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[00:00:23] **Speaker 1** Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Tom Nelson. Thank you for joining us.

[00:00:26] **Speaker 2** Good to be on.

[00:00:28] **Speaker 1** You're currently the Outagamie County executive. Prior to that, you were a state legislator. What do you want to be a U.S. senator?

[00:00:34] **Speaker 2** People are just fed up with Ron Johnson. And one of the reasons why I got in here is I think that this state that he doesn't represent most of us, if not all of us. It seems so. And I'm the only one from a red part of the state is one election reelection, six times three as a legislator and three as a county executive. So I can beat Ron Johnson. And the other thing, too, though, I think just as important, if not more so, is your core and why are you going to public service in the first place? And my story's a lot. Like most Wisconsinites, I grew up in a blue collar neighborhood. In my case, on Carolyn Drive and Little Chute and on that block, all the dads worked at paper mills except for my dad. I like to say he wore the white collar. He was a Lutheran pastor. And so at a very young age, I learned the two lessons that it's important to serve your neighbor and then also understand that there are a lot of people who work hard, play by the rules, pay their taxes, but they can't get ahead because there's too much money and too much power concentrated in just a few hands. So that's been my ground in the state legislature and is county executive.

[00:01:34] **Speaker 1** Let me ask you this. If elected, what would your legislative priorities be?

[00:01:38] **Speaker 2** Number one, I would focus on economic security, specifically raising the minimum wage of $15 an hour. Passing the PRO Act. Getting rid of the bad trade deals that ship Wisconsin jobs overseas and get corporate power under control. That means making sure they're paying their fair taxes. And to tax the rich and to bust up the monopolies that have had a stranglehold on markets, that have been increasing prices for consumers and just making life really difficult for working families. And the second area is health care. I always say that what good is a good job or economy if you don't have your health? And so I believe in Medicare for all. I believe that everyone needs to be covered. I have my wife and before my my mom both had cancer. And the one thing they had in common is they had access to good health insurance. And 30 million Americans cannot see that. And that's wrong. And then third, climate change. So I believe that we need aggressive action. I support a Green New Deal. And though that those goals are quite bold and aggressive, we have no choice. But this is the country that put a man on the moon in eight years and complete the Manhattan Project in four years. So I believe that we can accomplish the goals of the Green New Deal in ten years.

[00:02:52] **Speaker 1** On the economy, inflation has reached a 40 year high. How should federal lawmakers address inflation?

[00:02:57] **Speaker 2** Well, I think the first thing we have to go to the root, the problem in this case, it's corporate America. I mean, we know that 60% of inflation is driven by corporate profits. So at one hand, consumers are dealing with all time high prices in the last 20 or 40 years. But on the other hand, corporations like oil companies are making record profits, and not just now during inflation, but also during the pandemic. It was a banner year for billionaires for which they they collected over $1,000,000,000,000 in new wealth. So we need to make sure that the rich are paying their fair share, which they're not. They need to pay more in taxes because they've done so well. And then we need to make sure that we're enforcing antitrust and anti-monopoly laws to bust up the corporations on the front end who are consolidating a lot of power. And then finally, we need a windfall profits tax, particularly for oil companies, and to return those proceeds back to motorists and families to give them the relief that they need.

[00:03:59] **Speaker 1** Shifting now to gun violence, there have been hundreds of mass shootings this year alone, an uptick of other gun deaths. President Joe Biden recently signed into law gun control measures. How should the US Senate address gun violence?

[00:04:14] **Speaker 2** Well, we need to look at everything and I think that there's been a lot of missed opportunities. And look, when when Ron Johnson took office that year, there were eight school shootings. Last year there were over 200. There are a lot of things that we can do that he has he has opposed. And I would push including red flag laws, universal background checks, waiting periods and renewing the assault weapons ban. So those are four, I think, simple steps that Congress can take they should have taken, but they have not. And it's been at the expense of the lives of our children. That's wrong.

[00:04:48] **Speaker 1** Supreme Court has recently overturned Roe versus Wade. What should U.S. senators do on the matter of abortion?

[00:04:54] **Speaker 2** I think we need to codify Roe. And quite frankly, it's something that we should have done 50 years ago and it might be too late. But I think in this case, this is all the more reason why we need to have a working Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate and to hold on to the U.S. House. And the only way the Democrats will get a working majority is if they keep the seats they have right now and win Wisconsin. So this, of course, is where. Wisconsin's U.S. Senate seat. But given what's in play right now? In a lot of respects. This is America's Senate seat on elections.

[00:05:31] **Speaker 1** There have been a number of claims of voter fraud. How would you reassure Wisconsin voters to have confidence in the election system?

[00:05:37] **Speaker 2** Well, I think first thing we have to do is to call out the Republicans that this has been a complete fabrication, that this has been proven again and again, that there isn't the widespread fraud they say there is. I think what this is going at now is this really is undermining the foundations of our democracy, because people do have a lot of questions. And the reason why they have questions is not because anything happened in particular, but because you've had one party that has been ginning up these conspiracies for the last year and a half, and tip of the spear has been Donald Trump and Ron Johnson.

[00:06:12] **Speaker 1** You know, Ron Johnson has beat Russ Feingold twice. Why are you the candidate who can beat him in the general election in November?

[00:06:19] **Speaker 2** Then the only candidate from a red part of the state who's won election to reelection six times three is a legislator and three is a county executive. But I think what makes the difference in this case is I come from the Fox Valley. All parts of this state are very important, Bill. But in particular, it seemed it seems like a lot of statewide races come down to who does well in the Fox Valley and no one can match my record of winning there six times.

[00:06:43] **Speaker 1** Tom Nelson, thank you again for joining us.

[00:06:45] **Speaker 2** Yes.