**A224C001\_230302UQ\_CANON\_proxy.mp3**

[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** And expect to see our tulips pushing up pretty early here.

[00:00:03] **Speaker 2** I saw daffodils.

[00:00:04] **Speaker 1** Recently.

[00:00:05] **Speaker 2** What are you doing?

[00:00:06] **Speaker 1** Yeah. Jump. Ready?

[00:00:09] **Speaker 2** Whenever you are. So give me that. The big issues that you're looking at in this race.

[00:00:14] **Speaker 1** Big issues would be crime, especially in this particular Senate district area close to Milwaukee. And and nobody can deny that there's crime, rising crime problem in the city of Milwaukee, and that extends out into the suburbs. And so we feel that. And so that is certainly a big concern. Education is always top of the list. So I'm a big choice proponent that we need to have both systems in place. And the here again, Milwaukee area, the choice schools have been really a life saver for for youth. And there is more that want to attend the parents want to attend choice schools and that provides things which we can talk about that perhaps perhaps is not excelling at. So education is very, very important and always will be. And the taxes are a kind of a big tax policy guy. So I always focus on that. Being a small business owner for 40 years, government regulation and taxes are always important.

[00:01:27] **Speaker 2** So let's let's start with taxes. If the flat tax idea are you in favor of getting there, do you think we should be pushing for it now? What would you like to see in this upcoming budget?

[00:01:37] **Speaker 1** I am on the second lead on the flat tax proposal with Representative Brooks and then Senator Strobel, and I would like to see that. And we need to recognize as a state, we always we're in competition with our neighboring states and we see flat income taxes in some of those states. So I worry there, too. People often talk about people leaving the state in their retirement years or when they've reached higher income status. But I also look at younger people that can consider career opportunities here in the state of Wisconsin, where they might be able to obtain a higher salary, but then they've got to take that seven and a half percent off the top of that, because that's the highest bracket that we have. So so that's what they're weighing. And I don't want to have them become disinterested in their opportunities here in the state of Wisconsin because of tax policy. So both of those are communities of people, is what I'm addressing here. And and again, to be a competitive with our neighboring states. So tax policy is important and money can can move much more easily these days and people can establish residence elsewhere. And they're doing it for that particular reason. So it's very important. And business growth as well. We see because of our flow through type businesses that these are really the bit the business income kind of flows to the individual and then they're getting taxed on that. And that's creates a problem that's taking money out of those people's pockets that they cannot reinvest into their businesses to grow more jobs. So it's very concerning and we should address it. Will it happen in this budget? Everything is a work in progress. And so we have to set goals and then we go after those goals. So perhaps we the governor, though, has said that he's good with tax cuts. He signed two budgets with tax cuts in them, and we expect certainly there'll be tax cuts included in the budget that we sent back to him for his signature. So I, I think the governor I really want to work together with this governor in that area specifically. I think there's a lot of opportunity and we'll find a place that will get tax relief across the board. That is my goal. There still should be tax relief for all taxpayers. I have the lead vendor, the lead for the personal property tax elimination for a while now. And the governor has had the has included that in his budget proposal. And he did yeah, he vetoed it last cycle, but was indicating along the way that he is in favor of that. So we just need again, to find the right final landing spot on that. So I think we will also have an elimination of the personal property tax, which is really a tax on businesses and their property and their furnishings. And think again, dollars and time and effort to take inventory and fill out the assessments that they can instead reinvest into their. And they will all those dollars will go into their business or could go to raises for employees. So it's just a very good thing. And as their businesses grow, their incomes grow. We realize more tax revenues in the state of Wisconsin. So the tax policy that I've voted on over the years, it has created and there's estimates 8 to 20 billion in tax savings to the individuals. But in the meantime, our tax revenues have increased. So if it works, it works that those dollars people keep in their pocket, they spend or reinvest and we get tax benefit revenue from from those. Every time the money changes hands, basically. So it's been a win win.

[00:05:49] **Speaker 2** There's a philosophy out there, especially espoused in the governor's budget proposal that looks at workforce development. And, you know, obviously, Republicans believe tax cuts are a way to build workforce development through all the things you just talked about. Democrats and the governor say that you need to invest in additional policies and benefits, either the paid family leave or additional child care or affordable housing, and that putting some of those dollars into those areas will create more benefits that will help grow the workforce and create a better environment for businesses.

[00:06:20] **Speaker 1** And I think there it's really, again, compromising and finding something that works for all involved. We've seen employers engage more and more. They're starving in some cases for workers. And so they are stepping forward in providing child care onsite at the workplace. So they recognize they're teaming up, particularly with our tech schools, to build out some of the classrooms and and pay for their debt or perhaps for the education for their workers to go and get those credentials needed to take the next step. So I think there there's a lot of private public partnerships that can be forged, and that's where we should be looking. I don't want to continue to invest or send more dollars to programs that are either not working well or create more dependance on the government, on the government. And I think we have some definite policy differences there. So it's really it's has always been in the United States of America that it's incumbent upon the individual to to pursue happiness as declared in our Declaration of Independence, the pursuit of happiness. There's it's not dependance on government or expectations of government. There's no guarantee of happiness. And everybody has their own definite definition, definition of what happiness is. But it's incumbent upon the individual to make those efforts. Government then helps provide some of those services or partnerships that people then can take advantage of to improve their own lives.

[00:08:01] **Speaker 2** When we look at education policy in the last budget, there was no increase for schools. But Republicans in their budget wanted to spend more on the stimulus funds and ARPA money to come in. And a lot of districts are facing some of that fiscal cliff that's built into that. Are the districts around here how are they doing? Because this is more rural, suburban, split and often have a few more resources. Are they feeling that fiscal cliff coming up and what do you what investment needs to be made in public schools specifically?

[00:08:31] **Speaker 1** Sure. The I and I've met with my superintendents in the in the six different districts that that I've had in the assembly district over the last three years. Should we just stop calling? Full stop.

[00:08:43] **Speaker 2** I can't kill that politics. Sorry, but I.

[00:08:49] **Speaker 1** Catch that smile that it brought to me, though.

[00:08:52] **Speaker 2** Oh, I've done that.

[00:08:53] **Speaker 1** Serious policy discussions don't always lend the smiles, but there we go.

[00:08:57] **Speaker 2** Okay, I apologize. That's okay. So in terms of you've talked with the superintendents, how are they doing and what are they asking for?

[00:09:05] **Speaker 1** They're certainly looking for revenue there. The levy caps and things like that have put pressure on them and they're looking for some flexibility whether they could go above levy caps or other opportunities to to gain some more revenue. There's no question we're going to be putting more revenue on the table for public schools as well for our son. Or my specific concern would be that that's matched with the choice school funding. So the choice schools really are a bargain because they are only getting half generally of what public schools are getting in state in state funding. So it's really linked together. If we're talking about more revenue going to education, it has to include both both systems and and then it's a matter of merit and return on investment. I'm very. It's very important that we see results. And in the case of M.P.s, the results haven't been great. And but there's other issues there and that before they even get the students. I think there's a lack of family structure, things like that here in the assembly district. At least the school districts are doing fine, doing well. The concern and the warning that I offered to those superintendents was to not use those one time dollars for their operating budgets. I think overall, they've been pretty good about that. They recognize these are one time dollars. So now those are gone or will be going away. And so they're they've kept their budgets in line. Recognizing that, however, there's always going to be consistent pressures. You pay more pay and the costs in the to the to the classroom inflation, they're going to feel all those pressures. So we have to recognize that and provide additional state state funding.

[00:11:10] **Speaker 2** The first issue you brought up was crime. You talked about the the impact of crime issues in Milwaukee, which everyone acknowledges is severe. Does that actually bleed into the suburbs or is it more of the fear of how the proximity to the crime that's in Milwaukee is kind of a mental state of fear?

[00:11:27] **Speaker 1** Yeah. Well, it certainly makes people move to the suburbs, so don't do it. And then they don't want the crime in their backyard. And so I have neighbors all the time, new people moving in, and I will meet them and have those discussions. And the two things that will come up is crime and schools, which we just talked about. We want a good school district and we don't want that crime in our neighbor country. Good. We all want to live in a safe neighborhood and that is what we need to get back to in Milwaukee. These are some of these neighborhoods simply are not safe neighbors anymore. And how can anybody live well in a in a neighborhood that's not safe? So the concern is. But the people are moving with their feet and wallet out of the city. As we see this, the population of the city is declining.

[00:12:21] **Speaker 2** When you look at the results of the primary, what should voters take away from that?

[00:12:27] **Speaker 1** In the primary really reflects my just deep, deep roots in this in really in the Senate district with the third map that I now in the in the Assembly, I've just represented over half of the people in the Senate district. And particularly you go to Menomonee Falls, where I grew up from age three and my family of eight. Just deep, deep roots there. And that was reflected in the primary. People are still familiar with me, comfortable with me. I was their state representative for my first two terms, almost all of Menomonee Falls, and that was reflected. So Richfield I lived in for eight years in Germantown. I've been for 20 plus years now and owning business as well. So that was really reflected this deep roots that I have. I've just have these established relationships with the constituents. They've met me at their door seven different times in the different election cycles that I've been involved with. When they've called over respond, I would much prefer to meet in the district than asking someone to come out to Madison or a phone call. Nothing's better than one on one personal conversation like we're having here. So the and then they've become accustomed to that, and that's good. So that means I have to perform and respond and I feel I've done that. And the other communities I've represented, our Mequon area, River Hills, and now Grafton is new to me, but they have now come to know me why I was on the ballot in fall. I was on the ballot again and it will be on the ballot again April 4th. So that is just being recognized and then establishing those relationships and it's been very productive.

[00:14:16] **Speaker 2** When you we talk about Democrats in the Democratic Party playing in the Republican primary, trying to promote general preemption, does that signal that they were more afraid that you were the candidate they least wanted to face? Or what should we take away from that?

[00:14:30] **Speaker 1** I think that's pretty obvious that that is the case, too, to invest a quid sum of dollars putting out mailers with the Democrat Party of Wisconsin as the sender that shows they were in play and wanted to be in play, too, to support one of my primary opponents. There's no question thought that I would be the weaker candidate to take on in the general. It is what it is. I do take care of my business inside. I don't. Think any of us are thrilled about third party spending that come in. We don't have any control over it. And and it happens. So I continue just to sell Dan and and in my brand and I, I mean, I'm very, very positive about the place the state of Wisconsin is in right now where ever been more fiscally sound. And we have worked with the governor on that signing these budgets that he has signed. So I continue with that and that Wisconsin continues to move forward, to continue to be a better place to live, work and play, if you will.

[00:15:35] **Speaker 2** Over the past, I guess. Well, since Donald Trump came into office, we've seen a little bit of a shift in the suburbs and in some of the counties. Are you thinking that is in play here? What have you heard from people? We talk about people moving out from the city. Sure, some of them do bring their old voting patterns with them.

[00:15:52] **Speaker 1** Absolutely.

[00:15:53] **Speaker 2** So how does that shape this race at all?

[00:15:56] **Speaker 1** I dismiss the Trump effect. I am not he's not on the ballot again. I'm Dan Kernodle and I'm out there selling my brand and my my relationships with the constituents. People will constantly bring that up. And certainly there's I would call it more of a lingering Trump effect that the national media will force to never go away, I guess. And but I have I mentioned in a live broadcast on primary night that President Trump is really his own worst enemy. And so that's his problem. So, again, I am out there and and people, though, have recognized that. So you have certainly hardcore Trump supporters in this district. And then but you have a good segment of the population that may have been Trump supporters that really are looking in a different direction now. But it's still I set that aside and go out and do do my thing and represent my constituents.

[00:17:02] **Speaker 2** When you remove all of the topline noise about Donald Trump and you just look at the demographics of the district, do you think it is shifting more towards the Democrats or is that is it hard to pass away from all the different top of the ballot issues over the last few years?

[00:17:17] **Speaker 1** Sure. I'd have to admit it's certainly there's there's a shift that has been going and you just look at the election cycles. In my case, I point to 2020 where I was on the ballot with Trump and Biden. Joe Biden won the 24th Assembly District, but so did I. So those are people that I was going to their doors and they were already had made their decision and the presidential level and I was there. Well, I see if sometimes even having a sign in their yard. I recognize you've already made your decision there. I'm here as your state representative to continue to represent you. And reasonable, pragmatic is a word I use often, and I think they've recognized that. So otherwise I couldn't have won in that race where Joe Biden won my assembly district. So So there's no question those are the crossover voters that I've been able to capture the vote. And it's going to be very important in the general election this year.

[00:18:19] **Speaker 2** What impact do you think the Supreme Court election will have on your race and vice versa? Do you think they'll interplay.

[00:18:25] **Speaker 1** The turnout is the big question who will turn out for whom, whom, and will that favor me or not? And I just don't know. So I, again, will be out there, which we do and have over the years, assembly candidates throughout the state to drive some turnout. So that's what my focus will be. I need you as my constituent to come out and vote. And so but so those factors are going to be in play. There's no question I align with one of those Supreme Court candidates more than the other. But I don't know if the constituents make that connection or hook me to a certain Supreme Court candidate. And I prefer they don't count that I'm running more as an independent assembly person, hope to be state senator, and I make those connections.

[00:19:20] **Speaker 2** If you win, then you will be the 22nd vote in the state Senate, getting the two thirds majority. That carries some significance when it comes to the ability of the Senate to carry out some things. Should voters have that in their minds? Or what are your intentions when you I guess because you would be that vote that would carry that, correct?

[00:19:38] **Speaker 1** Yeah, I would hope voters do have that in their mind. I will put it in their mind because it is important. And I go, if we can talk about it, I call it the impeachment powers that the that the Senate would have, which certainly would be tested and see if they're really what they are, how significant they are. But. I would look to exercise that authority, particularly in the judicial system where I think some public officials just they're not doing their job. They're not following the law. They're not prosecuting. So I go specifically to DA's and judges, and this would go to Milwaukee County specifically that perhaps should be removed. And if the Senate has that authority in their power, I would act upon it. And I think that leads to, again, going back to we need the right people in the prosecutor's office and we should send them more funding in the judicial system, which will send more funding and the corrections system which should get more funding. I take their vote in a heartbeat. I hope that we can take that bad element out of the neighborhood and so those neighborhoods can heal and be good, safe communities again. That's really my ultimate goal there. And that might be a lever to use to address that.

[00:20:59] **Speaker 2** So is it fair to say with naming names that John Chisholm's job job is on the line with potentially this election?

[00:21:05] **Speaker 1** Yes. And I've had statements before calling for his resignation. I just don't feel that. And when we see the revolving door, that's where it comes to in Milwaukee. And we see the court cases, we see the aftermath of people getting out without with low bail specifically and causing even more harm. That's a problem. And that goes to the prosecutor.

[00:21:30] **Speaker 2** When you talked about the the protests, untested nature of some of the impeachment powers that are out there, there are some people that interpret that very broadly and some much more narrowly in terms of what acts could actually qualify for impeachment or if it's simply if the vote is for impeachment or not. Do you think that almost any action that the Senate would take in that area would likely end up in court?

[00:21:54] **Speaker 1** I think we have to be honest and say that that is likely. I have requests out right now from people who are more constitutionally scholarly than I am to to tell me what give me an opinion on what this authority might provide. And so but we won't really know. It's going to come down to testing it and that if I'm not there, well, then we don't even have that opportunity. If we do end up at 21 Republican senators versus 22. So it's a it's an open ended question for sure.

[00:22:33] **Speaker 2** So I just want to run this extra point by you on this topic. I've seen some people say that constitutional officers all the way up to the governor may possibly be fall under this impeachment power. Others say that the language of the law does not reference, and constitutional officers are completely different than other people that may clearly fall under impeachment. What's your thought on that?

[00:22:53] **Speaker 1** Yeah, I think you you hit it. That's the question. And that mean we may not know the answer unless we test that and use that authority and see how it shakes out. But I will initially look at it. That really could could involve any elected official, particularly elected officials, government officials as well appointed. So I would think it's it's. I view it initially as all encompassing. But that's what we will see if we have that opportunity.

[00:23:27] **Speaker 2** Would you vote to impeach Governor Evers?

[00:23:30] **Speaker 1** I can't say that at this point. I. Right now I'm looking to work with Governor Evers, and we have had success. So I don't see a need. If we can work together. And we're making policy decisions together, then that is working. Then that's governing. And so we have divided government. It is what it is. I may have people in the Republican Party that don't want to admit that, but that's the fact. And I'll play with the cards that are dealt. Governor Evers is the governor. He's going to be the governor for four years. I don't see impeachment and on the radar screen and I with him, I want to accomplish things with Governor Evers. And we can and we have. So the budget process is that that first step.

[00:24:18] **Speaker 2** It's interesting that your election coincides with the Supreme Court because if gender policy wins, wins. There's been talk about redistricting coming back to the Supreme Court, possibly new maps, yet another time where Grafton may be in or out of there, too. But sure. Do you do you see that as a distinct possibility that if she joins the court, that we could see entirely new maps?

[00:24:40] **Speaker 1** I think it's a decision she's made very clear with her opinions about prejudging things, in my view, which I don't think it's a good judicial principle to to go that way. But she's put it out there. So to me that it's likely that those things would be addressed. Now, I've also I have taken the oath of office and it's the maps particularly that's a legislative process and it's been done legislatively and it's been through the courts and proven constitutionally sound. So she wants to interpret the Constitution differently than past justices. I don't know, you know, what how that will shake out, but it's a concern. But I have I'm very confident that my actions over the last 14 years have been constitutional.

[00:25:34] **Speaker 2** One of the other issues that we know Democrats are playing up in this election is abortion. Where do you stand on the current law? Would you be in support of an exemption for rape or incest? And do you think the legislature needs to work with the governor to address these things?

[00:25:49] **Speaker 1** Yes. Across the board on all of those, I don't think people give enough credence to a current law which protects the life of the mother, which is a mean, mean factor. So but I am also I do support rape and incest exceptions. So I put that right right up front. And as an elected official, I have again swore I'm sworn into office right now and I'm part of our mission as representatives is to be the voice of the people in Madison, in our state level issues. So I believe I need to be the voice of not only those that are adults, you know, so but younger people and the unborn. They don't have a voice. And so to be a pro-life person, it appears that that's or at least the media will want to make that a negative thing now. But sorry, it's a positive thing to be a pro-life person. And so I need to be the voice of the unborn and the voiceless. And so I'm for pro-life. I want every pregnancy. The goal would be to to come to fruition and that child to have an opportunity to enjoy what we enjoy here in the state of Wisconsin in this country is the opportunities that that are there.

[00:27:08] **Speaker 2** Is it ironic, then, that the Democrats for promoting your opponent, whether she supports abortion?

[00:27:13] **Speaker 1** Well, well, sure. And you know that that's it's the politics. It can be a personal destruction or in that case, it's a ploy or a play to support to support somebody.

[00:27:27] **Speaker 2** Would you like them to send out one about you saying the same thing?

[00:27:30] **Speaker 1** I expect to all those kind of things to come into play that I will be cast in a negative light now. And and that's unfortunate, but I that's that I'm going to be out there with a very positive campaign. And to me, being pro-life is a positive thing. And what we need to do is have more resources for those that perhaps enter into unplanned pregnancies. Again, the onus still goes to the responsibility. It's incumbent on the individual. I fully support all of. I'm stuck. Sorry. Took birth control? Yes. So let's start over. Yeah. So I fully support of birth control work and that goes to the individual. But abortion is not birth control. So abortion is. Really the stopping of of a life. So I recognize a life. There's a heartbeat. I have a daughter who's 13 weeks pregnant right now. She was in for her checkup at six weeks. There was a heartbeat. And to me, that's a life. And so I need to be a voice for that life and want that that life to have an opportunity to come into the world. So that that's where I start. I realize and I've had women, Republican women tell me, particularly in the rape area, if I have a 15 year old daughter that is rape, that really should be options for her. And I think that can be carried into the life of the mother that is a criminal act, is so traumatic that that could affect the life of the mother for sure. And so that's why we have that would put that exemption in there specifically. And perhaps you further define life for the life of the mother.

[00:29:16] **Speaker 2** That was the next question, because a lot of medical authorities and legal authorities are saying it's so great that unfortunately, the only way to clarify it would be if someone dies or get sued and then through the court process. So could the legislature clarify that?

[00:29:30] **Speaker 1** I think we should. And that's what we need to do. And legislation takes time. And to get it right, it takes should take time and have all perspectives. Weigh in there, too. I've had women that have approached me. Perhaps they were in a situation where they were could have a miscarriage or they might have a stillborn. And the procedure, or at least it seems the medical profession has said, Well, we will not you will have to carry that stillborn to term where I don't think that that's an abortion. That could be a medical procedure, that it certainly can affect the life of the mother if you're carrying a stillborn with you. So that would have to be addressed. And that that's going to that that's legislation to recognize that. Wait a minute. That if you have a stillborn, it's at six months and we have a medical delivery of that, the stillborn that that that's not abortion.

[00:30:31] **Speaker 2** And any other things you want to bring up.

[00:30:35] **Speaker 1** I'm thrilled to be out there campaigning. I look forward to going out there with you and visiting people. That's what we do, especially at our level at the Assembly and in Senate and your media and all the spending. There is something we don't necessarily have control over. So it's it's meeting the people and establishing those relationships and continuing them. I will ask them to continue the relationship that we have as their representative in this case now, the state Senate versus the state assembly. So let's go to it. And and Wisconsin.

[00:31:10] **Speaker 2** Wonderful. All right. That was good. Give us a few minutes to tear down and then we will head out with you. Okay. And we'll put this on when we get out there for doors of.