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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** Heroic. All right. Well, I guess let's start with one of the things you've talked about is expanding the prosecutorial authority into Milwaukee County. Can you walk me through what specific cases aren't being prosecuted that you would want to see the DOJ take over there?

[00:00:12] **Speaker 2** Well, what I did was announce my candidacy in the north side of Milwaukee last year because of what we're seeing with the crime, where Milwaukee is on pace for its third straight murder record. The mayor's budget proposal this year is for less police officers than the year before. And so our Department of Justice can be a resource to augment what we're seeing in Milwaukee with DCI agents and prosecutors to add more to our Department of Justice so that we can help ensure people are safe in their homes and vehicles. And parents don't have to be afraid to let their kids go to a park for fear of stray bullets. And our attorney general's office can and must help with that. And the legislature can assist by giving that original jurisdiction to our attorney general's office with the change in the statute. And that's what I'd like to see happen.

[00:00:57] **Speaker 1** Are there specific crimes, though, that the D.A. isn't prosecuting or they're handling poorly because they're overstaffed or what? What can DOJ do that the D.A. can't?

[00:01:08] **Speaker 2** Well, it's a resource issue to some degree, where, as I've said, we see less police officers in Milwaukee. And when you're seeing an uptick in the violent homicide that we've seen in Milwaukee, and that doesn't even include the nonfatal shootings, the carjackings and the other drug related crimes that we're seeing. It's evident that we need more resources and to have the attorney general's office assist with that on that type of violent crime to assist and keep Milwaukee safe is what we need to do in the sad record of our attorney general, is that he's actually defunded, DCI agents defunded the police and prosecutors from our Department of Justice with about 18% of those DCI agents. And that number comes from Tina Virgil, the director of DCI at a Badger State Sheriff conference earlier this year, where she said only 88 out of those 113 positions are filled, and the prosecutor positions have been gutted by about 20 to 30% at various times. And that doesn't even get into the mismanagement of our crime labs, where our attorney general is taking in thousands of less cases, testing thousands of less, but still taking longer to do it in many categories, including DNA. And that's a record of failure during historic violence in a drug epidemic. And we need an attorney general that will make public safety the number one priority. And I'm proud to be law enforcement's choice, with bipartisan support from Republican and Democrat sheriffs and DA's across Wisconsin that have seen enough of these failures and know we need a prosecutor and not a politician leading our Department of Justice.

[00:02:34] **Speaker 1** Why not seek statewide ability to do this? Why just Milwaukee County?

[00:02:38] **Speaker 2** Well, if you look at statewide authority, that would be a tremendous amount of resources and there wouldn't be the capacity at our Department of Justice to do that. The Department of Justice already has the authority if a D.A. asks to step in and assist with the prosecution. And what we want to do is focus on Milwaukee County, because we know that crime spreads across Wisconsin. And if we protect Milwaukee, we will literally protect all of Wisconsin. And that's a fantastic use of our resources to protect Milwaukee and thus protect all of Wisconsin.

[00:03:08] **Speaker 1** Is it more efficient to pump more resources into DOJ for that versus increasing shared revenue so that Milwaukee, Milwaukee County can do it themselves?

[00:03:17] **Speaker 2** Well, what we need is someone, the legislature trust to partner with to deploy those resources for public safety. We see the mayor of Milwaukee cutting police officers. We see our attorney general effectively defunding the police. And I have a tough on crime record in nearly ten years as the D.A. of Fond du Lac County and the son of a cop that I believe I've built that trust with our legislature, that they can trust me to deploy those resources to make public safety the top priority.

[00:03:42] **Speaker 1** I want to talk a little bit about getting this representing the state and federal lawsuits. One of the things that's coming up is we've seen some Republican attorneys general from other states sue over the student debt relief. Would you want Wisconsin to be involved in that lawsuit?

[00:03:56] **Speaker 2** Well, we will enforce the rule of law, not just when it's popular. And that's what my record is as a district attorney, where I've actually been attacked by Republicans and Democrats for taking that stand. Our attorney general has actually called me a radical and an extremist for saying that I will enforce the rule of law. And that's what I will do, regardless of what political party the president or our governor is. I will defend the rule of law and our Constitution, the United States Constitution and here in Wisconsin without partizan political favor. And that's what we expect of our attorney general. But the sad reality is our attorney general is perhaps the most partizan attorney general that we've seen in Wisconsin history, at least in recent memory. And even as he was preparing for his initial run for attorney general, he effectively said it's a partizan office and that's what should happen. And so he's he's saying it out loud. I travel across Wisconsin and I ask, who thinks we should only enforce the rule of law when you agree? And I've yet to see a hand raised, and that has been my commitment as I've traveled across Wisconsin, that I will enforce the rule of law, not just when it's popular and not just when I agree that I will not in. My personal beliefs and others, I will follow the law.

[00:05:03] **Speaker 1** One of the areas where your opponent says the voters should trust you is on the idea of 2024 Republicans in charge. Trump may lose Wisconsin, but pressure Wisconsin to overturn electoral votes, as he did the last time. And he says, we don't know if we can trust Eric Tony to actually enforce the rule of law.

[00:05:22] **Speaker 2** I'd say he needs to get out more because I've been the most vocal statewide Republican candidate saying we cannot decertify the election, that it's not lawful, that there was not a level of fraud that would have overturned the results of the 2020 election. And I have shared that across Wisconsin at Republican and nonpartisan events and have made my position very clear on that. So that's incredibly disingenuous and dishonest of our attorney general to make a statement like that. And that's frankly what's wrong with politics right now that we see such a partizan attorney general that doesn't seem to care with the truth or the facts are. And I'll stand by my record any day defending the rule of law, because Josh Call back in 2016 when he was representing Hillary Clinton in the presidential recount in Wisconsin, was arguing for a hand recount because he said we could not trust machines, that humans could better tell the intent of a voter. That's certainly not how he talks now. And we need an attorney general that's actually going to follow the law and not play politics with public safety like Josh Kaul has done.

[00:06:21] **Speaker 1** And one other lawsuit that the DOJ is currently involved in has to do with PFOA and the manufacturers in Wisconsin. Would you continue that lawsuit?

[00:06:28] **Speaker 2** So we'll evaluate every case on its own merits, and we'll work to make sure that we're protecting the environment here in Wisconsin. You know, I've run cross-country and track, track and love being outside. Talk to our folks in northern Wisconsin, the passion that they have for our environment. But it's making sure that we're working with our businesses, our community members. And what we see is people that want to do remediation, they want to do cleanup, and that we can work with them to make sure that the law is being followed and that if litigation is necessary, that we will do it, but not without trying to work with those businesses and communities first.

[00:07:01] **Speaker 1** I think that's all I have for you. Added with the primary, is there anything else that you want to hand?

[00:07:05] **Speaker 2** Anything we're missing, do you think? I think we're good.

[00:07:10] **Speaker 1** All right. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. The fact that we had that first one so long means that this one could be.