**6DNC20240822MCROSS.mp3**

[00:01:09] **Speaker 1** Good afternoon, and welcome to Chicago, host city for the Democratic National Convention. You're watching a special presentation of Here and Now's 2024 election coverage. We're coming to you live from Media Row inside the United Center in downtown Chicago. I'm senior political reporter Zach Schultz, joined, as always, by our esteemed guests, Bill McCosh and Scott Retros.

[00:01:28] **Speaker 2** Get better every day down here.

[00:01:30] **Speaker 3** Yes, here. Should stay another week.

[00:01:31] **Speaker 1** You guys have survived this long. We've made it to Mars. To me. All right, let's start with last night, Tim Walz, coach Walz, as the Democrats would like to see America look at him, had his big speech on the stage. What was your first impression?

[00:01:44] **Speaker 3** Oh, coach Walz went right into the end zone. You know, whatever metaphor you want to use. He really crushed it last night. He did exactly what he needed to do, which was to introduce himself to America in a way that's relatable and authentic. And every part of his speech was exactly that, while also talking about some of the issues that really, really matter in this election and why people, you know, are so concerned about the idea of having a second Donald Trump term that would be even more extreme, even more dangerous than this one. Kamala Harris Tim Walz will offer a bright, hopeful future. That's what America wants. That's what Wisconsin wants.

[00:02:18] **Speaker 1** What did you think of him?

[00:02:19] **Speaker 2** I'm going to give you the good and the bad, I think. Start with the good. Tim Walz spoke for 18 minutes. That was smart. It's very rare in politics these days that candidates can stay on message and stay disciplined and get their whole speech done in that kind of time. Voters don't have as long of attention span as a lot of candidates think they do. So I think it was really smart that he did that. He brought energy. There's no question about that. And lastly, you know, there's no question he's appealing to the base. So he fired up the base. So I think in those respects he was he was outstanding. He met the mark. That's that's what he was supposed to do. On the downside, the intro still had him listed as a command sergeant major when he wasn't command sergeant major. And then he himself spoke about IVF, which we discussed in spirited discussion yesterday, when that isn't what they used and the difference between IVF and I you I is embryos. And so the IVF could be impacted by state abortion policy. AUI is not. So I think he was misleading, at least in two respects again last night.

[00:03:21] **Speaker 1** So I'm glad you brought that up. That was next on the list. I wanted to clarify for those who caught our discussion yesterday. He has consistently said since he was introduced to the national stage that he and his wife used a had fertility issues, and that he sympathize and empathize with people who had used IVF to have their children. They did use a process called II intrauterine insertion, which is not the same. It does not create embryos. It's not impacted, as you would said. However, it is adjacent and it's technically considered the first step towards IVF. It's cheaper and easier and less invasive. And so a lot of couples try that first before they go that. So Scott, I'm sure you say in his in the line of thinking he never he never said technically they used it. Yeah. He never clarified.

[00:04:06] **Speaker 2** And leaves that impression.

[00:04:08] **Speaker 3** But again, this is about control of women's bodies and women's lives that we get under Donald Trump and Republican leadership. And what we got from the U.S. Supreme Court and why Democrats have been winning races all over the place since the Dobbs decision. Yes, they had for infertility issues. They went in and, you know, did something about it. And like, I don't know if you've had friends who have gone through IVF. I've had friends, you know, the the shots that the women have to go through are really onerous. Kim Walls went through the shots. So he's even more he's even more relative women, you know, again, this is about the control that we're going to have. We know that the Donald Trump Blueprint 2025 project 2025 wants one set of one set of couples men, women and children, you know, and that's what and all this is about trying to erase the idea that people who aren't met, same sex couples can, you know, can reproduce. I think.

[00:05:04] **Speaker 2** He could have.

[00:05:05] **Speaker 3** Made and I think that's exactly what this is about. This is about control. It has always been about control and people are going to reject.

[00:05:10] **Speaker 2** He could have made his point by being honest about who he was. How would you.

[00:05:13] **Speaker 1** Have accepted it? If you want to use something very similar to IVF?

[00:05:16] **Speaker 2** He says they aren't impacted by, state abortion laws. So yeah, I think that would have been smarter because it does get the trust and credibility. That's what you're sort of straddling.

[00:05:28] **Speaker 1** Does it have anywhere to stand on trust and credibility?

[00:05:31] **Speaker 2** Well, I mean, that's every voter is going to have to make that decision on November 5th, which candidates they trust more.

[00:05:36] **Speaker 3** The fact is that the Republicans are claiming that Donald Trump will push for a, national abortion ban. The the project 2025 blueprint, which was created with 57 of his aides. Exactly does that and they do it without votes. That's the thing they do it by. I can.

[00:05:53] **Speaker 2** Check in real time.

[00:05:54] **Speaker 3** CNN by going in and, you know, using the process outside the legislative process, which is always like a CNN.

[00:06:01] **Speaker 2** Yesterday fact checked this and said Donald Trump did not have anything to do with project 25.

[00:06:06] **Speaker 1** Just most of the. People connected to Donald.

[00:06:08] **Speaker 2** Doesn't matter. He didn't.

[00:06:09] **Speaker 3** Yeah. He's not in there. Okay.

[00:06:10] **Speaker 1** All right. One of the thing I want to talk about with Tim Walz and his family. I think we're all on the same page here. Has to do with the sunk costs. As we saw a lot of emotion from the reaction when he was on stage in the crowd. And we saw some terrible statements being made online last night from right wing people who were just trying to go after Walz, including a talk show host from Wisconsin. He deleted the tweet. But what is it about conservative anger that kids are back in fair play when it comes to politicians?

[00:06:36] **Speaker 2** I think families should be off grounds full stop except or unless they break the law. Right. I think Hunter Biden's a separate case.

[00:06:45] **Speaker 1** He's also an adult.

[00:06:46] **Speaker 2** And he's an adult. Well, even adult kids, I think, should be when mom or dad decides to run for political office. Yeah, they're making a lot of sacrifices and putting their family at risk. But that doesn't mean that they're fair game for any attacks. I am totally against that. Completely.

[00:07:03] **Speaker 3** If I may, you know, if we're going to talk about Hunter Biden for a second, I think we can talk about the fact that while she was in the white House, Ivana Trump had 12 different patents from China. The fact that she and Jared Kushner increased their wealth by over $300 million. And the fact that, you know, Eric Trump stole money from a cancer charity, and Donald Trump Jr, well, he shows up on talk shows, which isn't the worst thing in the world.

[00:07:26] **Speaker 1** But anyhow, we saw him.

[00:07:27] **Speaker 3** It's not off. But again, that was it was ghoulish. You know, those examples are ghoulish now. The radio talk show host in Milwaukee, I couldn't see that because he blocked me on Twitter. But I'm going to take your word for it.

[00:07:38] **Speaker 2** Moving on to what I liked about it is the kid was clearly excited. My kids would have been excited had I been standing up there, you know, and that that was an emotional time. I'm surprised Walz was able to get through that portion of the speech.

[00:07:50] **Speaker 3** I mean, literally, as a parent, would you want anything other than that? Oh heck no.

[00:07:54] **Speaker 1** So another speech last night was from, former president Bill Clinton. One of the numbers that he threw out a statistic that Washington Post fact checked and said it was true what he said since the end of the Cold War. So since 1989, 50 million jobs created under Democratic presidents, 1 million jobs under Republican presidents. First of all, that's the first I've heard of it. And it's been FactCheck. Why is that not the Democrat's main talking point every election?

[00:08:18] **Speaker 3** I would just say this. I have seen different memes where it's like, how many jobs? And, you know, it's a graph of that. Nobody's apparently not math majors in the Democratic Party. Nobody added it all up. But the fact is, is that there's a reason why that's the case. It's because Democrats invest in people they recognize. If you put money into the pockets of the middle class, the middle class goes out and spends it and drives the American economy. The fact that you can't have a strong economy without a strong infrastructure. This should be the nail in the coffin to the idea that tax breaks for rich people creates jobs, because it just simply doesn't. And the proof is in what, you know, the big dog came out and said last night, albeit a little bit more hoarse than he usually is.

[00:08:57] **Speaker 2** I would say that was Bill Clinton's best line. I think putting Bill Clinton on the stage was a mistake. This is all about the vibes. This is about joy. This is a guy who spent made 46 trips to Jeffrey Epstein's island. I don't think that's the guy they want representing the Democratic Party. Very few people in that room last night were even born when Bill Clinton was the president. I think it was a mistake, and I don't think he's clearly lost his fastball.

[00:09:19] **Speaker 1** Since we're talking about Jeff Epstein. You brought him up. Trump is actually flying to campaign events on his former private plane that is owned by a conservative donor who has handed it out. There's a Trump logo on the side of the plane.

[00:09:31] **Speaker 2** You're saying that Trump that the plane he flies on is a former Epstein?

[00:09:35] **Speaker 1** It's not his main plane, but he has been found using it as a side plane.

[00:09:40] **Speaker 2** Yeah, I don't I don't I don't know anything about that.

[00:09:42] **Speaker 3** I'll bail you out on this. I wonder if he's going to fly that plane to the January 6th awards I just saw before we went on air.

[00:09:49] **Speaker 2** Did he buy the plane? I mean, Jeffrey Epstein's. He's been dead for three years.

[00:09:53] **Speaker 1** No, it is a conservative donor out of California that bought the plane through a number of shell companies, and then they tracked it through the tail number and the registration number. It now has a Trump logo on the side.

[00:10:04] **Speaker 3** And I'm wrong. I mean, I see picture after. I see picture after picture of Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein hugging from many, many years. You know, over the over the course of many, many years. So if it's a liability for Bill Clinton hand on the ballot, it sure is a liability for Donald Trump.

[00:10:20] **Speaker 1** Moving on to tonight, we have the big speech Thursday night speech. We got a preview yesterday from the Harris campaign that there. Her speech is split into three segments sharing her story, the theme of optimism versus project 2025 and then patriotism. So what are you expecting to hear from her?

[00:10:37] **Speaker 3** I think we're going to hear a, you know, a lot of what we've heard over the last couple days of reinforcement of that because it's all building towards what she is, which is the best case for these things, which is we're going to make sure that we protect reproductive freedom and in some cases in 21 states, restore reproductive freeman for reproductive freedom. We're going to have a strong economy that works for, you know, it doesn't just you don't just get by, but you get to thrive, especially if you're working hard, something that's been denied to a lot of people under Republican policies. And then third, the. Fact that we're going to strengthen democracy. And again, the idea that Donald Trump is going to an awards ceremony for the January 6th terrace insurrection. My only question is, is Derek Van Orton, our congressman, in January 20th. January 6th terrorist insurrection going to be the mic or do the Pledge of Allegiance or whatever the heck they want him to do?

[00:11:28] **Speaker 2** So there was a lot of talk about freedom last night. Republicans and Democrats have a very different definition of this. Democrats a definition of freedom as big government, right. Kamala Harris was the deciding vote to create 87,000 new IRS agents. She set off the inflation by being the 51st or 50th vote for the Inflation Reduction Act and two massive spending budget bills. So if she doesn't talk about the economy tonight, that's an advantage for us for sure. She can talk about joy all she wants to, but at the end of the day, people are going to look at whether they can pay their rent or their mortgage. They can. What are their grocery bills? What are their gas bills? Those are the things they're worried about. They're worried about the influx at the southern border. If she doesn't talk about those two subjects tonight, I'd say it's going to be a win for us.

[00:12:14] **Speaker 3** I mean, the fact is that there's going to be a construction boom under the if the Republicans are back in charge, because every doctor's office is going to be have to be big enough to have the six members of the Supreme Court Donald Trump, JD Vance, every Republican member of the Congress, every Republican governor, in every Republican legislature across this country, because that's how big they need. Because they want to be in your because they want to be in the women's doctor's offices. So that's a pretty big government.

[00:12:41] **Speaker 1** You've talked about 2025. It's not Trump. We've had that discussion both in Milwaukee and here. But Democrats have had a section on 2020 that project every single night. And it's clear she's going to be talking about it. So whether Trump himself was in the room when it was signed, he is deeply connected to it. And Democrats are making that case, too. They must see that this this is working. They're sticking to.

[00:13:03] **Speaker 3** It. Well, just think about what's in that plan. You know, a nationwide abortion ban, end to IVF, an end to.

[00:13:09] **Speaker 2** Neither, which.

[00:13:09] **Speaker 3** Will happen. Certain contraceptives. And, you know, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Nothing like gutted unions iterated, you know, over and over again and again. The January 6th folks are pardoned and like, you know, or clemency, whatever, whatever you want to say about that, you know, it is a blueprint for disaster. It is a blueprint for fascism. It is going to be rejected, by and large, by the American people. And that's why we're going to have a blue wave in 2024.

[00:13:35] **Speaker 2** The other thing I'll take out of Bill Clinton's speech is he he warned the people in the audience last night, both in the room and on TV, not to get distracted by phony issues. Tragic 2025 is a phony issue. Trump has and been asked about this many, many times. He said he didn't have anything to do with it. That's not his agenda. His agenda was rolled out at the RNC. That's what he's running on. Democrats don't want to talk about the economy. They don't want to talk about immigration. Those are the things that really matter to voters. They want to talk about abortion. Fine. Donald Trump isn't as far right as some in our party would like him to be on that particular issue. So I don't think he's going to be scary to suburban women.

[00:14:12] **Speaker 3** You know, it's just depends on the day of the way. It just depends on the day of the week as to how how extreme Donald Trump is on abortion. You know, let's be very, very clear about that. And abortion is about economics because it's whether or not women can fully participate when they want to participate in the American economy that the government can't come and say, we're going to force you to have that child and you can't work now because you're having that child. That's exactly what this is about.

[00:14:38] **Speaker 2** It is absolutely no state does that.

[00:14:40] **Speaker 3** If you if you can't, you know, if you're, there's no difference does that. Well in the Republican states, they, they fight against paid family medical leave for women, maternal leave, parental leave. And they want to force people to have.

[00:14:53] **Speaker 2** To look for the boogeyman for the next 75 days from the Democrats, because they're they don't do not want the American people to see how extremely liberal Kamala Harris and Tim Walz are, because once they do, the American public will say, been saying not for us.

[00:15:07] **Speaker 1** But when it comes to looking for the boogeyman, that's the Republican playbook as well. Talking about rising crime when the crime statistics are going down. So this is all just politics now.

[00:15:16] **Speaker 2** Crime statistics are not down the bureau. They they've changed how they calculate those statistics from one administration to the other, just like they changed the definition of vaccine during during the Covid pandemic. It's listen, you just ask yourself, do you feel safer today than you did four years ago?

[00:15:36] **Speaker 3** I do I can go outside without, you know, potentially like having a disease that can kill.

[00:15:41] **Speaker 2** How many people in this city have been shot since we've been here? Yeah.

[00:15:45] **Speaker 3** You know, the doesn't.

[00:15:47] **Speaker 1** Have they? I haven't seen the local news numbers, I haven't heard.

[00:15:50] **Speaker 3** It's a, you know, it's a city. Those things happened. There are gunshots. Maybe if Republicans had allowed the the, assault weapons ban not to expire 30 years ago, maybe if Republican Party wasn't in a complete and total control of the NRA. Maybe if like, again, what Tim Walsh said. Last night. I believe in the Second Amendment, but our first priority is the safety of our children. And Republicans have absolutely abrogated that responsibility by letting these assault weapons into our schools to kill children over and over and over again. We are unlike any other country on planet Earth because of the mass shootings that we have, because of the fact that the Republican Party is owned by the gun lobby.

[00:16:31] **Speaker 1** Looking at the numbers, the viewership numbers have come in and all these issues that are being put out there.

[00:16:36] **Speaker 3** How high are we?

[00:16:37] **Speaker 1** It's 20 million for the first couple of nights. That is ahead of where Republicans were on their first couple of nights. The Democrats said that with online view, it's at somewhere around 81 million, but that's actually still small compared to generations past. But what I want to have you guys talk about is how are these consumed down the road? How are these speeches chopped up and used for advertising in a commercial for these individual people on stage for Cavalier Johnson promoting himself for.

[00:17:03] **Speaker 2** Be used for 75 days. And Scott and I sort of focus on or maybe me. The fact that Democrats blew primetime two nights out of the three, it doesn't really matter as much as it would have 15 or 20 years ago, because people consume their information differently. They can get it in the morning. They can get it at any time in their day on their handheld device. So the stuff that Democrats want to push out of this convention doesn't matter if it was at 1130 at night or at 7 p.m. in the in the evening, they'll get it out. The stuff we want to use from here, same thing. We'll clip it and we'll get it out.

[00:17:36] **Speaker 3** Yeah. I mean I will definitely agree on that. And listen, I think we all all agree that online viewership is an incredibly, you know, and the people who do that are amongst the smartest news consumers we have on planet Earth, that's for sure. I also am looking for here's the clips I'm looking forward to. I'm looking forward to the clips about Oprah Winfrey coming out last night and saying, hey, independents, here's the case for Kamala Harris and Tim Walz. She made an incredible, incredible case for for for independents. And again, I think, you know, independent suburban women are going to decide this election. You know, Oprah is a is a champion for them. I thought Oprah on.

[00:18:12] **Speaker 2** This good last night. I think she and Michelle Obama have created a bit of an issue for Harris tonight. Right. Will Harris be the strongest female speaker this week? I mean, I think Harris will do well tonight. I expect her to. It's on a teleprompter. I'm sure it's been well crafted, but the reality is voters have an image of what Michelle did on Tuesday night and what Oprah did last night. And those that knows, that's a pretty high bar.

[00:18:37] **Speaker 1** Talking about females taking the stage tonight. Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin senator, is got a speaking slot in the 6:00 hour. I saw a poll from Rasmussen that came out in the last couple days. Has it up 5242. Is this race already over?

[00:18:50] **Speaker 3** I don't think it's over because you have to do the work, you know? And you know, Tammy Baldwin, the the thing she has done really, really well is win elections. You know, again in 20, in 20, in 2018 she won huge. But she's going to do the work to make sure that she continues to be our U.S. senator. And that work is both in the Congress and outside the Congress, getting $7 billion in infrastructure money. You want to talk about deciding vote? We'll talk about it. Tammy Baldwin deciding vote to make sure that $7 billion in infrastructure came to Wisconsin. You know, bridges, roads, all of that. Child care to Wisconsin, you know, so I think she'll run on the fact the way that she governs, which is working across the aisle when she can, for sure. But getting results, no.

[00:19:32] **Speaker 2** Matter, I would say the race is not over. Erica has a golden opportunity over the final 75 days to show a contrast with her coach. Explain his business experience and why that would be important in Washington, DC when they feel economic insecurity. Let's not forget that Ron Johnson was down to Mandela Barnes eight points about this time two years ago. And by October 1st, Ron Johnson had taken the lead.

[00:19:57] **Speaker 1** But he was an incumbent.

[00:19:58] **Speaker 2** He was an incumbent, no question about that. But if Eric have the I think he has an opportunity here, but it has to come on the front end of this 75 days. If he holds all of his fire until the very end, it'll be too late.

[00:20:10] **Speaker 3** Absolutely. You're absolutely right about that. Because, again, people in DC are making their decisions about what are the races that are going to be priorities. And Eric Cuddy's in a particularly tough spot because there has not been any recent polling that shows him, you know, overtaking Tammy Baldwin. And, you know, in DC when they're making their choices about how do we win back the US Senate, how to Republicans win back the US Senate. They're going to look at him and say, well, he can't. He's not winning. And he's got a ton of money from that billion, $3 billion bank out in California where he lives. Let him foot the bill. And that'll be the tough thing when he's sitting there with his wife and saying, they're not coming in for me. How much I got to go in for 30 million now. Like, that's a lot. I don't want to be a part of that conversation I never had. I don't think I yeah, exactly. I don't think we ever will have that conversation.

[00:20:54] **Speaker 1** But looking back to her first race in 2012 against Tommy Thompson, yeah, there was criticism. The Republican primary took away all of his money. He couldn't get back on the air until after Labor Day. Right. What you just said talking about if he waits too late, it is too late. Especially against Tammy.

[00:21:07] **Speaker 2** Baldwin. It is too late. She had the money immediately in 2012. And you might recall. I certainly do. She said he's not who he used to be, so she was giving voters permission who have voted for him many, many times to go her direction. And we didn't have the resources to defend that or answer it until, you know, she had that and she had burned it in for sure.

[00:21:29] **Speaker 3** And I Jimmy, if I may just make two quick points about that. One is that's what happened in de la Barnes. The SEC went dark for the six weeks after the primary. So they got to defend define him with those I would say very racist ads that ran nonstop. But a little poke behind the curtain. Bill and I used to work out that same gym. And in 2012 over in Fitchburg, yeah, I would get there. We I think my class was like 630, get the rod six watch stuff. It was nonstop Tammy Baldwin ads, nonstop Tammy Baldwin ads up on the screens. And so that's what happens when you can spend that kind of money. You can define yourself, you can define your opponent, and you can come across to be victorious. And Democrats are going to spend all the money in the world they would ever need to make sure that Tammy Baldwin returns.

[00:22:11] **Speaker 2** There will be resource decisions. Scott's right about that at some point in the next six weeks. Steve Daines, who's the head of the Senatorial Committee for the Republicans, may say, I'm pulling out of all of these states except for Montana because Montana gets us to 51. Yep. And I'm going to put every nickel in Montana in.

[00:22:27] **Speaker 1** Six weeks would be too late for our company at that.

[00:22:29] **Speaker 3** Yeah. You know, and we've seen that here. I mean, in 2022, the, you know, the triple C House majority PAC had put down $2 million to keep Ron King seat in Democratic Kansas State that we had for 26 years. They bailed on Brad half Derek Van Orton's in there. Now. They've said they're going to spend 4 million this time. So it'll be up to Rebecca Cook to show in the same way that that Eric has to show that she's really, really viable when it comes to in the end, you know, it's going to be you know, it's always it's always a challenge for for non incumbents.

[00:22:57] **Speaker 1** So let's talk about money because Wisconsin politics just put out some fundraising numbers. The Democratic Party $4 million in July. Republicans $800,000. What does that mean when it comes to the race for the assembly or flipping the first few seats in the state Senate that they need in that two cycle process? Well.

[00:23:14] **Speaker 3** Having money is wonderful. Nobody wants less money. But the real key in this election is that Kamala Harris and Tim Walz and Tammy Baldwin are going to drive every single Democrat out to the polls. And I think they get like 60 to 65% of the independents.

[00:23:32] **Speaker 2** The party to party is actually closer than I expected it to be, that Democrats have been swamping us in money for several cycles, ever since Ben Wikler took over as party chairman, no question about that. But we have other resources. There are other ally groups that are helping the Assembly in the Senate maintain those majorities, and they're well funded.

[00:23:51] **Speaker 3** But here's the thing. Why is the, you know, the, you know, most, affluent billionaires, the largest donors to the Republican Party, the U. Lines, you know, why do they spend outside of the Republican Party? Why will they not spend inside the Republican Party? It's such a tactical blunder when it comes to spending money on television, because candidates get the best ad rates. Now, Republicans create a system that you can get all the money in the world you want, you know, through the party to the candidates and the U lines because they don't trust the Republican Party, Wisconsin or whatever, are not giving their money. They're they're literally it's like a two for one cut.

[00:24:29] **Speaker 1** In past election cycles, we've looked at similar circumstances. Democrats can win at the top of the ticket. Tammy Baldwin overperformed everyone. Democrats have more money. It was the maps that kept brewpub and incumbency that kept Republicans in place. Both of those variables are different. So do you. What do you think of the Democrats the last few days, getting very bullish on their chances in the Assembly?

[00:24:50] **Speaker 2** I think the exuberance is a little early. I my bet is still on Robin boss and the Assembly Republicans and keeping their majority. And I don't think it'll be 50 or 51. I think they'll be 5455.

[00:25:02] **Speaker 1** When we look at the state Senate.

[00:25:04] **Speaker 3** I'm sorry.

[00:25:04] **Speaker 1** Oh, yeah. Go ahead.

[00:25:05] **Speaker 3** 52 Assembly Democrats after Election Day. And I think one Republicans is going to flip and become an independent after that.

[00:25:13] **Speaker 1** Are you naming names? No. Okay. In the state Senate, there are three races that people are looking at. The eighth. But Dewey Strobel is an incumbent in a different district, John Paul in the 14th in a blue district. But power of incumbency. And she's a much more moderate Republican. Yeah, by a lot of people's eyes. And then the 30th up in green Bay is an open seat. Do you think the Democrats get all three of those? So what's it like going up against Joan Bogue. Because she is that's Luther Olson. That's an old seat where people know those names.

[00:25:39] **Speaker 3** Yeah, I mean, but there hasn't really been a the only competitive race in the 14th district that I've ever seen in any way, shape or form would during the recall. Those are the only resources I've ever seen poured into that race. I think the 30th is done. Jamie Wall is raising the lights out of the place. He's a great guy. He's exactly what green Bay is. You know, with, with Dewey Strobel. I mean, he's a little bit. He's a little bit extreme. I will say this, like, my wife lives over had Dewey Strobel, and after the. She actually got where she has kept us. So the one like, you know, one of the few municipalities has got a worst Republican. But yeah, I think that it's I don't know if they're going to retake the Senate, but they're going to come close.

[00:26:17] **Speaker 2** So best case scenario that Scott outlined, Democrats can pick up four. They'll pick up the 18th, which is Oshkosh, and 30th which is green Bay, and then the eighth and the 14th. I don't think they're going to get all four of those. I think they're going to get two likely. But even if they got all four, Republicans would still have 18 seats, which is one more than they need for the majority. So they can't Democrats cannot get the majority in the Senate this cycle. Even if Harris caught an unbelievable tailwind and had a little bit of coattails, that's the right seats are not up for them to.

[00:26:47] **Speaker 1** Get the majority. Highly unlikely to flip.

[00:26:48] **Speaker 3** Both to get to number problem. Yeah.

[00:26:50] **Speaker 1** Even the Democrats in their best. Yeah. Just imagination. So I want to look at the other candidates on the presidential line in Wisconsin that could impact Harris versus Trump. There are reports that RFK Jr is going to be dropping out and endorsing Trump this weekend. He's been polling at 8% in the Marquette pool. Everyone knows third party candidates always crash as we get closer to the election. But he's still there. Name still on the ballot. What is the impact of him going out for Trump? Does it change the dynamics in Wisconsin?

[00:27:17] **Speaker 3** I mean, it's just a reminder that the Republican Party is the anti-vaxx party.

[00:27:22] **Speaker 1** What do you think this means?

[00:27:23] **Speaker 2** It appears like it could be a net gain. He's attracting more Trump supporters today than Harris supporters. Wasn't necessarily the case when Biden was in the race. So I think it'll be a net plus.

[00:27:34] **Speaker 1** For even if he's still his name, still on the ballot.

[00:27:37] **Speaker 2** Well, that's an open question about whether or not his name can be removed from the ballot in Wisconsin. It looks like it will remain on the ballot, but then would need him to come here and support the ticket in that way. I still think Donald Trump will be in Wisconsin at least four times in the next 75 days. I think, JD Vance will be here weekly. Maybe RFK Jr comes a couple times over the next 75 days.

[00:27:58] **Speaker 3** Yes. They're opening up like, you know, 50 seat arenas for JD Vance as weekly visits.

[00:28:04] **Speaker 1** Another third party candidate on the ticket right around the the the ballot is Jill Stein with the Green Party. There is a challenge. And just today, the Wisconsin Supreme Court announced they are asking for responses from the parties by tomorrow night at 5:00 to determine whether they should take this as an original action. You have very strong feelings about Jill Stein, I'm sure. What do you think about the Supreme Court, whether they keep her name on the ballot?

[00:28:28] **Speaker 3** I mean, I think I don't know what the Supreme Court's going to decide, you know? But I do know this. You know, politics ain't beanbag. And like Jill Stein, you know, is a problem for Democrats. And so if they can get her off the ballot because she didn't follow the rules, that's great.

[00:28:41] **Speaker 2** What's happening? To my knowledge, she followed the rules. Democrats, the party of democracy, wants to knock her off the ballot because she might get a point. She might get 1.5%, which could be the difference in Wisconsin. She did against Hillary Clinton. She was the deciding factor for.

[00:28:55] **Speaker 3** The good news on the January, you know, sixth or whatever the date is in 2025. They can have Jill Stein talk at their, you know, Stop the Steal rally in DC. This next time.

[00:29:04] **Speaker 1** We saw Cornell West walking through the hall. And are there. Yeah. Are they real spoilers when it comes to the third party?

[00:29:10] **Speaker 3** Yeah no. But I did say, yeah, I saw Cornell West and Bill. I was like two guys who want to get Donald Trump back in the white House.

[00:29:16] **Speaker 2** Yeah, like third parties can get some votes in Wisconsin. And it was decisive in 2016, and it probably wouldn't be even if Stein stays on the ballot. But frankly, if she qualified for the ballot, she shouldn't stay on at RFK Jr. He wants to get off the ballot. It appears we'll find out for sure tomorrow. And then you let him off.

[00:29:37] **Speaker 1** So I saw some numbers from Ed impact on spending reservations going through the fall. The only state where Republicans are even close to Democrats is, Pennsylvania. In Wisconsin, it's 24 million to 7 million. And Red's future reservations for ads. We were just talking about the importance of those dollars. I mean, how big is that comparison going to be down the stretch for the ads on the screen?

[00:29:56] **Speaker 3** I mean, again, remember why Hillary Clinton lost Wisconsin 2016? They didn't spend money on TV here.

[00:30:01] **Speaker 2** Well, she didn't come here.

[00:30:02] **Speaker 3** Yeah. Why buy me more? But she could have visited. But I if you were going to take her visiting once or twice or $15 million chance, I think I know what I would take.

[00:30:11] **Speaker 1** Well, this is a good comparison because you're talking about Trump being here versus obviously what they're expecting to spend on TV.

[00:30:17] **Speaker 2** New reports suggest that Harrison Walls have raised somewhere around a half $1 billion in the last 60 days, or 35, 40 days. That's extraordinary. Right? Democrats will have a money advantage. We're going to have to outwork them. There's no question about that. But the reality is on that money, they're competing for about 4% of the voters, the cost per vote on what they're spending will be extraordinary.

[00:30:40] **Speaker 1** But the return is the presidency.

[00:30:42] **Speaker 3** You know, and again, I look at we'll look at the money advantage, the Democrat, the Democratic Party has, the fact that they've been able to open, I think, 46 coordinated offices in 43 counties, including 20 counties or 32 counties where Donald Trump actually won. They're competing. They're hard. And and again, it is it's about the work. It's the work they're doing every day, neighbor to neighbor, person to person knocking those doors.

[00:31:04] **Speaker 1** All right. We just a few seconds left. There are rumors. Everywhere in the internet about special guests tonight. So take your best wild stab in the dark. Who do you think Kamala Harris is going to have on stage? Or who's going to make their appearance?

[00:31:14] **Speaker 3** I'd love to see Beyonce.

[00:31:16] **Speaker 1** What do you think?

[00:31:18] **Speaker 2** I hope it's not too swift. All right.

[00:31:22] **Speaker 1** We will leave it there today. Thank you so much for a great week. We'll have you back tomorrow, which will be part of our special program tomorrow at seven. Thank you for watching the special presentation of Hearing News 2024 election coverage. Be sure to come back tomorrow. Tune in to the evening coverage of the convention. We're here and now we'll have another update on the day's events and join us tomorrow night to wrap up the week with that special one hour presentation of Here and Now with just a little bit more of Bill and Scott starts at 7:00. I'm Zach Schultz. Thank you so much for having us all week. We'll be back tomorrow.