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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** In May, a central Broward County. You know, I'm not, you know, generally talking a lot about how I'm running to be, you know, part of the team blue in Madison. So I think, you know, some people get get interested and excited about it. And, you know, some people I mean, the average voter politics is a huge part of their life. You know, people who've got a lot of interests in politics are a minority. And, you know, and certainly people who run for office are a small minority of the population. So you got to you got to meet the voters where they are.

[00:00:34] **Speaker 2** You know, do people here understand that that's rare for that? They have competitive and really important, significant races at almost every level of the ticket in Congress to Senate.

[00:00:48] **Speaker 1** It's crazy when you think about it. I mean, there is there's no shortage of politics in Broward County. And, you know, often I say, look, you're going to be sick of me before this is over. So sorry about that. And, you know, people are, you know, a month ago were rolling their eyes with all the all the presidential ads they're seeing in the state, in the U.S. Senate, race is obviously been a big deal for folks, too. And the just the tone of a lot of those ads is is tough. I mean, a friend of mine has got his son is maybe 7 or 8. And like he saw a Trump ad and started crying afterwards. I mean, some of those ads are so tough in so much in your face. They're hard to hard to ignore. And I understand why people, you know, don't want to be bombarded, you know, every every day for for for months and months about this stuff. So, I mean, we're the voters can be hearing a lot more from me and presumably from my opponents. You know, as we get we're only six, seven, eight weeks now, whatever it is, before before the election. But I think, you know, the downside of living in the epicenter of American politics is you've got to deal with a lot of politics, you know, and that's going to be exhausting for for people, I think.

[00:01:54] **Speaker 2** Yeah. When you look at people at doors. Do they surprise you sometimes? Like I'm sure you walk up. Yeah. Houses and.

[00:02:04] **Speaker 1** Absolutely.

[00:02:04] **Speaker 2** And pretend like the things they've thrown at you or who they say they've supported each level of the ticket.

[00:02:10] **Speaker 1** Yeah, I mean, look, I mean, I'm walking up to the door and I'm always glancing around to see if there's a sign or a sticker or something, you know, to give me a clue as to what kind of people live here, I mean, what one thing might be interested in. But yeah, I have learned that you can't you can't assume too much because people surprise you both ways. You see somebody, you think, this, this, this person is probably pretty sympathetic and they're not and or and vice versa happens to. So you just got to you just got to ask them and let them talk if they want to talk. Not everybody does. And see where they see where they end up. Yeah.

[00:02:45] **Speaker 2** How often are you actually coming across Independents, split ticket voters, undecideds for people that you know, those mythical people that every politician is chasing. But are you are they coming across?

[00:02:58] **Speaker 1** Yeah. Yeah. I mean, I wouldn't say like everyone's like that, but I mean there are legitimate I mean, I had a couple of times a day somebody tells me, you know, I vote for the person, not the party. And there are there are plenty of those people out there. They, you know, they look into things and, you know, there are there are other people who just don't pay as much attention and aren't aren't as plugged in. And there's nothing wrong with that, you know. So yeah, I mean they they exist and yeah, I talk to also you know, and there are obviously people who are partizans on either side and you know, they, they'll tell you that usually they're not too terribly shy about it. Usually they're not mean about it either. I mean we're still kind of Wisconsin nice here. You know, when somebody asks you what party you are, you end they they ask because they want an answer. Generally, you know, and I only have one answer to give. So I'll say, okay, we'll see. We'll see what they're looking for here. And sometimes you're surprised. Yeah.

[00:03:55] **Speaker 2** We've seen in prior years where statewide Democrat Tammy Baldwin Beavers have won and they've actually carried down ballot districts, state Senate or assembly seats that were won by Republicans down by. Sure. Yeah. And you know, Robin Vos is queen less because Republicans run better campaigns and we speak to the local issues that people care about. What that includes this area up here? Yeah, I've seen them do well. So what is the difference in terms of you being able to go out and flip this district? It's just show that, you know, you may vote for Tammy Baldwin, you can vote for me, too. I will support you at the state level. Well.

[00:04:31] **Speaker 1** I mean, obviously, the smaller the district gets, the more you're able to actually reach out and talk to your voters individually. And that's what do endorse is about. It's not especially efficient. You know, most doors you knock on, nobody answers the door. So many answers. But it's not the voter you want. It's somebody else, you know, and you talk to them, too. So, I mean. One thing that has changed with the new maps is that there's an awful lot more competitive races and there ever were before. The large Republican majorities in the legislature were pretty much baked in to the old system, and it didn't really matter what the voters thought. Now, what the voters think actually matters. And I think you've seen a lot more interest from candidates in these races. I sure as heck wouldn't be running in the old maps. That was a fool's errand. And I, you know, have a perfectly nice life that I put put to the side for a few months here to work on this. But, you know, if you work if you get out there and I'm working and I'm getting out there talking to people and heading to Packer schedules that community events for months and have been knocking on a lot of doors as well. I mean, I think, you know, that can make a difference. You know, you can't if you're running for president, you can't knock on the door of every voter in the United States. But if you're running for state assembly or state Senate, you can make you can make a difference. Yeah.

[00:06:07] **Speaker 2** When you when we see the results and to come out and if we say, okay, well, Harris is going to win the state by just a thin margin or Tammy Baldwin.

[00:06:14] **Speaker 1** You're going to add.

[00:06:16] **Speaker 2** Is that is that the signal you need or do you think your race can be separated out from especially some of those bigger races at the top?

[00:06:23] **Speaker 1** I mean, I think, you know, I think you can you can run ahead or behind, depending on if you're a good candidate or works or bad candidate doesn't or something in between. But I mean, there are lots of political gravity. I mean, nobody's going to be out there running 30 points ahead of the top of the ticket, you know, not unless they're not Mr. Opponent got arrested on Halloween or something. You know, when that happens, Every once in a while. But you sure can't count on it, you know, once every 20 years. So, yeah, I mean, you do control some things. And look, you can you can drive yourself crazy in this business about it, you know, because there's no end to work to be done. But, you know, there's things you control, which is, you know, how hard you work and, you know, are you talking to voters? Are you talking to other people who can help you? And there's a lot of things you don't control. And, you know, certainly what's going on with the presidential race. I mean, neither Donald Trump nor Kamala Harris are calling me up and asking me for advice. So, you know, you just got to kind of let the chips fall on that one and see what happens. Yeah, it.

[00:07:26] **Speaker 2** Was only about six weeks ago that you're looking at. Enthusiasm among Democrats, which are for Joe Biden, was at an all time low. Sure, Donald Trump went into the RNC and unified the Republican Party of Ryan. And then we have seen a complete sea change since then. What's that been like for you in terms of what have you noticed at the Doors or what have you felt? Yeah, tears.

[00:07:47] **Speaker 1** I mean, have.

[00:07:48] **Speaker 2** You seen that same thing?

[00:07:49] **Speaker 1** Yeah, absolutely. I mean, it's it was a bit of a rollercoaster, but, I mean, like. Like I just told you. I mean, just to stay sane. I told myself to focus on what. What I can do, you know, and not try to get too carried away about what was going on at a national level. But yeah, we've seen we've seen some volunteers come out of the woodwork. And, you know, immediately after Biden dropped out of the race and, you know, and Harris kind of, you know, came in as the nominee, I did feel like I was kind of running a roving therapy session for relieved Democrats at the Doors occasionally because everyone who, you know, was a partizan was wanting to talk to you about that and how they felt about it. And, you know, I was just human. Nothing wrong with that. But yeah, I mean, I do think that there was definitely a rollercoaster and, you know, whenever that was going on. And is it only six weeks? It feels like about a lifetime ago now. But politically, I'm sure you're right. Yeah.

[00:08:48] **Speaker 2** Yeah. You said it would be therapy session at the door. I'm sure there was catharsis for some of these people to be able to, you know, talk about some of the feelings.

[00:08:56] **Speaker 1** Yeah. And people were worried. I mean, you know, look, you. You can be a good person. Vote for Donald Trump. And, you know, and you can you know, but there were a lot of people who were very worried about the prospect of a second Trump presidency. And there's a lot of people that are very excited about it, too. And, you know, there was there were a lot of emotions, not just for people running for office, but for, you know, your average voters. Sure.

[00:09:23] **Speaker 2** What difference does enthusiasm make in terms of the difference for a campaign, especially at your level, where it was all about shoe leather? What was that? What is the the the end result difference when you've got people that are excited to vote for you versus just willing to vote? Well.

[00:09:40] **Speaker 1** I mean, I think it's a big deal because, you know, campaigns at this level campaigns on any level running, partnered with volunteer help. And the more excited people are about it, you know, you as a candidate or whatever is going on around you, the easier it is to get people to help you. So that's that's certainly a good thing. And, you know, obviously, where the rubber meets the road is in the voting booth in November 5th. And if people are psyched to get in there and cast a vote there, that's going to help. That's going to help is aside from well, yeah, I guess I should. And that was kind of the feeling we all had a couple of months ago. And now I think more of our voters are are psyched. And I've you know. I'm. This is all public information I'm in Marquette poll came out yesterday and it showed that, you know statewide at least Democrats are pretty excited about about this election now and they weren't a couple of months ago. So that could make a difference in a close race. Sure.

[00:10:32] **Speaker 2** Because, I mean, in some respects, an enthusiastic vote counts the same as a reluctant vote.

[00:10:37] **Speaker 1** Right. But it's not that they are more likely to actually cast that vote, is what I tell you.

[00:10:44] **Speaker 2** And do they bring other people with them? Sure.

[00:10:47] **Speaker 1** Yeah.

[00:10:47] **Speaker 2** I mean I mean, are they willing to go out and knock doors for you because you might be working your hardest, but if the top of the ticket is depressed because people. Sure. I mean, the presidential.

[00:10:57] **Speaker 1** Race, like I said, there's things you control and the things you don't, things you don't control can sink you or they can make you. But but that's why it's best just to focus on what you can control it, you know, doing what I'm doing.

[00:11:08] **Speaker 2** When you go out, do you talk about the whole ticket? He's obviously there's a competitive congressional race, you know, assembly seats, if.

[00:11:14] **Speaker 1** People want to talk about it. Yes, but not always. Not often, to be honest. Yeah. So.

[00:11:22] **Speaker 2** Anything else you want to add along these lines that we've been talking about?

[00:11:25] **Speaker 1** No, I mean I mean, we've talked a lot more about kind of the process of running and about the politics of running than than expected. But there's nothing wrong with that. No, I mean, I, I guess I, I mean, I did give you my honest assessment of what I'm hearing at the doors. I mean, can't you guys work together and little worried about the cost of living and then maybe some schools and streets and, you know, reproductive rights thrown in for good measure? Yeah.

[00:11:52] **Speaker 2** All right. That's all we need from here. Okay, great.

[00:11:55] **Speaker 1** Sounds good.

[00:11:55] **Speaker 2** So hopefully we can go to some doors.

[00:11:57] **Speaker 1** Yeah. Yep. I'm coming to.