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[00:00:01] **Speaker 1** I'm going. Did you have the black hats before Ellen wore them or.

[00:00:06] **Speaker 2** We didn't know? Because I think I think that those might have been kind of a thing that came about. Okay. Yeah. And we, we found some and we say, you know, they're really popular people. I mean, the red hats are more popular, I'd say, because they're classic, but the black ones are go well in dark makeup.

[00:00:26] **Speaker 1** Oh. Is that.

[00:00:26] **Speaker 2** Oh I see official term dark maga.

[00:00:28] **Speaker 1** Yeah, I know, I know.

[00:00:31] **Speaker 2** That's what Ellen called them, at least. So. Okay.

[00:00:34] **Speaker 1** Is that like a reference on dark branding kind of thing?

[00:00:36] **Speaker 2** I have no idea. He just. He got up on stage and I think it was the. It was the Madison Square Garden rally. He was wearing it.

[00:00:42] **Speaker 1** And. Okay, he's.

[00:00:43] **Speaker 2** A dark maga. I'm dark maga. All right, it's dark maga.

[00:00:48] **Speaker 1** Interesting. All right, well, let's talk about well, let's let's start with quest for freedom. So obviously we caught up with you over the summer. Yeah. What was the feeling like coming off of November and then knowing obviously you knew this race was coming up. How was that transition in terms of like starting to remind others who may have been like, okay, the election's over and how does that work for you?

[00:01:11] **Speaker 2** I think coming off of last fall, we were pretty well positioned heading into this spring. We have Brad Schimmel, who's been just a fantastic candidate, fantastic campaigner. He's been out there since last spring. So a lot of our, our people here in the county, in Jefferson County have already been familiar with him. He's has been at quite a number of our events. He's he's someone who's just a go getter. He's always, always out there and wanting to come to events and especially, you know, with a favorable result of of the November election with Trump winning, I think that really kind of propelled the momentum forward quite a bit. And a lot of people were just ready and willing to get back out there and win again.

[00:01:58] **Speaker 1** Because sometimes there's an issue with trying to keep a coalition together. Like there's that natural, like, yeah, we were in. I can take a break. Did you, would you run into any of those people if you had to, like, try and get people back on board at all?

[00:02:11] **Speaker 2** I think I think like in the immediate right after the election, like maybe like November or December up to Christmas, I think it was a a little bit challenging because it's like, you know, there's the of course, that natural tendency to want to just rest and let's just, you know, take a little break here. But I like I said, I think especially, you know, once Trump got into office, people are starting to see a lot of the great reforms that he's been working on. It really has just excited and propelled like our grassroots quite a bit.

[00:02:43] **Speaker 1** Well, and that's winning begets an attitude that creates more with it. I mean, it's just it's one of those makes its own gravy. Yeah, exactly. So for you personally, what have you been doing so far. And then what's what's in the books for the rest of the month.

[00:02:57] **Speaker 2** Yes. So I, I've been since last couple of months ago here serving on the the Jefferson County Republican Party board as the vice chair. So I've been helping organize our grassroots. We've been doing a lot with yard signs. We're starting to do doorknocking now that it's warming up a little bit. We've really been organizing a lot of our local candidates as well, because it's it's a whole it's a whole ticket thing. It's not just at the top, which, you know, he realizes too, and he's he's working to support the lower candidates down, down ballot as well. So it's just been a lot of working as you as you say, you know, coalition building, getting everybody back up and into into a place where we can just power ahead this next month and, and bring home a win.

[00:03:47] **Speaker 1** Is is there a a delicate balance to reaching out in an election like this? Because obviously in a Partizan election, it's R&D and you may try and reach over or find independents, but not everyone understands nonpartizan and is not kind of a thing of the past for these Supreme Court elections. So there probably are moderates who may have voted for a Democrat or for Senate or for president who are who are more open on the Supreme Court. How do you make sure that you're not putting them off when obviously you hear it's like it's Trump and Schumer, but out there, like you, there's room for people that may have voted for ten people to vote for Schimmel.

[00:04:24] **Speaker 2** Yeah, absolutely. And I think I think this is some especially when, you know, I know you asked about Jamal, but just even looking at like some of that down to some of the local candidates we have, and it more so happens with them because you have, you know, with Schimmel, it's up ballot. And, you know, most people kind of know where the allegiance is. Lie. Schimmel versus Crawford. But, you know, we even we even have a lot of people reach out and and asking, okay, look, I'm a Republican. Who are my candidates? Who who do we vote for? So, yeah, there is a little bit of a balance because we're not only trying to like, get get the Trump voters back to voting for Schimmel. We're also trying to reach across. And there may be people that are that think, well, you know, we want someone who's a little bit more tough on crime because crime is a big issue for Wisconsin specifically. And, you know, someone like Schimmel, who has a proven record of being tough on crime and spending his life, you know, locking up violent, criminal, violent criminals, essentially. That's that's someone that those types of people want. So we are spending a good deal of time and energy messaging and reaching out to those more moderates and even Democrats. And we're hearing some terrible things.

[00:05:39] **Speaker 1** So I know last summer or last fall, there was always that that concern of like, would Republicans that hadn't always, like Trump come around and would they come along begrudgingly because of what they didn't like on the other side, or would they actually get in behind once they saw what he could actually do? Are you seeing is there been any slippage whatsoever? I know that we're only a month or so, but has there been any slippage in terms of the people who came on board for Trump, like seeing the results are seeing what he's done and saying, I'm all. And still.

[00:06:12] **Speaker 2** To be honest with you, I've seen, I've seen honestly, even a more united front for sure. Because you're right, we did have those people. They were few and far between, but there were people that would be like I for all the other Republican candidates, I'm not going to vote for Trump. And with Schimmel, it just it seems like he's been out there. He's been working. He's been edging off any primary challengers because primary challengers was the biggest thing that any, you know, that Trump had really, any Republican candidate or conservative candidates going to face is a primary challenger. So because he was out there and he's been out there working, people see that and they realize that and I, I to be completely honest with you, I think we are you know, I think that Schimmel is in probably a better place than any Republican conservative candidate I've seen in a long while here in Wisconsin.

[00:07:01] **Speaker 1** And that's not just in terms of advertising dollars, which he certainly is, but the ground game still, it's the ground game matters, right?

[00:07:09] **Speaker 2** It sure does. It's and I think that's I think that's something that's very easy to forget, especially, you know, with a lot of the media talking about, you know, why so-and-so is spending X amount of dollars on advertising and media. It's it's very easy to forget that the ground game matters, that getting out there do an old fashioned knocking on someone's door, making the phone calls, sending the postcards out. It all matters.

[00:07:32] **Speaker 1** Is it easier to do that when you're coming off a victory?

[00:07:36] **Speaker 2** It definitely is. It was coming off like coming off a 2020. It was a little I remember calli, it was a little rough, but it it feels good. I feel like we're in a, in an awesome place right now. And you know, as, as President Trump says, you know, you know, I hope we don't get tired of all this.

[00:07:55] **Speaker 1** Winning is there. We went through a long stretch where conservatives control the Wisconsin Supreme Court. And we've had this one two year stretch where the liberals have flipped it. The fact that that exists, and you can point to here's what we saw you do. Does that help the message is instead of just the fear of what may be, it's like, no, here's the actual evidence of what happened.

[00:08:17] **Speaker 2** Yeah. Well, and I think what helps it more than anything is you just look at the last, what, about two years here? What? You know that we've had a liberal Supreme Court in power and just see what they've done. You can point to concrete things. You can point to. We've got the redistricting. We have the act ten. There are there's just so many number of other cases that are coming down the pike here with the with the Supreme Court that they've already said they're going to take action on it. They have taken action on that, that we can point right to those things and say, look, you're only going to get more of this. You're only going to get more of this, this radical liberalism. If we elect, you know, another liberal to the court, instead of flipping it back to conservative control, we're going to save Wisconsin money if we flip it back.

[00:09:04] **Speaker 1** So you were also a part of the Young Republicans. What what's happened there is that how is that group going and what what do you. Because young people are usually the hardest to remind. Yes. There's an election in the spring.

[00:09:16] **Speaker 2** Yeah.

[00:09:16] **Speaker 1** How's that going?

[00:09:18] **Speaker 2** It's it's it's going very well. And as a matter of fact, we actually we're we're very excited. We're having a I will work with the National Young Republicans to do a big deployment. They, as they call them, of young Republicans into Wisconsin. And we will be bringing hundreds of them from across the country. And I was actually I was actually just at our spring meeting this over the weekend to try to recruit more people. And we are people are people are excited to come out and help with that because it really is, especially now with with the threat of possibly more redistricting. And she's out campaigning on it that she's getting she wants to essentially do redistricting so that Brian Style and Derek Fenton ought to lose their congressional seats. We had a very slim majority in the House right now. If we lose those two seats, that could be it. So I think the message, you know, Save Wisconsin, We Save America is really resonating with the with the young people. Not only here in Wisconsin but across the country. So the momentum here is, is still building. We're out as young Republicans every single weekend on doors, knocking doors for for Schimmel and for our other local candidates. And we're getting bigger and bigger crowds of of young people to come and help every week.

[00:10:37] **Speaker 1** So does it seem weird to think that ten, 15 years ago, like the candidate would have been like, please don't tell them you're a Republican. And like, let's let's keep the GOP out of the equation here.

[00:10:51] **Speaker 2** I think this is something that, honestly, the Democrat Party has done. I don't like to say they've done things well often, but they have done for a while a better job than than Republicans on. Getting their local candidates across the board and working also in these nonpartisan races to get their their liberal leaning candidates across the board. And this is something in the past couple of years the Republicans have really picked up on, as you noted, where we are, we're working now to to get our conservative candidates in. And it is a little it is a little interesting to think, because I've really only been around politics maybe about ten years, and all that falls into the time frame where, yeah, these candidates are, you know, more than happy to have their, you know, Republican Party tied to their name. So it is a little weird to think that there used to be an era where there was kind of that push back.

[00:11:46] **Speaker 1** For sure. It was a vehement push back. If you even like they would get you would argue with them over whether, like Shirley Abramson would argue, whether I could see she was part of a liberal faction and know Prosser like Prosser. And I would have long conversations about, well, I'm a conservative, not a political answer. Yeah. The former senator.

[00:12:04] **Speaker 2** Yeah. Well, I, I think, you know, what it comes down to is it really comes down to these candidates. They realize that they they need the grassroots movement. They need the grassroots resources there that the Republican Party can offer Or that, you know the party can't offer, essentially.

[00:12:23] **Speaker 1** They can't rebuild it on their own.

[00:12:24] **Speaker 2** They can't. I mean, we are like you look at the Republican Party. 72 counties have their own county party structure, many of them with hundreds, if not thousands of volunteers willing to get out there. And, and, you know, get get some boots on the street, knock doors, put up signs, get candidates. It's very hard in the typical life span of a campaign for them to rebuild anything like that on their own. So it's really a team effort. Okay.

[00:12:49] **Speaker 1** Anything else you want to add?

[00:12:52] **Speaker 2** I don't I don't think so.

[00:12:54] **Speaker 1** Okay. Yeah. Can I get you usual? Say spell your name. Give your title. Yes.

[00:12:58] **Speaker 2** Correct. Yep. John Beauchamp j o n b e a. You see a champ. A title. Vice chair of the Jefferson County Republican Party. And the chair of the Jefferson County Young Republicans.

[00:13:14] **Speaker 1** Perfect. All right. So we need actually, if we want to get some.

[00:13:17] **Speaker 2** Yes. Oh, yeah. You want me to put some of the signs.

[00:13:20] **Speaker 1** For the signs, and.

[00:13:20] **Speaker 2** Then we keep the mic on?