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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** So yeah I've I think if I like I think I have another four planned for this afternoon.

[00:00:05] **Speaker 2** So you spread it out throughout the year? Yeah. All right, Nick, I am rolling whenever you're ready. All right. What is your name and where do you go to school?

[00:00:13] **Speaker 1** My name is Ben.

[00:00:15] **Speaker 2** Should I say? You see, first of all.

[00:00:18] **Speaker 1** My name is Ben Fraley, and I go to a lot of these high school.

[00:00:22] **Speaker 2** What issues matter to you?

[00:00:25] **Speaker 1** A lot of issues matter to me. I think women, a woman's right to choose is very important. Gun control, taxes, medical marijuana legalization or decriminalization of drugs. But I think the number one issue for me is voting rights just in general across the country.

[00:00:46] **Speaker 2** Okay. Why are voting rights important?

[00:00:49] **Speaker 1** Voting rights are really important to me because I think that they're in my opinion, what does it really matter if we are having these discussions on other issues, if not everyone's opinion can be represented? Currently, we are seeing a lot of talk around fake ballots being cast or we saw a lot of discussion around around it in the past and the dig that the data isn't there to support that and it created it. It's creates a lot of laws around voter I.D. that will disproportionately affect minority and poor populations. And then we see issues that are being talked about and then people can't vote because we will see like there is a research paper that was put out recently by, I think Vanessa Perez, who works at Columbia. And it showed that 13% of the black population does not have an I.D. to vote with 10% of the Hispanic population and only 5% white population. And then there's the same stats for people that make less than $25,000, have a much higher chance of not having an I.D. than people who make over $150,000. So it really just used these statistics on who actually can vote.

[00:02:11] **Speaker 2** What would you like to see elected officials do about gun control?

[00:02:16] **Speaker 1** I think that we need much stricter gun control laws. I think that the Second Amendment is incredibly important. But it what people don't really talk about is the full text of the Second Amendment refers to a well-regulated militia. It isn't. Any man should have a gun or any person should have a gun. It is specifically guaranteeing the right to a revolution if you feel the government doesn't represent you. But what we see nowadays is not well-regulated militias. We see anyone who wants a gun can get a gun. And even the current regulations, people that can be less than 18 can get guns from gun shows, which have notoriously low rates of checking IDs or really having all that registration. Because if you're going to essentially watch convention, there's no way that every single vendor can be checking every single person and all of their registration information.

[00:03:17] **Speaker 2** One thing that's on people's minds right now is school safety. How much do students like yourselves think about school safety?

[00:03:23] **Speaker 1** I really don't think about school safety all too much. I think what comes to my mind, first off, is school resource officers. And I think that school resource officers in general are something that has been introduced during school shootings, but over and around school shootings. But have the data just shows that they don't actually have much of an effect on school shootings in terms of interrupting them? And what they do have an effect on is there are higher arrest rates in schools and they are predominantly affecting minority students. And not only that, but also our school resource officers have a much higher chance and rate of harassing teenagers. They're in that they're in that facility. And the people that are wanting to be in that role can often have corrupt means. Yes. And that's not everyone. But it's it's just kind of the case. And that's what the data shows, that there's just higher rates of that.

[00:04:30] **Speaker 2** Hmm. What is it like to be on the cusp of adulthood in the current economic climate?

[00:04:39] **Speaker 1** I think it's very intimidating. Adulthood means a lot more independence. I will have to be fending for myself and kind of everything that's going on in the world means that that is inevitably going to be pretty scary. But on the other hand, I'm also pretty excited. I think being able to vote is very exciting and there are certain restrictions around getting jobs and doing things that I think being an adult and kind of having more of that freedom is something that is going to restrict the way I can spend my time. But it also gives me a lot more options and I think that I am excited as well.

[00:05:26] **Speaker 2** How does the job market look to you?

[00:05:28] **Speaker 1** Job market? The job market looks to me is very volatile is what it seems like. It seems that a lot of the jobs that I want are in very high competition. And then on the other side, there seems to be a lot of issue in getting people into positions that might be necessary as well. And I think because of that, we are now really seeing the floor in the system we have set up in which there are these jobs are important if things are going to run. We do need people to take these jobs that people look down upon, but they are as valid as any other job and they should be paid to be living living wages. I think that, yes, a doctor should get more than the person who works at a fast food restaurant. But 90% of fast food restaurants might have kids to feed, and they should be able to do that without working two or three jobs working 80 hours a week.

[00:06:37] **Speaker 2** What issues in your part of the state are people older than you you're not talking about?

[00:06:43] **Speaker 1** Um, I think, uh, what the main issue that I haven't really seen people talking about recently is the issue of voting. There are elections coming up and there was a lot of discussion around voting in the 2020 elections. But I mean, these Senate races are just as important as other races. While there is less voter turnout there, they are incredibly important because that's the people that we can talk to that will have the highest chance of actually getting what we want done. They have a they have a vote and they are incredibly important. And I think that when we have such restrictive voting laws, we might not actually see what the population wants because of the issue that I mentioned before around voter I.D. laws and that as well as restrictions on being in prison and voting in many states. And the situation in, I believe, Wisconsin is that you cannot vote once you. There are a lot of restrictions on voting once you've been in prison and those people have paid their time. They should have justice as anyone else.

[00:07:57] **Speaker 2** Is there anything else you want to add?

[00:08:01] **Speaker 1** Um, I. Hmm. Is there anything?

[00:08:11] **Speaker 2** You mentioned some issues at the beginning, and you had a list of issues. Is there any was there any one of those you to talk about?

[00:08:16] **Speaker 1** Um, I said so. I think that, uh, I think that there is an idea of putting I. I don't I don't know. I that's a lot of there's a lot of issues and I. Yeah. No, that's.

[00:08:33] **Speaker 2** Okay.

[00:08:34] **Speaker 1** I think that people of other people have covered a lot of the issues I've talked about. So I think that I've rambled enough.

[00:08:40] **Speaker 2** Okay. Well, thank you.

[00:08:42] **Speaker 1** Yeah, thank.

[00:08:43] **Speaker 2** You. Really good.