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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** And I'm rolling. All right. Well, I guess let's start with tell me a little bit about, you know, how coming out of the fall. And then I'm sure you knew there was a Supreme Court race coming up. But what was that like coming off of November and kind of leading into the winter for you?

[00:00:18] **Speaker 2** I can definitely tell you it was a great experience. This was an election that I had been working on for the last almost two years. Doesn't matter if it was with a local organization or a high school organization, and we were really trying to ensure that the people's voices were being heard. And I feel that on November 5th, there were so many voices that were silenced. And I believe that's something that we're seeing today. Very much so. And I would definitely say when it came to myself and other students and even adults, morale was very, very low. People, they don't believe in the system anymore and they didn't believe in it too much to begin with. And now when we're, you know, given, you know, this, this government that acts like they, you know, don't work for the citizens, they don't work, they don't represent their states or, you know, their individual districts. It's like, well, why should I go out and vote? Why should I go and canvass? Why should I help anyone besides myself?

[00:01:22] **Speaker 1** So what? Was there a turning point for you in getting back into it? Staying committed? Obviously you spent a lot of energy. There's that you people would understand if you're like, you know, I'm going to take some time. I'm a freshman in college. I got to focus on myself.

[00:01:36] **Speaker 2** Absolutely. I spent about a week post election cycle, didn't go to any classes. You know, I wasn't doing any work. And it was just so very sad for me. And I didn't know what was coming next. I didn't know if I wanted to get back into it, but I sat down and I was, you know, just looking at one of the little clubs that were coming up on the news and already seeing the things that were that was happening with whether it be Doge or, you know, whatever, you know, project 2025 plans that have come to fruition within the new legislature and, you know, the different policy initiatives that are being brought up. And I was like, I can't just sit here on the sidelines and allow this to happen. And though I'm not on, you know, working the national level anymore, I'm not part of the convention. Their most important work is here on the local level, because it starts on the local level and it builds up to your state, and then it builds up to the national level. And that's why I got back into it. I seen I had met with Susan Crawford around the time that I was planning on running for a delegate, and I went and I was actually speak and event when she introduced herself to me. And I could tell immediately that this was a person that I wanted to represent my state and I want to represent me. And so when I heard of the opportunity to go and organize, to work with different groups, to help her win the nomination and to hopefully then be elected in this upcoming election. I couldn't just sit down.

[00:03:04] **Speaker 1** So we ran into at a campaign event in green Bay, where she was at the Democratic headquarters. But what has it been like since then? Have. What are some of the struggles or the things you've had to deal with in trying to convince fellow students and other people that, hey, this race matters too?

[00:03:19] **Speaker 2** Yeah, I think the biggest struggle is that people don't know there's an election coming up. Everyone was wrapped up in the presidential, the presidential election, as always. That's the first one. And that's the most important one. And like I said, it's not just the president. Everyone else under them, you know, they're just as important. And so I've really been trying to nail it. And to my friends, I had friends who weren't planning on voting for the presidential election. And I had brought them to enough of that allowed them to see and hear firsthand from different candidates, and eventually got them to go out and vote regardless of who they voted for. And, you know, fortunately, was for the candidate of my favor. But those same friends now, they felt like it was a waste of their vote. And so it's me trying to ensure them that I know the system seems flawed, and I know it seems like it was unfair, but that election cycle is over. We have to do what we can now, and that's to get Susan Crawford. And she's going to be someone that represents the state of Wisconsin. Well, it doesn't matter if you're a Democrat, doesn't matter if you're Republican. You know, she's strictly follows the Constitution. And that's what we need more than ever. Nowadays, you have candidates who believe that the Constitution is less of a rulebook and sort of, you know, maybe do this. This is how we started off, but you can branch out into your own form of government, and that's just not what it is. You know, it was enshrined in our government for a reason, because Ann Dowd, you know, each of the citizens with certain unalienable rights, rights which are being violated every single day.

[00:04:53] **Speaker 1** So is getting people to be aware of a Supreme Court race is different than a Partizan fall race, because in some ways the Supreme Court is very, very important in terms of like protecting and enshrining the backstop of the rights that say, no, you can't do that when it comes to a legislature, an executive that may overreach. But for some people, they may not understand how closely that can be connected to their lives, whereas they vote for a senator or president, you know, like they can do this and the Supreme Court doesn't feel as close sometimes.

[00:05:23] **Speaker 2** It's definitely difficult to get people to kind of understand the importance of the Supreme Court. They don't understand the entire idea of the check and balance system. And I don't say that to mean anyone. But, you know, it's it's in part to a lack of teachings by, you know, our education system there. You know, students aren't as civically engaged. So I'm doing what I can to ensure that they know why it's so important, how it affects them. I mean, if you look at it Up against states are in control of reproductive freedoms and whether or not women are allowed to have abortions. And that is something that the Supreme Court deals with. And I especially try to get those friends who, you know, are pro-choice to to understand that even if they were like, I'm not going to vote, be like, if this person who you're voting for right now, they're making that decision, they're deciding whether or not our state is going to allow for that, you know?

[00:06:21] **Speaker 1** So we've got a push here to the end. Is it different campaigning in the snow, the cold? I mean, it's warming up a little bit now. But you know, you get to the summer and it's beautiful weather. You get to the fall and it's pretty in Wisconsin. You know, it's not really pretty in February to be out doing stuff, trying to knock doors or get people involved. Right.

[00:06:42] **Speaker 2** I've done it a few times here and there. Now, with this election cycle, most of my work I'm dealing with is just calling people different numbers. But when I am out, it's it's cold. Even for a Wisconsin night. You know, I bundle up with my gloves, my hat, sometimes a scarf. And people I would say, you know, they felt a little hostile during the presidential election cycle, but now it's you want to talk to me about another election cycle? You want me to open my door? It's -20 degrees outside. Can you please just leave? And I know that we seem like a burden to come and knock on your door, but it's that important. And I've been saying that since the presidential cycle that it's that important that you go out and vote. You know, once you've made that decision, I'm still not going to stop bothering you because I want you to really understand the impact of that. Your voice and your vote have. We need to stop treating our government like that like they're the big shark. They are the little shark. There are a few hundred people who go out and make the decision, and we are the people who employ them once we show them that again, we are that big shark. The more, the more our impact will have.

[00:07:58] **Speaker 1** So it used to be that the Supreme Court was kind of abstract because it was it's still technically nonpartisan, but the candidates were a little afraid to embrace the political parties, and they tried to pretend, oh, I'm not connected to any of that. And so some people sometimes had to figure out, like who which candidate feels most closely aligned to what I believe in. That's not the case anymore. They're very heavily politically aligned with the Dems and the Republicans backing everyone up. Does that make it easier to convince people of how to make a choice, or how to think about this? Or does it sometimes almost tarnish it by tying it so closely to Partizan elections?

[00:08:33] **Speaker 2** I feel, you know, in the middle about that, that whole situation when it comes to them picking or aligning with different parties. In most instances, I find people will almost always just vote for who's a part of their political party. And that should never, never, ever be how you vote. You vote based off of, you know, if it's, you know, a congressional race. What kind of policies are this person going to implement and how is it going to benefit me and the rest of my fellow citizens? If it's a Supreme Court justice, how are they going to best represent my state? And unfortunately, I have seen people more times than not lot with their own party. But I have seen a few people who have broken away from the collective mindset. And, you know, it's a really good thing to see, especially with this upcoming race you have, you know, Brad Schimmel and you have Susan Crawford. And one of the biggest things, even with, you know, my male friends who don't align politically with me, they're saying that this is someone who, you know, in their eyes and other voters, I don't care about them. And what I mean by this, you know, one of the biggest talking points for the Susan Crawford campaign is the fact that before, you know, he made this run to become a Supreme Court justice. This is the same guy who is only testing, what, a few dozen if they had rape kits. And you have a person like Susan Crawford who's here and she's going to represent the whole. She's going to ensure that you don't feel left out, that you know your tests are going to be done, that your rights are going to be violated against you. I would like to say is more of a constitutional test when it comes to doing her job as a judge. I don't care if you're a Democrat. I don't care if you're Republican. This is the law and this is what we're going to abide by.

[00:10:20] **Speaker 1** So I know we're not there yet, but April 1st is coming up. We could finally deep breath, relax, try and finish out the rest of your freshman year of college.

[00:10:31] **Speaker 2** Something like that. I'm currently I've been on board with the new fellowship that I'm working with that is very focused on women's choices and, you know, bodily autonomy. So I'm doing some work there and it will go a little bit into the summer. And I'm hoping I have a few prospective job opportunities and internships, working along with different representatives in the area, and hopefully even a few senators. So I don't think it'll slow down too much, but it'll be a lot less hectic. Not being in an election cycle, at least for a little bit, at least until.

[00:11:05] **Speaker 1** The next Supreme.

[00:11:06] **Speaker 2** Court. Yeah.

[00:11:07] **Speaker 1** All right. Anything else you want to add?

[00:11:09] **Speaker 2** No. Again, just thank you for having me here. It's always a great time to be able to talk about, you know, the issues that matter most. And again, being a young guy and having people come out and be able to see and hear what it is that I have to say about specific candidates or issues that matter. It means the most to me just because I can make a difference or make a change in one person's life at least. You know, that's the biggest goal. All right.

[00:11:35] **Speaker 1** Thanks for stopping by. So we'll grab the mic back from you. We're going to get packed up and then we will meet up with some of your friends. All right. I'm good. It's good.