

Bio Points

- Born in 1964 in Oakland California to an Indian mother who was a breast cancer scientist and a Jamaican father that was a professor of economics at Berkley.
- She grew up in a black part of town in Berkely, which is where she participated in the bussing to a more economically advantaged town. The school went from 95% white to 40% black. She grew up going to black Baptist churches and Hindu temples.
- While her parents were not citizens at her birth, she was born in America, which makes her a natural-born citizen and eligible to be President.
- (<https://reason.com/2020/08/10/yes-kamala-harris-is-indeed-a-natural-born-citizen/>)
- Some in the MAGA crowd are highliting an ancestor that owned slaves. This is true. Her great-great-great-great-great grandfather was an Irishman in Jamaica that owned slaves. It is likely that her great-great-great-great-great grandmother was one of those slaves and was raped by the slaveowner.
- (<https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/08/fact-check-kamala-harris-descended-from-slave-owner-but-its-not-a-dark-secret-that-could-come-back-to-haunt-her.html?fbclid=IwAR2w1RDB5mJFJMcZsRE0ch7zP-KMHO2fxfVnqAoGHqbwPVtNmP-OSiK3aa0>)
- Harris attended Howard University in DC and graduated in poly sci and econ. She then went to Univ. of CA for her law degree and was admitted to the CA bar in 1990.

Early Career

- She began her career as a prosecutor as a deputy district attorney in Alameda County CA. (San Fran Area)
- In 1994, California Assembly speaker Willie Brown (with whom Harris was in a relationship)[29] (Wikipedia) appointed Harris to the state Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board and later the California Medical Assistance Commission. Harris took a leave of absence from her prosecutor job to serve in the positions. Willie Brown was a kingmaker and the head of the CA assembly at the time. She was 30, and he was in his 60s and married. It was an open secret. She earned

over \$400,000 in these positions over five years, and he gifted her a BMW. Their relationship ended and he returned to his wife, and they remained friendly. He convinced LA Mayor Villarigosa to stay out of the Senate Race when she ran, for instance. For a person that runs on fighting corruption, this is obviously problematic.

- (<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/the-san-francisco-ghosts-in-kamala-harris-past>)
- Fun fact: She dated Montel Williams in 2001.
- She worked as a private attorney specializing in youth sexual abuse cases and domestic violence. As a DA, she would go on to take a less punitive approach to sex workers as a result. She would go on to co-sponsor a law that would have banned sex offenders from social media as well as a law that imposed a curfew on them on Halloween.

Prosecutor

- In 2003, she unseated incumbent DA Terenece Hallinan in an upset by building a broad coalition of supporters ranging from low-income minority voters to bay area elites. She was in-tune and well-networked in both circles.
- (<https://www.sfweekly.com/news/looking-back-on-kamala-harris-record-in-california/>)
- This is when she began to be tagged with the ambition label.
- While she touted that she was tough on crime, she was often criticized by the local law enforcement for only pursuing cases she knew she could win lest she have a loss on her record that could be used against her politically. She blamed their sloppy work. The one-time favorite of the cop community eventually lost their support.
- Her felony conviction rate was far lower than her counter-parts, but higher than her predecessor in murder convictions.
- She increased conviction rate from 52% to 67%, the highest in a decade. 85% conviction rate among homicides. Drug crime convictions went from 56% to 74%
- <https://www.newspapers.com/image/462412693/?terms=kamala%2Bharris%2Bconviction%2Brate>,
- <https://www.newspapers.com/image/462434036/?terms=kamala%2Bharris%2Bconviction%2Brate>.
- Her conviction rates were largely because of plea deals, of 73 first degree homicide convictions, she accepted manslaughter, third degree murder, on 32 of them and second degree for nearly all of the others.

Meaning she didn't do her job in prosecuting the actual crime but a lesser crime

- (<https://www.sfweekly.com/news/looking-back-on-kamala-harris-record-in-california/>).
- She got someone who committed multiple sexual assaults to plea to "battery"
- (<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/plea-deal-by-kamala-harris-ag-office-for-sexual-harassing-san-diego-mayor-was-too-lenient-critics-say>).
- A prosecutor is supposed to convict the actual crime committed and plea deals are supposed to be reserved for mutual benefit. It is a system that is abused by most prosecutors, to be sure, but nobody abused it more than she did. I highly recommend the book "Three Felonies a Day" to see how corrupt prosecutors like Harris use this tactic and abuse it to advance their careers and pad their stats
- (<https://fee.org/articles/three-felonies-a-day-how-the-feds-target-the-innocent/>).
- This journey ends in innocent and non-violent people getting hurt.
- She opened a special unit that investigated bullying of our friends in the GSM community
- (<https://web.archive.org/web/20101125112342/http://kamalaharris.org/MarriageEquality>).
- One might argue that expansion of hate crimes is a detriment, but the budget requiring special hate crimes investigators was passed by Congress. She simply extended this protection to the LGBTQ+ community and crimes targeting these individuals are valid hate crimes if we are forced, as Harris was, to assign special investigations to hate crimes.
- Her conviction rates were largely because of plea deals, of 73 first degree homicide convictions, she accepted manslaughter, third degree murder, on 32 of them and second degree for nearly all of the others.
- She messed up the lives of many people, some of them innocent, by threatening them with the highest amount of time for imprisonment on petty and victimless crimes
- (<https://reason.com/2019/06/03/kamala-harris-is-a-cop-who-wants-to-be-president/>).
- There are over one thousand drug related sentences that were overturned due to her faulty practices
- (<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article233375207.html>).

- So while her conviction rate was high, her ability to retain those sentences was low due to the false nature of her prosecution.
- Harris made the first arrest of Backpage CEO Carl Ferrer
- He was not convicted on these arrest and charges, but eventually plead guilty after another arrest for similar charges were filed. Backpage was a site that “unknowingly” offered young prostitutes to buyers on top of illegal substance sales. Harris alleged 99% of the girls were under 18.
- This brings us to the Backpage bust. While sex trafficking occurred on the website, and, let’s be honest, it was a feature of the website, the owners were actually very good about reporting suspicious listings to authorities
- (<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/backpage-ad-site-aider-of-traffickers-or-way-to-stop-them/>).
- But instead of prosecuting the sex traffickers that the page owners had reported, Harris and her team went after these same people who were open with authorities. Harris was instrumental in shutting down Backpage and arresting non-violent offenders and sex workers.
- This forced many sex workers back on the street.
- (https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/59xzj5/sex-workers-dont-trust-kamala-harris-backpage-fosta-sesta).
- Good prosecutors go after pedophiles, rapists, and traffickers. Harris went after website designers that were explicit about calling out pedophiles, rapists, and traffickers. She actually arrested two of them even after publicly admitting they were innocent of the charges and a judge was forced to throw out her bogus charges
- (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzhvfGSRVDs&fbclid=IwAR2L7ZvTtJGxEqRy0ZCI7S4RSI8poR4v46tOJGrFHuH_9oIcAbvBQkGqb3o).
- She also advocated a law that would force truckers to turn in sex workers.
- It’s one thing for sex workers to be given a hard time, but how about parents of children who miss school? She went after them criminally (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WImAEf7D8Ss&feature=youtu.be>).
- She even laughed about it when giving an interview. Her Hillary-like tendency to laugh off criticism has been a thorn in her side.
- I can not demand that a prosecutor turn a blind eye to crime, victimless or not. But I would hope that they would not WANT to enforce petty laws that are completely non-violent. While Harris has changed her tune

since, she was not only a major prosecutor against marijuana, she was major voice for keeping these things illegal

- (<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2017/08/kamala-harris-trump-obama-california-attorney-general>).
- She fought to keep these people in prison even after her state adopted policies that would have let these over-incarcerated people go
- (<https://prospect.org/justice/how-kamala-harris-fought-to-keep-nonviolent-prisoners-locked-up/>).
- In 2012, Superior Court Judge Anne-Christine Massullo ruled that San Francisco District Attorney Harris's office violated the defendant's rights by hiding damaging information from police crime lab technicians, destroying evidence, and ignored demands from lawyers and judges in responding to what happened to missing evidence
- (<https://www.chicagotribune.com/nation-world/ct-kamala-harris-crime-lab-scandal-20190306-story.html>)
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/08/kamala-cop-record/596758/>).
- In 2015, an appeals court summoned her for review of three of her many cases that resulted in an innocent person to be convicted. In one, she had allowed a fake confession to be used in court. In another, she committed perjury by telling a prosecutor to change his story based on evidence he wouldn't have known. By repeating his false testimony in court, she perjured herself. In a third case, she gave evidence to a technician that was not obtained from the scene of the crime in order to make a fingerprint connection
- (<https://observer.com/2015/03/california-prosecutor-falsifies-transcript-of-confession/>).
- Though guilty on all three counts, a federal judge nullified any penalty she would have received, but told Harris' lawyers to "talk to the attorney general and make sure she understands the gravity of the situation"
- (<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/29/magazine/kamala-harris-a-top-cop-in-the-era-of-black-lives-matter.html>).
- Her office appealed the overturning of capital punishment
- (<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/17/opinion/kamala-harris-criminal-justice.html>).
- Civil asset forfeiture has been a huge problem. Taking people's things without a charge against them is downright piracy and it's an abuse of a law that had a vastly different intent. Harris was a huge part of perpetuating the problem

- (<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2017/08/kamala-harris-trump-obama-california-attorney-general>).
- When it was discovered that she defeated a bill that would have paid prisoners \$1 per hour instead of 8 to 32 cents per hour for hard labor, she explained: “The way that argument played out in court does not reflect my priorities... The idea that we incarcerate people to have indentured servants is one of the worst possible perceptions. I feel very strongly about that. It evokes images of chain gangs”
- (<https://archive.thinkprogress.org/california-attorney-general-says-her-offices-defense-of-prison-labor-evokes-chain-gangs-5c768fd447a4/>).
- Her tactics made it so that these nonviolent prisoners could be janitors for 8 cents an hour, but forbid them from pursuing jobs like firefighting for 1 dollar per hour
- (<https://www.latimes.com/local/political/la-me-ff-federal-judges-order-state-to-release-more-prisoners-20141114-story.html>).
- While it’s a common problem for Democrats to promise too much free stuff, Harris was actually the worst offender. This isn’t hyperbole, this is actually measured
- (<https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2019/08/26/john-stossel-free-stuff-2020-tallying-up-proposed-spending-by-presidential-candidates.html>).
- Overall, as Reason put it, “In the public eye, she spoke of racial justice and liberal values, bolstering her cred as one of the Democratic Party's rising stars. But behind closed doors, she repeatedly fought for more aggressive prosecution not just of violent criminals but of people who committed misdemeanors and "quality of life" crimes.”
- Has she changed? Yes, she now is pro-marijuana legalization. Reason’s Nick Gillespie says, “Once a staunch prohibitionist, the Democratic vice-presidential pick is arguably the most libertarian senator on marijuana.”

Senate

- Harris was the first person of prominence to call Trump’s travel restriction to certain countries a “Muslim ban”
- In her most famous instance as a Senator, she questioned both James Comey and Jeff Sessions, each time, she was stopped by her

colleagues for being mean during her questions. The media, and public at large, saw this as sexist and possibly even racist.

- She was also one of the ones who was able to ask questions of Brett Kavanaugh

Presidential ambitions

- She said she believes Biden's accusers
- (https://www.huffpost.com/entry/kamala-harris-joe-biden-accusers-i-believe-them_n_5ca4fb96e4b094d3f5c5750f).
- She has not yet addressed this change of heart and I assume that she will. At the very least, she should. But even I have looked at the evidence and gone back and forth on the credibility of the allegation. Biden undoubtedly touches children in ways that would land your average person in either prison or with a black eye. But I don't want to set a double standard with her and Brett Kavanaugh. She has a right to change her mind.
- She did not actually call Joe Biden racist
- (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/08/11/no-kamala-harris-didnt-call-joe-biden-racist/>).
- She actually prefaced her statement by saying she didn't believe he was a racist and then going on to say that his policies and practices were racist. I mean... She's right. There's a statement about a pot and a kettle here that seems extremely applicable, but that conversation will happen in the next section.

Other links:

- <https://www.sfweekly.com/news/kamalas-karma/>
- <https://reason.com/tag/kamala-harris/>
- <https://reason.com/2020/08/11/kamala-harris-is-a-cop-who-wants-to-be-vice-president/>

Notes by Hodey Johns and Chris Spangle