

Congresswoman Alexandria-Ocasio Cortez
2024 Presidential Bid
Written by Niko Gonzalez

Setting: Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx, NY 10471

Date: April 17, 2024

Audience: Live audience, face masks strongly recommended, but not required. Public event (free attendance)

Guest Speaker List: Senator Bernie Sanders, Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Riley Roberts (AOC's partner), Saikat Chakrabarti (AOC's former chief of staff, currently running New Census advocate group for the Green New Deal), & Senator Ed Markey

Outfit and Stylistic Choices: Blue blazer w/ white button down; fitted jeans w/ black dress shoes; simple jewelry (nothing flashy); iconic red lipstick (primary voting base will appreciate the authenticity); hair down and straightened, avoid any over the top styles (again, authenticity); AOC pin (merchandise marketing)

AOC Announces Run for Presidency

< walk up to the podium with confidence; smile and wave >

< take off your mask once you reach the podium; wait for audience to become silent >

< laugh and smile at the cheers >

Hello New York!

< gap for cheers >

Before we begin, I would like to thank Bernie Sanders for always fighting for the people.

<pause>

Ilhan Omar and Jamaal Bowman for fighting the good fight in Congress. <pause>

Riley for always believing me. <pause, smile and look at Riley>

Saikat for that big spectacular brain and fighting spirit! <pause>

Senator Markey for fighting for progressive policies everyday, and thank you to New York and everyone here today!

<pause>

You know, if you had asked me a few years ago if I would ever wanna be here, doing what we're doing, I probably would have said "HECK NO!" And, <hold for laughter> and that's not because I didn't care. That's because back then, life seemed hopeless. Hopeless, because I was paying off debt from my college education while bartending to make ends meet. <pause> Hopeless, because climate change was so obviously ravaging our planet. <pause> Hopeless, because minimum wage wasn't even enough to get by. <pause> Hopeless, because there was so much hate and bigotry in our world! <pause> But then, I ran for Congress. <hold for applause; smile> My team and I went door to door, we did the work. We spoke to the community! <pause> The people of New York were in desperate need of help, and Joe Crowley was nowhere to be seen. <nod and smirk as audience applauds> Well, you all know what happened next. <laugh along with the cheers> Crowley was only one of many obstacles though, and that is why we are here today. I once said that I had no interest in the title of President, but look where we are now! <maybe speak with your hands here, create emphasis>

Our borders are still riddled with concentration camps! <pause>

Our communities of color are still facing hideous amounts of hate! <pause>

Our LGBTQ+ citizens are still being targeted by hate-filled legislation! <pause>

Our infrastructure needs to be changed, our kids are getting fed half truths in our education system, our communities are still being plagued by COVID-19, our healthcare system never worked to begin with, and our very livelihoods are at stake. These are just a handful of reasons as to why I stand here before you all today. <smile> And what better way to do this than right here in the BX!? <pause> Today, I formally announce my bid for the 2024 Presidential run! <hold pause; smile and mouth out "thank you" to audience members; keep eye contact> As we stand here, America is under siege from the very people who are supposed to protect and represent us. This is the year we put an end to the grotesque exploitation being practiced by big pharma! <pause> In that same breath, we WILL pass medicare for all! <pause> We WILL cancel student loans and make it possible once again for young adults to invest in homes and their families! <pause> This is the year we are gonna work towards a comprehensive climate action plan! <Raise your hand to the sky> WE ARE GONNA GET THE GREEN NEW DEAL PASSED! <pause>

This is the year that we finally tell billionaires that they WILL help America! <speak over audience> Yes, that means a wealth tax! That means creating an America in which the top 1% doesn't own the majority of the wealth; an America where our citizens aren't laying on rags on the streets because their state's minimum wage is \$13! An America where insulin doesn't cost more than your car insurance! <pause> An America where kids from low income zip codes are not coerced into enlisting because they cannot afford to go to college or trade school! As the

richest country in the world, we should not have to tell our children that they must make compromises or suffer because the 1% are too greedy, or because the military industrial complex is more important than healthcare, or because politicians wanna hold on to the profits they gain from all of these systemic issues. <long pause; let audience die down> This is also gonna be the year where we put an end to the sinister witch hunt on trans people and BIPOC communities! We must put an end to hateful legislation that targets specific communities just because conservatives think they have a say in the matter of other people's basic human rights. <long pause>

And while we are on the topic of BIPOC communities, we are gonna end the blight that is systemic racism within this country! We are gonna create a drastic change in the Justice system and the way our communities are policed! <pause> And yes, they will call us radicals. Yes, they will call us socialists and “commies.” <pause; laugh> And yes, they’ll try to pull every trick out of their sleeves to tear down our movement, our cause. That’s because this isn’t just a run for the highest office in the country, this is a race for our lives. The clock has been ticking, and time is almost out. <keep a serious face> But we will not blink, we will not surrender, and will not break. The Republicans, heck even some Democrats, will try to stop us at every corner. The path forward will not be easy, but nothing ever is, and if history has taught us anything, it's that when the people of this country are put to the test, we will ALWAYS rise to the challenge! <hold for cheers> I know this to be true, because together, we survived war threats. <pause> Together, we survived a pandemic. <pause> Together, we survived a Trump presidency! <pause; laugh and smile> And while we lost some people along the way, whether it was to COVID, police brutality, natural disasters, or endless wars, we will still move forward. We will plant our feet in the ground, we will tell the powers to be that we will not be silenced! We, the people, WILL have a say in the direction that this country takes! You may all be asking what an AOC presidency would look like. Well, it’ll look unlike any other presidency we have seen, because I pledge today that the PEOPLE will play a momentous role in how we will reshape this country. <pause>

Because we ALL deserve a better America. One that favors all, and not just a handful of citizens. <loud; use hands; look enthusiastic> Because THAT is an America worth fighting for!

<long pause>

Thank you all so much for showing up, for getting involved, and thank you in advance, because this fight will be hard. It will be so hard, but remember, we will not give in! Keep fighting America!

<smile and wave; after a few seconds, begin to walk off; continue to wave>