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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** All right. And really, Nick, one of your. What is your name and where do you go to school?

[00:00:04] **Speaker 2** I am Roman. I'm a freshman at Walker Falls Middle School in Walker Falls, Wisconsin.

[00:00:10] **Speaker 1** What issues are important to you?

[00:00:11] **Speaker 2** Are the issues that are important to me are equality in our country. So I know past couple of years, BLM and LGBTQ rights have been a real problem. And then I feel like those issues are really important to me, just so I know equality that's on everyone's mind and that I can start over. So what issues are important to me are equality on LGBTQ and races. And so with that, I know that we have to there's been a lot of inequality through 2020 when all COVID was going on and there's a lot of protest and stuff like that. And there's been a lot disputes about equality between, you know, the LGBTQ community and how they're feeling kind of singled out in some ways. So I feel like that's a really big issue for me.

[00:01:13] **Speaker 1** What do you think elected officials should do about LGBTQ rights?

[00:01:17] **Speaker 2** I feel like what they should do is that they should make it more prominent about like put more maybe some more laws and or rules about maybe not singling them out or trying to have it more mainstream. I know that it is. You see a lot of news about BLM or it was back 20, 20, 21, you'd see it on news. But then I feel like people are saying, forget it again. So this is back in the past. So I feel like they should just giving reminders and stuff like that.

[00:01:52] **Speaker 1** How important is the right to vote to?

[00:01:54] **Speaker 2** The right to vote is very important to me because I feel like if only walks once and kind of people are allowed to vote, then you can't get everyone's opinion and and then that won't be equal. So say if like only guys, people 50 and up can vote, then people that are younger than that, they don't have a say in anything that goes on in the country.

[00:02:21] **Speaker 1** Something that's on people's minds a lot right now is school safety. Well, how much do students like you think about that?

[00:02:30] **Speaker 2** School safety? It's not too much on my mind, but it's still something really important to think about. I know that gun control in schools is really important, and then there's been quite a few incidents that's been going on years past. And so I feel like schools should be more aware of what's going on.

[00:02:56] **Speaker 1** What do you think elected officials should do about gun control?

[00:02:59] **Speaker 2** I feel like they should limit the amount that you should have or that you could only be of certain age to buy one. Or I have a license to buy one.

[00:03:16] **Speaker 1** What's it like to be on the verge of adulthood in the current economic climate?

[00:03:20] **Speaker 2** I know with recent events in the world that the prices of stuff has gone up and like gas has been a big issue that's gone up in the past. And so I feel like when I get my driver's license soon and I'll start having to pay for gas, then that will be unless it goes down and will start becoming an issue. And then just like something goes up in the markets, they become more expensive. And then I feel like for some people it can be harder to pay for that.

[00:03:57] **Speaker 1** So how does the job market seem to you right now?

[00:04:00] **Speaker 2** The job market seems not as open as it was after COVID in 2021, and it was really open since stores were open back up again and people were in person. But now I feel like everyone's kind of come to a standpoint and so it's becoming more closed down. Well, not really closed down more, just not as open as it has been in the past and that the availability of jobs are still there, but it's not as a wide range as it was.

[00:04:34] **Speaker 1** Have you thought about what you want to do after high school?

[00:04:36] **Speaker 2** After high school? I believe I like to go to college. The main school I have in mind is University of Minnesota, Duluth. And I'm not sure what I would like to do up there, but my main goal is all the first place sports. And then I don't know if I like a major though I'll do on the.

[00:04:54] **Speaker 1** Are you concerned about the cost of college?

[00:04:57] **Speaker 2** I'm not too concerned about the cost of college. I know, like student debt itself is also a big part of what's going on right now. But costs for me, I'm not too concerned until we start to get more knowledge of it, and then I get closer to think about it.

[00:05:18] **Speaker 1** She was in your part of the state. Are people older than you? You're not talking about that you wish they were.

[00:05:24] **Speaker 2** I do think on that one. I can't think of any for this.

[00:05:43] **Speaker 1** But are there any other issues on your mind that you want to talk about?

[00:05:46] **Speaker 2** Not any on my mind right now. I had a kind of a black eye right now. Okay.

[00:05:52] **Speaker 1** Sorry if I. Okay. All right. Thank you.

[00:05:57] **Speaker 2** Yeah. All right. Thank you.