

## **Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness & Senator Elizabeth Warren**

JVN: Hey, curious people. I'm Jonathan Van Ness and welcome back to Getting Curious. You guys *\*sings\* do do, do, do na na na na na, no, no, no, no. It's the final countdown!* We are less than a week away from the election of 2024 and I kind of can't believe it. Um, it's gonna be Halloween and then we are going to be right there for the election. We get to have none other than Senator Elizabeth Warren back on the podcast to talk, what's at stake in 2024? How fucked up Republicans are? And ultimately, what do we need to do to elect Kamala Harris as president? That is the guiding question. What do we need to do? How are we gonna get Kamala Harris in? And, and there's really nobody better to talk about but to talk about this with. But so much has happened since we had Senator Warren on the podcast. You know, we had her on before we knew that Biden was going to be the nominee. We had her on before COVID. We had her on before January 6th. We had her on uh before Amy Barrett Coney. We had her on before Roe V. Wade. So, I mean, there's just so much for us to catch up on on this uh on this episode of Getting Curious and I'm so honored that uh Senator Warren took her very busy time to have this conversation with us. So without any further ado, let's welcome back to the podcast, Senator Elizabeth Warren. Senator Warren. Welcome back to Getting Curious. How are you this morning?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: I am so much better for being with you. I just love spending time with you. You are the sweetest thing.

JVN: We are just eternally your biggest fan. I'm so glad that you made time to in your busy schedule because you are out on these campaign trails working. Where are you joining us from today?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Well, today, I'm actually joining you from my porch, uh which you can see in the background here. Uh, because I'm back home, I've been out in Wisconsin and Michigan. I've been in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. You know, we're, we're on the lines here uh and also doing more work as we all do now uh electronically, but it's, it's really just trying to reach everyone to talk about the importance of this election on November fifth.

JVN: What a roller coaster. I've been having to work so much harder on my therapy and my EMDR to deal with the anxiety and it, it, it just, it has truly been such an unprecedented time. Um, as you've been traveling over the Midwest. I just got to go to University of Michigan a few weeks ago. I was in Ann Arbor. I got to work with, um, one of the Dean of students, Celeste Watkins Hayes, who, um, Doctor Celeste Watkins Hayes, who I'm such a huge fan of and I was so impressed by their turnout or just their operation on the ground in Michigan. Um, has your and also North Carolina, we have some reasons to be hopeful in North Carolina. I know that's like always a little bit on the precipice of like, you know, it's like more of like a red shade of purple than like a purply, purple. But I think we have some good opportunities there. Is there any electoral places that you are a little hopeful about or are you just like, honey, these polls are all 50/50 I'm fucking nervous, excuse my French.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: You know, so look, I am hopeful about a lot of places partly because we have good candidates and partly because people are just speaking up, people are just getting engaged. One of the things I love. Uh, and did this when I was in Wisconsin, I meet with a group of people, maybe 100 people. And I would say so, how many of you is this the first time you've come in to volunteer? Uh you know, not uh oh I do this

every four years or even every two years for the real, you know, uh people are engaged in elections and the number of people who were putting up a hand saying I might not have done this before. But wow, this one really, really, really, really matters also, I think of it this way, you know, Jonathan, you reach people, not just in uh blue states or blue cities within red states, you reach people all across this country and this election will affect people all across this country. So I look at how Nebraska is getting engaged. You know, I also look just over the last couple of years ever since this extremist Supreme Court overturned Roe versus Wade and took away constitutional protection for access to abortion. How many places that nobody thought people could stand up and say, wait a minute, that's, that's not what we want to do. People stood up and made their voices heard. And you may remember Jonathan the first was Kansas and, and I remember when the first word came that Kansas that the citizens there, people, there were saying we want to vote on the abortion issue and the, the experts around the country was like, whoa don't start in Kansas because there won't be enough people to really stand up and carry this. And I remember I called one of the people who was mentioned in the press and said, can I help? And person said, yep. And here's what we need and here are ways that people could help from the outside and by Golly Kansas did it, you know, and then another state and another state and I'll point out abortion is on the ballot in –

JVN: In Florida!

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: In Florida. Exactly. Arizona. Uh uh, it's on the ballot in Montana. So I mentioned all that by way of saying, you know, look, it's scary. The polls are very close. But the point is this is really a time when people should feel power, your vote matters and I know people are always trying to say, oh, your vote matters. But the truth is this time, your vote really matters and getting out there and voting, pulling your friends in who say, oh, voting never matters. Why is it a big deal? Pulling them in, pulling them in now pulling them in by their shirt collars and, and you know, by their legs, whatever you have to do to get them in there. But getting everybody in to vote literally could make the difference between whether our country looks like what looked a lot like a Nazi rally on Saturday night or whether our country is a country that says we value everybody and we want people all to be an authentic version of themselves. Which kind of country do we want to be? And which kind of country are we right now? Who have the right to make that choice? Are we going to get out there and choose because not to vote, not to get your friends to vote, not to get engaged in. This is to say we're ok if it actually turns out to look a lot like a Nazi like rally.

JVN: I mean, I have like 11 things to follow up with on there. Um, and I'm gonna just try to start from the top. The first one's not serious, but kind of. When you said Florida, did I detect a small intonation of the same cadence that Taylor Swift uses in Florida with Florence? Because you were like Florida, it really was good. Do you know that song?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: *\*Laughing\** Florida!!! You bet!

JVN: Do you know the song Florida by Taylor Swift and Florence?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Yes.

JVN: Wha – ok, because the way you said it. Ok. So we have a pop culturally informed queen sitting in the senior Senate position from the State of Massachusetts. Ok. So let's just clarify that. So that's the first part. Now let's get to the more serious stuff.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Ok.

JVN: Uh, one thing that I wrote down just really briefly is I didn't realize that abortion was on the ballot in Montana. So I wrote down like tester question mark. Hopefully that will help him. I saw him a little bit behind in the polls. Another quick follow up. I wanted to get to without going too far off. Um, but this is important and it probably will come up later, but it just, it came up. Now if you're cynical like I am, I have a lot of friends that are in New York that are in California that are single issue. Voters that are, uh, very concerned with what's going on in the Middle East. I'm also concerned with going on what's going on in the Middle East. I'm also not a single policy voter not to brush that under the rug because look, 40,000 plus people dead. This is nothing that we shouldn't like. This is a huge issue. Um, and at the same time I think I'm less concerned because I, I'm, I'm familiar with the electoral college. I'm, I've lived through two presidential cycles where we've had a president, you know, lose the, the popular vote win the electoral college. I've been thinking a lot about the election of 2000 lately. I've been talking a lot about it on the pod. One of the reasons that I think places like Sister District are so important and we talk about them all the time on the pod too. I'm gonna make a point here in two seconds, I swear. Um, is that they, they work with people in progressive enclaves, they pair them with people in swing in swing places. And yes, they focus on state races, state races and state legislators, but with so many dis um just disillusioned and, and, and Democrats that just feel really frustrated this cycle. I think places like Sister District are so important, not only for state and local elections, but also just to get on these phone banks for presidential elections as well. And obviously, that's not the point of Sister District. But I think in this election cycle that could be especially important. So, if you're thinking, I'm not gonna drag my friends because I'm in New York. I'm in California. It doesn't matter. Get on sister district if you don't know how to make a change in middle America or in swing states police, if you haven't heard me talk about it here before, get it together with Sister District, we love them so much. One thing that Sister District has ta taught me is that the earlier that we can donate and volunteer the better. However, you've run very many successful campaigns, aren't donations and volunteering in that final ninth, bottom of the ninth stretch important too, like it's not too late to get involved if you are just getting involved the last week, right?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: So I want to tell you a story, Jonathan –

JVN: Please tell me!

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: And this, this story dates back, this story dates back to when I ran for the first time. So put yourself, it's back in 2012. And remember Massachusetts, good blue Massachusetts was represented by a Republican, right? And, uh, we like our moderate Republicans in Massachusetts. And we tell ourselves this shows how open minded we are. And yeah, this was a Republican who was in my view, voting against Massachusetts answers on a lot of really important things. So anyway, nobody wanted to take this guy on and so nobody's gonna run against him who really has a chance to beat him and I start getting these phone calls. I just come back from setting up a consumer agency. I started getting these phone calls. People say Elizabeth, you should run for Senate against this guy. You'll lose, but you should run. Now. I want to start out by saying democrats, you need a better sales pitch. Uh, you know, you should run and you will lose uh is not a great sales pitch, but at the end of the day, I never thought I'd be in politics, but I looked around and thought, wow, if I don't run, I don't know who is. And I'm gonna wake up the day after

this election and that guy is gonna be voting for me or against what I care about down in Washington for six more years. So I'm gonna do everything I can. So I throw myself into this race. And I have to tell you, Jonathan, the best part about it were the volunteers, people who signed up, people who just said, if you'll take the point, I'll help push you, I'll help, I'll help you get there. So I started at like, like 35 points down. I mean, you can't even find me in a, in a, uh, an original poll and piece at a time. It kind of moves up and kind of moves up. And so by, you know, spring before the election in November, I'm only down like 18 points. And then in this summer I'm down, beginning of the summer, I'm down 10 and then it kind of goes to eight and then it kind of goes to six. You know what I mean?

JVN: Yes.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: You follow. So literally at this point that is this last week as we're going into the election before the race, I'm to the point where I'm down two in one poll, I'm up one in another poll or tied in a poll. In other words, Nip and tuck, jump ball, whatever you want to use for your metaphor here. So Roger Lau, who is the guy who's running this for the state? Wonderful guy from here in Massachusetts. Roger has said to me all along Elizabeth. He said, we know this is hard. We know you've never done this before. You fight this guy to a tie and if you fight this guy to a tie, we, the volunteers, the field office, the folks making phone calls, the folks who send in another \$10 right at the end. All of us here at the end, we will work our hearts out. And because of that, we will give you two more points. So if you're even, we're gonna give you two and that's how you're gonna beat this guy. That's our plan. So I stay after it. I fight that guy. We go through the debates and we are as we go into the election, some say, he's gonna win it. Some say I'm gonna win it. We are just right there. The volunteers, the people who called the people who came in at the end, the people who said, you know what, I'm not gonna do this for six more years of having that guy represent us. I'm in this fight now. All of those people who swept in at the end, we beat that guy by 7.5 points.

JVN: Wow. So last, so like that ninth inning stretch is really –

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Boom!

JVN: Or the seventh inning, whatever it is because I can't do sports analogies –

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Yup.

JVN: Jonathan get it together.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: I can't either.

JVN: So the point is it's still really important. It's not too late. Get in there. Get in that fight.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Not too late. This is where the votes that will make the difference. We got it. I understand there are gonna be some votes who are gonna voters who are gonna vote for Donald Trump no matter what I get it, there are gonna be some who are out there for come no matter what. And that's great. But there's gonna be some that the difference is gonna be who got that phone call, who heard from someone who got a chance that someone said, let me, let me pick you up and take you to the polls. I'm glad to drop by all the different ways that people can help. And like I said, even if you're not in the state where someone is, it's competitive. I get it. You're sitting there in New York, I'm sitting here in Massachusetts, you can send in 10 bucks so that somebody else so that they can buy pizza

for the people who come in and are volunteering and using their own cars to help drive in people, uh, for early voting or on voting day. You know, there's just a lot that goes on the energy at the end in a, in a close race is what's gonna make all the difference here and we, we sure have reason to have that energy when I see it. When I'm out there, I think we've got the energy. But now's the moment to I know. Are you ready for the reference? Now's the moment to crank it up to 11.

JVN: Yes! So then another thing I just wanted to say really quick and I um and then we're going to get into like all the things that have happened since we saw each other last, which to me is like such an important reason why we need to be voting. But I think so much happens it's hard for us to contextualize and remember how rigged the system is –

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Yeah.

JVN: Which to take one of your lines. It's my favorite, but you said it earlier because I'm in New York City right now. I'm here for a couple months and that rally at Madison Square Garden Sunday, it was on a freaking Sunday. This man has this rally that is so abhorrently racist, xenophobic. I mean, and that's one thing to me that speaks to the hypocrisy of Donald Trump and the, the Christian kind of nationalists that support him. And I notice, I don't say I like because a lot of times I say Christian nationalists, a lot of people in my comments get upset because they're like way to dog my religion and, you know, not all of us are like that and I'm like, I get it but a Christian nationalist and a Christian isn't in the same, we're not in the same bucket –

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: That's right.

JVN: That's like a different thing. Um, but to come out on the Lord's Day and have a, a comedian open your, open your rally in Madison Square Garden where one of the most famous pro Nazi rallies happened on United States soil. Holy I, I, I mean, I really shouldn't be surprised anymore by the things that he says and does. But for a presidential candidate, you know, because his campaign said that they didn't vet these speakers. So you go to Madison Square Garden and you don't vet your speakers. So who else are you not going to vet? It's like Celeste Watkins Hayes she says you're electing a crisis manager when you're electing a president and a crisis manager who wants to go out in Madison Square Garden the week before the election and talk about the xenophobic, what they said about Puerto Rico, what they said about Black people. It's abhorrent, it's textbook racism in all of its forms and, and for us to just, I think for Christians to endorse that when he's doing that on Sunday, like I, I was an acolyte growing up in church. I went to church every Sunday. I went to Christian sports camps. This one called Kanakuk in Branson, Missouri. If you can believe it, my whole upbringing, like, it's just, it is so unchristian. It's just so wholly unchristian. So I just had to say that because it's like, it's like, ok, so anyway, since we saw each other last Senator Warren, who would have known, I think we saw each other in the end of 2019 –

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Yeah.

JVN: I don't even think we knew what COVID was yet because I'm pretty sure it was like October or like September that we saw each other. Um so, so much happened and one thing that happened and this is the last eight years, but this is one thing that I just really lose sleep over. And I wanted to ask you about this. I think about Merrick Garland's nomination all the time. I, I literally, it's, it's my Roman empire. It's Merrick Garland gets elected to the Supreme Court and I believe February of 2016, Mitch McConnell says it, it's an election year. The

American people should make the next decision as far as you know, who gets to nominate the next Supreme Court justice because it, it shouldn't be done in an election year in February of an election year. Even though the constitution says that at that time, Barack Obama would have had the right to appoint a Supreme court justice all the way through January of 17. Uh, Merrick Garland's nomination gets stalled. Then fast forward you have, uh, Gorsuch get in. Kavanaugh gets in. Then at the 11th hour when votes were already started to be counted in 2020 the untimely passing of Ruth justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, whose last statement was that my most fervent wish is that these senators honor what they said that they did in 2016 to benefit the Republicans. Her body not even cold, they approve, they confirm justice Amy Barrett Comey. Who to this day? Is it Comey or Coney? I never know how to say her last name.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: I think it's Coney.

JVN: The hypocrisy and the way that Republicans and, and people – am I the only one that remembers this is this, am I the only one who this is their Roman Empire? Is this something that in the Senate does? The Democratic caucus in the Senate? Just think like Mitch McConnell, like what he did was un and that to me like that is where Roe V Wade was determined. It wasn't in 2022 it was in 2016 that the wall, that the writing was on the wall. And, and, and then this is the kind of like, not even a question. I'm just like, you know, how do we hold Republicans accountable for what they have done to the United States Senate?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: So think of it this way, they want power and they're willing to do whatever it takes to seize that power to themselves. And that's what the moves around the Supreme Court were all about and, and understand they wanna be able to reshape America. When I say they want power, they want power for a very specific purpose. And it's to reshape an America where women have fewer rights where an LGBTQ community just doesn't exist where trans people do not exist where um uh uh, where racism puts people in their place and everybody recognizes those places and um, subserviently abides by them. Uh, we're a handful on top, run everything for themselves and that everybody else gets left behind. That's the, that's what they're driving toward. And this is why the courts were so important to them. The courts were important because if you simply put on the ballot, hey, do you think that we ought to overturn Roe versus Wade? It loses by more than 2 to 1, right? It's not what Americans want. And I'm not just talking about Democrats, I'm not just talking about independents, even Republicans. So not really ok, there's some people who wanted it, but they are the minority and we live in a democracy. Same kind of thing on LGBTQ plus rights, same kind of thing on –

JVN: Gun control.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Gun. Oh my gosh, on guns, you know, on, on a more sensible immigration policy even they don't want an immigration policy. What they want is to stir everybody up and then use the hatred and the fear as a way to get more power for themselves. So they focus on the courts on the Supreme Court because that's a place they can do these very anti democratic things. An extremist minority can control a big chunk of our country. And now with this rally Sunday, Donald Trump is just bringing it out in the open and he's saying much more aggressively in an election. Hey, this is who we are. We are a party. He is a candidate who is hate filled and, and believes that he will have more power and can better run this country as he puts it for his rich as hell, donors for his billionaire crew by stirring up hate and ugliness in this country and taking away rights from our beloved

brothers, sisters, cousins, friends. I mean, that's, that's the plan here. There's any Trump and his, his, his crew are saying this right out loud. They're putting it right in front of us. And I think this is why I feel so intense about this moment. We actually have a chance to stop it. This, this is it November 5th is our chance to stand up and just say no, we're not doing it. We're gonna put Kamala Harris in the White House. We're gonna have democratic control of the Senate and we're gonna have democratic control of the house and are we perfect? Nope. Do we make mistakes? You bet. But we're trying and we start with the premise that every human being deserves dignity, that every human being deserves an opportunity to build a life for themselves in which they have self determination and in which they have the opportunity to build some financial security, but also some, some security in the community they live in. And I, I think that's what this election is all about.

JVN: I remember an episode that I did on the podcast years ago with a, what was it was Dekila Chungyalpa, and it was about spirituality and climate justice. And the reason I bring up this episode of the podcast is because there was a survey that was done where it's like 80% of Americans identify with some religion, whether it's Christianity, Judaism um is uh Islam in a multitude of other faiths. Um, but 80% this is a staggeringly high amount of Americans who identify with some sort of religion. And of that the majority is Christians. And I just think about, you know, at last night's rally alone, you have, I have, it's not a new thing, but Donald Trump always says Barack Hussein Obama always has to say Hussein, he's playing on Islamophobia. He always has to call Kamala Harris a Marxist, a communist. Um, you know, and I think about, and one thing I've talked about this podcast a lot is how if you look at American history, there's always like eras of vilification, like you had the lavender scare vilifying queers. The Cold War was all about, you know, uh being scared of communism. And that fear of communism is what propelled us to war in Vietnam, propelled us to war, you know, all over the world, Central America. We're still dealing with the effects of that. Um, but there's been eras of this vilification of certain people and Donald Trump is throwing all of them against the wall. He's giving you Islamophobia. He's giving you anti-semitism. He's giving you xenophobia, he's giving you misogyny, he's giving you every single one and it plays to people's fear, which is so un Jesus like this is gonna be controversial, but it's like, I'm sure Jesus would have been a socialist or a communist. Honey, he would have been down with like making sure that people who don't have access to health care have access to health care. He would have been down with making sure that people who don't have access to food have access to food, a safe place to sleep. He, that was what his whole thing was about was helping your fellow neighbor. It wasn't checking papers, it wasn't putting false profits or political figures, you know, above the needs of your fellow person. And I'm pretty sure Jesus was not a capitalist. I'm pretty sure he wasn't. I'm pretty sure he turned a whole bunch of wine from water while the, the great, what, what the great makers have said about that, you know what I'm saying? Like he wasn't a capitalist. And so by having Donald Trump play on all these people's worst fears, it just, I don't understand how we can kind of get through to people to like, say in the most loving of ways. Like you're being played, you're being manipulated by someone who doesn't care about you. He doesn't care about your. And I think Kamala Harris has done a really good job saying go to one of his rallies. He's not going to talk about a plan for you, but it just people's ability to cut through that to cut through that rhetoric and that diatribe and lay out a clear future of what's at stake. Not very many people can do that. You can do that. How do you think that we can do that better?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: So it, it's a really interesting question you pose here, Jonathan and as you always do, it's always interesting how you think through these things. I look at it this way. We have this moment coming November 5th. We vote and let me, I can knock on wood here. Let's let's assume democrats get the trifecta right. Knock wood. That's Kamala Harris wins the White House. We have democratic control in the Senate and we have democratic control in the house. I think what happens at that point is that we work hard to make the country work for everyone. You know, look back for just a minute here, Jonathan the first two years of the Biden administration. You remember we had the trifecta, Joe Biden had just been sworn in Democrats were in control of the Senate Democrats in the House. And remember in the Senate for you political junkies who tune into Jonathan. Remember it was a 5050 Senate. The only reason it was called democratic control is because we had Kamala Harris as vice president to come break our, our ties. But, but we have this skinny little majority. And you know what we did, the very first thing we did is we passed a law saying, wow, things are still looking tough because of COVID. We're gonna put money down into our communities right down at the town level. And you know what the consequence of that was no town in America had to lay off its public school teachers or its firefighters or its librarians or its town clerk, they didn't have to close things down and because they kept it all open and the paychecks kept coming, that meant people could still eat at restaurants. It meant that people could still go buy clothes. It meant that all the other businesses could survive as well. And I I mentioned that one first because it was a way to say, you know how we build a future, we invest in communities and by the way we, it turned out to be a natural experiment, the United States did more than the other richest nations in the world. And the consequence of that is that we ended up with the highest GDP growth, the highest small business formation, the lowest unemployment rate and drum roll, please. Lowest inflation rate anywhere among the rich nations. So we proved that investing in communities works. You know how many Republicans voted for that? Zero, zero, not a single one would go along with us. But Democrats got together and said, we're going to invest in communities. Now, we went from there. We turned right around and said, we're gonna build uh infrastructure again. We've under invested in infrastructure, roads, bridges, broadband for places that don't have it. You know how important it is to get everybody in the economy built, it reached out to Republicans. Some of them joined us, some voted against it, but we got it done. Then we turned around and said, we're gonna do another one. We're gonna do one that gives people \$35 insulin and puts a \$2000 cap on what seniors spend out of pocket. You know about the cost of prescription drugs. You and I have talked about this before um and passed the biggest climate package in the history of the world, biggest ever. And it was paid for by my 15% minimum tax on these billionaire corporations that were paying nothing in taxes. Companies like Amazon. So we got them to pay for our huge climate package. Is it everything we need? Certainly not. But is it a good step? And the first big step we've taken in the right direction? Yes, it is. Then we turned around and by the way, how many Republicans voted for that? 10? Then we turned around and passed one more law. It's called chips and science. First time we said we're going to invest in making things here in America and we're doing up these silicon chips and we doubled, doubled our investment in science for years to come. So if you care about healthcare breakthroughs, if you care about climate breakthroughs, we've doubled the way I think of it is, we've doubled our odds that we're gonna be able to produce something really valuable. Ok, why do I tell that story? That was a two year period when democrats were in charge? You noticed during that time, there was not nearly as much enthusiasm for Donald Trump a lot less talk about. Oh my gosh, he's got mine. I need to take it away from him, from her, from them. This is outrageous. Here's my



deepest hope if we can get that trifecta, Democrats have proven we are not the Democratic Party of even 12 years ago when I first came here, we are more disciplined. We are more focused and we deliver. If we get that trifecta again, we start to deliver for all of America. And I think that's gonna be the best antidote to the kind of hatred and fear that you were talking about. It's not perfect. It's not the answer that's gonna cover everything, but it's an answer that lets us take a deep breath as a country and say, you know, we can work on things together, we can make sure that everybody has got opportunity that treating this group with dignity does not take away from you. It doesn't threaten you, it doesn't mean that you can't build a future and I get it. There'll still be some haters out there. I'm not, I'm not naive here, Jonathan, but I think we have the chance here to take the big microphone away from them to take the, the, the weapons away from them that they want to use. Because right now they are told by Donald Trump that if only you get rid of that group, let's, let's round up, what are they saying? 11 million people, some are saying 20 million people and just export them from this country. No, we said that's, that's not how we're gonna do this and we're gonna build a stronger nation where you've got opportunity. I've got opportunity. Those folks have got opportunity. That's how it's gonna work for all of us and kind of we have a chance in that sense to turn down the volume on this hate and ugliness and spend more time building our lives.

JVN: You brought up something really the mass deportation. I saw this article the other day, I think it was in the Atlantic. Uh but it could be wrong. I can't remember what it was, but it was saying that that Democrats are having a big missed opportunity and you're the perfect person to ask this question to you has a really big missed opportunity in talking about like how destructive mass deportations would be to our economy. I think they said something like like there's millions of more just like home mortgages that were taken out from undocumented immigrants that like banks would collapse. It would like it would lose some major cities would lose like 10 to 20% of their population, like industries would collapse, like major industries would collapse like it would cause a huge disruption to our economy. And so thinking that Donald Trump is somehow stronger on the economy when he is championing things like mass deportations, which would cause havoc and like a half dozen or so at least uh industries. That's true, isn't it?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Mhm. Oh my gosh. So the economic consequences of mass deportation, I, I you just have to say it's just nuts what it would do to this economy would be incredibly destructive and, and think of it in a couple of different ways. Partly it's because we know that there are many people who are here uh who are, for example, awaiting a court date, who are working and Donald Trump wants to round them up and wants to round them up even if they're building homes right now, which is something we desperately need or round them up, even if they're working in nursing homes right now, uh, or round them up, even if they're keeping our restaurants going right now. Um, and think about, I, I, for me, the part I have to keep looking at is not all families have one immigration status. A lot of families are mixed status. So two of the kids and mom may be citizens but dad and two of the other kids are not. What happens to a family like that. Are we gonna be? It is a Donald Trump world one where they come in and say at gunpoint, half this family has to leave and then what does the other half of the family do? Do they also leave so that the family is not torn apart? I the consequences of what Donald Trump proposes are appalling for our economy but also for our soul. What kind of nation would come in and say here you are living your lives, building a future, working on that and yet the government is gonna come in and say at gunpoint, no, half of you have to leave. Uh you, you and you have to

leave. Um, that's, that's not how we built a great nation and that will not make us a great nation in the future.

JVN: Can you speak for just a moment why you think that a Harris administration would be so much better for the economy than a Trump presidency?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Absolutely. I'm so glad you asked this. So, let's just start with, we're going along with low inflation, COVID hits and all kinds of stuff gets tangled up and prices shoot up. So supply chains are tangled up, there's materials you can't get, shipping, gets messed up. And by the way, the war in Ukraine starts pretty soon after this and that uh gives us problems with getting materials. Ok. So inflation jumps up. But a second thing happens and that is corporations look around and say, huh, everybody's talking about higher prices. How about if we pass along the higher costs that we now have incurred? Plus, yeah, we just go ahead and raise our prices a whole lot more above that and shoot up our profits. And that way these higher prices will just spiral out, but our profits are gonna be fabulous. And um this is not just uh maybe that happened, you can actually look at the data over a two year period. Inflation goes up 14%. Wow, that's a lot compared to where we were. Corporate profits for these giant corporations goes up 75%. So now the question is, what are we gonna do? We know that having put money into the economy, America, the United States is recovering faster than the other nations, but prices are still high. Donald Trump the Republicans, they got no ideas at all. I mean, they are just the, I'm telling you, they open the cabinet door and look at the shelves and they're completely empty. They have no idea for how to lower prices. What the Democrats have done is two things. First, they just took some costs head on. They said we're gonna go to \$35 insulin. Uh, we're gonna cut the cost of hearing aids so they can be sold over the counter. This is something that I worked on. So the price drops from the high, from thousands and thousands down to hundreds of dollars. Uh, we're gonna get rid of junk fees, just kind of everywhere you can, you sort of attack these prices. The big one that Kamala Harris is taking on and she says I'm gonna take on price gouging when these guys say passing along 14% over two years, I get it. But when they add on another 75% for their profits, I don't, and that's wrong. She stands up to the big corporations and says I'm going after the price gougers. Donald Trump says to those price gougers donate to me and I'll make sure you get tax breaks.

JVN: Uh, say that again because that's the part that I think people are just not seeing. We have Elon Musk –

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Yes!

JVN: Who's a billionaire give paying people a million. I mean, there's a reason why Elon Musk is supporting Trump. It's because he will give trillions billions of dollars of tax breaks to the top 0.01%. There's a reason why Jeff Bezos did not allow for an endorsement in this presidential election. I mean, what do you think? What do you think about the fear of like Elon Musk and these *\*unintelligible\** billionaires who are kowtowing to Donald Trump in this way? I've never seen anything like this. Have you?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: I never have either. But notice it's right in line with Donald Trump's message, he's been saying all along, he's going to make this country work for a smaller and smaller group at the top. He says he's gonna be great for his. This is his term rich as hell donors. The people who invest in Donald Trump are gonna be the people that Donald Trump is gonna help and he's gonna help him. He said with tax breaks and with

getting rid of regulations so that they'll have even more opportunity to pick people's pockets. So for me, the whole question about high costs, the economy. This is one where Kamala Harris both has a smart and sensible plan, but also the courage to take it on and the values to say I'm working for working families. I'm working for middle class Americans who are just trying to make it from paycheck to paycheck. Donald Trump is saying quite openly he's working for not just the billionaires, the multibillionaires, those are the people he's gonna work for and those are the people who are helping support him. There's the difference in this election.

JVN: I think what Donald Trump and JD Vance are doing is using words like Communist Marxist. Um, you know, all this and in language to paint Kamala Harris as the reason why inflation is so bad. And they are hoping that constituents won't do the research to understand what role does inflation play in the economy. How much responsibility does a president bear for the inflation in an, in an entire economy when you have corporate gouging at an all time high and corporate greed at an all time high. And then getting people to understand that the corporations are on the sides of the Republicans, they are not on the sides of you uh in so many cases. Um, so that's an important thing. Obviously, we because we don't have that much more time trans issues. We have a huge Supreme Court case coming up um, on trans rights Chase Strangio who's a former guest of the pod and someone who we love so much. Uh, he will be arguing as the first trans lawyer in front of the Supreme Court, which is one really cool but also really terrifying because trans people have been scapegoated as the ills of so many people in the United States. I was recently featured on a Donald Trump uh ad um which was, you know, pretty scary to see myself on a Donald Trump campaign. But how can we get people to make space for trans people without making us a political hot potato?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Yeah boy. You put that one exactly right Jonathan. I think that the whole Trump, um, uh, plan is just to keep picking whatever group he thinks is most vulnerable and that he can use to stir up, um, as many voters as possible. And it's trans, it's immigrants. It's people who need abortions and just go after them over and over and over because it's part of the mindset of let's blame them. And that means we don't have any responsibilities to fix our own problems and we don't have any expectation that we're gonna do anything to actually help lower prices for you. What we're gonna do is we're gonna blame it all on trans people. We're gonna blame it all on immigrants and that means never to have to engage on the fact that inflation goes up 14% and corporate profits go up 75% because boy, if you're gonna start engaging with that, you come to a conclusion like Kamala Harris's and that is who we need some laws around price gouging and we need to enforce those laws. So again, I see this as this is all coming to a head on November 5th. If Donald Trump seizes power, then we know how this plays out. And that is trans people, immigrants, anybody who needs access to abortion, boy, more trouble and not just trouble in red areas trouble all across the country. This is, I understand this one. Jonathan, they're coming for New York. They're coming for Massachusetts. They're coming for Wisconsin. They're coming for Oregon. They're coming across the country. Alternatively, if we can get Kamala into the White House and get democratic control of the House and the Senate, I think we have a chance to reel this back in and remind ourselves that in the truth that when we treat each other with dignity and respect and even a little love that we can actually build something stronger. It's, it's part of what we've done off and on throughout our history. And I, I always say we haven't been perfect, but we try to move toward a, a broader view of everybody gets access to opportunity. Everybody gets treated with basic human dignity that has to be our starting place.

JVN: RFK just made a video talking about how a vote for Kamala Harris is a vote for nuclear war is like the craziest video I've ever seen in my life. It's really intense. Um, he's talking about Ukraine, he's talking about Israel and Gaza. Uh, I had, I asked my followers before I came here, what were the things that they wanted me to talk to you about? And one of the things was Israel and Gaza. We just got done with an episode on um doctor uh Doctor Osama Khalil. He's an incredible historian who tracks our domestic and foreign policy from the Kennedy administration to now I learned so much. But what I really learned is is that our, our foreign policy is terrible. We have caused millions and millions and millions and millions upon millions of death of deaths all around the world. Uh, for me personally, I'm not willing to sacrifice reproductive rights, queer rights, gun control, um uh global warming, um unions, um queer rights. I'm not willing to sacrifice domestic policy because I disapprove of our foreign policy. That's where I, that's where I fall. And I think that what's happened in Gaza is, is not ok. I don't support the war in Gaza. I think that Netanyahu needs to have serious constraints, put around his use of aggressive force and killing innocent civilians. I also think that Israel has the right to defend itself. So I think it's a really difficult needle to thread. But I also think that if Trump were to win, I think that he would give Netanyahu carte blanche to do and, and as much as people wanna say, well, hasn't he already been given carte blanche? I don't think so behind the scenes. I think that if Trump were in office, it would have been, I think we could have seen double, triple, quadruple way more death than what we've seen. So I'm not minimalizing 40,000 deaths. I am just saying that I do believe that a Trump administration would be, would have significantly worse outcomes for Palestinians and for Gaza when you consider that his first act as president was a Muslim ban, I don't think he cares about Palestinians. Um, anything in there, do you wanna add, disagree with? How would, how don't you think it would be better for, for us to, for us to pressure a Harris administration on Gaza than a Trump administration on Gaza?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: So I think that Harris has already signaled that she wants to move in a different direction from Biden. And look, it's not easy being vice president. You know, you, you don't get to make the decisions and you have to be supportive. I don't want to give her too much space here. But I think the very fact that she um has made the statements about the deaths in Gaza, about the suffering that she did not go to Netanyahu's speech when he came over to, you know, get a turn around the block from the Republicans. I think it is of great significance. The thing that I think about a lot is we're bearing down on November 5th is Benjamin Netanyahu wants Donald Trump to be elected. There's really no doubt about that. And that should give anyone pause. Do you really want Netanyahu to get a leader that he thinks will help Netanyahu not necessarily Israel because I, I don't see their interests as a line but will help Netanyahu even more. And, and for me, I'm a hard no on that.

JVN: Um, ok, so last thing I saw your debates against your Republican uh opponent this year. So good. I mean, I feel, I didn't, I didn't even feel the need to check the polls because I just, I mean, I felt bad. I've never seen a human mop get used in action like that. I just, you know, Jesus, I mean, you just absolutely wiped the floor with this man. The polls aren't close, right? No, like, yeah, thank God ok, love that. Um, so that's that. Ok. Final thing, Filibuster. So you said that like we were able to pass quite a few things uh without even needing to, to break through. I mean, you were able to legislate alongside Kristen Sinema and uh Senator Manchin which hats off Senator Warren hats off to you queen. You are working it over there in that Senate. But you were able to do that without breaking the Filibuster. But I think I

heard you on an interview say that you would support like wasn't it like a, like a suspension of the Filibuster?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Nope, I'm ready to get rid of it.

JVN: Oh, just get rid of it.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: I'm just ready to get rid of it because the things we could do we had to do. It's like can you dance on stilts? Yeah, but it's pretty shaky and pretty limited what you can do. And so we were able to do things like \$35 insulin and Hearing Aids through everytime –

JVN: Cause budget reconciliation? Was that how you did that?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: That's right. You had to do things through reconciliation or get them attached to another bill that was going to pass for sure with a lot of Republican support and it limits what you can do. So here's, here's the plan, Jonathan, you give us that trifecta, right? Democrats in the house, the Senate and Kamala Harris in the White House. Week. Number one, we're gonna make Roe versus Wade law of the land everywhere. Week, number two, we're gonna pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and that's the right to vote, the right to get your vote counted anti gerrymandering, which is gonna be the long term help uh for the house and for our state legislatures and I'm pushing as part of that DC statehood –

JVN: Yes.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: So that DC has its own, that's part of voting. And by the way, it won't even be the smallest state I want to point out. So that's week, number two and then week, number three meet the moment, 80% of working Americans say they would join a union if they could. But the laws are tilted against them. And these giant corporations like Amazon, as soon as there's a whisper about it about uh unionization, they snap their fingers and these union busting lawyers come in and the union dies before it's ever born. So we pass those three things. We have to get rid of the filibuster to pass any of them. So my view is the Filibuster has, it's time for it to go the key here because sometimes people say to me, yeah. But aren't you worried? You know, there'll be a time democrats might be in the minority and aren't you worried about what republicans will do, you may need that filibuster. My view is we need to put our nickels on democracy. The Filibuster has kept us from doing the things we need to do for way too long. It's been used largely through the decades as a way to block civil rights laws. And by the way, keep from passing anti lynching legislation, we need to get rid of the Filibuster and just strengthen access to voting. And at the end of the day in a democracy, if the majority of people want something that is about how it should happen. So I think of it this way, everything that we want to do to make big change is well supported. Jonathan you mentioned earlier, we need better laws around gun safety. We need, we need real immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship as well as secure borders and work permits and reimbursement for the states that are currently supporting the migrants who are here. There's work we need to do in area after area. I'm I'm fighting for universal childcare and we need to build more housing in this country to do these things. We need to get rid of the Filibuster and just make our big bet on democracy. We do the things people want. That's how we build a nation that works, not just for a handful at the top but works for everyone.

JVN: If you're listening to this and you have like 60 extra dollars rapid fire really fast. Elizabeth, you can do 5 to \$10 donations to people. Here's what I'm, it's like Alyssa Slotkin from Michigan.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Yes.

JVN: Gotta make sure she gets in there calling all red Texas. I know it's an outside chance but he really, it's looking like –

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: So close!

JVN: So close it could happen. Uh, Gallego, how exciting for you to have Ruben Gallego and not Kyrsten Sinema and they're in the Senate?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Gallego's looking really good.

JVN: Gallego's looking strong. Uh, but Tammy Baldwin, former guest of the podcast, we love Tammy Baldwin so much. We got to get her in –

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Yes.

JVN: We gotta be sure she wins. Um, um, who else am I missing from the senate that needs our help?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Florida!

JVN: Florida because Rick Scott who's running against Rick Scott?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Yes, yup, yup, and it's close and remember this is a state that has the abortion question on the ballot that's gonna turn out a lot of people who are seriously thinking about whoa, which way is Donald Trump taken us and don't want to go there. So think about, think about a donation in Florida.

JVN: Any other places or house races that you're particular. I, I just thought I got an email from Mary Peltola that said in Alaska that she was kind of in trouble with this other asshole. And I'm obsessed with Mary Peltola. I really want her to win.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Oh, I love Mary. So I think, I think that's a great idea is to do Mary. Um, I'm just trying to think, you know, look, it, the Nebraska races are really interesting and the whole idea that we're not just going to cede all of middle America to the Republicans, but we're going to stay in this fight. Um, I really like seeing that happen. So something to think about there.

JVN: Oh, parting thing, would you please um in next legislative session, is there like some cool like, like Senator report that you could do on that superintendent from Oklahoma who's like basically making all the Oklahoma public schools by the Trump Bibles because like that's like, that whole thing is really chilling –

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Woah.

JVN: And could you guys do some whole report on that? Like if Ted Cruz can investigate Dylan Mulvaney and Budweiser, can you please investigate that fucking leather bound Trump Bible bullshit in Oklahoma.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: *\*Laughs\** I hear you. You mean the Bibles that were made in China?

JVN: Yes, yes.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Uh because Trump can make money from China and when it's making money from China, he's all in. But he also says he's going to block off access to China.

JVN: And Senator Warren, were you, you were at the Capitol on January 6th, weren't you or were you not? Are you there? You were literally there fucking Ted Cruz, you were on the floor when he objected, you saw it happen with your own eyes. Any final words?

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: You know, we have the power and the power will be exercised on November 5th. It's not often in your life that you have a chance to make history, but for people who are listening to you and me right now, Jonathan, the difference if you live in one of those swing states, one of those seven states that's in play right now. Um, the difference you could make or the difference if you live in a state, that's not one of the ones in play, but you can make phone calls or maybe you get in your car or get on the train or the bus, uh, and spend next weekend out there knocking on doors out there helping the volunteers. I lived this Nip and Tuck, Nip and Tuck and it was the volunteers. It was that energy at the end that gave me a 7.5 point win over the very popular Republican, uh, that I beat out for this seat and gave me a chance to go down to Washington to fight the righteous fights.

JVN: Yes Senator Warren and here's to six more years from you from Massachusetts!

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Yes!

JVN: I love you so much. I'm just the biggest fan. Thank you. I'm sorry we ran in late. I just, I had so much to get to and thank you so much, Senator Warren. We love you so much. Ellen, sorry. Um, you're the best of all time. Senator Warren. Just thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I can't wait to see you again in real life.

SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN: Love you.

JVN: So one thing I have to say, uh, did we learn the thing? Yes, I was really moved by Senator Warren's story about the volunteers that moved her to a 7.5 point victory in 2012 in Massachusetts. So that really means that the energy the inertia that we need to make as the Democratic Party to make sure that Kamala gets across the finish line is palpable. Um, you know, we have Elon Musk that's running the ground game for Donald Trump on the other side. So hopefully we can, you know, rise up above that and, and get Kamala Harris in the White House. Um, so it's not too late if you haven't donated your time, money, energy yet, it is absolutely not too late. Um I, one thing that I uh wish that I could have asked Senator Warren, but we just did not have the time to get to is if she thinks, you know what I'm really curious about after the election, if God forbid Kamala Harris loses, I am going to be wondering if her tack to the right was worth it to me. I think that President Biden ran a more unapologetically progressive campaign in 2020. I actually think that he didn't live up to some of his progressive promises that he made in 2020. Um, and, you know, I think that we've seen Kamala Harris, you know, definitely tack to the center. Um, but, you know, I don't know if she's really tacking to the center so much as she's just trying to like assuage Republicans that, you know, she wouldn't be Il, I just, I don't know. I think so often. I said on this podcast

that, you know, Republicans tend to run towards their base, whereas Democrats inexplicably seem to run away from it and towards the middle. Um, you know, I that strategy was successful for Clinton in the nineties. I don't know if it's going to be successful for us now in 2024. But I'm certainly willing, you know, to, to throw my support behind Kamala Harris. Um, you know, so we're just gonna see what happens there. But fuck me, is that a nail bitter? Um, you know, I'm also curious about. So, so did, did we learn what it's gonna take? Yes. Uh, I am now very curious about polls. How accurate have these polls been? Is it going to be a landslide? Is it gonna be close? I just, I so wish that I had a crystal ball. Um I'm going back to Texas to vote in person. Um, I live in Texas. I am in New York on work for a month right now. Um, but I'm really excited to go back home, make my voice heard. I want to be kind of like an, uh, unusual democrat voter and vote in person in, uh, in my precinct honey, I'm not doing early voting, I'm doing it. So we'll see what, what that's up with. One of the things that I didn't get to ask Senator Warren that I really wanted to is like, who are her favorite other senators to legislate alongside? We'll have to have her back, um, for another episode later. Um, but one of the things that I'm most curious about for now is if we win, if we get a democratic trifecta, you know, how can we get her week, one week, two, week, three goals achieved? I think that that is, is a beautiful goal. I'm also curious about what was said in our episode of strict scrutiny about how the Supreme Court, how this Supreme Court could try to strike down uh codifying Roe V Wade as law. I'm curious about the ways that that could happen. Um, I'm curious about uh how do we, how could we govern in a divided government? Like what if Kamala Harris wins? But we have a Republican Senate. What does that mean for the Supreme Court? Are they just gonna Merrit Garland it all over again? Um, and I'm also curious about, uh I, I'm really just curious to see what the fallout from this election is, what is gonna happen, who's gonna be in power. Um, and yeah, uh but I will tell you that next week we are gonna do an episode about what is our episode about Chris? It's very much like election escapism. Yes, honey, we're gonna learn about like Cadavers in 14th century France and like morbid or no Italy, like morbid Pope shit. Eight hundreds, Italy. Oh my God. Eight hundreds. Italy. Just fucking cadaver. Popes. It's, it's gonna be like very Gilead election escapism. I, I don't know. We'll, we'll see you, we'll see you there. But um, we love you guys and we love Senator Warren and we'll see you next time on Getting Curious.

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