**Pocan\_Sanders\_Medicaid\_Town\_Hall\_20250422.mp3**

[00:00:08] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Thank you very much.

[00:00:21] **Speaker 2** Excuse me, I know it used to be a church, but we're acting like it's a church. There are two seats up front. So there's three over here, and I count to be ten up here. So if you'd like to sit, and you're standing, please come on up, and you'll be a little more comfortable. I want to start out just a picture, in case he has the wrong chair. Is it here, or here? Okay, he's not. So, we do have a sheriff army that shows up, but look, the 101 of your job as a member of Congress is really two things. Taking the views of the people of your district, so people from the cross area, Russia, Wisconsin, taking that to Washington, and then the Harvard part, sometimes explaining Washington back home. But you can only do that by doing this, having town halls. Open public town halls where you can have a conversation with your constituents. And not doing that, even telephone town halls, even virtual town halls are not the same. We did some during COVID because we had to, but I'll be honest, you can send a question up that says, will you promise to never cut Medicaid? And the question they may read is, Why is your beard true so nicely? Because you don't see the question, only they knew on their end. So it's not a real town hall. This is a real time hall. So thank you so much for being here. Second, I have to ask this question, because your congressman said the reason he doesn't do public town halls is because people are busted by George Soros. Who here got a ride from George Soras? Does anyone? No, you wouldn't pretend that you don' Anyone that arrived from George Soros here? Really, anyone? No one got busted in by George? Okay. Anyone work for George Soro? Okay. So, in case Derek asks where he shows up, we will let him know that no one came on behalf of George Soroz. This is just real people from different parts of the district. So, want to yell out where you're from in a few minutes so we get an idea what to share? We're in Alaska. We're the first. Okay, this was a good idea, wasn't it? But I think it's suffice it to say you're from all over Western Wisconsin, right? How many of you, Jared, is your member of Congress? Make some noise. So, got all that out of the way. I think that's important. I want to start just by talking about five subjects that come up every time I do a town hall. We did one last week in my district in Monroe, Wisconsin, found in Greene County. It's about 10,000 people in Monroe. Traditionally, I'll hear about 75 people at a time off. This year, we had 260 people show up. This is wrong. We'll see you in a couple days. So, people just want to be heard. That's why the election in April, the real news was not who won, or the fact they won by 10 points in a purple state. The real news, was the turnout. Because I talked to a Republican colleague of mine from Wisconsin, who said that Trump had a pollster come in, and they showed them down 5 to 6 points, and I know we had heard that we were up 5 points, often, leading to the election. But, if we got to the level of turnout that we had two years ago, and the quarter flicks with Janet Rosales ran, and because that was flipping for such a huge turnout, if we could only get to that, we could win by about the 10 points. Now, here's what happened. More people turned out than turned out two years go for Janet Rosale.

[00:04:13] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[00:04:18] **Speaker 2** What we hear is, you're pissed. You're concerned. You are scared. There's a lot of those emotions. And you know what? I share all those emotions as I'm looking at what's happening. And I think that's the real story that didn't get recorded. Because people just want to be heard. And that's why you have to do town halls. So what I want to do is, without a lot questions from you, there are five areas that come up a bunch. And I'm just going to front load those if that's alright, it just makes a little more sense, this is generally how we do the count off. And then, also, I think we have a special polling gas in a little bit. So I'm going to take my phone out, not to be rude, but to make sure I'm on time. So let me start with the first issue, and this is the biggest issue, is the issue of the tax cuts for the wealthiest in this country. They are flooding the zone with lots of stuff, right? Lots of all the things that we're all trying to deal with with your own attack. But their whole prayer is the tax cuts for the wealthiest. They want to extend the tax cut that they did last time for the wealthy for another 10 years. And if they do that, we were told just the exact same tax cuts, 83% of the money would go to the top 1% at the end of this next 10 year period. But unfortunately, it's even worse than that, because the bill that just got passed that the Senate sent over to kind of reconcile how they were moving forward changed a few things. So it's not just $4.5 trillion that we heard over and over is what they're trying to extend again. But the Joint Committee on Taxation looked at what the cost of those tax breaks are now, and it's now $5.5 trillions. When you have a trillion, it's not a small amount of money, right? So now we're at five and a half trillion. Also, if they slipped in there from the Senate side, even though the cuts were only at two percent, what the House Republicans and Derek Pandorgan voted for, he voted for a trillion and a halve of cuts to be targeted at committees, and I'll come to that in a second. But they have another trillion and half for other tax cuts as well. So we're up to potentially $7 trillion of tax cuts that largely are stealing money from things that not even the middle class and those aspiring to be in the middle-class that are going to the wealthiest. So that's what we're fighting, and that is their holy grail, is to get that done. And they want you to think about Greenland, all of you can think about greenland, and they want to you to wonder if academy's gonna become the 51st state. They want you be distracted, But what they really want is what's in your pocket. They want your money and they want to give it to Elon Musk and Donald Trump and Jeff Bezos and Marcus Underwood, alright? So, let me tell you where that's coming from and then we're going to wait for the special guest and I'll come back. But... The original bill that Derek Bailey reported for said you had to cut a minimum of $1.5 trillion and they gave targets to communities who come up with that that have to come back for votes by Congress. The target was $880 billion from the Energy and Commerce Committees jurisdiction. Now you've probably heard Derek and other people tell you that nowhere in the bill does it say they're cutting Medicaid. Well, that's like a fourth graders argument. Let me tell you the rest of the story. That $880 billion cut for energy and commerce, their jurisdiction is Medicaid, Medicare, and everything else in their jurisdiction adds up to $581 billion. So on its face, they've never said they're going to cut every single thing under their jurisdiction. That means $299 billion minimum has to come from Medicaid or Medicare. So, on its face, it's a lot, right, but they're saying that living in Medicaid is health insurance and long-term care. It's one out of three kids in Wisconsin gets their health insurance from Medicaid. It's 45% of adults with disabilities living in it who have Medicaid hits. So, it is health care and long term care that they want to come so that a few folks can get a really big tax break. Second, they want to cut $230 billion from the Committee of Agriculture's jurisdiction. Now, that could be real broadband, it could be some support that goes to farmers, but most likely the biggest pool of money is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or the SNAP program, that's food assistance. That's $6.20 a day in food assistance, the number one program keeping kids out of poverty in the country. That 620 is not a lot of money. My freshman term, I did a challenge, which I could tell I was a freshman, but I made it the smartest part of the challenge. Some people did one day of living on staff, some of us did one week, I chose the one week. And that was a not-as-smart opportunity. So it was $31.50 at that point for a week's worth of support. I bought ramen noodles, peanut butter, and in general my office told me I was really important. Right? Because it's not a lot, and if you take away that, you're really taking food from the mouths of children in order to fund the tax cut. The third area, there's four areas and then we've got our special guest, the third area was $330 billion from education. That's 45% of the federal spending on education. It could mean things for higher education like health grants. I got Pell Grades. I grew up with a more middle class family. That's how I was able to go to college. But it's very, very likely going to affect Pell grades. But K-12... The A funding is special. That funding, Title I, is for lowering the interest rates, which you have all over rural parts of Western Wisconsin. So if you do that, you either are going to cut teachers, have bigger class sizes, or you're going to have to raise that money at the local level. So you're going to increase your local taxes and fewer services to pay for. And the fourth area is the subsidies for the Affordable Care Act. If you take away the subsidies, it's not the Affordable care Act. So at this point, we're going to break because we do have a guest that you're not going to see but you're going to hear. So is everybody ready for the introduction, Sean? Are we ready? Not quite there yet. Okay. Now, let me go into the second area, uh, that is Doge. Oh, he's here. Okay, all right. We have a special guest, someone who I had the fortune, ability to join in Kenosha a number of weeks ago. And other members of Congress, and other leaders, and he is doing the job of so many to help expose what happened this morning. Thank you very much.

[00:11:42] **Speaker 3** Can you guys hear me? Yes! Take an ear and come in. Well, listen, let me say, Congress is in want of a handoff. I have done not only an outstanding job, but was constantly one of the greatest members of the U.S. Congress and other working people all over the country. Let me thank those people who organized this event. It's not like you guys made a turn out of that. And hopefully let me thank everybody for coming out. Oh, I don't have to tell anybody, I think. That we are living in an unprecedented moment in the life history of this country. Donald Trump is turning our government over to the power of the wealthiest people in America. He is moving up rapidly towards an authoritarian form of society. His government is becoming more and more cut-to-crack, of making individuals making money out of it. What goes on in his government, and one of the things I'm going to be talking about tonight, is the fact that at the time of taxes, unprecedented income and wealth inequality

[00:13:06] **Speaker 1** Thanks for watching!

[00:13:06] **Speaker 3** I've got to apologize for the public interest, but the billionaires here, video of us, and other very, very wealthy people, because we need huge tax breaks. I mean, one of the things about the tax break, at a time when our healthcare system is broken, where 85 million people are uninsured or uninsure from there, I find that the pollution and the way that they tax break the billionaires is cut in many ways by 800 billion and 80 billion dollars I've had to create a program of a hungry kid, a housing program at a time when you say something is coming, a huge housing crisis. Oh, you have a congressman or a president, and most of you should have to make a choice. And that choice has to do with increasing affiliation goals that come down the line. And he uses the sense that the working family won't have people of different interests who get to be needed out there, who get these nutrition programs. Whose parents need to gain access to nursing homes, which is what Medicaid is specifically funding, or whether the Billionaire Fund needs a time to be definitely submitted to funding, has to do with people being spolganized and the grass roots left.

[00:14:44] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Thank you very much.

[00:14:47] **Speaker 3** If you say it works for you, you work for a living, you're not supposed to ask, you have no money, you are powerless. We don't have the money, we don't the power, we only do what we do, we own this living system. And what I would like to offer you right now is to turn that on its head. And say, you know what, we are the 99% of your country. There are a lot more of us than there are of you. We have serious needs to this country. You guys are not going to need any more tax payers. And the way to be a corrupt political system is by doing exactly what you are doing. And I have serious discussions about serious needs with great leaders, right-wing conservatives, Okanagan, and others. And you mobilize our people to understand what they want, not want them to head out to huge social media in a effective way. When people understand the civil law, they are not going to be supported by tax-free people in there and cut to the program that we're going to meet with them in the end. So, once again, let me thank our law school, we thank all of the organizers for this event, and that is to conclude I think that there has just been one day in the monitoring of the country than the moment we are living in right now. Although I believe absolutely in Washington that when we stand together, when we don't let confidence spread to divide us up by where we were born, whether it was in our political orientation or our religion or left, When we stand together, there is nothing we cannot accomplish. We can defeat capitalism. We can beat this. We can still create things built. We can create a government that works for all of us, not just for a few. So once again, everybody, thanks so much for coming out. Keep up the great work. We're going to be getting back to the consensus in the near future. Take care.

[00:16:53] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much. Thank you.

[00:17:07] **Speaker 2** And one of the things that he's talking about is the fact that, it's about the oligarchs, right? That he bridges folks that, unfortunately, are calling shots that are unelected. And one those people is Elon Musk. Elon Musk has been making the charge, I guess you'd say, at Doge. And Doge is a mess. And this is the second subject I'm talking about. So they said they were going to cut trillion dollars of waste, fraud, and abuse. But, you must have no experience in fellow government, nor do most of the people that have brought in to do this. In fact, you know, he's got a bunch of young people, and they've downgraded that $1 trillion to $150 billion they're going to save. So they're already at 15% of their original goal. But, what they're doing is chaotically harmful, taking away services that we rely on. They're firing people in a way that makes no sense. They completely got rid of, essentially, USAID, which provides assistance around the world, which helps us as we're trying to open up markets and do things around the rural. But, you know, firings of probationary employees have affected things like people who work at the IRS, so that if you've got a question you need it, you've gotten someone you can talk to. When you're trying make an appointment at the VA hospital, a bunch of those people that take the phone calls aren't working there anymore, so it's harder to get that doctor's appointment. They're fighting 7,000 people at Social Security. So when you want to be able to call and get, you know, an answer about Social Security or your application to folks that need it, you're not going to be able to do that disease. They fired 10,000 at the Department of Health and Human Services, 25% of their staff. And then had to rehire 2,000 of them because they don't know what they're doing. Now that is waste, fraud, and abuse, right? And either it's scary, or it's really bad. But their duty is the pride, because they're just fires in the middle of the night. That's what they're doing, that's what we are doing.

[00:19:14] **Speaker 1** You

[00:19:16] **Speaker 2** So they fired all the people who worked on nuclear weapons, not all, but the people working on nuclear weapons have had to be hired. They fired the people that do Indian flu research, bird flu, which we just paid one price because of that. Now they're the ones that have to try to rehire people. And it's just a chaotic thing. When they first put out the first savings they had, the top item they said was an $8 million savings, that later they realized they meant $8,000,000. That's a big difference. And even then, That's two and a half billion above the eight million that are even spent? Like, they, so it's a real problem that Elon Musk has the ability to turn on and off that spigot of funding. Now, I did something in response to this, and I have to look it up because I always forget the exact wording of it. I introduced a bill called the Eliminate Looting of Our Nation by Mitigating an Ethical State Kleptocracy Act. Thank you.

[00:20:13] **Speaker 1** Which, if you think about it, you're probably going to miss out on the fact that this provider got that locked in.

[00:20:22] **Speaker 2** One of the signs of corruption, and there are many in this administration we're seeing, is with you, I must have a disability, he has federal contracts. He was making $8 million a day on federal contracts, they were first on social security, made $65 a day, on social secure, $8 billion a day. And I can't have a federal contract, as a member of Congress. Federal employees can't federal contracts and anything they have jurisdiction over. Why couldn't he have allowed this guy? So that bill would say that either he can continue the role he has at Dover, but he has to give up contracts. He can't do that. Or he can keep having contracts, but you can't be the guy in charge of moving money around right and left, right? Otherwise, it's corruption. It's just so much corruption that we're seeing in this administration. The first thing I want to talk about, and I'm sure it's going to be a question, but again, I've been doing a lot of top politics, that's why these five are the ones that come up the most, and why not mention them up front, is social security. Nothing in the bill that's currently moving forward to try to steal the $20.5 to pay for the tax cut is directly affecting your social security, it is saying you're firing 7,000 people, that's going make the performance of social security work less well. But here's why you should care about social security. It's clearly got a target out of it. First, Elon Musk has said it's a potency, right? Now, it's, first of all, it is our damn money, right, that we paid for it. And I was really disappointed in him, and I let him sit with me for a second. The promise is, you hold it until we need it, right? But he's calling it a Ponzi scheme. Then you've got the President, and hope none of you actually did this, because I kind of laid out for 90 minutes, but anyone watch the State of the Union speech? Anyway, he spent a lot, like he, the president, spent a lot of real estate in that speech talking about social security. And he was talking about the people who are getting it, that should be getting it that are 100 to 110 years old. 110 to 120 years old, 120 to 130 years old 140 to 150, and I think you get the idea. He went all the way up to 360. Here's the thing, we don't, we're not, Social Security is not for people who keep track of life and death in this country, right? That's down at the local level where we keep track on this, but it doesn't mean that if you're still on there, you're getting a Social Security check. Two different Inspector General reports have said, I suppose, that he spent a lot of time lying to the American people about it. In fact, in 2015, a hall was passed that said you cannot give a check to anyone over 115 years. So again, what he spent all that time on was a lot, so that's why I think you should be concerned. The next thing to think about is the Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Lettening, who's a billionaire, by the way. And there are a lot of billionaires. One fact, that to take home, there are more billionaires in the Trump administration than there are trans athletes in the NC double bank. 13 billionaires. But the fact that he was in an interview, and they said with all this disruption you're doing, what if someone doesn't get their social security check? And he said, well, my mother-in-law is 94, and if she didn't get her social security check, she would just assume there was a mistake and she'll get it in the next month. Only a fraudster would call and complain that they didn't their social security check. 40% of people live solely on Social Security and many, many more is the primary source of their income. So the fact that all of that is going on and then throw on top of it the largest caucus on the Republican side in Congress, the Republican Study Committee, has a stated goal of raising the retirement age to 70, Means, we gotta watch our social security because, don't forget, it's our damn money, right?

[00:24:58] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[00:24:59] **Speaker 2** We're going to talk about these chairs. And I have a position that's a little bit finesse and I want to be able to explain it because I think it's important. You can use targeted tariffs wisely, alright? If China is dumping cheap steel in the United States, we can protect the steel industry, the workers, the ripple effect industries by putting a tariff on that cheap steel, right? So if someone's playing unfairly, you can use a targeted tariff and be very smart. Or, you can apply tariffs to just about everything, including countries that only have penguins, by throwing them around like monkey throws their dome, and then you don't have such an effective tariff policies. And that's exactly what we're seeing right now. I'd advise anyone to actually tell me exactly today, right now, where we're having tariffs. Because some are off a bunch of their own, but actually some are going to stay with China, but not the number one thing they said, like it's impossible to keep up with the chaos. And the problem is when we do them indiscriminately like we're doing, it becomes, Trump's tariffs become a tax on us. Because countries do not pay tariffs, we pay tariffs when things come here, the cost of goods. And if you saw, even American Navy cars could see a $8,000 increase, they said due to the parts that come from overseas. So you have to have policy. And the problem is, Dr. Trump put out his formula for how he figured out tariffs. Oh my God, I mean, now I understand why his doctor said he's 224 pounds, right? This guy does not understand numbers. And that is what we're facing with tariffs right now. So it's a big concern. We really do have to watch what's happening. Hopefully, you saw what's happened to the stock market and everything else because of this, but what we need is industrial policy that doesn't incentivize things to be made here, But simply, changing the tariffs right now, by the time you've got a line up to make things in certain areas, it could be years down the road, right? So you need industrial policy, like Joe Biden had us doing with renewables when he was president, but you don't see that coming out of Donald Trump. So that's the issue of tariffs. The final subject I was going to bring up, and we're going to go right to the questions, is the rule of law. Uh, and... This is going to get positive, right, so I haven't been able to share a whole lot of positive things with you yet. We're seeing a lot of the rule of law challenge, right? That's why there's so many lawsuits that are happening. There's over 160, I think, now lawsuits, whether it be on firing employees or taking people out of the United States or what DOJ is doing. All the different areas have legal challenges. And in particular, the one that right now we're getting the most calls on is the situation of Mr. Garcia from Maryland, who is then sent to Australia. The administration admitted it was a mistake, but they won't honor their mistake. So the Supreme Court said you have to facilitate this return because there's due process in this country. That's part of our rule of law we have is due process.

[00:28:21] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you very much.

[00:28:30] **Speaker 2** So I don't know how to help this defying it by saying, well, they only said I got a facility. Alright, I understand that he's just playing Donald Trump with all of this, but at some point, we could hit that constitutional crisis of the court is saying I'm not the attorney person, and he's saying I am not going to. It's that and the AP case I think are the ones that are the farthest, but this is the front I want to say that's positive. Also, the area that we're having the most success right now is in losses. Through litigation, we have had over 60 positive adjudications on losses on behalf of the American people because the legal system is working. 60-Plus adjudication came from over 40 different judges. It's not like one judge is just working overtime doing this. Over 40 judges, including judges appointed by Donald Trump. So I think a real positive sign is that the rule of law largely is working. I have a podcast that, if you ever get a chance, we started it a couple months back. It's called The Liberty and Justice for Some. And I interviewed Josh Hall. I think last week we brought that one out. And he told me on behalf of the lawsuits that, by the way, the Democratic Attorney General is doing an amazing job of bringing the lawsuits, and Josh is a part of that. He's the one who said, by they way, they are writing by mostly every fourth order when it comes up. It's just there's a couple high profile that he's kind of doing, and because, you know, the way he does everything, he talks about everything through eight different perspectives, so that everyone hears what they want to hear or not. The reality is, we're having some success in that area, I think that's really positive. So let me stop talking at this point. I just want to cover those areas because I guarantee they come up every single town hall. I'm sure they'll come up, and maybe we'll talk a little more in depth with the questions. I asked the folks to stack them by subject, so I spent the most time on the biggest pile of questions. And then I'll open it up at that point if people have specific questions in that area, right, so we can wrap up the subject here. And there's probably going to be some overlap, but we'll do the best we can, if that's all right. So, let me... And grab a piece of the big pile and start with this one. Do you still support or do you know on the late in the ride they have, what do you suggest are the best ways to take action in support of democracy? I am very concerned for democracy, what is being done and can be done to stop authoritarianism. We know that Congress has the power of the first. Okay, there's a lot of different subjects here, I guess. You know, this lady's thoughts, let me, what actions, authority, of course, does the Supreme Court, Congress, and federal courts have to force judgements on? Let's just start right there, okay? I think I just did kind of talk about that one, but we are winning on that. By and large, they're abiding by court orders, but, you know, if you go back to court and say, okay, well, what's facilitating that's part of the legal process, and they have a right to do that, it may be something I think they're a really awful human being would do. I don't know if they're bothering the court that we're going to do that, but that's the reality. So of that, largely it's working. Power of the first. This is one of the biggest problems. And if Jared were here, I would say, Article One of the Constitution, we'll see if he's read it or not, says that Congress has the power of the First. And yet what we're watching is their effective funding, congressionally directed funding, against the law, which are some of the lawsuits that we're seeing. So. That is our prompt. We need the Congress to stand up. If only three Republican members across the country stand up, we can block them. So our job is to make sure that your member of Congress knows where you stand on any given issue, because if they really would like to come back to office after next fall, they better listen to you before next fall.

[00:32:46] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much.

[00:32:50] **Speaker 2** So the fourth question about democracy and authoritarianism, and you know, I think this is where I would say the two things that we could do, and hopefully this answer is that I understand, I don't, but I keep trying on stuff, but um... The two things that we can do the most right now, three, litigation, communication, and then the work that you're doing by being here, by reaching out to a member of Congress on a regular basis, and making sure that you are heard. Litigation explains there are groups that you Google Trump litigation tracker, there are trackers that we're getting the names of, that have all the different lawsuits. So who's doing the lawsuits? Support the groups doing the losses, right? Because that is something that we're having the greatest victories on, and that's really important. Communication, look, it's not misinformation that's out there, it is disinformation that's There are times when we lie about those things. Thank you.

[00:33:48] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[00:33:51] **Speaker 2** We really need to use our social media and our contacts with folks to put out the right information. So when they say something that's blatantly false, we've got to take that out and put that information out there. So when I say I didn't vote to cut Medicaid, you say you said the Energy and Commerce Committee has to cut $880 billion and the entire budget that isn't Medicaid or Medicare is $581 billion, so you're lying, right? You are coming, you voted to cut Medicaid by that vote, and that's how we make sure we get the information out of it. They can write the act, now there's two of them that we could possibly get mixed up with two of the switch, but again, both had due process problems. Look, I understand that insurgents don't think due process, they're buying with what's happening right now with shipping used to Garcia and Del Salvador, but we have to have due process. And one of the bills that people like to refer to about throwing people out of the country is that they say, well, you want to get a bill to throw criminals out of a country. Now, first of all, you can do that, right? You don't need additional laws. But what that bill said is if you're even accused of a crime, you could be thrown out of country. There's due due process for people who've been thrown out other country. And I actually have to put it back. It's something that no politician really likes that much Because if you don't say exactly the right word, they might say you said something wrong. An example I hate, but I got a true one, so I'm glad to share this one. But it was, if you had six teenagers going to a corner convenience store, and they thought one of the kids stole a candy bar, so they called the police. If one of kids who did absolutely nothing was an after recipient, they've been here since they were one month old, they could be kicked out of the country. They may not speak the language of the countries they're going to, they may know nothing about it, but under those bills, that was enough. I don't vote for crack. I don' vote for that kind of stuff. I support due process because that's where I'm coming from. Thanks for watching!

[00:35:58] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[00:35:59] **Speaker 2** That was kind of a mixed pile, but I think if I get a subject area, we'll open it up a mix. There's probably a whole lot of it. Trent's here, we're opening it up. So, I just wanted to make sure you know. What can be done to eliminate or make illegal farm factories, capos, and support family farmers instead? Trump's policies are supposed to kill Americans, cutting money from food, health care, and then that goes to the question of self-nutrition and other things. What can dealt with most of you observing Medicaid? Medicaid, what is this law on the tax cuts? I work in public health, see the cuts. The HHS staff, especially CDC staff, we can have on in our field. I'm concerned, sorry, very broad question and comment. I'm certain we're getting so far down the fashion path. I think it's more to do something than to band together and stand up to them. But we'll talk about, let me talk about that a little bit. So this is a good one where I had two different Republicans from the state delegation, not your number of Congress, but one who came up to me and said, And I said, you're going to do something about them just kind of capturing them, giving tuffs, and whisking them away like that. And I say, oh yeah, we're doing something, but you can too, right? And they're afraid to. And then another member, a judge, said, we don't even know what they're doing. They don't tell us anything. I have some intellectual curiosity about what's going on, but here's the reality. Right now, there are at least four senators, according to Mark Warner, Senator Warner, who... Who would have voted against some of the nominees, some of awful nominees that came through as cabinet secretaries, but the reason they didn't privately, they told him, was because it wasn't just that they were getting death threats, because I signed up for this, I shouldn't kill them, but I do right tomorrow, I knew what I would do, but their family members were getting death threats and they just couldn't do it. So, look, profile is encouraged, you may not have a lot of chapters added in this session, I understand that, but that's the reality that many of them are afraid of. But you know what? I'm okay as long as they speak out in their private caucus, and they find three people to say, I can't vote for these Medicaid cuts, and I can vote for the cuts to food assistance, and I can't go for the cut to education, then we beat them on that and it's worth it. So let's just, you know, remember that. On agriculture, I think, let me see if there's any good people, I'll try to come back to that. Given the economy is better off with $1,000 billion companies and $1 trillion into my company, what we encourage is reverse the consolidation. Okay that's can i trust um let me try to come back to something is there a little bar in what we're seeing right now if i can't hurt you Yeah, big picture right, yeah, let me, I'd like to make a picture in general, okay, at the end, just because I want to focus on the stuff we're seeing from the administration, um, primarily. Do you know anything about future cuts to a rear car? So, that's one of the problems, is we don't know how they're doing cuts, and again, that should be Congress's, I serve on the Appropriations Committee, this is what I'm supposed to do every day, And unfortunately, we don't know what they're going to do because Congress is standing up for Article 1 constitutional authority. As long as that happens, it's a real problem. So we haven't seen what the appropriation process is going to look like yet this year. They froze a bunch of funds up front of them with 2600 lines, things like Head Start mothers, and then all of a sudden they abruptly restarted them. But it took, for some cases, ten days for people to get their money again. And Head Start schools tried to get loans to survive during this period of time. So it's really chaotic when it comes to the cuts, because they're not following the law. And unfortunately, they have had to restore funding in many cases because of court cases. But this is one of the areas that we need Congress to stand up and do a whole lot of work. There's a question about I.E. And that's supporting people through energy assistance, with cuts in Social Security and First Personnel offices. Will there be cuts in services, at least delays? Yes, that was the 7,000 employees that are being cut in Social security. I think we're going to feel that. Medicaid cuts? 94-Year-old mother, memory care, will need Medicaid soon. My mom lived in Kenosha right until she was 91. And finally, after going to assisted living, she had to go to nursing home. She came to our county nursing home, which is a really great home, a vegetarian in Morona, Wisconsin, in County Merlin. And she lived there for the other two years and then passed through COVID. But, you know, Medicaid is how she got by. I grew up in a lower middle class family. You know, she only lived through resources. And I have a quarter of Congress showed that she got $1,100 in law from Social Security. And I didn't realize I couldn't do it. When I first got to Congress, I had a board and a pen that wrote down all her expenses that were more than that $1 100 a month. And yet that's what she lived off. Which had an 1899 power full of scratches and dents at the time, everything else. I didn't realize you can't do that on the floor, so I got my hands wild. But, um, that's the reality for so many seniors who might not be on Medicaid. That's the realty for people who are adults with a disability, right, who live independently, that they have to have that additional support of a caregiver on them. And that support is coming from Medicaid. The one out of three kids in the state that get the health insurance, that comes directly from Medicaid. So Elizabeth Warren spoke to a group of us, and she does a great job of making the complex simple. And I love how she does that. And she's like, quit just saying Medicaid. You've got to say it's healthcare along with care, because that's what Medicaid is, and that's where it's at risk. How can a DBO swear that he never ever voted to cut Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and SNAP after voting as he has? Well, he's lying. That's a simple answer, okay? Thank you. He's lied on stamp because he's voted for the house farm bill that they never could get done over almost two years now, a year and a half. But that had a cut to stamp. He came into my office when he got elected and said that I would never vote to cut stamp because I grew up on stamp at the time, right at the end of it. And yet he has done that over and over. They had these two instances that I know of. So, I know he recently met with folks from Opportunity Wisconsin and said he won't cut Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and STEM, but he has in the past. So, hold him accountable, right? That's what we need to do. I'm going to keep that one in the last category. There's a few in there, let's see. Considering all the executive orders and actions following us, what are some of the concerns specific to Wisconsin? We should be alert to, as the CFO of a small rural hospital, I was asked to turn them around. Not once did I go and fire people. You need to know who the final root cause was. That's exactly what we're not doing right now. I think for Wisconsin, the biggest issues really are probably the same issues across the country. It's this tax cut for the well-beingists, right? They're gonna find up to $7 trillion, and they're gonna have to do it by cutting programs that benefit the middle class versus quite a few people in the middle-class. I also think, by the way, some of that tariff revenue, Donald Trump does believe in tariffs, but I also believe in a lot of the tariff money is funny money, because he wants it to last, and at the end of the day, it doesn't materialize, because it won't, because countries don't pay tariffs. We do, what happens is it goes on the dept. So Donald Trump has put more on the debt than any president in history and the most recent stat we got, right now we have about $36 trillion in debt is that if the bill has passed just by the House and the Senate that's setting up these cuts, if it passes as they recommend it it would bring our national debt by 2035 from $36 trillions to $50 trillion. So, don't let any Republican or Chilean or fiscally conservative of your age is the answer. Alright, um... All right.

[00:44:39] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you so much.

[00:44:45] **Speaker 2** The Democrats have experienced severe uncertainty as tariffs and threats their plundered economy of recession and their farms in the balance. One of the best true Democrats, not only quite, but way back, to support rural family farms. This seems a good time to de-emphasize traditional party deficits and appeal to conservatives who are on great trouble to speak to this possibility. Okay. So, um, I'm not sure if your group is quite the way out of this thinking, but let me try to take on the agriculture one, because there's a lot of agriculture in Wisconsin, and there's a lot agriculture specifically in the third congressional district. Our number one trading partner for agriculture in Wisconsin is Canada. Our number two partner is Mexico, our number three is China. The first three tariffs that came out were Canada, Mexico, and China. So, if you're a crime that is enough of a size that you're sending bodies overseas, you're absolutely affected by these terrorists. We're hearing from all the groups that they're afraid what that means, and then the terrorists that come back, and where you go from there. But if you are a small farmer, and I was at the Wisconsin Farmers Union event probably six weeks or so ago in Chippewa Falls, And we had 75 farmers. They invited Derek, myself, and Tom Tiffany, as well as all the Democratic and Republican state legislators from the area. The only people who showed up were me from the Congressional delegation and the Democratic state legislators from the areas. No Republicans came at all. They were in no show. But for an hour and a half we listened to concerns. This is what John said. No farmers had their phones frozen. We had at least eight people raise their hand and start to tell us about their phones. That have been frozen that they can't get. But when it comes to generous, this one farmer stood up and he has a small CSA. So, you know, selling vegetables and dairy to a hundred families and his dairy is outside elsewhere. And he said that the milk bottles that he sells his milk in, the raw product comes from the United States that goes to Canada. They're made in Canada and the bottles come back to the United State. So they're getting in tariffs, going to Canada because the tariffs are good. They're getting tariffs on the way back. And the price of milk bottles is going to double for what he's currently doing. So he's impacted by the tariffs. By the way, also at this event, at the very end of listening to farmers for 90 minutes, talk about all the ways they're impacted. This was relative, actually maybe a few weeks ago, it was relatively early on in the administration. The head of the farmers union stood up and said, hey, many of you know, and I'm not going to say the person's name, who worked with many folks on, I'm going to use an agronomist on issues that were federal related to their farmers. I'm trying to be careful how I say this but see why in a second. They wanted everyone to know that the week prior he went home from work and he found out that he had lost his job because of Elon Musk and he took his life back. These are the real-life impacts of not having plans and just doing this stuff and not knowing what you're doing. Agriculture is really impacted in a very big way, and on top of it, the fact that that farm mill, the way the House passed it, the way Garrett Van Orton voted for it, it, because so many Republicans come from the South, it has all kinds of incentives for peanut farmers and cotton farmers and all these southern crops. We don't have peanuts and cotton. We have dairy and other products that did not get treated as well, and yet he voted for them. So, there's a lot of harm received right now out of this Republican caucus and out of this administration and across the park. I may get pretty good through these, so we will open it up in just a second, but if this helps, it's just to define these four methods of question. What are the plans to work on immigration and not have to work our way out of the problem? Please stop illegal deportations, especially to Ulaan, and tell people about many things with Mark and Tom Harkin. I'm trying to get a watch party here at Dell in La Crosse. It's a radio station. It's on, I know, Progressive Radio, it was on the Radio Station's Tom Harken show. I do that every other week for an hour or two questions. So people call up and have been doing this for a while. So you get a chance to listen to that. And what is Congress doing about the significant situation? Anything that Congress can do to remove HexF? Congress must come together to protect our social security. Okay, so immigration and then immigration. You know, this is an issue that I think, while it doesn't directly affect the tax cuts that I think it is, again, the holy grail for them, this works at a core constituency of the model movement, right? And that's why Donald Trump is going to keep doing what he's doing where he can. The problem is, remember what that is exactly right, we can't just, you know, deport people out and fix the problem. We have had broken laws for decades. The Congress has not And because of it, when I first got to Congress back in 2013, there was a bill that came out of the Senate that said it was 69 by partisan votes. It wasn't perfect, but it had extra protections in the border. It had a halfway citizenship for aspiring Americans. It was actually moving to address it, and then the House Republicans never put it on the floor ever again. Since then, it became very politicized, certainly the Trump administration, and it's a lot more difficult. But what's happening right now, again, is just by our rule of law, but we are our core as a country if we're not going to respect due process and respect people along the So this is one where... I think you're going to find very few Republicans to speak up, but more should, given how many people work in agriculture, right, who are in this area. And the fact that we're just not seeing enough is a real problem. Single gate, I'll tell you, P-97 is what they just said, right? This is what happens when you don't ask for people's credentials, you ask for video of them on TV, when you decide to do a point, and that's what he did. I'm going to present you a video of a volunteer camp pointy so you can see what they look like on TV. In two obvious only ways, and the fact that the single aid Secretary had said was told not to use that channel by staff. He did, and then he still did again, during that same period of time, is enough that he shouldn't be there in English. But the problem is, and this is an answer usually that happens to a lot of questions and elections that have consequences, we do not have the votes in the House and the Senate, unless Republicans come and join us. Three in the House, we've got the tightest margin, even though it's three in Senate, that's different, right? Because if we have 100, we have 435. But if we can't get those three votes, not much we can do. There's one process that you can try to use in the house, but I don't know what the process exactly is, if they have one in the Senate, called a discharge petition, where if you get 218 people to sign a discharge petition, essentially if you want us to vote on a bill. In practice, in theory, it's supposed to mean they have to put it on the floor, but in reality, we just have to. We had ten Republicans join all the Democrats to say that if there's a member of Congress who gives birth, that they should be able to vote in a proxy to take care of their kid. And we had enough signatures to do it, and they still followed a way to convince that member to withdraw, to give something along the way to figure this out, and you still can't have it happen. So, a big part of the consequence we have is we have to be able to have our fellow candidates pass over, and right now, that's been pretty hard to do. Which is why someone like Eric VanOrden, who represents the swing district, should understand it swings open, and it also swings closed. And every two years, the district has had to fight. I'm concerned about everything that's happening about my expertise in the environment. What can we do to ensure environmental improvement as we've heard? I'm sorry, the environmental improvement that has occurred over the last couple of questions continues. Yeah, that's part of the problem. Part of the funding they stopped was the Inflation Reduction Act. There's a lot of investment in renewables, even some of the infrastructure dollars. And as they're stopping these dollars, they're stoping the programs. In fact, that is one of the areas where farmers are getting cuts. Part of that money was to help them with conservation practices. They had signed contracts that now got unhonored and they now got their funds and they might have already took out a loan based on that signed contract and now they're going to face the consequences of that. So again, there are a lot of lawsuits out there, some are in this area. This one has got four questions. So I'm trying to decide how to handle a loan. It's mainly about, I think, stock, the bond market, how many people are involved, here are involved in the stock or bond market. How many see major losses. Oh, and they're actually really proud.

[00:54:15] **Speaker 1** Do it one at a time! Okay, how many people here have retired?

[00:54:21] **Speaker 2** Alright, how many people here are involved in this, are invested in this stock or bond market? How many have seen major losses in their retirement? What is Congress doing to reclaim its power under Article 1, Section 8, or chair of policy? That is another area where Congress isn't standing up for our constitutional rights. And it's, again, elections have consequences. We have to pick up three seats to be able to do more on that front. And I'm going to have to be entirely... So this is the last file, and then I'm gonna put it up. But let me...

[00:54:58] **Speaker 1** This is the last file that I'm going to put up, but let me just fill this back in. Do you need to make more noise on this one? I'm sorry? Can't you just roll over? Do you want to make MORE noise on that one?

[00:55:11] **Speaker 2** Yeah, I can tell you people are making noise. Bernie Sanders going around the country getting 30,000 people a pop to come and listen to him, right? We've got Chris Murphy and Maxwell Frost doing the same thing. I've done, I think, four town hallstallas in the third congressional district. By the way, I represented the second congressional district

[00:55:34] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[00:55:34] **Speaker 2** I think we have about 30 members now going into other districts like I'm doing. And by the way, I'm going to be back again. And again.

[00:55:49] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

[00:55:55] **Speaker 2** But let me just do some, when will the Democratic Congressmen start yelling? I think that was exactly what we were just asking. And, I'll tell you, this is one of my, part of these bumper stickers once from my campaign, and I really believe it, if the people lead, eventually the leaders will follow. You're leading right now, trust me. Thank you very much.

[00:56:18] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[00:56:20] **Speaker 2** I think we've seen more numbers of Congress doing things because of it. So, thank you for what you're doing. It really does matter. Every week, I get, and I think every member of Congress says this, and I this is true of our state legislature as well, a report for how many calls, how many emails, and it used to be I got the top five, but I asked how I'd get the top ten. I know what's coming in. And even if someone you know is always going to disagree with you, I'll love Ron Johnson, or someone you think is going to always agree with you. It's still important to contact them, because it's a number, and they can see the intensity of what people believe. There's five calls that when people are using that, it's really helpful to contact people. But it is really important to do that kind of work. How can DOJ be qualified in review departments? They aren't. Is it legal? We don't think so. There's a lawsuit on that. And how is our personal information going to... This one A Republican and Trill will argue that I'm going into conspiracy theory, but this is what I truly believe. I think a lot of the reason why they want access to our personal data is because Elon Musk wants this for his own business interests. Has an AI business, and he recently tweeted back to Spinner, a cartoon of, with, on one side of the road was his AI, and the other side was Microsoft, Google, and everybody else, the woke AIs, right? So now we're going to be stupid and, you know, like, woke and not woke AI. But if you fire all these people and no one's there to answer the phone call so you get your services, you're going probably have to eventually contract with AI. And if he's the guy who has all the data in him, which is why we're fighting and we're winning, we play the way we're protecting them from getting a lot of data, that's why I think a lot of that is out there. That's why it's corrupt to have more funds.

[00:58:21] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much.

[00:58:26] **Speaker 2** The question about Megalore is that there's probably more street and local law, so I'm going to pass on that. We can't get Republicans on each side to turn this around. I'm talking about social security. I'm afraid to go through customs if I travel all over the country. Will they search my phone? Worry about group questions. I literally, for the first time ever, had a meeting yesterday where two people in the meeting, one was an international student, afraid to tell me their name because they don't want any problems. And all there is an international students, but they're afraid because of all that's going on, and that's part of what we're seeing. As an advocacy team member with the Friends Committee, thank you to the Friends committee, they did a great work for our peace of justice. On the national level, it's the Quakers, I regularly lobby a man on peace and justice issues I've met with his across staff several times, but I'm unable to meet with him in person. He is reluctant to meet with me. Do you have any suggestions? I have suggestions, I won't say where you can find them. But, look, you keep it up. And if he doesn't want to do public town halls, and he's meeting with the Chamber, or he's meeting with a business group, show up. Be outside. Make it a town hall.

[00:59:48] **Speaker 1** He's going up to the stage and there he is. There's one more time to go. We've heard so many of them all. And shit is shit, Tom.

[00:59:56] **Speaker 2** So A, you need this, the ability to actually look someone in the eye, follow up on a question, and actually make him give you an answer. And by the way, if someone does this, do you know what it means? It means they have muscles in the back of their neck that allow them to have a bomb. If you need a yes or a no from him, don't just take anything else, but you have to force those mini-tell-tells of where he's going to be at. I appreciate you being outspoken in this impact. Thank you. You have a DVD over there right now. What would you say to them? Oh, there he is, over there, um, I mean, Derek, representative of the Stichens, you know, you know what? And if you guys are former Navy SEALs, are afraid of the people, then you are...

[01:00:47] **Speaker 1** That you represent, then you've got a problem, right? So thank you.

[01:01:08] **Speaker 2** We're doing lots of flutters, we're doing a lot of things to try to raise awareness. Again, communication is the same strategy as we're following right now. Because electorally we can't do as much, but we can all work together on that. And the last one on... 9-11 system. I'm going to pass on that, so once I ask it, we're generally going to respond, because that's very, very, very specific. Slightly B. So, that was these. I want to make sure that I see your hand. Just one second. I'll call on you. I'll open it up for folks to ask questions, and we'll try to cover what we can. Do we have a mic for people? Unfortunately, we only have one mic. Okay. No problem. Okay, so if we could just jump and have a stand-up first, and then we'll join in. Yeah, I don't know. We're gonna be chilling sir, hang on one second. Congressman Andy Parrish, we actually go back and forth on Twitter and there's like 12,000 viewers, wasn't enough for you on a show, but I think it's important that we recognize that the groups that put this together tonight donated $15,750,388 to government-backed candidates and exactly zero to Republican candidates. And there were three Democrats and zero Republicans. So that's not my question. I just think we should acknowledge that. And that's why Gary's not here. And I'm just going to go with the other. Gary, can I have a word with you? Okay, so before we do we now, I'm very glad you just said that you wanted direct answers from members of Congress, so I'm going to ask you a direct question. I want a direct answer. You brought up trans athletes to find women.

[01:03:05] **Speaker 3** I think the audience is here.

[01:03:09] **Speaker 1** Go, go, go!

[01:03:13] **Speaker 2** This is such a bogus issue.

[01:03:19] **Speaker 1** You Thank you to the students. Thank you. This is about the community. Thank you for your questions. Thank you guys for your question, okay?

[01:03:39] **Speaker 2** I'm answering it the way I'm going to answer it, right? Just like you're answering it right now. Oh my god, it's so cool. Alright, so what I mentioned one was there are tens of trans athletes in all the NCAA there's 13 billionaires in Trump you're making law for such a small number of billionaires.

[01:04:05] **Speaker 1** A very best answer is what he wrote.

[01:04:13] **Speaker 2** The very best answer is what the Republican governor of Utah did. The Republican governor of Utah, when the Republican legislature passed a law to ban trans girls from sports in K-12 level, he vetoed the bill. And the reason the Republican governor vetoed a bill was for two reasons. One, there were 75,000 kids in organized sports and K- 12 schools in Utah. Three were trans, and one was a trans girl. The legislature literally is taking time passing the law for one kid in the entire state of Utah. And two, about 80% of trans teens, because of bullying of adults, can think about suicide.

[01:05:02] **Speaker 1** So, I want to thank one of the people who invited me to join, and that's how I'm going to end today.

[01:05:21] **Speaker 2** What are you going to do to try to defeat the S.A.V.E. App, which I don't consider a S. A.V.. So the same act is one of these things that's going to make it harder for people to vote. And it's being sold under the, this will make sure if you're not a citizen you can't vote. Guess what? If you're now a citizen, you can. In the last several weeks, all we've done are passed CRAs, which are compressor resolutions of disapproval of things Joe Biden's done. They don't like the energy efficiency on fridgerators, but because they can't pass anything else, they did one bill on the energy efficiency of home fridgers, another bill on energy efficiency of commercial refrigerators, another bill of energy efficiency of stoves. This is my life, right? This is what we're doing these days in the caucus. The state act, though, could be consequential if it passes the House and the Senate in the same form. I do think the Senate will probably do some changes, and that means it's gonna be some bouncing back and forth. But they're fixed to make sure that non-citizens don't vote, which, by the way, you can't do already, is if you're a woman and you got married and you changed your name, which is, by the way, 70 million women in this country, your birth certificate won't have your name, right? So if you go into register, you can't. That's not good enough because it doesn't add your married name. If you're in the military sent overseas, you have to do it in person. You can't apply to vote when you're serving the country and putting your life on the line overseas. I mean, that's just a couple of examples of idiocy of the SAVE Act. So again, a lot of this is they say stuff that they think sounds good. A citizen should vote, but it's usually focused to begin with, and usually it has these other ramifications that they never address to the public debate or anywhere else. So we'll do our best to surely come back to the House, but I did pass the House. And right now I think it's time to get this up. Hi. Thanks for being here. I had a kind of a public health question. So what we're seeing is that we're understanding that our public health funds are there. But because of all the staff cuts to CDC, the money that's supposed to go to the states is being held up. So like, I work on a grant that is supposed to end at the end of this month, and we have no idea if we're getting our money or not. And I'm just wondering, like, are there things that Congress can do? Because, like state programs can't even communicate with anybody because there's... Unfortunately, this goes to, we need your number of Congress to stand up for your constituents and say it's Article 1, powers of the Constitution that give the power of the person of Congress. You can't just stop funding or you can't fire people that facilitate the funding and that's the problem we're having. We don't have, unfortunately, a lot of other pathways to try to do that and you're not the only person. We hear this from lots of non-profits right now, for example, taking out loans, just trying to see a flow, but there's no guarantee at the end of the day these funds are going to come unless the members of Congress stand up for what is congressional authority and appropriations is congressional.

[01:09:06] **Speaker 3** One of my main concerns is, what are we going to do if the Trump administration defies...

[01:09:17] **Speaker 2** Thank you very much. I'm fairly inferred that that's what we're looking at, maybe in this case with Mr. Garcia or the AP news organization. Those are the two that right now seem to be hitting as far as they can go. Right now they're arguing over what facilitated meant. We know it's a ridiculous argument, but it's their way of trying to still not do their job and do this job of that. But that's the good constitutional crisis, like we'll figure out what happens. The good news, again, is in almost every case, they have to apply for orders. Few of these extra noisy ones you're seeing right now, we're doing the right thing by pushing back on those, but we're not at that point yet to see what happens. I mean, the good news is, the Supreme Court this weekend, literally as they're bussing people to say, to Venezuela, stop the court order, the bus had to turn around. So they are confined by and large, but you're right, that is gonna be the $100,000 question. When that happens, what do we do? And I think, you know, the situation is the closest that we're at at that point. I've got a couple of people already on the set up, so I'm going to do this in order of way.

[01:10:32] **Speaker 1** I'll do it with my grandkids. I just wanted to say one thing, and that is I have not been satisfied by my representative in D.C. And I have, for a long time, I don't think anybody should be satisfied with a performance of a member of Congress. And I don' think a member should be happy with their own performance. I think they should all be restless for somebody better. That's all I have to say. Thank you. Thank you very much.

[01:11:18] **Speaker 2** My question involves the Fourth State and how important they are. And I just saw that C.D.A.S.S has resigned because of the pressure. So we attack on the Fourth of State, a vital institution to our democracy in their press. And how do you see that in terms of economy? That is one of the main concerns right now. AP is one case where they're kicking them out of the car and blocking access, threatening them while the student lost it. But in our journalism interest, I completely appreciate what you're saying and the concern that we have to have over this. I'm also really concerned about how we get our information now because we get it largely through social media and people largely get what they want to get. Even though they're not actively doing it, it's the way it's pushed to them, right? So people aren't seeing all the information that's out there. And also these companies are collecting our private data in ways and then selling it without our authorization. So, my biggest concern really is around the fact that we don't even have traditional ways that people get information. I think they said 45% of undecided voters towards the end of the November election did not get their news through mainstream media. So, part of what we're trying to do, and that's why I started Podcast, is to try to find new channels. We really need all of you through your channels to use it to talk to the folks that you talk to. And it's not a direct answer to the Fourth Estate question, but it's something we certainly, I think, can do. And I hope it can improve the situation. But there's a lot of disinformation out there, and we just have to do our best to get it the right information. Hello, Senator John Hatton from La Crosse. I teach here in La Cres and my concern is education. If they are going to shut down the Department of Education, I teach K-12, that's maybe 7 to 10 percent of our budget comes from the feds. And so what can you do or can we do to present that? That's the name of a running game. All right, so this is one of the most immediate concerns we have. In order to fund this tax cut bill, or the role it is, is what they're doing in the four or five quarters, as I mentioned earlier, but one of them is education. You're cutting 45% of federal funding to education, and that's for higher education and K-12. The problem is, if it's K-12 funding, it's likely IDAA funding or Title I, Title I loyals districts IDAA is special added. If you cut back on that, districts will have less funding for teachers. That means you're going to have bigger class sizes. That means, you're likely going to be having a local property tax increase in order to fund for some of that. So think about it. You not only are getting ripped off of those services that you've paid for in your taxes because they're giving that money to the wealthiest. But now you get the privilege of being more at the local level to also fund them. So, this is go time. This is, Derek, I remember, doesn't get a runaway on his motorcycle in time, right? He's got to, wherever he goes, you have to have a time halt. If he has to answer for these, he'll definitely answer next November. But he needs to answer right now, because it's too late to answer the question right now. Thank you. Would you guys raise your hand if you support gender babies? All right, Mike here voted against the corner-life abortions of other survivors and protectors.

[01:15:31] **Speaker 3** It was a bill that requires doctors to care for babies who suffer from abortions, and I want to know why you have that.

[01:15:40] **Speaker 2** My question was, why did you make that book? It's a question on a specific piece of legislation about abortion. I'm going to answer a little more than 30,000, but this is one where I know people feel very strongly about it. Some people think it's their body, their choice, and they have a right to make their decisions. Some people are generally connected to their faith and have a very strong position that they think it's a lie for us to take, you know, a lie. So it's one of the most divisive issues I think that we have in the country. Unfortunately, almost every piece of legislation that's come has pinballs in the details of what they're putting there. There's like overreach. This is one of most frustrating aspects of God. So, when you talk about, you know, some of the acts about deporting someone who's not here legally, who did a criminal action, that's already law. But then when you add in aspects of due process and you take away that, that is against what we are fundamentally here. And that bills like that often have those little pitfalls in there, so it's not quite as simple as I think most people would like to make it right, but it's, it's So, I believe personally that it's a woman's decision if you can bring your doctor. But I also look at the number of hypocritical Republicans who have had abortions, who want to stop it and never do it again. But I don't think that's going to make a difference, whatever it is, it's just I also have a right to my opinion, my belief, and I vote based on that.

[01:17:57] **Speaker 4** So I'd like to thank everyone for coming here. We're all making the same, we need support. And we'll please, please hope that you can come find us.

[01:18:11] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much.

[01:18:17] **Speaker 2** We might not have evidence, but God bless you all, come in and let's keep the fight going. I have a unique pleasure in being a senior who has retired in May only because I require five or nine jobs because I am concerned. I was ready to give them all up, but my drunk was elected and now I'm concerned that I won't have Social Security, which I've been into since I was 16. But my question kind of goes to a different thing. My question is, over the past... Six months or more we've heard at different times that there are a tremendous number of republicans and the number seems to be increasing in congress whether it be the congress or the senate that are fed up with trump don't like this policy or that policy but when it comes The question of both takes hold of mine. I would like to know. If you see among your colleagues, any that are a little bit soft. That we could attack and win them over so that we would be able to get our accomplishes on. Because I've called, I've written to the president, I know he doesn't read those letters, I know his staff doesn't really read those, although I was very courteous, very nice, very So, but I think he got my point. That was really a good conversation, isn't it? So maybe he did. But I would really like to know, who can I hire? I have called Town of Tumperville's office. I have call some others' offices on specific issues. That I felt they needed to stand up, get some balls, and follow what their constituents were asking for. I'd like to know why.

[01:20:28] **Speaker 1** There's no question we're targeting. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you, everybody. Thank you so much.

[01:20:42] **Speaker 2** You have a unique power. You have remember in a swing district who won by 2.6% that if he doesn't listen to you, you can fire him next year.

[01:20:54] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much.

[01:21:01] **Speaker 2** Traveling to the third congressional district all over Western Wisconsin is beautiful. I live in the beautiful discovery, living in this area in Western, game coming. If I didn't believe it's so important what you're doing right now, we only need three members on any issue to stand up and do the right thing. And your member has said he won't vote for staff pets. Hold him to it. He said he's not going to vote for Medicaid pets. Hold him. He says he's going to not vote for Medicare Association. And hold him to it, hold him what he's saying, and I know that Tom Holt tomorrow is BS, it's not real, but then make interactions like this happen, but you have the best power. I also will say, if you already contact my office, I would probably not ever see the message, because we have over 700,000 constituents, and about 16, 17 staff that cover everything from policy to communications back to folks, And the way our software operates, if your zip code isn't from the district, if you can't even get it right, it's because you just don't have the ability to. So you do have the able to contact Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin statewide, but your member of Congress is the person who you have to contact to. And honestly... This district is crucial to whether or not there's a Congress that's going to block and be a goalie to Donald Trump's agenda. So, you have more power than you know. I hear all the folks from my district are like, what can we do, what do we do? I go, well, I'm your member, so I don't know. I don' know which amount is all good, but we need to organize in the other six districts. But honestly, the number one of those six districts that's political is this district. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you, everyone. Thank you!

[01:22:58] **Speaker 3** A suggestion for you, because the congressperson is exactly right, if you don't live in the right zip code, you can't get through. Those are your powers. What I'm going to suggest to you, because what I get totally frustrated with is there is a congressperson from Maine, Jared, Gold, something or other, who is a Democrat, who consistently asks for donations, alright, and consistently votes as it would not sound to vote, but you can't contact him. What you can do is you can look up the address of a library within this district, use that address and telephone number, and you can, indeed, email. I did that with Lindsey Graham. I understand. I don't see anything. I was 75-year-old when this was the first obscene... Thank you. Bye.

[01:24:08] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much.

[01:24:13] **Speaker 3** I wish I were as sanguine as you above the courts of this country. Four years after January 16th, there were no repercussions. None. The stunning classified documents, no repercussion. We are relying on the 6-3 Supreme Court. I wish I could share your optimism, I cannot. Now, my question for you is, if the Republicans are successful in their reconciliation effort, they threaten to include a $4 trillion increase in the deficit limit. If they are not successful at doing that, are you personally willing to invoke the nuclear option and vote against an increase in the deadline?

[01:25:22] **Speaker 2** That is not our position. Let me just go to the first part, we'll answer your question. I wouldn't recommend finding a fake address in the district to contact someone because it just, we'll figure it out, but they'll never see it, and someone will figure it all along the way.

[01:25:40] **Speaker 3** You're real.

[01:25:40] **Speaker 2** Good. I'll make sure to film you guys again. Pedicab, all right, let's do that instead. I just don't think it's probably worth doing that. So, like I said, reconciliation, I should have did this in the beginning and thank you for mentioning. So we talked about a reconciliation bill, which is like talking inside your ballot book. What a reconciliation means is there's a rule that once a year, and our fiscal year is September, October 1st to September 30th, The way to get around the 60-vote filibuster rule is to do reconciliation. And there are rules around what are included in reconciliation. In the Senate parliamentary exercise, they could say some of these things aren't at some point, but right now we'll find out as they'll come back to us. But that's what reconciliation is, and I'm sorry I didn't prevent by getting it explained. It's really just a loophole once a year to get round the normal 60-volt rule. So, generally, though, anything that's probation is just being the subject of the charge. I want to say that part of that bill was to lift the debt ceiling of $4 trillion so they can do all the tax cuts. And right now, there's no way I would ever go to lift a debt ceiling so they could do a tax break for Donald Trump.

[01:26:55] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Applause .

[01:27:05] **Speaker 2** The gentleman across the aisle encouraged all of us to vote, and the woman on the work across the echo was concerned about voting that. Is there a way here in the grassroots that we can help people check and find out whether or not they're going to be able to vote and help them get the proper documentation? This will not be the best place for all of them, but I think there are a lot of groups that help people with this, from the League of Women Voters, and others.

[01:27:45] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much. Thank you.

[01:28:01] **Speaker 2** Can you bring us up-to-date about the selling of federal public lands and Mr. Trump's setting up the Sapper Wealth Fund? And is there a list of federal private public lands that are vulnerable? I think the lesson is two microphones. I'm going to get a second of everything, okay? Some of these just don't think of whatever it is. That's all right, this is a big group. So, again, this part of, I think, again things that we don't know about Trump may have all the powers that he wants to. He's closing a lot of offices, right? Here in La Crosse, some of his federal offices, in Northern Wisconsin, some federal offices. He wants to sell some of the federal buildings, some public lands, and we're not sure. Some, he may have some authority to do as the executive branch, largely he may not, because I think of the fiscal nature of things. I don't know if there's a list, I'm sorry, there may be, but I just don't know offhand, but this is absolutely one of the concerns, and National Parks too, and some of the cuts that are happening there. I want to let you know, I am a huge fan of National Parks. Part of the problem is we're flooding the zone with everything that's happening, right? And that's partially intentional. Partially it's because, like, when he answered the question in the debate whether or not he had a health care plan, he had the concept of the plan. A lot of what he does is a concept of a plan, so it's chaotic. The first time Trump was president, 10% of what we said... Happened. This time, I'm going to argue 25% of what he says is likely to happen at the heart of our job, the superior other than 25% is, and that's also a difficulty. Will Greenland be acquired by the United States? I don't think so. Is Canada going to become the 51st state? I wouldn't say so, right? But I do have to worry about all these other things. I do know that the Holy Grail, everything that they're doing, is out of Project 2025, right. We did, I did a town hall here in La Crosse before the election, they were in Eau Claire, and what he wants up Green Bay, Jamesville, and Madison to try to talk and learn people about this. And I never thought it would go up this fast in what they're doing. So that in many ways is what to look at if you wanna know what they are gonna do. The only thing not mentioned really in Project 2025 that they said is they didn't have room, it's because they didn' have the guts to do it, as mentioned Social Security, but they're absolutely accurate. They just didn't wanna touch the third rail when they mentioned it. But when it comes to public lands and other issues, I would say take a look at what's in Project 2025 that's like the direction they're going. Questions over here at one time. I'm not much concerned about the ideology coming out of the White House. We are learning the White Washington history. And I'm honored to introduce you to some civil disobedience, especially the arrest... So that was something like that. Thank you. Thank you very much. I'm grateful for my friends. And I think it's been a great time. So we're talking about specific people getting exported. People in our federal prisons are concerned about being such a hard country. Also, the federal bureau of prisons is in total chaos right now. They're missing 4,000 employees. The upper level administration is half gone. Just selected a new director. What's going on. Okay. The second one, I can tell you, so I serve on the Appropriations Committee, and my two subcommittees, you know, there is your, right, so there's a lot of things I can't, I don't know a lot about what your business is, to be honest with you, so I'm not going to be able to view a lot. I deal with labor issues, human services, and education issues. That's my main subcommittee. That is the second biggest pool on the health and defense. So I feel more on that front, so I just, sorry I really don't have a great answer for you on that. On your other question, I think what we're trying to do right now is figure out ways to lift these issues. There's all different ways to do it. Right now we have members going to El Salvador, right, to try to talk to Mr. Garcia, to inform members of Congress who are on some of the right committees of oversight to do that. Some of us are doing town halls and they bring districts. You know, we're all doing different things. So I don't know if there's any one silver bullet, I don' think there is at all. But I think what we're trying to do is more, if that's what everyone wants of us. But you have such a unique power, I'm just going to say it again, you're in a district that if your member of Congress doesn't listen, he's not going to be in Congress. And for most members of Congress, unfortunately, the number one thing they care about is coming back to Congress, not what they do once they're there. So, you have so much power out of that drug, please use it in every way possible, because if he doesn't want to do the right thing, then there are consequences. And I'll tell you, it's a different Derek Redford, by the way, than it was last session. He is Mata. That is who he is. He feels comfortable because he has to, if he's smart, listen to your constituents. So, thank you for being here and thank you to whoever else you keep doing that for. Just a quick reminder, if anyone is not super used to using a microphone, it is kind of difficult to hear in the back, so do please keep the microphone very close to your face. My question for you is, should we do something as a consumer, because consumerism is 70% Thank you very much. Should we have a national strike, or we make an impact against certain businesses, not every business, because there's great small business owners out there that don't stop show up shopping low, for example. But what about if you made an impact and you're not finding new Facebook in that day? Maybe you can do too many things in that, but the sale is out for the day. Would that be worthwhile in your opinion, as far as what's the market consumers in that way? I can tell you that people are doing that right now with Tesla, and I think the news today was that it's going to stop.

[01:35:12] **Speaker 1** Let's give a round of applause to Dr. Kelly and Dr. Scott for the talk.

[01:35:19] **Speaker 2** So, I see what you're saying. Honestly, the world I live in mostly is how we convince a member of Congress like yours to try to do the right thing. And if they're not going to, then you switch people off. Right? So, honestly, I mean, you know, that's where most of my brain is trying to focus on how we make sure we get that communication. I mean I do think that if things get bad enough, you now, there's a little conversation about a wildcat strike, right? That you can do, and you shut down everything for a day and show people what it could be, and I think that's where the groups ultimately decide depending what happens. I'm not sure we're there yet. I don't know if in one day I'm not selling on a Facebook. We probably have the effect that we'd like it to, because I think Mark Zuckerberg, instead of making oodles of money, we'll make lots of money regardless of the size. Don't worry about the same impact, but using our political power with our elected officials. And the same is true of legislation, by the way. We have some really great state senators and state representatives from this area. Thank you all for coming. Thank you, everybody. Thank you. Like that, you know, you stop some of these funds and stop the funds to the state, and that's where it will end up. And your local communities also are going to feel that. I used to, I served on the Clean County Board of Supervisors, and then the Legislature and the Congress. In that point, you have nowhere else to go in the local government, right? You're just stuck, you're asked to go onto taxes, which is why education issues. You know, if you cut the kind of funds like that, either you really hurt kids and you hurt the performance, or if you're going to ask for more taxes in order to do it, and that, the buck does stop there. I don't know if it's a direct answer, but I do think that, you know, doing what we can to hold our elected officials accountable, I think, is something that we can all do, and we all can do that.

[01:37:17] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[01:37:20] **Speaker 2** So, as painful as it's been, I have been to Banner on his town hall, and he of course will not answer a question from an intelligent woman. Because I want to help you. Thank you very much. Four, three. 38 of my 39 years in my career. So one thing is that when we call everybody. What do you need to do when you are talking about Medicaid and Medicare for the $880 billion cut? That impact is going to hit every single one of you because approximately 25% of the reimbursement that your local health systems get is from Medicaid. If 25% of the reimbursement for the local hospitals goes away, what happens? You know I'll forget the newest equipment. You know, I'll get doctors who know what the hell they're doing. You don't want to get pay increases for the staff. So you're going to have less staff. They're going find something else to do. So you need to see that not only does this hurt those who it is helping the most, it is going to hurt you. Because if you think it takes 6 months to see a specialist now, it's going to take you a year if that specialist is even here.

[01:38:48] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much.

[01:38:54] **Speaker 2** I am honored to have this conversation with Derek Van Horne. More than once, I called his office and loved the young boy who was in his car. He cannot repeat back to you what you have told him, but he does answer. He is very pleasant. I have sent questions to Mr. Van Horner. He will not answer them on a town hall, Because I specifically go to, you voted for, this $880 million for this committee to do, and you and I both know it's been hit Medicaid and possibly Medicare. So he doesn't listen to the questions that are reasonable. Can you take your socks off?

[01:39:37] **Speaker 1** Stop all questions and kiss some of his ass. Thank you very much. Thank you, thank you.

[01:39:49] **Speaker 2** The reason I went over here while you were speaking can be rude, but it's $1.7 billion impact on the third congressional district if they cut Medicaid. So it has the ripple effects that you are going to all see in many areas, and that's why it's important. And the second thing I just want to say is... Thank you for saying about how nice the person was who answered the phone, that you were nice to that person. Always, please be nice. If someone is answering, because not all offices are able to, be nice to the person who answered the phone in Jarek's office, in anyone's office. Camp Baldwin's, Ron Johnson's. Offer their interns, offer their entry level staff, they're doing their best. And please always treat them with the utmost courtesy like you did. Thank you saying that because it really doesn't matter.

[01:40:41] **Speaker 1** I'm going to try to speak for the crowd size. Is anyone under here now? I think it's 10, 12, 12. 10? 10? Can we just read about 10 minutes left?

[01:40:49] **Speaker 2** If you have a burning question that has not come up, have your hand raised and we're going to go and take all the questions and I'll do my best to remember and I may not otherwise have you reassist me if I could be missing one. Alright? That's alright? I'm sure other people can answer this, how the hell did you let Musk become president?

[01:41:20] **Speaker 1** You

[01:41:25] **Speaker 3** I lived in Boston on 9-11, about 2 million people travel by plane every day. I'm curious if there's a bill in the Senate to prioritize TSA. We haven't had a terrorist attack for 23 years, and I can't understand why they're proposing to undo that. I don't know if you have any insight into the Republican caucus, and if there is support for this.

[01:42:02] **Speaker 1** This is something that happens on both sides.

[01:42:07] **Speaker 2** There's a lot of insight and training going on in our government, our representatives, names are identified in the hands of the full-seat department. Recently, Marjorie Taylor greened some of the nodes. We have people... We have people that we are wanting to represent us. They are going in there with maybe their total assets out to $12,000. They go then to office, and they leave office in multiple millionaires. So what's going to be done about this? I mean, isn't this last? Run around with a stock market crashing and people cashing in and Orwell sitting in her scraping buy-in by a dozen eggs. And they're going to copy millions and millions of dollars. So I want to know, is there something going to be done about it once and for all? He led us to get elected to anything, so, but he's got as much power almost as the president, and that's part of the problem, that's why we either have to stop his ability to get contracts and he can still serve the federal government, because he does have a right to do that, or he can't serve the government, you know what I'm saying, right? He either gets contracts he can serve or he would serve and not get contracts, but no one elected him, and he's been given unprecedented power. Yes, as a citizen. So, TSA question. Look, 10,000 bills get introduced a year. Many are really stupid. That one would be really stupid, clearly. But we're having plane crashes, things that we haven't had. And, like, we've got the Secretary of Transportation, Sean Duffy, who originally was from Wisconsin, talking about—the president one day said he was going to do an executive order on water flow in shower heads. And he was ITV talking about water flow and shelter management. He probably shouldn't be talking about airplane safety. That's part of the problem we see in general with Donald Trump. But I don't think that bill will move very far. What you have to do to worry about is bills that... Right now they can't pass a lot of bills because they're very structural in the House, that precinct majority. But anything that gets added to a bus pass piece of legislation in the Washington court, I don' think it's a priority. I think it's one of the 10,000 bills that's introduced. And to your question, I absolutely agree with you. We should fire members of Congress who may be able to buy the stocks. Thank you very much. I know companies in my district that are trying to, if they get approval from CMS or Medicare, or whatever it is, they're about to go skyrocket, right? I am trying to help them, because that's jobs to the district, right, so when I get that information, I go to classified briefings where I'm going to find out something's going to happen in 48 hours that could be impacted and effectively stop. I shouldn't be able to do that. The best news I can tell you, because members of Congress haven't been great at basing themselves on this at all, is Haki Jeffries, the Democratic leader, he's one of our most powerful people, just came out and supports that now because of the way Donald Trump, the day he reversed the 90 days on the terrace, he said first on social media, now is a good time to buy stocks, which is corruption, plain and simple. The fact that we now have someone like that, that's very powerful, but we do have to pass it as members of Congress, but I completely agree with everything you said.

[01:46:09] **Speaker 1** Yeah, there's bills already in place.

[01:46:09] **Speaker 2** Yeah, there's bills already, but I don't think Mike Johnson's probably going to put him on the docket unless there's support for him. So let's do the last three questions, okay? Not a question, but you're all here, you're always here. If you want to get more involved, join your local democratic party with the commons that you're in, and join the indivisible, so you can move together and work together on an issue, or get on 51 on 21. So there are lots of things you can do, protests, protests, protest, because it makes a difference. So that's my only question.

[01:46:52] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much. Good night everyone.

[01:46:57] **Speaker 3** I don't believe that anybody has complimented the Trump supporters and have dared to show up today. I mean, thank you for supporting...

[01:47:07] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[01:47:15] **Speaker 3** When I came back my car, it says... And I would invite the Trump supporters to consider that Fox lies and see if you can get some balanced information from a few other sources. Thank you.

[01:47:48] **Speaker 1** Thank you.

[01:47:51] **Speaker 2** I think you did a really good job of making it the point of making comments, right? So I don't want to hold folks who have been here for two hours. Thank you very much for being here today. Thank you all. Thank you so much.