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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** Just about now. So thank you so much for your time and for this interview today. Can I just start by having you slowly say your full name so that we can say it correctly? And what tribe are you with? Wow. Can you pronounce your last name again for me, please?

[00:00:41] **Speaker 2** Egan Wacka. Waka, waka, got it, got. Yes, thank you.

[00:01:00] **Speaker 1** Nice. But you prefer Anne. Yeah, but when we have our anchor Rita on the desk, would you prefer Anne at that point? Anne, okay. I visited Menominee back in January. Just some meet and greets to meet people ahead of going back for some reporting. So I met with Medicine Fish, the youth-driven group that's focusing with the youth on revitalizing the land and learning natural techniques to preserve the environment. Yes, I also met with the language school. Yep. The language school is awesome as well. Nice. It's a beautiful place. Absolutely beautiful. Yeah. Yeah, so let's get into it. Tell me, let's start with first, tell me about the work that you do with the Wisconsin Native vote. So tell me about historically some of the challenges of getting Wisconsin natives the messaging to vote and then actually out to vote.

[00:03:46] **Speaker 3** Oh, okay. I will be right over.

[00:05:06] **Speaker 1** Right, and she gave you misinformation. She was misinformed. So there's many things that came up because of what you experienced. And if we move it to some of the things that are happening now, tell me about current challenges with IDs as it relates to voting and even that could come up next week with the Supreme Court vote.

[00:07:22] **Speaker 3** Mm-hmm.

[00:07:44] **Speaker 1** Are tribal IDs a valid form of ID for voting? And when you're out in the community and you're telling people you can use your tribal ID, are people saying they have it already or is it now something that they're more eager to get?

[00:08:16] **Speaker 3** Mm-hmm.

[00:08:35] **Speaker 1** Yeah, isn't that a shame. And but you're also out in the community on the flip side, are people when they go in to vote, is that they know that they have that tribal ID, when the counters, the elderly woman that you had an unfortunate experience with, do they know you can use this, this is a valid ID? And I also want to ask you this about tribal IDs in terms of accessing them. I've heard somewhere that having an address or not having an adress on the reservation can be a challenge to getting the tribal ID or any ID if you've been going to your license. Can you speak to that a little bit?

[00:10:24] **Speaker 3** Okay.

[00:10:32] **Speaker 1** Do you have an estimate of the current number of how many registered Native voters we have in Wisconsin?

[00:11:24] **Speaker 4** that vote that are registered to vote that that could vote.

[00:11:46] **Speaker 1** Right, Sophie said. Right, that there's, if we said that there is an estimate of 70,000 possible voters, That would sound, that would sound accurate. That's accurate. Mm-hmm. And we have reservations throughout the state and we also have Native voters everywhere also off reservations. Where are you seeing where people are really coming out to vote in whether it's local elections or on the federal level? So, let me bring it back to we have an important collection election coming up next week. What are some issues that are pertinent to that you feel when you're out in the community that are pertinant to Wisconsin natives that would make them want to come out for this very unique Wisconsin Supreme Court election.

[00:14:30] **Speaker 3** Mm. Hehehehehe

[00:15:19] **Speaker 1** Right, right, whatever it takes, and then to come out and actually. Now, when we talk about tribal sovereignty in the government-to-government relationship, do you think that there is sometimes confusion on that government- to-governmental relationship if it's between the tribes and the state or tribes in the federal level? Right, right, absolutely. How's the youth vote when you go out and speak to the community? And with next week, between now and then, what are you and your organization going to be doing to get out the vote?

[00:19:07] **Speaker 3** Wow.

[00:19:46] **Speaker 1** That's wonderful, that's wonderful. Before we wrap up, I want to say two things. One, congratulations on your feature in Madison 365. That's exciting, that's exciting to be featured, so congratulations, that a good thing. Yeah and yeah you're welcome and I want end with going back to that gentleman that you said he wasn't going to vote and then when you reminded him the mission of your organization, nonpartisan, and he reverted the conversation back to issues. What do you think changed for him? And it seems to be working as positive strides. I've saw the website of voting numbers going up. So the message seems to be resonating with people. Great, I'm glad that you're living in your passion. You're welcome. All right, I think we will end there and I will continue doing our journalism work on this side.