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[00:00:01] **Speaker 1** I'm rolling. All right. So tell me a little bit about what got you involved in wanting to do this.

[00:00:08] **Speaker 2** So the Republican Party, after the 2020 presidential election, had concerns about election integrity. They wanted Republican Party members to get more involved in the election process and were recruiting poll watchers and poll workers. And I had concerns about election integrity. And the best way to resolve those concerns one way or the other is to get involved. So I chose to volunteer for the Republican Party as a poll worker. And as I've gotten involved, I've now become trained as a chief election inspector as well. So.

[00:00:44] **Speaker 1** So is that a partizan role or how does the party affiliation play into what you're doing?

[00:00:49] **Speaker 2** So the way elections are supposed to be conducted at the polling site, you're supposed to have representatives from both parties have supporters, and they're that's who the clerks are primarily supposed to pick. And if a party has an appointed poll workers, then clerks can recruit out their coworkers. But assuming both parties appoint, there should be an equal number of votes. And then to make sure this an odd number, whoever in that district won the presidential election should have the additional person. So here in West Bend, Donald Trump won the presidential election. So if there's five poll workers, it should be three Republicans and two Democrats.

[00:01:35] **Speaker 1** Okay. So what have you learned since you come into this role to prepare everything?

[00:01:42] **Speaker 2** I've learned a lot about the procedures that are in place to make sure that the votes being cast are legitimate, at least on site. So this term, I'm going to be doing a central count, so I'll seal out the absentee ballots that are coming in. You know, so, yeah.

[00:02:04] **Speaker 1** You said you had concerns about 2020. What concerns specifically? Because obviously there's the range from what's been done in Venezuela to China. Yeah, yeah, that's a little part.

[00:02:17] **Speaker 2** Let's start with something that I think is not a concern. I talked with our county clerk with other people, and it sounds like Dominion voting machines are not a concern. They're just tabulators. All they do is come to us. I know there's been some theories out there that they do more than that, but from everything I've been able to see, that's not the case. There is concerns about things like ballot track boxes, ballot harvesting techniques. Those are concerns. And as I get more involved, I'm going to learn more about where that could potentially be happening.

[00:02:57] **Speaker 1** But those are illegal now, whereas in the last election it was unclear.

[00:03:01] **Speaker 2** That's a good way to put it. It was also I would say it was clear it was illegal. Just we have a government agency that thinks that they have the right to override the elected legislature and decide on their own what is law, which is not true.

[00:03:19] **Speaker 1** Well, you big party didn't sue over drop boxes and in certain areas they actually encourage the use. There were lawsuits filed until after the election regarding the drop boxes. Yeah.

[00:03:32] **Speaker 2** And you know, but realistically, the legislatures have to sets the rules. And that's what the Supreme Court decided as the legislature set the rule. And it's very clear there's nothing in there that says anything about preferences. So regardless of whether the Republican Party encouraged it at some point or not, and I haven't seen those details, but. Yeah, no. Yeah. And we could debate that. But, you know, at the end of the day, I have concerns about that. You know, I think the ballot integrity is important. We know in the past have been documented incidences of ballot stuffing. Yeah, the one that comes to my mind if you go back to Kansas in their statewide election in 1854 and there were actually twice as many votes cast as eligible voters. And it's believed that there was a lot of pro-slavery Missouri Democrats coming in to Kansas because they wanted Kansas to be a slave state.

[00:04:33] **Speaker 1** So back to the west. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:04:37] **Speaker 2** Yeah. Because that's a national thing. Yeah.

[00:04:39] **Speaker 1** Have you heard from people, your own constituents that say, you know, we're happy you're doing this or we have more concerns and what you may have? Yeah. How much of this will allow you to communicate with them?

[00:04:49] **Speaker 2** I've heard a broad range of concerns. I have constituents who believe Dominion is a problem, and even though I've told them from what I can see, dominion is not a problem, they still believe. I've had constituents who definitely believe that there were different forms of ballot stuffing using drop boxes. And, you know, I can see the possibilities with that. You know, we have what was just discovered on the scene. And if you think about an organization that if they knew who 50,000 low propensity voters were and were able to find out their dates of birth, they could have 50,000 ballots sent to wherever they wanted and complete them and then use ballot drop boxes to get them back into the system. So that's an area of potential concern. I think we're starting to deal with that, which is good.

[00:05:39] **Speaker 1** So you ought to be working central count?

[00:05:41] **Speaker 2** Yep.

[00:05:42] **Speaker 1** A lot of the Republican candidates for governor want to eliminate all central counties. We have to think about it.

[00:05:49] **Speaker 2** I I'd have to give it some thought. I can see why they want to eliminate it, but I'd have to give it some thought and honestly learn more about it. And do you learn by doing so? Yep.

[00:06:03] **Speaker 1** So will this be your first election day?

[00:06:07] **Speaker 2** This will be my first election in Central County. My first election was April. I was at one of the polling sites, so I was a regular poll worker there. People are coming in, showing their I.D., getting a ballot and casting it.

[00:06:21] **Speaker 1** As far as the legitimacy of this, obviously, this August election and the fall election. Yeah. Do you think the fact that there are more people like you that have been encouraged to be a part of it, you have some legitimacy to the local people that you say, hey, this was legit, that that will ease some of the concerns no matter the results.

[00:06:42] **Speaker 2** For for the August election, I think. Well, I would be curious to see how the November election plays out. And I don't want to make decisions on the November election in August without knowing what's going to happen or, you know. So. Yeah.

[00:06:59] **Speaker 1** And seeing this, you know, public display. Yeah. Let's go in. Is that enough? I mean, should more people who have concerns have showed up today?

[00:07:08] **Speaker 2** I definitely encourage anybody who has concerns to get more involved. Be a poll watcher, show up at public tests like this. Definitely. It can do a lot to kind of see the process. If you have concerns about Dominion voting machines, seeing the ballots go in and seeing how it records them, that can do a lot to reassure you. So yeah.

[00:07:33] **Speaker 1** As far as the absentee ballot process, obviously there's court issues there. As we've just mentioned, seeing stuff that's going on out there that's still yet to be made. Yeah. Do you think absentee balloting should be scaled back? Fewer people should be using it.

[00:07:49] **Speaker 2** Yes. And, you know, I I've even heard statements that were made back in 28, 2010 by national public figures for the Democratic Party, questioning whether absentee ballot enabled, potentially voter fraud. So I could see scaling it back. Now, I'm a poll worker at Central County, so obviously I could not show up at my poll location that day. So there does need to be at least some absentee ballot. But right now it does seem pretty wide open.

[00:08:23] **Speaker 1** And.

[00:08:24] **Speaker 2** You know, especially with ballots being mailed to people's homes, you know, I think there is at least some kind of scaling back.

[00:08:32] **Speaker 1** So obviously you're voting absentee.

[00:08:34] **Speaker 2** Yeah, yeah, I'm voting absentee because I can't get to my polling site because I'm going to be at central count. Yeah. So there is a need for some absentee voting.

[00:08:43] **Speaker 1** Will you be seeing your ballot go through?

[00:08:46] **Speaker 2** I am guessing that they're going to assign me to a district that's not the one I vote in, because I think they're going to have two central county units and one will have for districts and the other will have the other four. But potentially, I could see my vote closer. Now, that said, you know, when we're looking at these envelopes and opening them, it should be one Republican and one Democrat looking at it together, agreeing that everything's filled out correctly. So I guess if we did open up my envelope, in theory, it shouldn't matter. There's a Democrat there verifying that everything's filled out correctly.

[00:09:22] **Speaker 1** One other question that you have you see has been dealing with in the states and ballot curing. What would you challenge? What would you want to see in terms of missing a zip code or some of the details that courts have fixed in the past?

[00:09:34] **Speaker 2** Well, some of the some of the things that are being questioned is how much curing is happening. And I think the original guidance was, if it's pretty clear that you know who the witness was, but they say forget the zip code, you can fill that in. But in practice, what it sounds like was happening in the 2020 presidential election was that in some cases there was no witness. And for. Or there was just a name and it might have been a common name and they would just grab any information out of a phone book or, you know, whatever listing they could find. And, you know, say it was Patti Smith was a witness name. Grab any address info for any Patti Smith and write it in there. That's a concern. And if I if I understand the law, right. What we're supposed to do is set that one aside and the voter can come in and correct that. You know, but that's what we're supposed to do.

[00:10:35] **Speaker 1** So, yeah, you know, a lot of people in your district, if you see a ballot come across that is missing part of a zip code or something, small detail in the address, but you actually know the name of the person. Would you still want to set that pilot aside?

[00:10:47] **Speaker 2** So the process and the instructions we have are to set that aside, which matches what the law says. Now, can staff from the city clerk's office contact that voter and say, Hey, your ballot was set aside for X, Y, Z, reason? Do you want to come in and fill out that info? I think they could, and that would probably be a good thing for them to do. But it's all about ballot integrity and making sure that and that's why we have the witness signature, making sure that who filled out that ballot is really that person.

[00:11:19] **Speaker 1** So overall, what do you feel that the questions about election integrity have will do for turnout? Because there are questions about whether they would actually have fewer people show up for voters in that ballot.

[00:11:31] **Speaker 2** Is a lot of speculation on that. I hope people will still vote. The last thing we want to do is discourage somebody from voting. We want eligible voters to get educated on the issues and come out and vote for the candidates that match their beliefs. So I hope this doesn't dissuade people from voting. I think that'd be a bad mistake.

[00:11:53] **Speaker 1** How big of a leap is it for some people to go from questions about absentee ballots or drop boxes or about curing to dominion fraud in Venezuela.

[00:12:04] **Speaker 2** And.

[00:12:04] **Speaker 1** Expand a little bit? I mean, that's a slippery slope where some people consume some of it. Does it make it easier to eat the whole hog, so to speak?

[00:12:13] **Speaker 2** I, I don't know that I could offer the best commentary on that.

[00:12:17] **Speaker 1** So yeah, but that's out there.

[00:12:21] **Speaker 2** Yeah, I know there are theories about Dominion voting machines. From what I've seen, those series don't really hold water. But I know some people still really believe that Dominion voting machines were a factor.

[00:12:35] **Speaker 1** Can I get you to spell your name for me?

[00:12:37] **Speaker 2** Sure, Chris. I'll do my full name. Christopher Bassett. Last name spelled Beans and boy ss e r t. And I am on the County Board District four for Washington County.

[00:12:49] **Speaker 1** And that's Christopher with a C? Yep. Okay. And what we were title B for this fall.

[00:12:54] **Speaker 2** I believe I'll just be a regular election inspector, but I did go through the chief election inspector training, so if they decide they need me for that, then I'll be there.

[00:13:04] **Speaker 1** Do you have a special hat for that?

[00:13:06] **Speaker 2** No, but I have one of those lanyards and a special key.

[00:13:10] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much, Chris. Really very.

[00:13:12] **Speaker 2** Very good talking to you. Yep.

[00:13:15] **Speaker 1** Hi. Hi. I.