

Harris thanked Democratic volunteers for their work and encouraged them to keep up their enthusiasm.

"The founders imagined a moment like this," Harris said. "They imagined the moment that there would be a tyrant in office. They imagined a moment where there would be feckless people who are supposedly bending a knee at the foot of the tyrant. They imagined this moment and so they created these three co-equal branches of government with the idea that there would be checks and balances."



Harris said the opportunity before Democrats, describing the Trump administration as “the most callous, corrupt and incompetent” presidential administration ever witnessed, is that voters can express their views and make the changes they’d like to see in government. “We’re never going to let anyone take our power from us,” Harris said. “This is that moment, and that is so darn exciting.

“I wanted to come by and say thank you. Let’s not on day 11 have any regrets about what we could have done these 10 days. It’s going to take a lot out of you, it’s going to require a lot and it’s going to be worth it,” Harris said.

Democratic candidate for governor Cinde Warmington and 1st Congressional District candidate Stefany Shaheen each appeared at the event and similarly thanked party volunteers and criticized their Republican opponents, Gov. Kelly Ayotte and Anthony DiLorenzo, respectively.

“Think about what it means to have leadership that’s actually focused on solving people’s challenges as opposed to just dividing this country,” Pappas said.

Pappas drew a distinction between himself and Sununu, positioning his campaign as more representative of ordinary people and his opponent’s as supported by a political machine headquartered in Washington, D.C.

“We’re doing this the New Hampshire way. We know this is not the big-money campaign. We know that’s on the other side. They’re dumping tens of millions of dollars into these races to prop up candidates who are only going to do one thing: Be loyal to Donald Trump,” Pappas said.

He, too, encouraged volunteers to maintain optimism in the last few days of the campaign.

“As dark as things seem at this moment, there is light at the end of the tunnel,” Pappas said. “The American people aren’t standing down, they are standing up and fighting back, and you are part of that fight and I’m so grateful,” Pappas said.

On Saturday night, Harris and Pappas were in Manchester at The Gardens at Queen City Center for a live recording of “My Body My Pod,” a podcast hosted by Mini Timmaraju of Reproductive Freedom for All.

A large and enthusiastic crowd packed the room with an optimistic and triumphant energy.

“You know, New Hampshire is the most pro-choice state in the country,” Pappas said. “We are the ‘Live Free or Die’ state, right? We don’t want government telling us what to do or to get involved in those private, personal decisions. Don’t you think that the voters deserve a pro-choice United States senator?

“Don’t you think they deserve someone who’s willing to go to the mat to restore Roe v. Wade as the law of the land? Don’t you think they want someone who’s going to advocate for funding for Planned Parenthood and other health centers that do great work in our communities?”

Over the course of the taping, Harris opined on all manner of policy questions and told Timmaraju that the U.S. Supreme Court should be expanded to 13 members and that a critical look at the Electoral College is warranted.

“The level of pain that has been caused by this administration — you know, I call it the ‘Big Bad Bill’ — it exposes so much,” Harris said in criticizing cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

“I believe that we have to be ruthless,” Harris said. “I don’t mean cruel, I mean uncompromising.”





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