

0:00: Go Well Ralph wave. This is your second time here. Yeah, it is a little different now Little dead all the improvements. Welcome back. Yeah, welcome back to be back. Let's see. This is the third repeat guest Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, so yeah Jamie was one Alex Glover was the other Means I missed Ralph. That's no Man, they're enjoying it thoroughly enjoying well Ralph let's start in the begin where are you born and?

0:35: Take us to your childhood I was born in spruce pine hospital all right up to you here. I was Very little failure about four pounds four ounces They tell me the first thing they told my grandmother's I was born on Phillips bark day I'll say you think they told her is I wasn't bigger in a rat Obviously it did not stunt me from Process my dad worked at Henry Don furniture he put in 37 years at Henry Don furniture before he retired Jump companies. Yeah, Ethan Alvin my ass go Everybody else was up there swept the floors when they close the plant It's coming in my mom taught high school here started it Bowman then was one of the first teachers that came when they opened Mitchell and Taught there and then ran the chamber of commerce afterwards. I Went to school here up until 10th grade and then was accepted and went to the North Carolina school science of math and that I know that awesome. So 15-year-old I'm moving into a residence hall all by myself packing Whole lot interesting roommate experiences and everything else it Graduated there I went to Appalachian State University Not a really successful first year at Appalachian State really a lot of things I wanted to do other than go to class sure they've all been there. Yeah, and Got the Opportunity after that first year to come back here and work a little bit and nice went to OMC for a while And did that and then sauna press and weaverful Moves through the temp agencies It's coming in was gonna go to work in Unimen before I decided to go back to school And so I wound up at the guardhouse at Unimen Until I went back I studied really most boring job ever created There were times I would work a 16 hour shift and did not see a human from the time I left till they came back and stared at a dark parking lot. I took up my only job was to stay away. Yeah But I went back to Appalachian finish my degree in statistics there First job I had really went on left. I went to DC and right outside of DC became a status station for the US Census Bureau Really worked in manufacturing construction division. I put out reports on a monthly and quarterly basis on how much Construction occurred in the United States What's the value of construction put in place? We did monthly really interesting kind of reporting system We'd have to do all the analytics Put the report out. I'd have to go to commerce with a briefcase Hand cuff to my desk and give it to the press in a lead line room They got 30 maids to write their story before they'd flick the switch and they could broadcast out You could set and watch MSNBC or those got these time and it's a the value of construction and put in place for march was released today And they're going to be percent and whatever else in the market wreck loved doing that but Decided I needed to go to grad school. So I came back to NC State and Went into the statistics program, but then they offered me a hall director job which covered full tuition and Everything else awesome. So our team yeah And my hall director and switch to higher ed administration is my major Um after I fitted graduated there at a fish grad school went to work at Georgia Southern University both in faculty and those I Was there a little more than a year and I got a call from the Bush chanee campaign and Friend of mine also from Mitch County Danny Gurley That was here was working with the RNC at the time and they needed someone to do some analytics for the Bush chanee campaign and So as soon as the year opened John Edwards was on the ticket I were worried about North Carolina sure and so I was a strategic hire for him so left came back to North Carolina live all over from Raleigh to Charlotte and everything else for the whole campaign cycle One that thought I was kind of looking for another job and university system but in that time period I Happened to go to what was abundant life at the time to see Friend of my mom's daughter was involved in a production yeah, and you know ladies sitting in the choir that I became very interested in and happened to meet her there and Bill Sago to start a whole youth group just for us to meet. Yeah So covered in Well my wife Lynn and I have been now been married for 16 years here Talking about that let's recover the end there 17

years our boys were 16 now This we covered it and it was just an amazing run. I Finally got a position at mail-in community college working research and planning and Westfoye called me one day and said I'm not gonna run for mayor again And you need to run for the position of mayor and he taught to me and I talked to several other people Decided I would do it. Filed Was running on a post About a month after I filed we had a nice little mental health patient Try to burn down the entire town of Spurspa Before I was even sworn in yep, that's what coming in so Serve two terms as in two terms as mayor mostly focused on just trying to rebuild the town right I mean it was it was devastating to us We still got buildings burned out and yeah, yeah, yeah, sitting on downtown and Rubig challenge, but some other things went down. I got in a big conflict with our state senator That's what coming in he had If it was that at the time Joe Sam Queen Joe Sam Queen. That's right. I remember those days and I finally He was wanting this we were arguing with him over a provision for the Ridge laws and an industry that was wanting to build here and Wanting to put windmills in and he was trying to stop it and he's you know He told the town. I'll tell you when we're having the hearing you can come down speak He called town hall at 9 30 in the morning before the hearing started to end This is covered in told a sweet you come down if we want to Wow And so I spent six months trying to find somebody to run against him and I Didn't find anybody I think is gonna win Had a tough primary to begin with but Filed for that race and not only did I win but first time and a hundred and forty seven years leadership had changed in the general sense Wow It had been democrat since the Civil War and quite frankly Republicans cheated after the Civil War because they wouldn't let anybody serve Who'd been the Confederacy So it eliminated enough Democrats that the Republicans had a majority right And so when I got there I remember sitting down with Philip Mitch Gillespie Philip Fry Mitch Gillespie and they told me all these stories about how you know Freshman year you're gonna you sit on the back row you're kind of quiet You don't really get involved in anything right whatever else and I you know understood the way the system goes That both been in the house for a while I got down there the second day the day after swearing in center Tom A. Paddocka from Hendersonville I walked into the Commerce Committee and he said well you got to start sometime your cheering today They handing me the gavoy and I chaired the Commerce Committee on my second day in the general assembly Because when we had taken over They didn't even have enough senior member Republicans our freshman class was so big to chair all the committees Really they had to put freshman in Because of the way because you know one member doesn't have time to cover three committees Now remind me that first year you got was that the the Tea Party year is two thousand ten was the election We sworn in two thousand left right got you so you kind of it was a sweet bim of that whole Too hard to mention that thing Obama's midterm election sure yeah, that's what coming with just going from 2008 The Democrats carried in one North Carolina Obama'd one North Carolina 2010 it collapsed and I lost everything from the Florida to ceiling and was that was that Patrick McCory No, that's still best produce got my bad. We're still in huh?

9:35: That's the good if she filled that Walter Dalton was lieutenant governor and so it was Two years after that that Pat McCory I got it. I came in and ran so that microphone a bit closer to you You don't care. Well listen. I want to ask you about go back to your your childhood to your mom We all knew your mom. We love your mom and she's a foundational figure in this community Can you speak a little more to how your mom influenced you not only in your character uh, but maybe even in your politics and then your Yeah, yeah um, you know mom grew up in Buele d'Ain her mom with her dad was a war veteran from World War 2 her mom ran the cafeteria Buele d'Ain school It's coming in mom really only had an option to go to college because warn wiltson offer to scholarship uh to pair people in rule western north carolina with international students And so she so mom always said went to warn wiltson in the 60s so if you think uh there might be a little difference in some of our politics at the time Sure Right It's a little bit different place over there nowadays, yeah You know coming through and you know Mom is always one Education is the reason You know she came out and her family members came out of the situations

they were in my grandparents it didn't have indoor plumbing till 1988 I was 12 years old and I were when they moved Uh, but the house was there had the outhouse the hundred yards had to work had to take a and that was not uncommon here No, it really was there a few years later than most people kind of got out of that but You know you took a bath in the um In the kitchen they heated the tub of water and poured it in there and she had a wood stove Same when she started at the school and um mom never would go camping because she said she camped out the first 18 years for life She didn't want to go back to it Even though my dad loved it she wasn't going So coming in and so Education was really the reason she kind of broke out she actually spent her first year as a Social worker before she got on At Bowman and was a social worker with the quality boundary in the Cherokee Indians there for a year before she was hired at Bowman Um was able to come back started as an English teacher, but then became finally moved to U.S. History Where she wanted to be and she was she always a history buff because then it it jumped off I don't know about you but like you can tell that woman loved Oh, yeah, yeah And um she was always interested in it. She always big reader always reading everything in history those kind of things Um, and she really had a passion for it when she taught Um, she talked you just talk a little bit that was before me about doing English and those kind of things But it was history that was really her passion LBJ and Yeah, LBJ was her favorite president You know my mom drink out of the 19th Amendment women's lib mug Um And actually in 1988 ran for county commissioner Really, I didn't know that it was I was about 12 at the time. I remember that was my first campaign. Yeah, I remember she was running against Fred Pittman and several That's because she went up and her runoff of Fred Pitt They put me at the Harlebury St building precinct was snowing Here I'm up there 12th of all by myself handing out cards Everybody vote for mom vote for mom. I guess I was 11. I wouldn't have turned 12 to August right you know Vote for mom funny story. I'll tell my grandparents had just moved down That was the year they'd moved down they put a big sign in the yard my dad and I made And it said Shirley Hoss for county commissioner and commissioner was abbreviated COM. Yeah, we got that sign up and we left And uh my grandmother called us when we got home said that sign was messed up everybody's coming to do it And apparently who and dad had done it the M's had gotten switched upside down So it was But I remember even that first election. I remember the people that were hauling for mom for county commissioner We found out they were also paid but one of the other county commissioners and he was hauling for them at the same time and She was team the ballots out for who they were getting She was close she got in a runoff didn't win to run off But that kind of got me into right politics those kind of things but mom really started to develop as she taught more A passion and she used history to do it but that her students were going to be successful And they were going to come out of what they did and she took over the AP side of it Uh, and there was a time going through AP classes Every student she had going to her AP class was going to four or five on the AP exam Wow, and she had him there at seven o'clock in the morning And if they were talking they were sweeping the floors other classes are covered in sweeping the floors at seven o'clock in the morning But she made a real impact on so many people sure you hear that a lot. I did yeah I mean, I don't know how you cut and yeah, but you know After she taught So mom spent about six months at home and pretty much about destroyed the house Because she couldn't say steel right and so she pulled all her carpets up she'd pulled everything else She said she had to go find a job to do something And so she decided to take over the chamber comers they hired her as a director of chamber comers And in dealing with the fires and everything else we had to So she got an idea With a little book called the Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree And she was going to Talk to Gloria Houston that the author of the book she brought a hundred and fifty artists together and Started developing products to match with the book And she developed a store and it did amazing yeah I was a big thing for this community and she called At the time congressman Patrick McHenry I would got to know in the oh four race and everything else and she started on him these products have to go in the White House That's what coming in and there's a couple weeks later she got a call from the White House Laura Bush was interested in these products in this story There were

two products Carolina snowflake Billy Roocello Luther Strupe did this glass bone ornament in a wooden box And the White House wanted both of them To decorate For the White House and she and patty and the whole group got to go To the White House HGTV Made the major segment uncovering the White House about this project in Mitchell County wow You don't talk about some sudden orders coming through on the website sure That's what covered it like everybody one captured the one question they asked the first lady From the press that she responded to was about this project and what it meant to the people in Mitchell County And I actually still have the copy of Laura Bush's memoirs three pages All about the home of the perfect Christmas tree and the project should put together Would doing that Unfortunately, we got the notice last week the market on oak is closing Yeah, yeah Which is hard for me yeah sure that's what coming in but that was such an amazing inspiration thing to see her Do and she wasn't gonna let Patrick go she would go let nobody else go She was like the whole dog once she got a hold of your band leg she never let go of it Yeah, she and I you know I said growing up. Yeah, she and I had a few arguments because we kind of got some No personalities in there Um are willing to discuss things and argue a little bit and all that but uh mom really was amazing and You know we went through she finally will be October be five years and she passed I don't even sound like it just seems like it was yesterday around Well Politically did she inflow she politically um it's kind of funny where did you guys argue?

18:13: Well, we had this yo-yo back and forth then I said you know Mom Not what I would say is a modern Democrat right but what was the Democratic Mitchell County in the 80s sure As much more what my mom was supportive of and I think our discussions back and forth is what made me the solid conservative Right, that's what coming in right because I was going to research it and I was good at cufflaces So when we had those discussions and those good things it wasn't going to be my opinion It was going to be you know making sure I knew what I did um But mom became a conservative Yeah afterwards as we kind of got into politics and everything else and I'd actually say this is probably most Democrats would say here Mitch Kenny. I'm not sure how much she moved in there how much they left her The Yeah, um, you know mom was socially conservative on social issues and those kind of things and She couldn't believe that the Democrats were going to make this this Center of their party supporting abortion and doing those kind of things and I just think the way it happened and she really much always focused on believe on how you pull yourself up And how you do it through education and creating systems that locked people in And others infuriated her Or the fact that government was going to be What made you successful infuriated her sure it had to come from you That's what coming in and I think Her police her positions became conservative later in life and you know She was going around with me when I was running for office of those kind of things So I've even got a picture her with a trump hat on Well Statistics Why statistics? You know what I say in the joke I Started as a math major and then I found variability You know it was really one of those challenges for me that I really enjoyed and and Statistics even for some math majors. I could have my junior year I could have paid my way through college getting computer science majors that had to take that one stats class That's what coming in on distribution theory and they were dying can you tutor me? Can you whatever it's But it was also it was a small group There were only seven statistics majors when I was there at Appalachian They have since merged it into Deplied math major and other data analytics or statistics But so like even when we made our schedule they had to have all seven of us to make the class And I'll never forget like the phone system you dialed into register for classes We'd all get on it before the meeting And sign up for all the eight and nine a.m. classes we could get and fill our Friday schedule up So when the professors got us all together Because they each got one class The schedule was already locked out and they couldn't do anything before 10 a.m. Or anything on Friday So they would change all our classes to like instead of Monday, Wednesday, Friday It'd be like Monday, Tuesday, Thursday So because they couldn't do Friday So and then we go back and drop all those other classes right after we already had it And most of the

professors taught intro to statistics like four classes and then they gave them one class Right kind of in their major, you know To keep running and that's how they created it So there was seven of us graduate yet, but yeah, it was great for that I was like I never had to worry about a morning class You think else because we just lay them all out there Smart I will be honest with you that the only math I loved in college for stats It was a math that made sense to me like rule with real-world application Not that I understand I'm not one of those people to say well math has no real-world application Because it absolutely does Cal can all that but statistics was something you could readily Like wrap your head around and it and apply it to something that you was tangible And it's really strange because every time I talk to it, do it all this everything else for years There are students that are great at math That's what coming in and you put them into a statistics class and it's a screeching hole Yeah, like they finally found the 80s difficult and you can take students who have struggled in math Since they were in middle school. Yeah, and put them into a statistics class and they that was me That was absolutely me too And I enjoyed stats. Yeah, that was the only math I can honestly say in my entire time. Sorry. I'm not bangin with that change But that was only math I ever enjoyed yeah, honest and I thoroughly enjoyed yeah And I think it has to do with learning styles and I think it has to do with a lot of different things But it's it's amazing. I said and then when I graduated I know only that at this headquarters in Suitland, Maryland from Noah from Economic state be Bureau of Economics statistics from the Census Bureau They had a headquarters where 16,000 statisticians Worked on one camp wow What is that one man? Not a lot of social skills Sure, I can see that I'll never forget it got the good friends with names Jim Fagan had two PhDs Yeah, what if I thought he's one of economics and his entire cubicle was floor to ceiling textbooks Oh my god, and he would just literally sit there and rock back and forth all day through his textbooks If you had a heart of code you couldn't get or you couldn't crack you took it to Fagan 15 minutes he would have the answer for you and the Since Bureau would code it with comments as Fagan code so that nobody else tried to Get into a touch it. It was commented on both sides with star pattern said Fagan code And you had to go find him to change his code wow because if you broke it, it's not pretty right That's great. So what was it like working? Did it was there any insight you gained by working directly for the failed go?

24:36: um, it's um Yourocracy runs You know, sure that's what coming in um, you know, we had Well, I'd say is an administrative assistant on our floor that Would sit there and she was supposed to answer all the phone calls But she didn't know how to work the phone But because she had been there since before the phone system was in place They couldn't require her to learn the phone. Oh my god So I'll never forget she was sitting yelled down the hall of cubicles You know somebody get that Oh my god But and not just her but just say that like the federal government had some of the most talented people And I will say in the sense of spirit anyway Some people that might not could have worked anywhere else You know, Jim Fagan may not have qualified to work it right Some of your modern IT companies are right those kind of things But they had a really great place there But they would set it up like if somebody disappeared They just moved them into the corner Huh, and you know, they couldn't they didn't have processes that could remove people or change people Those kind of things and there was no incentive To step up and do something different or do something new When you were a GS-12 you were going to be a GS-12 to you had been there 365 days and you were gonna come to GS-13 Didn't matter how you performed what you did Those kind of things and it's now meritocracy That's interesting And so it was a real challenge to kind of especially coming out your first job And you know, you're gonna go slay the whole world and yeah most of the advice you're getting is All right slow down and you know just get your report out at the end of the month kind of things And so I love the field and I loved what I did But that's why I really wanted to go back to grad school and kind of go into the To the other side of it before I moved into education. Yeah So education was still always a sticking point for you though because your mom. Yeah. Oh, yeah

That's what coming in mom Not only did she go to Warren Wilson. I remember her going summers to get her masters at Appalachian should drive up there on Tuesday nights and then all through the summer till she earned her master's while she was teaching Kids great. That's what coming in Well, she went to get her EDS. She went to Western Carolina And she took in a summer semester 21 graduate hours Oh, are you joking and finished with a 4.0 GPA? Wow That's what covered it. She literally set her schedule For from 11 30 and from 6 a.m. to 11 30 at night. She scheduled out every 15 minutes She was eating going through reading writing papers Those kind of things pulled it out and in a summer semester I mean for a fall semester your full time's like 12 hours grad school. It's 9 hours And she took 21 hours on summer. Yeah, and one summer semester to finish her EDS That is legitimately so That's and so you know Kind of those things like you know right around the time I was Finding other things to do than go to class Right, so gravity. It's so I heard it Listen So to say uh, so I would say you get I know you get a lot of flack from the teachers unions and all that stuff That sure rubs your gears around way. Yeah, it um you know mom was actually not only Part of the NCE. She was like their state representative on the retirement board The lobbyist for the teachers union served with her on the retirement board But it was a lot of dealing with you know legitimate issues the notes kind of things that teachers experience then and still do And now you see like the teachers union when they come to roly They're not even marching on education anymore. Mm-hmm when they came to roly last year the number one issue on their advocacy was Medicaid expansion So are they taking on like social causes now wow, okay And it's the fight with this whole curriculum and transgenderism and those kind of things that's their marching At the general assembly now and it's not even about Education what seems like it lights a lot of that across the board I mean maybe some of your manufacturer, you know your Labor unions and manufacturing and stuff like that are still somewhat relevant But it seems like a lot of those A lot of those types of organizations no longer even represent or advocate for anything that really has any substance and Right meaning in the field Well, it's their And I said it's their funding source. Yeah, you know, it's there. What are they paid to do?

29:33: What are they continue to do whether it's scenic for state employees or NCE for teachers Like there is real money flows into those organizations in exchange for advocacy for positions Um, and quite frankly, it's almost all under the Democrat Party Yeah, the end of the day the organizations are there to elect Democrats Yeah, and as a Republican it doesn't matter that I was a state employee or have been a state employee for 15 years State employee association hates me because of my party affiliation It doesn't matter my connection to education or what we're trying to promote or that we've taken Starting teacher salary to almost \$46,000 a year in Mitchell County when it started at 27 when I was in there But somehow we've never given anyone a raise and we've destroyed education and those got these like Truth isn't in it. Uh, that's what coming in. It's all about an agenda sure, and it's all about a political agenda. Yeah Well Ralph what what would you say is the percentage of Times that you're dealing with social issues as opposed to actual like rubber meets the road government issues because I wonder I've often said what I've often Posh-related what would happen if you took the social issues out of the equation or out of the equation altogether Um, it's interesting when social issues come up in the general assembly That they move everything else out Like the day we're going to take up whatever the social issue is There's nothing else on the floor. There's nothing else going on in committees, but that's probably Three days of session and almost all social issues Were there's no surprises in them right like even if we put it in a bill. It wasn't originally in or those kind of things Like someone ran an entire campaign for six months On what they were going to do on a social issue And then they drop it on the floor one day and we run it My first ran was the marriage amendment sure like they literally ran the campaign for nine months To pass the marriage amendment and then act like we're shocked when we propose the marriage amendment That's the exact same language that we said we were going to run on like but that's two days a session Right, but

it grabs. Oh, yeah, but it's all of the press. It's all The headlines and since got to do it one day the How's got to do another then it's got to go to the governor and they won't not constitutional amendments but bills go to the governor He's got ten days to get headlines out of it before he vetoes it or signs it then he gets vetoed It's got to come back. That's another headline story Right, but they're I mean, they're all four-gown conclusions if we voted with enough votes to override the veto originally Yes, they're going to write two weeks of stories about coming back, but it's not really a story Right the people who voted for it once are gonna vote for it. Sure You know get ready uh kind of things, but it is a very small portion of What we deal with day-to-day or what we do it's it's a lot more technical now It depends on but they leak it depends on what you call his tax policy a social issue right, right?

33:02: You know those good thing that will spend a lot more time on that is the budget a social issue Well, it depends if there's one line in it giving money to a pregnancy center Does that now make the whole thing the social Yeah, because it or when the Democrats had it and there's one line in it funding plan parenthood Is the whole budget a social issue now Because I can tell you when the budget hits four. It's all we're gonna talk about yeah 4,000 page bill one line yeah And so it is but actually I'll say this the most destructive thing in the journal somebody isn't even social issues it's animal bills Really you drop a bill about animals I think the last one the puppy meal bill came up. I think I was averaging 12,000 emails a day I think you couldn't even walk between offices for the people showed up and every disabled animal in the state of North Carolina I made a pilgrimage to the general scene So you go to like Housekeeping let's just say housekeeping was running all day like god and I said it's what it is whatever else. I love my pet. I support That you know, we don't want animals mistreated. We don't or whatever else. We don't want them genetically manipulated through puppy meals and those kind of things but You would think there's a lot of other issues That have many more issues than when North Carolina is running a bill about Chaining dogs or puppy meals that I'm getting 30 emails a day from Australia About North Carolina to come again And it was that was one of the amazing shakitakes to me is how much animal issues Move yeah shut down everything So the puppy meal bill give it give us a brief synopsis of so that was gonna it would uh It would require breeders to register uh and register how many liters per Animal they had and do those kind of things because there are some horrific conditions where they're putting Animals through you know two and three liters a year and you know Destroying them and those kind of things and their poor genetics and all these kind of things and emberating and those It would basically eliminate that process require if you sold puppies you'd have to register as a breeder Wasn't expensive. I think it was like a \$15 registration But we knew who was doing it and you had to have the license to be able to do it. You had to report The animals that you were doing Generally legitimate breeders very much support That was my next question who were you getting the emails from people in opposition or support? Yeah, it's it's uh both in supporting Opposition, but it's uh Predominantly, you know you get a lot more local Kind of things of like you know government has no job business in my business. Oh sure You know those kind of things but you're getting Pita and all the others that you must save all the animals sure You know, and if it doesn't make it through how dare you evil son of a gun right in that area yeah Um, that's a coveted but that was the The whole concept animal bills was a and so you know, we got these unofficial unwritten not even really rules like unless you plan to disrupt everything don't drop an animal bill Like and if you're going to drop an animal bill let all your colleagues know So that anybody trying to put anything else in on that day. Don't do it. Yeah That's crazy, but that goes as all thing upset at a thousand times people care more about their animals and they do the kids Dude it's insane. Maybe it is yeah people get crazy about stuff like that and all of my animals, you know, I've got a lot of exotic animals, um, but man Would you make with the mamba make a pilgrimage to roly you know, I don't think I don't think so That mamba doesn't make a pilgrimage out of her enclosure most right because it's a mamba So if it does it's a bad day

That's a bad day Well, uh, I know there's been a lot going on Uh, so kind of transition into that because I'm sure we can talk forever because I am generally curious Um, so I know we just got Legally sports gambling and one there one other thing it went into a Perfect There's been several that came in but sports gambling is kind of the lead that we kind of Ended in major conflicts about casinos Uh, and uh, the video lottery Uh, neither one of those ultimately moved Had a really contentious fight over medical marijuana Uh, that ultimately didn't move in the long session We suspect all those will be brought up in the short session, but The plan for the short session is to be short Right, that's what we're coming in and so historically the seven short sessions I've been through a whole lot of things just don't get done right under the dengue as we'll be back in January Right We want to do this we can do it in January So what was the support just how to get out of here because I know sports gambling is one of the as a person to kind of Halfway falls and I've asked you about this before But as a person or halfway falls some of that. I know it's a bit it's a nationwide thing. It's being it's what 25 30 states now something like that was that something that was put was that a Was that something why why why how do you think that was able to be passed? Well, what you've got is I want to say about four years ago You have got the US Supreme Court struck down the federal gambling ban That's what come in so it wasn't allowed With the exception of how the feds are kind of written in for Nevada and right and tribal Areas, you know, it was banned federally and so since that ban a lot of um States have legalized sports gambling. I'm shocked it So if you haven't watched TV in the last month then you've missed All the different entities that for five dollars. I'm giving you two fifty and whatever else just to get you to play um, I didn't know the ESPN's now running its own gambling And those running his own gambling And you know, all these different things are running their own obviously all the teams in North Carolina were highly supportive uh of that And so The challenge we've got is General Simblies. This is one of those that Nobody winds up on the pier side of sure that because um People that support the gambling try to claim there's no social issues. There's no problems. There's no People should just be able to spend their money however they want to Um, and then the other gambling sitting there while we're running the lottery Every day but Thursday Yeah, it may be Sunday in the state I says you can vote on ping pong you can bet on ping pong balls But not on the tennis tournament That's what coming and that's just hypocrisy. It is yeah, that was a whole angle at it I mean like in my view The state lottery is no more than attacks on And it's interesting to go through the shenanigans that pass the state lottery. Oh my god. Yeah That's what it is change the The ruling class and in the senate in North Carolina there were two legislators one lived here and one on the coast Uh, that were Republicans that were voting against it and they didn't have the votes to pass it so they adjourned session and John Garwood lived here went into surgery That's what coming in and Harry Brown left country on his honeymoon Well, that's not found out that left called the senate back into session the next day And voted the lottery Which tied With the two of them gone Bev Perdue was lieutenant governor But no one had told her it had tied That they needed her and no one had asked her where she supported so she froze For 15 minutes and literally this video of it the leaders of the senate literally run up to the diocese And her standing beside her telling her she has to vote yes Uh, to pass this and so She votes to break the tie which put the lottery in the state of North Carolina because All these rules about when you can call people in and everything else and Harry didn't have to be notified because he was out of the country and Senator Garwood didn't matter because he was He's right. Yeah And then mark bass night ends up going to federal prison Jim black with Jim black Yeah, that's what covered in the speaker of the house because he was tied to the company that was hired to run the lottery Yeah, yeah, uh, that's what coming in and he was taking cash in the out bathroom and Writing undated checks to all the members just because they couldn't receive money from packs So he was just having the packs give him undated checks So he could hand him out and tell him when they could put the date on them Whoa, yeah, and so there was a lot kind of a lot of the way this state ran under the 150 years worth of Democrats That was a lot of that back in the day and

so You know, it's been a gambling been a real fight and real challenge for us, but so So did anything else are so obviously we've got the the sports books the electronic sports books on your phone and all that stuff physical Like locations are allowed in stadiums now or um as part I think that's as part of the sports gambling so the um I don't think the hurricane stadium can because it's also in C states Stadium right that's what coming in but the simple answer is the Carolina Panthers will be able to put in a little Yeah, I would monitor it's where you can bet while you're at the game. Did you see the guy that bet On a striker at the Super Bowl. Yes, I think you put 50 grand on it Yeah, and then when he was the striker One like three hundred and twenty five thousand dollars. Hey, it was like a what a thousand dollar fine or something That is a brilliant. Try to figure out what net legal bills So uh, so what was the what was so was the marijuana thing tied up in this whole gambling thing?

44:06: It was separate marijuana is similarly interesting So the bill is a medical marijuana, but and it identified four or five conditions that you could be prescribed marijuana for and utilize and On its faith faith actually I'm not sure there's a lot of opposition to that right You know, I went through my mom's cancer and whatever else and they're giving her you know high end oxy-cotons to take every hour The whatever else I am positive that the effects on that are not less than the effects of marijuana if it would have helped Have any clips, but it couldn't have been more than The mind altering medications they were giving her and those kind of things because it's what we have to treat pain. Yeah But again, even a medical marijuana bill is not about medical marijuana, right? Sure Everyone who's pushing for medical marijuana is pushing for legalization recreational. Yeah, the people that are coming out opposed to medical marijuana For the most part are not opposed to medical marijuana. They're opposed to legalized marijuana in the stated North Carolina And they think this is the stepping stone to get you there, right? So it's a lot of one of those things where the argument is not often about Bill itself right and some of the things it really challenged me with that bill For the medical marijuana was that we didn't just to prove those five conditions We approved a board that could add new conditions Kind of things and I think that is a stepping stone Sure That's what coming in so if if you wanted to medical marijuana to be able to support those kind of things Then go back to the legislature every time and I had a condition Or if you want to run Legalized marijuana I'll be in no vote But go through the whole legislature and run legalized marijuana and we'll see where it comes out See I wish that's what I wish they would do is just because it because it is it's a facade They're hiding behind this medical facade. It just gets abused and for the record. I don't smoke marijuana I'm pro legalization, but I don't use it But I mean with with all the The Delta 8 and all the gummies and everything that we have now We may as well just do it. Well, you see it being prepared for that for sure. Yeah, evidence by the five giant LED Supposed tobacco stores that we now have in the two camps well that should be seen from space by the way I don't know if you're aware of that and I say but I would say this sick Delta 8 Creighton or whatever yeah, that's whatever else that is I don't know what I think about marijuana or whatever it should be legal or whatever else that stuff is a bigger problem When 100 and for whatever reason it's legal That's what coming in there shops downtown that sell it That's what coming in and when I talk in the prison. I've talked to inmates that are terrified by that stuff Okay, it's a hard one now when you go back to a few iterations They keep about every year. They will change the chemical makeup up right that way That way we can ban the chemical makeup, but we're not banning the one that's coming out right So they keep selling it and putting a different package and try to get local law enforcement Was this the 2003 version of the 2004 version right in the same package?

47:40: You know, it's not an easy process and it's not like they've just got a drop-in test for which Create a minute exactly sure and so but you know when we had the people Literally in Florida eating each other's faces and the baths all the best all those kind of things Crater was involved in that as well Crater was a

hard-core drug It's no joke now. I think in very small doses. It's probably now. I think it's used in traditional medicine and Some South America or somewhere like that. I believe I don't know a whole lot about it Just very very minimal, but I know in the concentrations that you can get it in now is quite dangerous What I've been told And you know a natural or whatever else and climate whatever is like these people who smoke back poop That's what coming in my business natural is it yet, but it has the effect it has I mean, it's no secret that I used to smoke weed like everybody knows that that knows me and Back then like I was I was taking in like some really High quality hydroponic stuff Nothing like this Delta 8 stuff. I never ever remember anyone Smoking a bowl and freaking out like they and going to the ER like they do now on these Delta 8 gummies and stuff It is wild. Well, and I also see a lot of it. I don't know. I need to ask you to ask you Yeah, I don't know and the modern problem we have With drug abuse in narcotics. Yeah is not whether someone smoked Joint from marijuana right. It's whether or not it was dusted with fentanyl That's a good problem. It is for what these people are taking do you think that would sway any of any of your Republican colleagues What just simply to have it under the regulation of the regulation of the state um for those reasons Maybe there's all kinds of there's all kinds of fights then mm-hmm like How many regulating ages there's fights right now over right where it should be true and whether it's never just as easy Yeah, right whether it should those kind of things. I think if you could ever convince The majority of legislators that this was a bout Medical marijuana and a controlled system existed So that this was four people with severe medical conditions. Yeah, so I think that would pass Let me ask you this because we talked about this the last time you're on we went down we went pretty deep into it then yeah um It got me thinking afterwards and I don't believe I asked this question the last time But what about you know North Carolina's a little bit unique in the way it runs. It's alcohol sales system that it's all sold by the state Would there be in your eyes any benefit to making marijuana part of the ABC board and being sold by the state The interesting thing is you cannot really yep. There is only one product That control is controlled by the state and is exempt from interstate commerce And that is alcohol and that's because the right to sell alcohol is the only product given by the US Constitution I did not know that the United States in prohibition passed a constitutional amendment banning the sale of alcohol Alcohol was not allowed to be sold in the United States Under our government When we repeal that you can't just repeal an amendment They passed a separate constitutional amendment That granted to the states the right to control the sale of alcohol. Okay There is no constitutional amendment granting to the states the right to control the sale of marijuana Right, okay That's who coming in it's under federal regulation and so we can't To ban it completely or if they pass the constitutional amendment to ban it and then granted that to the states Then we could do it exactly like we do alcohol But alcohol is a hundred percent unique Interesting in that it has a constitutional authority to sale Yeah, by the state and that's why we can say grocery stores can't sell it in North Carolina Even though it's a legal product you can't say that with anything else right Interesting that's what coming in it's you can say nothing you'd be sold nobody can sell it But the state could never claim for itself the right to regulate it So let's think about that so if if you were to so Would I be fair to say that like the ABC because I I used to think differently about the whole ABC thing the way it's set up in North Carolina But I also see the big fat check that comes into the town From the alcohol store out there and that's a lot of money it is it's a lot of money And which makes me kind of a bigger fan of that whole thing is your control in the sale and then using the Putting the money back into the system as a result of North Carolina's ABC system We have one of the lowest per person consumptions in the United States And one of the highest profits Yeah per consumption in the United States. That's interesting. Our system the way it's worked size of our state More money is made off of it And less of it is sold yeah because of our system Now depending on where you fill in that spectrum right of how much should be sold or whatever else It's a good system. It's a bad system. It's not prohibition. Right. You know those kind of things Golf course ain't making all the money out of it You

know we saw that in Mitchell Gatties. Yeah for sure And so it's really Kind of that back and forth of where it's a lot of the work is there opposition to that system in the rally. Oh yeah There are distributors Restaurants Grocery stores retailers would all like to be our that system maybe charge of it Let me give you this is these numbers are a little dated. Okay. They're probably eight or nine years ago The number one seller in the ABC system was a wrist-to-crab vodka I will not say a high quality But the state paid the company 69 cent of fifth for a wrist-to-crab vodka That's what coming we even had when they were doing this brine The state even looked at the concept of contracting with them to put it on the roads Yeah, instead of the brine mixture I remember that because it would work in a similar ice here. Yeah, 69 cent of fifths is what the state pays for That's what you're drinking folks And I don't run brine and I don't know what it turned into now But at the time we were selling it for 699 A fifth in the ABC store pretty good proof every penny from 69 cent to 699 Was being made by government entity in some way local governments sheriff's departments There's a percentage held out for law enforcement Sure, whatever else and then the bars are turned around and selling it for seven dollars a shot. Yeah Yeah, that's what coming in that's a profit margin to everybody in the system So if you're in that system You really like that system. Yeah, right now if you get rid of that system If the state can get it for 69 cent of fifth what can Walmart get it for sure That's what coming in and regardless of how I feel about to sell a vowel call or anything else \$3 a fifth is a social problem. Yeah, yes, it is fully exist and will cost us more Look, if Walmart starts selling great goose or whatever tomorrow. I don't even know what the top vans are Like there's limited social issues, right? If we're selling Johnny Walker for a hundred and fifty dollars a fifth Or whatever else it is Some people will use it that will be problems, but that's much less of a problem Yeah, if you had three dollars a fifth What my college friend called rock gut. Yeah Yeah, that's true And so how if even if you did and you took that away How do you regulate that system to not collapse?

56:16: Yeah, right a lot of issues, but you know our R-A-B-C store has done Incredibly yeah, since it open we don't I can tell you I don't see this all over state, but we have No issues. I'm aware of with underage purchases. Mm-hmm. We have no robberies no hang-ups nothing everybody ignores the ABC store I still think we get more from Burnsville and Marion than we do from spruce pine Yes, people go to the ABC store where they're not sitting down That's hilarious Burnsville's running I'll still take Burnsville past the ABC because we had one That's coming in they went about to let you know, I'm at walk out of time. It's hard to represent nine counties But let's be honest once one's got something everybody wants exactly But it's how halls very interesting politically. Yeah, has very interesting origin We know here and I can tell you see in Burnsville's too. There's no election like an alcohol election We can think we had a crazy town election and we did yeah, but I remember when all these stores started this petition Yeah, and got 40% of the names before the election started And nine almost 900 people voted at town hall in one day People wasn't speaking to each other and people wasn't oh, that was bad. There's a lot of people that they eat ate Acro and yeah have some apologies and the same way, you know Once you want to look at promenade swizz getting an apple bees and whizz getting a oh, I know these other kind of major stores We're gonna open up none of that game Everybody was gonna complain that oh, we're gonna have all these DUIs and all these other kind of things My effect DUIs went down. I can always tell you there's a reason for that Prior when the golf course was the only place selling DUIs were easy. Yeah, you sit up there next to stake house And you might have somebody to cross CL line because they're all going to the same place right and then when you pass sales all over the county Like they're all going 12 different directions. You can't just sit there and you know shoot fish in a barrel all day long and catch DUI Yeah, not that you know lawfults doing a bathtub. I don't mean that at all sure, but there's two cars on the road. Yeah But true well, I'm going back to marijuana. I would I would say Alcohol is as a substance itself with its social ramifications as far more destructive than alcohol then marijuana is yeah,

the The biggest challenge I have to the marijuana substance I've seen too many people With addiction and mental health challenges who And actually was sitting next somebody who's dealing with this with a doctor Who don't believe it's an narcotic Oh, sure and when they utilize marijuana they go through all their withdrawal symptoms again Yeah, like this whole thing is starting yeah, and it's interaction with ADHD drugs and those kind of things Problem it's a problem with you too like I'm a firm believer that that early marijuana usage It is it does it it um it can sit you in a state of arrest development It can arrest the development of your brain. I mean there's there's a lot of definitely a lot of Challenges there. I totally agree My point is I guess it they're gonna do it and they're gonna drink Between the two I see alcohol as far as destructive. Yeah, not to your point. I agree with you completely Yeah, nothing is that I've we've been briefed on in others um marijuana use um Among youth It's now almost never what we believed was marijuana use. Oh 100% it is no longer rolling up a right a joint And kids smoking it that no it almost does not exist anymore It sees little cartridges that fits in a vase. It's vapes. Yeah that may have no odor tied to them It's a pack of gummy bears That parents have no idea their kids not eating gummy bears unless somebody else got into them That's what coming in it's candy. It's food product It's yeah, those kind of things the use of marijuana You know, I guess that makes me the old foggy. I still think of the yeah people in the residence halls with downy Yeah, you know things trying to blow through them You know trying to be a lot work Yeah, it's like when I was the RA or the whole director And there's no laundry in my building yet. I've got the sudden set of traffic softener walking down scunk and fabric No idea what that might have been You know You know, but that generation is kind of past oh No, and it's concentrate. It's oils. Yeah, what are the what the dab rigs?

61:19: I mean that stuff is and you used to say Legitimately that people couldn't overdose on marijuana. Mm-hmm. That's not true anymore. Not true Like you will put smoking it Apparently people will pass out Before they reach an overdose. Oh, yeah, 100 you'll lose consciousness. Yeah But when you're ingesting it. Yeah, it's different in those type of things and concentrations don't necessarily mean size You could be taking something that you can now actually overdose on yeah It's it's just a different It is it is and I guess my only rebuttal that would be I mean you can overdose on alcohol And yeah, you know, there's there's got to be regulation. There's got to be Yeah, you absolutely can I've always I've always thought what if it was because I'll be honest with you Uh, I was marijuana easier. I'll just go ahead and tell you I'll I will still use it on occasion now um I've never been a fan of those tank trish those all that dab rigs I've never all that stuff see I quit well before that became a thing. I don't have a clue what to do Well, I mean it's all it's crazy. I mean it really is but and another thing that I always hated weed culture. I'm sorry Yeah sucks dude sucks. I don't like the stoner culture. I never have we're not hippies. Yeah, we're not hippies That probably that probably doesn't help but I just think it's lame Why don't I say I think espousing laziness and being a burnout and all that stuff is stupid Yeah I would I could I've always thought what would What would be a good compromise is just to do do flower just to do Just legalize marijuana actual wrong marijuana and maybe certain You know tinctures and stuff for medical purposes and we don't have I will say this we also don't have control on it. Yeah, uh, but The tribe the quality boundary. Yeah. Yeah, I've actually seen their operation Is now both medical and recreational use Um, I was shocked. Yeah, I am talking Greenhouses two football fields yeah With 12 foot plants Growing in them that they are harvesting weekly Nice operation. I'm really that's a good man and very state of the art. Yes And it's a whole horticulture program. Yeah sure that's what coming in now Do not step from what you know legal advice do not step from one side of the quality of the The other right right right this we're coming in because now you've not only got state issues You've got a federal crime because you crossed the border. Oh, yeah, between the band traffic. Yeah, yeah And so it's what coming in but kind of like we had gambling Yeah, you know to say we don't have gambling when we got what three casinos sitting over in sure Murphy and those kind of things and So you think there'll be any movement on

the casino stuff? Um the Interesting enough mentioned in the the Cherokee The casinos also has an Indian war So right now the Cherokee can have casinos in Um their boundaries The katabas came over from South Carolina And claimed that this area rankings mountain is their tribal lands And they have opened a casino there But the largest group of Native Americans in the state are the Lumbee And because they are not a federally recognized tribe Now the Cherokee will tell me that they are not a tribe They're a group of Native Americans. Sure. That's a very different concept. Right. But there are state recognized tribe Okay, but the state doesn't allow gambling the feds allowed the gambling And so the whole fight is over do the Lumbees now get a casino or the opening of a casino and that is a large conflict Sure, that's what we've got again and I think the katabas casino may actually get thrown out Some more happened in the early 1800s. There's documents of where the Cherokee claimed they won the land that the katabas are trying to reclaim is Whatever Bearing Indian affairs can figure all that right But now the Lumbee are the more interesting concept because If we as a state allow it then we can allow a state tribe To but that didn't pass in this whole this past deal but most of your eastern legislators who support casinos Aren't going to support casinos that don't grant one to the Lumbee Hmm, okay, I see that's what come yeah, what part of the what part of the state of the Lumbee?

66:43: So they're predominantly eastern North Carolina around Pimbrook Pimbrook is a native American Insta historically native American institution that is predominantly made up of the the Lumbee Indians right And so it's you know Fortunately the states have never really gotten involved in this but the Lumbee have become very politically active Well, especially now that you've passed the whole online sports game And then now they're like, well, sorry where are we and how you get Well, that's interesting. That's very interesting. God. That's a lot of moving pieces It always amazes me to ask you these questions because like you never know. It's like oh, we only get the like Yeah, the two paragraphs like let me tell you what the big contention is and let me trash Ralph on the bottom here And then now you ask and it's oh, but wait there's an entire textbook That's called is that called nuanced that's called nuanced and then Rocking him yeah, whatever for genia came four miles over the line Into for genia and open the major casino. Yeah, that's what coming in so now those that represent that area What to put a casino there to keep for genia from getting all the money Mm-hmm and them still having to deal with all the social issues Like there's no there's not a town and infrastructure for genia where the casino is It's they drive across the line they drive back home To Greensboro and those kind of things and whatever social issues you've got is born By the people right in some ways Cherokee has it perfectly set up You come there you stay for a week you leave yeah They don't get there When I've walked through it on a couple of occasions for events and those kind of things There aren't and it's not unintentional there are no native Americans On the casino floor gambling right that that's what coming in they know that would not be so when you think about what the Social is are Cherokee's not having to deal with right you come from Atlanta Lose all your money and go go back home broke your broke at home. Yeah That's what I mean those kind of things so you don't deal with a lot of the social issues because they know's in Cherokee And so now when you get to Right, hey, we get to the northern areas of Greensboro and everything else there for genius taking all the money But we've still got all the problems And so it's that Kind of territorial those kind of things Bristol they're looking to put one in Bristol Which would be closer than So it's Tennessee illegal no Bristol for genia Oh, but okay, yeah, Bristol for genia So they would get everybody from Bristol Tennessee or Bristol way it over or from the tracidia the tracidia is those kind of things That's eventually supposed to be a hard rock because they know it yeah, yeah And there's so there's all these areas like the placement is not random no, it's right here It is very much and so that's where you're getting some of these communities Are demanding that they're not getting taken advantage of by policies in another state um, but you know Cherokee's casinos in Murphy not because of its location to actual but its location to Atlanta Knoxville You know yeah So it's it's

always a bigger fight underneath them than it is just about casinos and the bills really struggles to get through Because it's not just about casinos or no casinos. Do you represent Cherokee County? No, no I go my district now goes from Canton and Haywood County To Sparta on the Virginia line Okay, that's what coming in and then goes to LaNoir Uh east do you say nine counties? Yeah, okay No counties hey wood Madison, you ain't see Mitchell, I've ever talked to Algane, I should call well wow I've had to get that to like Well uh when when you have a relationship so I am running in November okay, okay Do have an opponent from aiever county?

71:07: Democrat from aiever county wasn't sure one of those existed Uh, this is Oh, forgive me for not knowing that I should know yeah, but you didn't how you weren't on the primary I wasn't on the primary because you're not your daddy no other Republican was running. I got you That's what coming in so We you know we run every two years There was a big push for the Democrats to contest every seat Um, and so I think in the entire general assembly they contested every one, but one um Not necessarily a political strategy. I would employ But if I was because because then you got a lot of people mad because I got no money and no support and Kind of got a piece meal in a little bit right. Yeah, that's what coming in go after the races you can and should win and Be optimistic, but right, you know if it's there they exist in the state too if there's Mitchell over county districts might not run a reput, no, I'm not running a Democrat in those districts Center Charlotte Probably waiting their time putting a Republican on the chair. Yeah If they has the right to run, but I'm talking about what you push. Yeah, yeah This is a Democratic party pushing hard behind this guy doesn't seem like it because I have a hair They pushed hard to get somebody on the ballot right. Oh gosh. Who isn't Uh Frank Hughes I believe it is completely his Called the top 10 Republicans on new and every county two of them identified as grandfather none new him Okay, okay, he had his dad had moved to Greensboro and moved back and that's really all I know about him at this point I'm assuming campaign ads will start soon So I get to know my opponent as you get to know your choice for Canada Well, uh, let's talk a little bit about the the state races in general So what's your what's your thoughts on lieutenant governor governor?

72:58: So lieutenant governor right now is in a primary Yeah, we're gonna vote again and Couple weeks with 17 days early voting again and absentee ballots and everything else Um, so is it too close to so there's thresholds you have to meet okay to get over so in a one seat race running just for lieutenant governor It's 30% So if you don't get over 30% in the second place candidate can call for runoff no matter how close it is Uh, like with our county commissioners because there's three seats that number dropped to like 15% And so even though there was a really close race for county commissioner, there's no runoff Because both candidates got over 15% of the vote right so you can't call for runoff How weatherman uh and Jim O'Neill are running in that race um Jim O'Neill was a DA from State how weatherman worked for Dan forest was his chief of staff and campaign manager for his time there Came over and worked for Madison, Caught the horn After Dan had lost for a little while and has really been kind of involved in all that and he's somebody else supporting the runoff But uh after this primary this is one of the most interesting primaries I've ever seen Okay, I was most disappointed In that people had no idea who they were voting for for council of states. Yeah That's what coming in the middle of the ballot That's what coming in our state superintendent was defeated in a primary And nobody saw it coming I saw that and what it was she don't even have Children she's a home school The lady that defeated her But I mean the lady who made the decision to award Mitchell County the money for its middle school That's what coming in when we pushed all those funds and Nobody knew who she was Like I get she did might not have run the campaign or whatever else she needed to Because she didn't see it as a legitimate opponent, but They hit her with an ad that's the hit superintendent with that about two weeks out that said she was hiring petafiles as teachers Oh my gosh now The truth is and you may know this intuitively the state superintendent has nothing to do with who's hired as a

teacher in any school system in North Carolina That's what coming in she doesn't even get to make the policy right like she doesn't even have authority Like maybe a local school boards in trouble maybe you know, whatever else, but states of 10 has nothing to do with and How do you respond but how do you respond to that politically no? I didn't right?

75:40: right And so and when nobody knows and like lieutenant governor you've got Top candidates in that race were raising \$300,000 Mm-hmm to be heard in North Carolina is probably three million Wow, and I'm gonna tell you coming into the general election You're not going to be heard. Yeah. I just read an article last week that is showing for president governor and attorney general The spend in North Carolina is expected to be 800 million dollars good By comparison That is roughly close to what it costs George W. Bush to run his presidential campaign That is insane when Roy Cooper Pat McCrory won his first race He broke the record in North Carolina by spending \$15 million on a governor's race And now we're talking 800 million dollars Chees If you're running for secretary of state Now what are you gonna do with \$3 million just gonna get people to know who you are There's no room left in the mailbox. There's nothing left on TV. I'll take you what they can do Ralph Come on holler cats baby Molta America oh yeah, yeah, geez. That's the first time I've missed said it. I can't believe Yes, come on small town America. So you're gonna believe that attitude is gonna say no Across the bottom. No, it's gonna say holocaust Yeah, that is true. It will we told everybody why we had to change the name, but yeah But yeah, I would love to have a ban till honestly and sincerely. I would yeah, well I reached out to Mark Robinson's campaign manager through email I know they're probably not watching, but if you are please reach out. We would love to have you on show and we would love to It'd been a long I say this and I've got a lot of friends and colleagues that have run for state one out of us Been a long time since I've been excited about anybody like I am Mark. Yes This is a firebrand for sure. He is And Dan Bishop I serve setting next damn Bishop for attorney general Republicans have never hailed attorney general in the state of North Carolina really always been Democrat And that's where Robinson's opponents coming from Josh Stein And damn Bishop is running against another former colleague of mine Jeff Jackson And if you haven't seen go looking up on this okay, maybe I'm sure you'll be so pleased to know who Jeff Jackson is That's the Kevin and and so but that's gonna be a big race as well Think Mark's got a good chance of I do win it. I do I I've really never seen a mark ran four years ago for lieutenant governor. Mm-hmm. He did a rally on the square in birds Mm-hmm four thousand people showed up and wow Wow, now I've never done anybody turn out four thousand people for anything burn even amount of heritage game Don't get to quite the four thousand. No, that's what coming in it takes Mitchell fans to get him over That's true probably shouldn't have said that right and both can't Oh, that's what covered here, but the same might be true for me But it was amazing like I have never seen someone who can inspire people and they're excited to see on the local level I mean, maybe if a presidential candidate came here you'd see the same kind of thing, but Barring that he is an amazing individual. He's got an incredible story He's not a politician He was not Created to fill out campaign financial ports and see I love that those kind of things You know, he made the mistake of buying a pair all at a sporting goods store They've accused him of buying his Clothes with his campaign funds because he bought his mark Robinson t-shirts There's all kinds of things he sold the car Now they're attacking him saying he didn't pay his taxes Because the person who bought the car didn't pay the taxes after they You know all this kind of stuff and the stuff he's gone through the normal people have fought through But somehow he's not the other one. He's running it's Josh Stein who's you know sophisticated attorney who's Played attorney general very die-match It seems to me like it parallels a lot with the national level stuff The way that things were handled you know like when Biden won oh the adults are back in the room now Okay, yeah supposedly True when the shaman in the pressure minus the dementia issue Right The geriatrics are back in trouble That's can we not have somebody run For office in Washington that's under 80 years old would that not be just it would be awesome

You know, it'd be great But I think we've got a real chance and we're seeing it locally too yeah um You gotta have a question who would run for all well that's the yeah, I mean look at the way that they're treated now Who would want to go through that I mean you're going to have Have We'll say bouncing out all across country as people whose job it is to destroy you yeah For two years yeah It's really imaginable and for a young person Now you're going to have to deal with the consequences of that For the rest of your life sure now if you're 65 you got your pension and you're so security all taking care of and no social meeting Right, yeah, I would take a 65 year old over 80 year 90 I get it but but I'm just saying like you got your pension you got everything else. What are they gonna do to you?

81:33: You know right those kind of things so you run but I'm trying to recruit canister jensen be who leaves their job yeah to come do these kind that congress is probably a little different because They pay a hundred and seventy hundred eighty thousand a year and give you a million dollar You know office expense to pay your flights back and forth right but it's still I know people who do it Who have children patric and Patrick McHenry used to be our commissioner now. He's got three small children Could you imagine being in that environment like your kids don't get to watch TV at night Because what they might be saying about mom or dad right Um, and so It's a real Tens for you know how do you get into it and it's a problem look why Republicans are in Congress right now are losing their majority Because everybody's going home. Yeah. Yeah, they're like I'm not putting up with this Well, it's so divisive and you know, you've seen it you saw it with the election last year in town here in the county You know, it's all that that divisive politics that you see you've seen For a long time on the night. Yeah 2014 It are all coming home to roost here in small towns You mean we saw inspiration good looking no one And all the stuff going on up there now and whatever else yeah We're getting where you can't have town council meeting with our law enforcement. That's insane What's going on in that one so you've got seven our neighbors. I let you look it up and those kind of things Okay, coming in there's a There's a lot of very interesting YouTube videos as well where they're filming themselves Outside and those kind of things, but it You know, it's there's all kinds of stuff stuff things. Yeah, interesting Well So Well What do you think um I Mean you think you're gonna say a lot of mud slinging in this oh, I think yeah, I think that we The and I'm somebody's the intent of large campaign. I Think that you will hear so much That by the time October november get here Nothing will matter. Yeah, like I almost feel like I remember when bush ran the first I worked on the sake of when we ran on the first one This DUI came out like the week before the election And probably what led to bush v gore and everything else because it was so close Um, but I really think campaigns are talking about blowing up the narrative To whatever comes out as the October surprise can't change anything anymore Hmm. There's such a small Undecided group of voters now and it'll be even smaller in October But it will take everything and you reach these points like starting in a campaign Like the things that move the needle are the positive message who you are right what you stand for That's how you build your base and build your sport. Mm-hmm But that starts stops pulling in People after a point. Yeah, and now you got to turn it To it making sure that right you hit the really raw emotions of How do you make them not vote for someone?

85:12: Study after study they do a politics you ask people what they remember from ads They remember the negatives. Yeah, they can't tell you about the positives I just think that's humans in general to early like that like with everything right But you also are going to reach point when you do enough of that That it doesn't matter anymore. I mean Much as I support Trump Any other politician in the history of the universe That was hit with some of the things he hit would have been gone. Oh, yeah, I'm good battering different That's again, it would have been over. Yeah, people have been falsely accused of things and been done in politics But they have literally attacked him so much During his time that there's no effective attack on Donald try what are you that it has the opposite?

86:05: Yeah, you made this one made a major all the way to the point. They've made it in order look. It doesn't I'll say that then this is where I spoke like it just doesn't make sense Six eight states all starting the same kind of criminal charges civil charges all at the same time That's what coming in three you're trying to get him off the ballot those kind of things The only thing that adds up is a political narrative. Not a legal narrative. Yeah, yeah That's what coming in when the penalty in New York Other than the money that's because he's a billionaire, but it's you can't do business in New York Now where have you ever seen a consequence to anyone of being now might be if you go back 75 years when the judge says, you know, you don't come back to Mitchell County Right Don't let me catch you in the county lines again, but we have moved away from that as a society Well, we thought we had You think there's danger in that I mean, I mean obviously the You know the argument is that that's banana republic top behavior. It is what do you think that's I'm curious your thoughts well The question I always have Is where does this division go Because there's nothing about this division that's slowing down. No making me people more hospitable to each other No, those type of things we've been here before as a country We split over issues to the point we tried to form two separate countries and went to war Now I don't think it's the same same path never happens twice, right But what happens when we become a Country where the red states are red states And the blue states are blue states and there's no in between We're headed there very quickly. We're coming in when I can tell you how many red votes you've gotten every bill in Congress And tell you how many blue votes you got on every bill in Congress Because there's no in between anymore Right how many elections does one party take losing every election to the other party Because there are no one decides yeah If you can win by one vote you can be praised there because Nobody else is changing their mind It's a real Challenge to where do we become as a country and Even things that I never thought would seem like what news you watch There aren't people who watch one show on MSNBC and another show on no Fox News even though Fox is kind of falling out of favor I'm just saying like nobody switching between the shows No, and it's true even it's gone farther now from The media you consume shaping your narrative in worldview the media you consume now shapes your Reality Yep, and there's no potential for it changing as as AI Determines what your eyeballs stay on yeah, they're going to feed you more of it. Yeah Yeah, that's what coming in like If I pick up my son's phone We have we may have the same YouTube But his videos I've never seen before yep, and my videos he's never seen before yep That's becoming there's some parental controls in that but I suspect my wife don't watch them But if even if it was mine and my wife's there would be no cross Yeah, polo nation because it finds what I want to watch and what they want to watch and it feeds that too Well, I think that's a lot of what's led us to such a divisive place because Social media has put us in echo chambers Based on Arabians who what we you know associate with online what we associate online what we do online um Take for instance the um a good example of this is like um the Police problem, okay, policing problems challenges with police people who are Have a proclivity towards like the BLM movement and the a cab movement or whatever They see a video online of a police being the crap out of somebody a police officer being crap out of somebody They get mad they just they they comment on it. Well the algorithm's like oh That's a lot of engagement they must really like this content so they keep feeding them a constant stream of police Beating the crap out of people and that shapes their reality So we're in a place now to where the two camps don't even live on the same planet anymore So the funny thing if any say I've determined about social media Is the real fallacy is when we type something When did we suddenly start thinking we were changing someone's mind We don't yeah exactly we know the outcome doesn't happen no no but the thought that goes to people's minds Oh, they're wrong about this I must explain to them how they're wrong Is ineffective on any social media platform sure like show me the one comment said boy. I really didn't know that I guess you're right It well, and here's the other thing too. This is what always kills me It's there's facts that support both sides. I know Yeah, how is that even you can't even have facts That aren't there's

always something that will support either side of that yeah Yeah, yeah, and that's what keeps us in our bubble of confirmation by us sure Sure, do you think it's possible to be a bipartisan politician now in other words I mean like not that you would be an independent But is it possible to be have a reputation as somebody who works across the aisle?

91:51: I will tell you that we just saw in the Senate Multiple house seats multiple Senate seats for example in the Democrat party For people because we're in charge now. I don't know saying this wouldn't happen if they were in charge But Mike Woodard in Durham Crossed over and voted with us on the budget. He just lost his rights That's what coming in for nothing more actually the most extreme example I will tell you is we when we started this session we didn't have super majorities last January Trish Cautham Voted with us on the lemonade pistol purchase permits They attacked her so mercilessly That She walked into speakers office and said I'm going to join you in her Republican party Wow That's what coming to they threatened her life they threatened her family they threatened Everything else and so she joined the Republican party and gave us a super majority Wow, so we could override the governor this election last month Her mother was defeated on Charlotte City Council who had been the high vote getter for multiple elections Because her daughter switched parties Geez nothing as to what she did right note that she's never been a loyal Democrat to their party and voted for them her daughter in the general assembly switched parties and it defeated her For the Charlotte City Council state There is nothing about the electorate Even though unaffiliated are are in becoming the largest party in um North Carolina that's me yeah unaffiliated is a number one Democrats number two Republicans number three Republicans will soon pass Democrats Because of the numbers Democrats are losing yeah, but unaffiliates are gaining And Republicans depending on the month are either staying even or losing a few Democrats are losing large numbers every month So we will we are in many counties Are we are across state unaffiliates would be the number one party But unaffiliated doesn't mean undecided sure that's not true Yeah, the unaffiliated steel pick yeah between the two party candidates They're not looking for someone when you study them and those guys They're not looking for someone that's not conservative or not liberal or not Republican or not They're just like the party people they're leaning Heavy towards one of the other yeah, they just don't like the infrastructure But they're still evaluating their candidates As red or blue yeah, that's a coming in and as long as voters are evaluating their candidates Is red and blue?

94:46: You're never going to get Do you have friendly Relationships with Democrats so I have a lot of close relationships with older Democrats in the Senate Dan blue who's the minority leader I consider a very close friend Toby Fitch left a few years close friend non-Devison Congress has been a close friend of mine And I've had the opportunity to work with him. I have long conversations with them Those kind of things we don't really do the dinners anymore. I was close to my quitter. I was those kind of things Six years eight years The new group that has come in The progresses. I have no relationship with whatsoever. There's no We've talked we have conversations about bills, but those are formal. Here's my desk You said on this side. I'll sit on this side. We'll discuss the bill and then we'll move on Like I don't have conversations about the kids and their schools and their Those kind of things and they don't ask about mine There, you know, I feel a hatred really. It's what I was going for I had one of the members that I will mention she was but Two years ago three when I had COVID. I was one of the first ones To get COVID in the general assembly and I'd been in town And on Sunday night I go home Um, because my test results came in and said you were positive. So they said you got a quarantine. I got to go home Quarantine was horrible. Um, it was our league quarantine. Yeah This member Senator to found a picture of me from three weeks ago Where my mask is half home And posted on social media that I was sitting in the chamber I remember that I remember that with COVID Because shit hurt. I was positive and she was telling them I'm in the In the chamber That time when I'm here in spurs by I've got

the news and observer Reporters defending me Yeah, it's a bad day when the news and the reserve yeah when the rally news and observer Confident and he's coming up and saying that's frozen over. He is not in the chamber. Yeah, like I don't know what you're saying But it's like a three-week old picture To you know trying to try to say that and that's not your bills bad You know, this is a horrible idea. Right. This was about me And that I was trying to kill people yeah by spreading them this horrible disease Well, and it get and it got ugly, you know, I don't remember my father came in Like set with you when they decided to Reverend barber decided to visit oh, yeah, the Piscable church right across from your house. Yeah, completely at random, right. Yeah, that was completely random You know, that's what coming in and I send my kids to stay with you know their sister in Burnsville and those kind of things and you know It's You know, Reverend Barbrain coming to Mitchell County on a you know, yeah professional tour. Yeah So I happened to him that he fade into the year so he took over something a national organization called the poor people's campaign And so he left North Carolina um He was a competitor for heading the in NAACP and those kind of things but I think now he's more of a national figure That does a few limited things around the country and comes back to North Carolina once a year for some sort of protest Yeah, that's Nowhere near the magnitude his protest were on the moral month But I mean We now have you go in the general assembly you now have to walk through a metal detector Um, and that came a hundred percent out of the moral Monday movement And the people who volunteered to be arrested they weren't armed bands that said eras That's what coming in and when the police would finally say everyone that doesn't clear the building will be arrested They would line up with their armed bands on to be arrested Like they came there to be arrested They go through those bookbags and they found pipes and wrenches and knives and Everything else that were part of that wow. That's what coming in so now we have We used to have eight entrances into the building anybody from public at any time will walk into the building Uh, there was security in the building, but now everybody's got to go through a one narrow except the members have to go through one narrow metal detector That's what coming in every day you go between buildings you got to go through this metal detector come out come back You got to go through this metal detector That's what coming in and it's locked down buildings now and That's Where we've come to With what we thought was I mean we stood them said this is the people's house Yeah, we should have access, but we're not going to have You come to the pipe on the back of the head And the first you think about about threats of violence as compared to when you first came in um It was worse in that kind of middle range of the moral Mondays. Mm-hmm It was worse when a gay group opened the Jerked open the doors of the house during session and running through cups of glitter. Yeah, unmembers Um, you don't know what's in a cup. No when it's coming at you. No, it's not like you dodge it That's what covered in so those kind of things were things that was much more cognitive of the interesting thing is I'm more concerned now In downtown Raleigh Then I am at the general assembly The number of encounters I've had or been around With mental health issues with criminal issues Those kind of things my encounters have been with mental health issues people who were just They don't want you to pass. They get in your face. They do those kind of things. I know people that have had them with criminal elements Um, it's becoming any walking a dollar dollar general except in urban areas I don't call them dollar generals. I learned this. It's dgx Dgx. Yeah, okay. Dollar generals in urban areas are called dgs Okay, but they grow there to just turn some dark Um, but like I go in next. It's closest to my apartment where I'm staying like everything's locked up Like you want to go get tied to turgian You gotta get somebody to come unlock Little things they can hand you the tide Now that's a change. I've seen in Raleigh. Yeah, or 15 years And I mean I saw the George Ford protests when they burned Buildings and through cocktails and tore down the Confederate monuments and all those kind of things Dollar general still didn't didn't have to lock everything up. Right. Yeah. Yeah They might all get burned out, but right, but now everything downtown is Dirtier Um, I can hear you know the police sirens all the time. Oh, well those kind of things that are going off They probably don't have a nice place. It was yeah Um, and there's just some good area,

but it's not what it used to be it's not what it used to be and the parks and the Things they deal with and find there Those kind of things it that actually makes me wonder see general symbol has its own police force So If they're protesting in downtown Raleigh You have The capital police you have the roly pd and you have the general symbol police force And the rules of the general symbols are different than the other two Okay, like if they say you're not coming in this building They don't watch you jump over to find some walk into the building Uh, not saying they couldn't get rushed, but they'll arrest everyone they can until they rush I started to say that earlier sound that you know getting glitter thrown on you and jerking open the doors of the general symbol That kind of sounds like an insurrection. It does that is absolutely an insurrection. Yeah, yeah But I guess it has to align in such a way to occur on January 6th Yeah, the days don't line up. Yeah, and evolve the rackets Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's true and moves like that I tend to recall I believe it was over An abortion bill that the The house got rushed in DC um People wielding weapons I believe they had AR 15s they had they had a wrap That sounds more like an insurrection I mean, they had it a couple weeks ago with the Palestinian groups and flags they had full flag poles really whatever Rest in restaurant the corridors and So here's that now, but you know, and you didn't hear a lot about when the more money protesters Surround the senate chamber and are banging on the doors during session The lute to have them to color by order and lock us down in place Because there's 500 to a thousand protesters outside those brass doors That they can't open them and this was all over Is it trans bathroom? Yeah, well um It wasn't what but I say it's all manufactured like yeah, it didn't matter what the week was It didn't matter who attended it only matter what color short day wore today That I'll show up and pink shirts on abortion days and that I'll show up in green shirts on environmental days And that I'll show up in red shirts on education days I saw them. It is the exact same people I don't have theories of whether they're paid or You know just activists or those kind of things but I don't know that maybe but I know it was the same people yeah wearing a different color shirt That came every week with the whole Grootish yeah Ralph how much outside money's involved in North Carolina politics?

105:21: Um Pins of what you mean by outside my out of state money um North Carolina better than most states But as you might suspect most money and the politics comes from California New York Yeah, even then even among Republican circles. That's the population centers right Florida, Texas You know Florida don't need it in Florida Somebody else right but sometimes hard to say that Florida is out of state money because like a third of our residents are probably there Right It depends on what month to the year Right So coming but beyond that so I would say probably around a third of the money comes from out of state um A little more if you talk about the RNC and DNC money Because we're a competitive state Yeah, we've kind of turned into a swing state And so if you're the RNC And you raise 500 million nationally What are you gonna do with it? You're gonna spend it in North Carolina. You're gonna spend it in Pennsylvania You're gonna spend it now in Georgia You know, right all these states and Democrats are gonna spend it in the same manner But I will say that predominantly that money is for those races. Let's send a little bit For you know to tell some of the yeah voter turn out and do the robos and those good days Yeah, but predominantly they're targeting Senate races targeted house for races and presidential races Now they'll play a little in governors Yeah, I was gonna ask you like how much do you think there's gonna be a large push this big?

107:03: I think you will see big national money on the governor's race. Yes. I think um I don't know of anyone that is ever scared Democrats as much as Mark Robinson does They cannot allow him to get a foothold Because he is a real threat to their core base He is a real threat to minorities Leaving their base to support someone else. He's got a message that actually gets through Mm-hmm To Hispanic voters I think that's been American voters Yeah, and that Uh, lieutenant governor for jenius in the same boat That's for coming in she's just not as vocal and right

perspective as mark is Um, I don't know that they're worried about him being a player on the national stage Like he's going to run for president But they're worried about his being the spokes Yeah, that's for coming in they're worried about who he brings over And people just maybe one day Maybe if he spends a few a term or two of his governor I guess he's as good a candidate as anybody else. Yeah, it's anybody else at that point because he's got experience. Yeah well Why is it that it always seems like even you know Pat McCorry was sort of a flash in the pan And when he came right down to it a one-term governor, right Why is it that North Carolina always likes his democratic governor?

108:43: Um Some of its history Roy Cooper is re-elected Because there are people in extra North Carolina that have voted for Roy Cooper on a ballot for 30 years. Yeah Why is he from Rocky Mount Okay, so that's a lot of support And you get down there particularly among elderly voters Well, I've always voted for that Roy Those kind of things same kind of way my my bad was I'm sorry. I called my bad. I started doing it. Oh, I'm really produced Yeah, I was like do you know her that well because I mean honestly and I'll be 100% honest We I've never seen a politician like Beverly Purdue like look I'm not the most eloquent speaker of all time for sure. Whoops. That's okay. Can you hear no more? Yeah, can't hear no more But I'm not I'm not a my an eloquent speaker, but Beverly Purdue could not towards the end of her time Could not put together a cognitive same. I mean you think Joe Biden's bad This lady. I mean not because she was old either. I don't think she just could not form a sentence So I mean I can't say much. I feel like that most days, but I don't know man. Joe Biden's pretty bad But that older generation I think they got one more candidate That fits in that and she's running for lieutenant governor And it's Rachel Hunt Okay, who is the daughter of Jim. Yeah, okay, but other than her They're the rustlers out Like a lunch on the national level right that they are they are now having to take candidates that grew up in this environment politically That Don't relate to people that have voted for them for 30 years. Yeah That's a cut you know, it's a new group. There's a significant change in a Democrat party There's a new group of candidates And they don't bring with them I mean if you're not in downtown Raleigh, you've not voted for Josh Stein Right That's what coming in the ran for attorney general, but I think this prime minister will show you people might not have known who they were voting for for attorney general They just picked the name of the letter beside party. That's what coming in but those candidates like Jim And I think Jim Hunt Because of his daughter will be the last one of them He served governor for 16 years You can't even do that anymore. Yeah, they passed the law prevent because of him right right, but then they forgot to exclude him Going forward so he came back and served He served for eight years they passed the law To limit you to two terms, but because he was grandfathered he came back and ran for eight more years So he got 16 years in between his term wow when Yeah, lives right up here Martin Jim Martin was elected Republican. It's when they passed the limitation to two terms But Hunt could still run Because because he was grandfather because he was not He didn't serve terms before the constitutional amendment and so I think she's that one that Still will bring a lot of that to the table. So I think there's How or fits on the ill have got a real fight on their hands For a lieutenant governor the advantage they've got is there's not going to be a whole lot of voters who come and vote for Donald Trump and Mark Robinson Oh, but I really like that Democrat running for lieutenant governor, right, you know I think we've got solid enough candidates and Boysterous enough candidates that right if they're winning they're carrying all the way There it I can name all kinds of people that will vote for moderate candidates that don't like Mark Robinson or Donald Trump right the other people I'm like. I don't know anything I'm right like that lieutenant governor's too liberal for me Yeah, right So you know, I think they still got a real good shot at winning lieutenant governor, but she's kind of the last of that Generation Roy Cooper was there voted for him forever. What Good old Roy Good old Roy old Roy like the dog I You know, I heard that was Sam Walton's dog's name really old Roy and that's why they branded their dog food old Roy Make sense make sense that dogs probably worth more than all of us combined Even get

that dogs worth more than all of us combined Well, you get a sense on and obviously you're a Republican but Can you offer like a non like just through neutral glasses What is the what is the strategy of the Democratic Party moving forward not only nationally better even on state levels like I don't understand what the strategy is. I mean everybody keeps saying okay. Well, you're gonna put you got to put up somebody besides Joe Biden who Who besides California governor Newsome yeah newskeven newsome and everybody hates him give me a California governor any death Yes, I would die on a campaign against I'll just tell you people have left California and count their votes Yeah, exactly, but what is the strategy?

114:17: I like as a person who's involved in politics and even in party politics What's the strategy? What are they banking on?

114:26: so Coming from a Republican politician But I really feel that Democrats Have pushed so much for Full acceptance of any group they identify Right like when it's almost to the individual level The individual not not that you tolerate it not that it exists not that you don't oppress it But you celebrate it right as an individual And I think that worked so well for them When it was large groups of oppressed people yeah when they were talking about African-Americans when they were talking about minorities and they were pulling those kind of groups together That was very successful But the groups have gotten smaller and smaller and smaller more frankly more controversial um You know it was one thing to say From a Republican point of view it was one thing to say That You should accept Yees. Yes, should be treated well. They should have a place in society It was another to say you must embrace and accept their marriage is what marriage is It is and now we've moved to Even though someone is a male They identify as a female Therefore you have to celebrate them as a female and recognize them as a female yeah That is kind of push the Democrat party to this point That the average person can't fall right when you start telling me that Men Can participate in women's sports Yeah, you are that is and When the NCAA swimming title You know as a woman when you were Barely making the team as a male Um that somehow because you identify in that manner That in the game all of your biological he did grow his hair out sure Sure, and I'll try Yeah, and I'm not I'm not even getting into identifying Who he is or how he should be treated or sure it's kind of things. No, no Do we have to ex do we have to recognize his pure falsehood As truth and that's that's what the Democrat I think is starting to fall apart Well, Dave Chappelle said it he said it he said it. He point blank. He said the question is is to what degree do I have to participate in your own self image Right and why do I have to participate? Well, did you see they stripped Him of all the medals and awarded them to the second runner-up that was actually female really I didn't yes the NCAA stripped all the medals from I don't know what his name is Lee Atomas And gave them to um I forgot her name. Yeah, Raleigh. Yeah, yeah, Raleigh games. She now holds All the medals um she actually came and testified Yeah, yeah, yeah, privilege of meeting her in those countries One things I didn't recognize in that situation until talking to her is In one of the right 200 meter whatever she actually tied with him As rare as a tie is Mm-hmm in swimming because it's down to like the thousands of a second She tied They only had one trophy. Yeah Because they needed him to take the pictures They told him he could have the trophy Yeah, and they would send her one later That's what coming in and when she asked they had no answer Because it was a promotion. Yeah It was you know a flat-out promotion of an ideology not a competition Mm-hmm where it's gonna go over I think they were playing Hawasi Dam We had a team here in western North Carolina that girl came with them Um Was playing high school volleyball Now there really is a co-ed volleyball Mm-hmm where men and women play together That is played on a seven foot net just like men's volleyball is But because he was identifying as a woman He's playing on the girls team on a six foot net That's what coming in when he goes up and spikes the ball hits a girl right in the neck Concussion Dem broken bones fracture bones whatever else Still has concentration issues and those kind of things nearly a year later Where she's playing Because biologically he was serving on a net that was too short They didn't match His

height his strength or his weight Yeah Because he identified as something else Not saying there can't be sports Both my boys wrestle Women participate in wrestling That's what coming in There's oddities that make advantages for women in certain weight classes And for me and in other weight classes My boys are both on the far end of the spectrum One to heavyweight one two fifteen Probably not in Canada a whole lot of women in the world Not a lot of women in the division Uh that's the coming year But they've practiced you know in those kind of things But you know the one twelve weight class and maybe one fifteen now Whatever else is more likely to be a senior As a woman and those kind of things more like it'd be a freshman As a high schooler You know and so there's some strange things to play that they are building a women's division Yeah But the advantage there of sizes mitigating wrestling Because you're in a weight class Right You're in the you may Yeah Yeah And you're running two hours before the match to spit enough water to get to your weight class Um but in volleyball it wasn't there And we've got a girl's permanently injured So the tribe and multiple other counties in the far west to the state Um School boards counties, other past resolutions We will forfeit any game Played against them because we're not going to put our girls at risk Sure As they should I mean the average high school men's basketball sports probably has more people dunking Than for a school especially when a WNBA team does Yeah Yeah It's just the Rawl biological facts of the passionate truth Yes it is a dispassionate truth But I was I guess to go back to my Now more my criticisms of the Democrat party and those kind of things They've abandoned truth For opinion Like they don't believe that truth exists No they don't Truth is my truth Truth is relativity You know And this is relative That's the that's the fallacy because it keeps moving on them internally Right JK Rawlings One of the I know Forest feminist you would ever encounter She's left and has been Has been raked over the cold Now they're ripping their peppers off her book because her name's on it just because She doesn't accept the new movement You know what though they still bought the book So it was really losing right I mean they were smart I just wonder like I just I don't know how You know what I mean from I don't consider myself And the intellectual about any means but I do consider myself somebody thanks And I look at some of my friends who Who are self-described liberals democrats And I'm not and and and I've already had a lot of them that can't do it any longer That it's just no longer the intellectually sustained honest Yeah If you have any intellectual honesty whatsoever There's no way you can look at this Said of beliefs and come away If I was a woman I would be pissed I would too but I would be your mom Have something about this I rate that the idea that a man can put on woman face And be a woman is insulting and degrading to women It's awful And the fact that you're you know that you're saying this It's not only just adults that this has been being pushed on It's on our children. Yeah Has North Carolina passed any the Republican legislature passed any laws?

123:34: Yeah, so we are turning gender Before I mean to We have actually passed talked about earlier We've banned the prohibition of men and women's sports That's coming in kind of Oddly enough over the objection of the high school athletic association Which is a whole another conversation to get into Are you serious? Yeah We actually had to go into because these were happening in North Carolina We banned minors receiving gender surgeries Changing their genders. Yeah, and Senator from Asheville I'll never forget this stood up on the floor and cried crocodile tears Because her friends Could not mutilate their three year old child Yeah, that's great three year old child And so there There's a real Division in procedure. I'm not saying certain procedures don't ever happen to have to occur There are things that happen to people biologically Where they present both genders They're sure Oh yeah There's a lot of trans people trans people trans people trans people exist Right, that's who's coming in But to take someone at that young of an age Who identifies and starting with homobokers and actually Britain just banned That we did it's coming in because what they're showing Despite what all's been claimed by the science or whatever else Is that mental health issues were actually worse? Oh sure after the transition And I you know for my little old Mitchell County logic here When you mess somebody up that bad why are you surprised their mental health

issues are worse Like when her body when you're giving them hormones opposite of what their body's producing to block the ones their bodies producing Like and what they found too is that for those that didn't have this gender reassignment surgery or those kind of things That the vast majority grew out of it Yeah, we're in or we're being a depraxandex homosexual Right, but they grew out of believing they were another gender. Yeah um You know I will say this I know when I went to it and everything is testosterone is a powerful force in the world It absolutely That's what coming in as is estrogen right and when you start producing it You may come in line with where your body is Uh amazing how that works. Yeah, it's like biological biological Psycho-created reality has played itself out over millions of millions You know what more than we were created this certain way What really bothers me and what we see here more than anything in this whole trans debate is you see the exploitation of people who have Severe mental illness for money. That's what the medical industry is doing to these people. It's this pure exploitation I'm curious is the UNC health system Duke Wake Forest are they Big proponents of this gender affair. I'm curious. I know that's a big part of our state. It is my understanding that the center at Duke was involved um Certain practices Carol and I may have been involved in referrals And other things to those centers um, it was not a A regular occurrence, but they denied it's happening and then had to come back and say Okay, it did yeah, it did Uh, that's what coming in in interaction. We would never do that Whatever it's only to find out they had um and so Now do I think we had Meals that were lining these things up every ride But you shouldn't be late one child no So that's what coming in and I and I still feel as morally Repugnant as I could find it If an adult I might make the argument to say adult might mean 25 in this case sure like I need for your development to finish Developed yes, but an adult wants to go have a surgery and most pay for a surgery like I'm Repults sick at my stomach all those other kind of things, but not my job Right, right. It's their life But that's an adult man and you you can ask my parents, but they would probably agree with this both of them would when I was Five years old if you would have offered me the the opportunity to Chop this hand off and have it replaced with a hook and where a pirate's wig all the time I would have probably done it yeah because I was captain James hook damn it. Yeah, I was I was captain hook Me too, I mean I don't you think about that with all kinds of things I mean every picture of me from that and I was like this I was I was a pirate when I was six maybe I push a little more controversial like A kid at six or three or five There's not even something wrong with the kid that you need to surgery or no There's something wrong with a parent the parent and that's the thing number one How does the three-year-old even communicate right what they are what their gender is and here They're trying to tell you that literally newborn babies Chan tell that and and I'm saying you won't talk about what the stereotype is There's nothing wrong with a four-year-old boy liking pink. No, that's what covered in there's nothing wrong with those kind of things I love barbies when I was right they will grow and develop Into those things like they're blank slates. They yeah, they are In there in lies the real truth. Yes, is it they are a impressionable yeah, blank slates As well just be a canvas that the older children The number of these kids that are dealing with trans issues and trans issues is getting more and more odd by the Year and more prevalent yeah, but When you look at those the number of people who have been abused Oh, it's actually abused Astronomy who've been through those kind of things This may be your reaction to the environments. They've been through. Sure more than this is actually But like I said, it gets stranger to others. It's not just I think I'm the other gender now. It's I think I'm a cat. I think I'm a Yeah, yeah Well, it's a species trans species and you want to be a snake judge?

130:27: No, no, I don't you don't I have don't I like I like to eat my food. I like to chew it. I don't want to eat my food swallow it all. How about this I have one of my nine counties That the school board was asked by three parents To put litter boxes in the girls. That's insanity. Was this avry can I'm gonna get into it. Well, I heard it So that's interesting that is the girls bathroom too because there is a much higher proclivity for female females to experience this kind of

rapid onset gender dysphoria Everybody's yeah, yeah, fortunately the school board was wise enough to respond with no good Good, no other words just no, no, that's what coming in but Anybody want to take bat somewhere there if you went to any of those girls homes?

131:17: Oh, there's a litter box in their bathroom. I'm sure No, I want to here's what I want. I want And I'm seeing somebody shitting in a litter box in a public bathroom I'm sorry for my language, but I want to see it. I'm glad their parents have to clean that litter box Yeah, they're good. Yeah, good. Yeah, good. I'd also like to see somebody that identifies as a dog or cat lick their own butt too Dude if you can do that how much you can lick them, but I will give you that How much of this because we were at Christmas shopping in Asheville last year And I was in we were in the mall and I saw two people in full doggy dumb gear walking around one leading The other with it with a leash. How much of all this is just sexual kinks being played out No, and here's another question to go further on that At what line does that become s a and I can't say the word on YouTube because it'll get pulled But seriously, I mean the people who are doing that you're including me and your sexual activities without my consent Yeah, I think it's a fair question to ask look I would say the bigger concept Maybe in the treatment of mental disorders at the end game Isn't your contentness or your happiness with whatever else you find But maybe we have services that really help people overcome the challenges Yeah, that they're dealing with yeah And not services that make them comfortable with the challenges they did right and you know here's the thing Gender dysphoria is in the DSM. Yeah, it is a mental disorder. Yeah, by definition Still, but show you so was homeless sexuality back in the day. Well, sure. I know. I'm just I'm saying I'm just saying that's that's the argument there my point was going to be is with what other mental disorder Do we treat to have the disorder by affirming? Yeah, that it's we don't So what if you affirms kids of phranics or dementia patients? Yeah, like I've worked in facilities where I've taken care of dementia patients I've worked in the emergency departments What if we had someone come in who is in psychosis and that has happened we don't We don't affirm what they are saying we try to reorient them into reality I don't know man. I mean, but that just sets a dangerous precedent. I think I think a lot of it honestly stems from What I was saying earlier. It's it's the sexual kinks that are being played out and because porn is so prevalent in such a huge problem now everyone everything is over hop it's hyper sexualized Everybody has seen The worst of the worst of the worst. I mean porn is such a huge thing online now in order to get their gratification It pushes the envelope further and further and further and all I heard was it's not a slippery slope It's not a slippery slope and I believed it. I believed it for a minute and I'm more than willing to admit when I'm wrong I believed it wasn't a slippery slope dude is absolutely a slippery And North Carolina that was another thing got passed recently right the the slippery slope the porn Yeah, I get verification. Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's coming in we did an age verification. Yeah, yeah I'll tell you the stuff that is Come out of public school libraries. It's disgusting That's what coming in that I would characterize as porn. Yeah, they actually gave us a book from one of the triad schools They removed from their library and put it on our desk and our attorneys Told us not to take it off the chamber floor legislators have a legal immunity on the chamber floor Hmm, but it because it changed it contained graphic drawings of miners That there was a risk that it would be considered child pornography if you took it off the floor Wow Right, and this was in the books. We know we had now in pre-K This was also in Gildford County So they couldn't come up identifying cards You know for colors and those kind of things they couldn't figure out what to do for the white color I say that tongue in cheek. Mm-hmm. So it was the pregnant man That's what coming in in pre-K They're telling people that there is a pregnant man Now I don't know what relativity you're living in that's falsehood Like it does not exist has never existed. No Cannot exist. I'd biological man. Yes, cannot be pregnant. No Men can't be pregnant If you're a trans man Sure, we'll say trans men can get pregnant because that's a woman who's who still might have the proclivity to be but a man

Words mean something That's really the scary part of it is when you start blurring those lines where does that stop?

136:37: I didn't I said you know and I didn't know until you know this session That I was a cisgendered binary. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. That's what coming in because you know what as much as I've been Got an education. I didn't even know what that meant Well, because that's made up that's the new that's that's part of this new speak. That's that's from From that from that world just change the vocabulary if you want to win an argument So I don't even know what I'm talking about And it's very simple who controls language controls the narrative left. It's have been great at this for a long time Yeah, so It just to explain to you if I cisgendered means I Identify as the gender I was born. Yes. Yes, and binary believes that I only see as two yes There's only male or female so I'm somebody who only sees two genders who identifies as the one I was born with But do we have a color on the The gay flag? I hope we do because if not I'll hear here's a paradox for you though. Okay, so When you get into the trans stuff um You have transmitted trans women isn't that a binary?

137:56: I didn't say it made sense Isn't that a binary?

138:01: Yeah, okay. Yeah, okay cool. Yeah, awesome. All right. We've solved that argument. All right. Oh my god Moving on Ralph one thing I wanted to highlight and then I will get along on time here, but one thing I I wanted to go back we're solving the world problems. We are No, we're bitching. I was amazed. Yeah, that's exactly. I was amazed last time we came on here You were talking about the tax stuff in North Carolina and what the Republicans have done with the tax rate Can you go over that very briefly one more time? Yeah, and and give us a brief glimpse of what we're sent to go under the next So uh January 1st just crossed so another quarter point comes off. We're down to four and a half now in the state income tax Since the last time I was on Um, we now have in statute that's going to go all the way to two and a half Uh, that's what coming in year by year so barring somebody repelling the law We will go to two and a half percent When I'll be has personal income tax and that's a quarter percent every year until um some years it's a half percent. Okay, we've got a schedule For how it's declining and we cheat a little bit like when we go to four we don't go to four we go to three nine nine Because it has us beat all the other states that are sure sure This we can be Nobody grabs your store logic. Yeah, nobody cares a four and a quarter But Now Um when I started the generals of fourteen years ago top marginal tax rate was seven and three quarter percent yeah That's coming to there was actually a surtax that could go above and beyond that We eliminated that to a flat tax so that everybody else pays so everybody pays the same rate We're now up to the point. I think it's first twenty four thousand dollars income is exempted Uh from taxes as well And so everything above that Uh, you'll now play four and a quarter Continuing to decline year after year until Yeah, my lips to God's ears that we don't have an income tax in this state anymore because it's most unfair thing we could come up with Sure Corporate income tax was at six percent. We've now cut that I think to two and a half It is scheduled in the next four years to go away So we won't charge a corporate income tax Somebody who firmly believes corporations don't pay tax customers do Uh, this is coming in so if I'm forcing your corporation to pay taxes We will we already have to it we have the lowest corporate tax of any state that charged this one Uh, and we're going to transaction that we're not charging more and when does this happen? Uh, this will be by I believe twenty thirty It'll be gone And I'm kind of like the Romans We should salty earth wherever it was created so that nothing can ever grow back there Uh, you know We did a little bit early on in sales tax went from seven and three quarter to six and three quarter Uh, was the tax rate And I remember even the first years, you know all the chicken littles came out The tax rates we've done some of the things in franchise tax and others to lower those rates But you know the sky's falling we're never going to have any minutes When I started we were two point seven billion dollars short on the budget

We were four billion dollars in debt to the federal government. Unemployment you may have been by remember what those taxes were like. That's what coming in we now have a four billion dollars surplus to the federal government. The rate is now the lowest rate on unemployment. It's a federal allow us to charge. That's what coming in we have a five billion dollar rainy day fund which is enough to cover the two worst economic downturns in the state of North Carolina. We could pay for out of our rainy day fund. That's how we set it up. And we had a three billion dollar surplus last year in revenue. We went from two point seven billion dollars into three billion dollar surplus. But cutting tax rates. And part of what we did every time we've cut tax rates is I'll be honest. It's more of a guideline than a requirement. But we have tried to limit the growth of state government to inflation plus population growth. That's what coming in so as inflation's going up as populations are growing up. We know we need to grow state government to match those. But that's kind of our target now when we get negotiations with the governor or with other. And they're like if you'll include this or those kind of things will pass the budget. But we always aim at that target. And so by doing that we're actually taking the growth state government and keeping it under the revenue curve. Even though we're bringing the revenue curve down. And so being able to do that has made tremendous benefits to our tax code to our system. We've been related the last two years the number one state in the United States to do business to start a new business. To move a business to we've I mean, we're leaving the corporate income tax. Yeah, that's gonna. No, they get nothing but help that very small business. Now a lot of businesses don't pay in the corporate tax structure. Right a lot of our S corp. So those good things that pay in the individual tax market those kind of things, but that's the organizational decision sure, right? That's becoming another downside to being a corporation too. And look the federal tax is really the driver. Yeah, we're the pinnocks. That's what coming in just because the state doesn't charge it doesn't mean they have no bill. Right. This would come in. It's just you don't have any additional bill. Well, but people don't I mean, you know moving towards no corporate taxes and even moving towards no individual income taxes is a huge thing. Yeah, for things that you wouldn't necessarily think mm-hmm like I guarantee you the Carolina Panthers will be able to attract so great free agents when old when word like cuz that's a big would a Tennessee Titans. Yep exactly that's a big driver for teams in Florida for teams in Tennessee for teams in Texas. This is why you say a lot of sports teams although I will tell you if you don't know this one the tricks the California in New York play. So if the Panthers travel to California and play they have to pay the California tax on 118 to their salary. Are you sure and if they set a record in their contract they have to pay the California state tax if that record was set in California. Are you serious? Yeah, so they do that for all professional sports teams and others. So they still tax all the other teams. When they come to North Carolina the key is is that your tax you pay in your state is a ride off to that. So nor cause our California tax on things at 13. So you make a million dollars a game you have to pay 13% of a million dollars. Because North Carolina's tax is four and a quarter. You get to ride off four and a quarter of the 13 you only send them eight and a half for whatever else if nor come on doesn't charge when you have sent them the whole 13. Oh my gosh. Highway rubber your state taxes are right off to their tax. So you know 13 they allow you to ride off the other state tax you paid so you're not double tax right not double tax. Right, you know, you're not having to pay the 13 in California plus the four in North Carolina. Um, but it's uh, there's an interesting little quirk to that where you play the game right determined your tax. Ultimately where you're getting most of your salary is coming from that. High for games are on the game. Yeah, I'm gonna play them again. Those kind of things, but it's not an absolute right for eliminating the taxes. Well, but it's just you know, but it does. I mean that plays. I mean they talk about it. I'm a big sports radio guy. Yeah, you know sports follower um and that's a huge consideration for people and where they go and a lot of people love to play in Miami and Jackson. Oh, yeah, but because you blame them your signing bonus is solely in the state. Right to right which a lot of the salaries are paid in signing bonuses now. Now you're starting I think you're

starting to see in professional sports people want to break records not only in front of their home crowd because of notoriety and celebration But for tax reasons they were I break it in front of their home right right right That's pretty crazy, but I just think that whole thing that that I've went back and I've listened to our episodes you before Several times and you went over this and did I thought that's crazy. I mean that's that goes to show you right there. I mean like Cutting taxes Works. Yeah as economic stimulus. It's amazing. It does if you Manage your money well if you manage your money well and have a plan. That's what and what that's what other thing I found very impressive and I've I've touted this a lot is that you have a plan in place I'm so there's another part to it and we've done it with a rainy day fund You have to have reserves Yeah, that it doesn't all collapse with one downturn in the economy right It's coming in because I will tell you once you start going up You know you're getting going keep going back down. Yeah, you also with another thing we've done as a strategy That's really made an opportunity for things like the school system and others Is we are trying to shift their spend from recurring expenses to non-recurring expenses?

148:02: If we can move money to have helping with water and sewer lines and those kind of things when those are built the money spent If you give all employees a raise that equates to a billion dollars You must continue that billion dollars. Mm-hmm. And in fact even grow that billion dollars to meet inflation and yeah In perpetuity put a billion dollars into water and sewer Once you've done a billion dollars more sure you have another billion dollars available under your tax system That's undesignated right and you could do it to water sewer again You could do it to new school constructions you could do it to any of those type of things But because it's in that kind of non-recurring category Even when we talk about giving bonuses To state employees One of the biggest challenges we have As we really made mistakes for decades with retirees I'm not saying retirees don't deserve more sure But we didn't create a system When you retire from the state of North Carolina There's a whole complicated formula looks at years of service and you're high for your salary We now pay you that amount for the rest of your life And it's actually rarely same we took out enough money Mm-hmm and invest enough money that we should be able to pay that out But the problem is it doesn't include inflation Right And so every year your 48,000, 4000 a month is buying less and less As you go through 30 years of retirement But there's nothing in the system To add more money But if I give you 2 3 Percent raise I can't just give you 3 Percent of your retirement I have to give you enough money to fund that 3 Percent And perpetuity for the rest of your retirement And so it is an insanely expensive proposition To give a cost of living raise To a retiree And that's assuming And that's not a function of year Your personal thoughts on retirees Or anything It's just if I fall on the system Right, that it wasn't built to build it To begin with, it wasn't investing enough money To create that to begin with I can't make up that difference Now if I want to give a bonus to retirees of 3 Percent Then that's fine, that's the amount it has I take the budget amount I pay it, those kind of things But you know we're expecting a 6 and a half percent return And we're so vested in the bond market And others We're almost never meeting it anyway Right And so I'd have to fund on The amount of the 3 percent raise To be able to invest it And draw the interest off to pay Just out of curiosity Would there be any The interest in using something like marijuana Legalization to fund those types of things Has that been talked about at all?

151:17: Look, I'll give you the truth Thought it that For all those things Just like the education lottery Education is attached to the lottery Not to fund education But to ensure that the lottery passed Yeah That's what coming in So the real question is not What is done with the money It's that Does giving the money to a certain area of the budget Ensure the passage of whatever be all Sure You're wanting to have But no doubt about it That would be of Finding But if I gave it to the Let's say it's somehow supported or whatever If I gave it to the general fund Where it would be most needed It'll never pass Like nobody's like Let's go give more money to the general fund Yeah, that's what coming in If I tie it to education

Yeah As the legislature did with the lottery I can pull the back nor trade So it is true that every dime spent in the lottery Goes to education Yes, absolutely It's true they cut a check from the lottery to education Now you think when we sit down and write the budget We don't say Okay, education is starting with 900 million this year Right That's what coming in It's coming from the lottery And we need to give them 15 billion dollars To fully fund education I don't say we're going to give them 16 billion dollars and pretend like They're not getting the check from the lottery Right That's what coming in The first They basically took it out of education To spend somewhere else they wanted to So it's the backdoor trade When it is technically true That every dime in the lottery Goes what we've actually done now With the school funding We've actually moved a big portion of the lottery money Into a separate fund that is for school capital And we move it every year And schools apply individually Again the non-recurring portion Okay And if they can get a so much for a school Or so much for renovations In a particular county The next month you have the lottery puts that money in there But that needs not there anymore Some other schools got a need Yeah And so that's kind of how we're funding them But if you want to talk about it You remember whatever the billy that happened to be Same What they do with sports gambling Against the money to UNC schools athletics You want to draw western And pinbrook and others And give them money to run their athletic programs At the time the NILs coming in Right All these other kind of things is And you might touch the golden ring Of Carolina fans Right This might mean money for my basketball team Not that you're a basketball team Right So they're using it as a mechanism Or you know, NC State Those kind of things If you want the sports-minded people You give money to college athletics And don't get me wrong Go to western stadium they need it Yeah They need a bad shape over there And a bad shape over there So they need to be good And start to play stadium And then in the 1970s Oh wow And those kind of things And you know, it makes a real difference To upgrade apps facility Absolutely Don't know that Because being an alum And loving that school And now representing it You know, when they beat Michigan And won the national title, the average SAT score Like, so it makes it difference The year after in the following two years It was more competitive to get into Appalachian And it was Carolina Appalachian was accepting a few A percentage of their applicants than Carolina was Because, crazy The whole world saw us The whole world knew who we were And then they chose to apply I would love to tell you that high school seniors All across the state Look at academic programs And they're all prospects If I go here Into this engineering program I can get this job to pay this degree That is not part of the plan That's what coming in And the team I've watched Through a round ball Into a round hoop Plays a lot of influence Where they choose to apply Or an oblong ball between two uprights Makes a lot of difference in who they play And that's the whole marketing of the schools You know, I mean It happened last week In C. State, my other alumni You know, ran the gauntlet And did what was impossible I mean, I know you're all sitting middle school Whatever, that's when they rolled the card in With the antenna on top of it And on Friday we watched the ACC tournament And when we changed classes We just moved TVs And some teachers classes Had better reception And they'd be like, no, move in here I missed the days having cable win to do it That would have been amazing That's what coming in And if you teach a lot of show And if they were watching it over there And there would be anything else going on in class Had, did that influence where people choose to go Absolutely Right And so You know, and it's kind of typical You make more money on athletics, more people bad on athletics And you generate more money in the whole system But my point was saying that In legislative most of the time Where the funding goes on new And so that is only designed to pass The law The revenue source Yeah, right There I say the tax Right, thanks And lottery's the tax just like everything I'm just thinking weed for retirees There you go Yeah, you know what I mean We can do a whole Funding package I'm sorry I'm just joking I'm sad we're yet But just to come with it We had a little bit of a play A little bit more money retiree, sweepstakes We got to put gambling in there too Let me throw a little damper on there Because all these states that have done marijuana Are now stuck There are states that proposing Regulate allowing heroin And There are But

you've got to look too I mean that's like Portland organ and San Francisco And there's a whole slew of like All-full policy that goes along with them too Yeah, but where was Portland 20 years ago Versus what? Where are you?

158:26: I have no other men Yeah, it was this yeah, I know I think you can be out of You know Again went back and listened to Like, sense I mean it really does I mean there are Again, it's like with anything else There's a lot more factors to consider Oh yeah, rather than just And marijuana is among those It's one of those issues that it's not just face value There's a whole entire Book of things And problems that you open up And you have to be prepared for those And you know maybe Just maybe one day we can figure some of those out Hopefully But the only way to figure that out Figure things like that out is to Have these real conversations That's right Well, you know actually say this I don't think every state is going to settle marijuana No before the Feds do Yeah, yeah, I think you're right That's what coming in I mean like I said, they're already opening in a tribe They're already you know those kind of things Um Maybe we went maybe the Feds turns directions and starts going towards And you know What I would see is a better direction Everything else but the way this world is going I mean come on let's go another boden hair is term That's what coming in you think we can Have a little eyes marijuana at the end of that Another boden hair special I think I might be the only way they I mean I've said this forever though It seems to be that I can't believe that Presidital Canada has not done it just as a way to You know It seems like low hanging fruit Maybe Trump will do it Yeah You know It's funny I keep we keep going back I'm sorry, I don't feel strongly about it I don't really I don't really Either honestly the only reason I'm curious about It's because a lot of people my jar And it was really it is Look, a lot of those people that care a lot Show up at the general assembly Yeah, in general we got doing High and doing jumping jacks in front of the committee And all these kind of things That happen in the end and I got a love stoner culture Yeah, yeah, dude I mean it's literally taking Snoop dog Willie Nelson and putting them together In one committee meeting I mean it's all the time there You know Chasing it down they smoking in the bathroom Before they go into the committee room We just just We've had somebody lied up in the building as a protest Right Here's a protest for you let me smoke this weed Here in the get out We're coming in so Well, what's next? I mean what's Just kind of in closing here so we're wrapping up Because we didn't need to wrap up but what's next on the agenda?

164:18: What's next? So April 15th, tax day Everybody get your taxes in Make sure you're squared away with a state in North Carolina Yeah, that's coming in or pre-pay Take your choice We'll give you an extension on your pre-pay That's what coming in It will take us two to three weeks after that To get final revenue estimates Then we start the short session And it'll be a lock away process It's a quick process we already have a two-year budget We've passed and spent money for two years We come in in the second year and we adjust some of those Depending on if there's additional revenue Additional calls to we already know Medic and feds Smacked us around on Medicaid Not for anything we did other than effective Because we're more successful as a state The feds decide they should pay less of a percentage of our Medicaid bill So that's going to cost us 120 million dollars Getting the hush for dancing Yeah, that's coming in Normal federal policy So we're like what they do to individuals So while we have an income tax The better you do the more they take That's coming in so we've got to shore up some of those things Opportunity scholarships Blue up even above our imagination So I think you know we thought there would be about 26,000 applicants for new scholarships I think it's coming in about 61,000 Oh wow Advocates for new scholarships so we made some changes to the program so we're not disqualifying people But anyone now The amount may vary but can apply for a scholarship to private schools Cool And so we'll affect some of our small schools around here But it's not real big numbers Bethel and Trinity you know this Track County, those kind of things will be small opportunities I don't know that they both accept them I think I do know Bethel does I don't know what truck County does But that was more popular than anyone estimated

So that's going to cost us another 250 million dollars Out of whatever we got off top But it's the right thing to do Sure But it um so after that That's when we start having decisions to make Decisions to make And we need every Republican in the house and every Republican in the Senate To agree to vote for a bill so we can override a governor So there's a good chance we get in a fight with a governor And if he picks off one we're done If we can't come to agreement with the House and Senate we're done But we have a two year budget So people will get raises July 1 And those kind of things we build into the two year budget We might just say oh well we're going home so you're in January Yeah, okay So that's where it's going Somebody's just trying to tweak some things have already been done That's what I'm going to do I think there's some other short session items But we're feeling pretty good that things will move quickly Rules are it has to have passed the House or the Senate And the long session to be eligible in the short session Nice, okay, that's cool Well Ralph, man Thank you so much Thank you, thank you, man We need to make us a regular thing At least once a year Next time we can bring up Mayor Wanda Yes, I won't talk promised No more Mayor Wanda Thanks Ralph, appreciate you, buddy