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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** And crew came in, which is how they met Joel. They headquartered at our house for pretty much ten straight days. So that was fun. But I was gone, most of it because I'm just I'm never home. You know, I get home in time to sleep usually, and then I'm up before anybody out and out the door before anybody else is up.

[00:00:26] **Speaker 2** Well, let's let's start kind of with that with with that, with the campaign. Sure.

[00:00:30] **Speaker 1** I think I figured that you'd want to talk about the campaign.

[00:00:33] **Speaker 2** Yeah. It's fair to say that you're the front runner in this race, are the most well-known, most experienced candidate. But that comes with people taking their shots at you. How does that feel to be in that position at this point in the race?

[00:00:46] **Speaker 1** Well, I feel great about where we are. I mean, I'm out there on the road 12, sometimes 16 hours a day, every day, because I can't be outworked. And that's my commitment to the people of Wisconsin, to that I'm not going to be outworked as their governor either. And I think I proved that as lieutenant governor and being the only proven conservative reformer in this race. I think that's really valuable to people because I've built relationships over 12 long years, going to Rotaries and Kiwanis and school districts across the state. I know my friends and neighbors across Wisconsin and I'm committed to them.

[00:01:28] **Speaker 2** Are other candidates drawing their comparisons to you or are you drawing your comparisons to them? Or are you just running on your own record?

[00:01:36] **Speaker 1** Well, I'll say I'm drawing my comparisons against Tony Evers. And I think, yes, occasionally you'll see candidates who are trying to contrast themselves with me. You know, you hear a lot of talk about everyone running as the outsider. Well, I'm not going to apologize for no one knowing what I'm doing. I mean, I've spent eight years inside making sure that I know how to run this state, making sure that I know how to make a budget that is going to be beneficial to all of Wisconsin. Knowing how to build relationships with the legislature so you can get conservative reforms passed. Those things are incredibly valuable because we learned coming into office right after the deep 0709 recession that when you have to put a broken thing back together, you have to work fast, you have to be efficient, and you have to know what you're doing. And the good news is, yes, I understand things have gotten broken over the last three and a half years. I'm so disappointed at how fragile our progress truly was and how much Tony Evers took apart. But the good news is I know how to put it back together and we can put it back together fast because I have the experience to do it.

[00:02:47] **Speaker 2** Obviously, one of the big issues is the election and concerns about fraud and security. You've obviously been through elections. You know, the election apparatus in Wisconsin. How fine a line you have to walk when it comes to voters who have concerns about and who may not fully understand and may not be being fed the full truth from outside sources.

[00:03:08] **Speaker 1** Well, I always say, having been a journalist myself, don't believe everything you read on the Internet and don't believe everything that you see on TV. If you have concerns and questions, sometimes it's important to be a citizen journalist. And interestingly, we've had a lot of citizen journalism over the last several years, and I'm excited about that. It's people wanting to dig deeper by not just reading something on the Internet and reposting, but instead doing open records requests on their own, talking to interviewing local elected officials and and actually asking good questions that I think is really positive for our Democratic Republic. But I don't think it's positive is people who are willing to read something and then throw up their hands and say, I quit. I'm staying home. Because if we have people quitting and staying home, we're going to wind up like Georgia, where we lost two United States Senate seats. And Kamala Harris is now the tie breaking vote, the U.S. Senate. We need to be like Virginia, where people may have had misgivings and acknowledged that there was fraud and scurrilous activity, but they still rose up and just marched on those polling places and said, we're going to come critical mass to the polls and we're going to vote like crazy. And that's what we need in order to actually have a Republican wave in November. We need people who, yes, are frustrated, but use that frustration as a motivation to show up.

[00:04:37] **Speaker 2** How confident should voters be in the election and the security of the election in both August and November?

[00:04:44] **Speaker 1** Well, I think everyone needs to take things with a grain of salt until I can become governor and sign a whole bunch of reforms that Tony Evers has already vetoed. And I think people are approaching this with some amount of suspicion. I mean, people are going to be election observers and people. Are going to sign up to be poll workers. In fact, you know, we even invested in robo calls and digital ads to recruit more Republican poll workers so that our folks can be behind the scenes, as Democrats have been for years. And we've urged people to just keep their eyes peeled and make sure that they are observing and reporting anything that they find to be suspicious. Because we want secure elections until I can get there and eliminate the AEC and ban these ballot drop boxes which are unattended and unaccountable. Ban ballot harvesting. Ban the central counts which lead to vote dumps, and ban these third parties. The Zucker Bucks Movement funding elections in Wisconsin and create the Office of Election Security underneath the umbrella of the Department of Justice so that we actually can take a deep dove into elections, moving both forward and backward and essentially stop fraud before it starts and purge those voter rolls. Finally, of the dead voters and the people registered 30 to an empty lot.

[00:06:06] **Speaker 2** When it comes to something like a drop box, what's the difference between a drop box and a mailbox? Because you can still mail an absentee ballot. Would you seek to curtail some of the absentee ballot mailing procedures as well?

[00:06:18] **Speaker 1** No, I think absentee ballots have their purpose. But I also honor our participation in what has become a great American honor and privilege, which is going to the polls on Election Day. I think we see constant encouragement of voting early and constant encouragement of voting absentee. And while those are good options, you know, I would love to get back to the great celebration of voting as one democratic republic where we really value Election Day.

[00:06:50] **Speaker 2** Would you, as governor, certify the election victory for a Democratic presidential candidate in 2024?

[00:06:57] **Speaker 1** I think I could be confident in doing that, knowing that I had eliminated the WAC, eliminated these unattended ballot drop boxes, eliminated the potential for more ballot dumps by eliminating central counties, eliminated ballot harvesting, and eliminated our use of third party dollars, which we saw used all over the state in 2020, as well as created an office of election security. With those security measures in place, you know, we should be able to be confident in election results. I think the problem here is people aren't confident in the election results from 2020 because you take a look at one of WAC very first moves pre 2020, it was booting the Green Party candidate off of the presidential election ballot. I mean, in my adult life, I don't ever recall seeing a presidential ballot with no Green Party candidate. Same as, you know, there's always a Libertarian Party candidate. This stuff felt fishy from the very beginning because back in 2016, the Green Party candidate got 30,000 votes in the state of Wisconsin. The margin between Joe Biden and Donald Trump was less than that.

[00:08:09] **Speaker 2** Moving away from elections. Obviously, abortion's become a very big issue here and a lot of people wonder what kind of laws you would sign in as governor would how far would you go in terms of restricting abortion, rape, incest, life of the mother, those kind of exceptions?

[00:08:23] **Speaker 1** Well, we already have a life of the mother statute on the books. And as far as I can see, intel that will stay. And that is my position, which has not changed. I see Roe being stricken down as one of the great victories for the unborn and something that I've been fighting for my adult life and my position never changed on it. That being said, I also think it's our responsibility as conservatives and as Wisconsinites to make sure that we approach this with compassion and with empathy and knowing that being pro-life means yes, being pro baby, but also being pro-woman and pro mom. And we have the resources around moms that really need to be wrapped around them so that they can live full lives. I mean, Democrats love to tell this anti-feminist lie, and I've heard it for years as a professional woman. I've been a working mom, I've been a stay at home mom, and I am sick to death of liberals trying to tell me and my daughters that we can't both be successful and allow our babies to live.

[00:09:32] **Speaker 2** In terms of legislation, would you sign something that banned abortifacient contraception in Wisconsin?

[00:09:37] **Speaker 1** Birth control will remain legal in the state of Wisconsin.

[00:09:41] **Speaker 2** All forms of birth control.

[00:09:42] **Speaker 1** Birth control will remain legal in the state of Wisconsin.

[00:09:46] **Speaker 2** Would you be moderating influence on a Republican legislature? Pretty much safe assumption that the legislature remained Republican or would you try and lead them in terms of the direction for any kind of abortion legislation?

[00:10:00] **Speaker 1** I will lead the legislature to the right, and it has nothing to do with one single issue. It has to do with everything the people of Wisconsin are facing. And our biggest trials today were given to us by Joe Biden and Tony Evers. Nothing's affordable anymore. We're all dealing with Biden. Inflation, gas prices, skyrocketing grocery prices, same crimes run amok. Violent crime has risen 9% year over year. Milwaukee, once again, is scheduled to eclipse its murder rate from the last year when we set a record. And on top of that, education numbers are now in the toilet. Thanks to Tony Evers. He locked our kids out of their classrooms. And then when kids finally were able to return, he forced them to wear masks on their faces and contact quarantines. You know, there are people being pressured all across the state to take COVID 19 vaccines and they're asked to choose between their livelihoods, putting food on their family's tables and a health care treatment that they don't want and don't feel is right for them. And so we've got a lot of issues facing the people of Wisconsin. My hope is to lead the legislature to the right on these things and to protect the families of this state. Because I love the families of the state. I know them. I live here and have been with them over the last three years when we have endured the bad decisions and the weak and the failed leadership of Tony Evers.

[00:11:27] **Speaker 2** How would you characterize the tone of this primary contest? One candidate that largely is avoiding some debates doesn't really want to talk to the media taking their shots at you. How would you characterize this? Because you've been through primaries before?

[00:11:41] **Speaker 1** I have. I've been through a really bitter primary. I ran against five men and I had cancer the whole time, unbeknownst to me at the time. But I've been through tough primaries before, and if this one turns out to be the same way, a tough primary, then, hey, at least I'll do this one without a belly full of cancer.

[00:12:04] **Speaker 2** If we talk to some other candidates running in this election and they said they plan on doing their own factual review of the primary, is there a concern that if someone loses, they may not concede losing the primary election?

[00:12:16] **Speaker 1** Well, it's my understanding that everyone who was allowed to speak at the RTW convention did have to sign a unity pledge. I signed a Unity pledge and I had no problem doing that. I honestly believe that I will win this primary and that I will beat Tony Evers this fall. But I certainly hope for the support of my primary opponents because I intend to lead the state into the new revolution of conservative reform. There was a moment when Wisconsin was the leader, when all states envied Wisconsin and looked to us as the leader of the conservative renaissance. It's time for us to do that again. We need to stop envying states like Texas and Florida and instead lead on our own. And I can do that because I have the experience.

[00:13:08] **Speaker 2** To what impact what impact does Donald Trump still have on this primary? Obviously, he's endorsed, but we've seen elsewhere that perhaps his endorsement may not carry the same weight it used to.

[00:13:18] **Speaker 1** And I think we saw that last night as well in the gubernatorial races. You know, I think it's undeniable that Donald Trump had a great legacy of policy across the country. I mean, we're in Wisconsin where the USMCA, the renegotiation of a trade deal with our two largest trading partners was very important to both our manufacturers and our growers. Lowest unemployment rate for both women and minorities, something certainly to be proud of. But my hope is that, you know, voters will take a look at my record, not the record of someone on the federal level and choose to invest in the next generation of conservative leadership as led by a fresh voice, but someone who has the right experience and can hit the ground running.

[00:14:05] **Speaker 2** And finally, talk to me a little bit of electability. We've seen some polling placed you closer. How important should that be in the minds of voters if they're really wavering between a couple of candidates?

[00:14:14] **Speaker 1** Well, if they want to make their decision on electability, that's fine by me, because obviously I am the one who can beat Tony Evers. And according to that, the only one who can beat Tony Evers. We need to beat Tony Evers. That has to be the goal of our Republican Party to take back control. At the governor's office, but also all the way through school boards and town councils and county boards, judgeships. Which is why I have worked shoulder to shoulder in the trenches with our grassroots recruiting candidates, training candidates, and in some cases even contributing to candidates, helping them by their yard signs and lit so they can knock doors. I will knock doors for candidates because local elections are important and it's great to win a governor's race and just be on a great conservative policy tear. But it's even greater if we can take back control at the local level and restore some sanity where we've seen our Constitution and individual rights and liberties steamrolled by county health departments all the way up through a governor's office run amok as he tried to cater to the far leftists in his own political party. Union bosses, which we saw through open records requests he was collaborating with to lock our kids out of their schools. The activists and anarchists who are lining cop cars on fire and saying, defund the police. We need a big change. And I'm the one to usher that change in and I'm ready to do it. And as you just noticed, I'm the only one who can.

[00:15:47] **Speaker 2** All right. Thank you for your time. We really appreciate it.

[00:15:49] **Speaker 1** Thank you, guys.

[00:15:50] **Speaker 2** All right. Thank you. So I told Alex that assuming you are.