**File: 6.13.2024\_Anna\_Narvey\_UEC\_MKE\_Elevate.mp3**

**Interviewer:**  **Endika Iztueta**

**Interviewee: Anna Narvey**

**Date of Interview: 06/13/24**

**Location: Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee, WI**

**Event: UEC MKE Elevate**

**List of Acronyms: AN: Anna Narvey, IN: Interviewer**

IN: This is Endika. Who do I have the pleasure to talk with today?

AN: Anna.

IN: Anna, nice to meet you. Let's start with something simple today. What did you have for breakfast this morning?

AN: Cereal.

IN: OK, that's a good option.

AN: Honey yogurt.

IN: Even better. OK, so let's start with the questions here. When you think about the process of voting in the United States, where would you say you are on this scale between trust and distrust? Where would you position it yourself?

AN: Oh, I'd like a seven.

IN: A seven. Ok, let's move this a little bit here. Uh, seven. Perfect. So can you share the story of why you picked that spot, like, what made you position yourself in the seven?

AN: I think I trust the process, but I think I have some healthy dose of skepticism, just mostly because of the way our elections are financed, that even though I trust the system and I trust individual actors, it's hard to know that, you know, it's that we're, like seeing, like, real quote unquote, democracy just giving, like, even just getting on a ticket and you know, it's like, who has that many millions of dollars?

IN: Interesting point. Yeah. So, like, what would happen... what would have to happen so that you could trust the voting system, like, at the 10, what would happen? So that you can, like, put yourself in the 10 here?

AN: I think we'd have to... I mean, I think Citizens United was probably, like, race to the bottom in trust related to, like, financing of elections. And I just think that corporations are not equal and the democracy needs to... our voices aren't as diluted. If we can't participate more fully than it is, if the way that financing happens, that sort of buys votes in ways... this is not the most articulate way to describe it. But I really think it comes down to the... maybe since, yeah, what would have to happen? We'd have to, like, [click with mouth] out of here on the Citizens United stuff.

IN: Interesting. So, it will be just, like, kind of distancing from corporations and focusing more on people and especially finances, right?

AN: Yeah. I mean, if I, you know, I have family and acquaintances from a lot of different places that have, slightly, it seems more functioning democracies that don't spend all of their time even in inter-election years... I mean, we could solve a lot of health and social problems for the amount we spent on elections. We spend all the money fighting about if we should, like, solve... hire the person to solve it rather than just, like, fix things. Things this way comes down to, like, the kind of decisions that we make as, like, you know, about shared understandings and of, like, human humanistic values. And I don't think corporations represent those very well.

IN: Perfect. Well, thank you so much for your viewpoint and your perspective. And I don't know if you'd like to share anything else related to the voting system, the level of trust. I mean, like, related stories.

AN: Nothing really trust wise, but I will say, you know, like, I can see that you have done this kind of outreach with kids and it's super exciting. Like, my polling place happens to be in the high school next door to where we currently are. And I've been voting there for 12 years and my kids have come with me. I can't even count how many times and the very first time, we took him to the little Recreational Basketball League. He, like, stopped short, and he looked around and he goes, “Basketball? But this is where we come to vote!” And it was one of those moments where I just, like, felt I was winning as a parent?

IN: OK, that's a good one.

AN: Like, what else do you go to a gym for? Yeah, like, that's you go to a gym for.

IN: Kids being kids, love them. Perfect. So now if you're OK with that, we should move on to our challenge and it's how to Teach A Kid To Vote Challenge. Right? So how would you explain a kid: What is voting? If your kid asks you, “Mom, what is voting?” How would you explain that to them?

AN: Do you want me to get my kids and we can ask them?

IN: Oh, we could do that.

[indiscernible]

IN: Hello.

[indiscernible]

IN: This is Endika from the story cart. Who do I have the pleasure to talk with?

EZRA: Huh?

AN: What's your name?

IN: OK, nice to meet you. So do you guys know what is voting?

EZRA: Yes.

IN: How would you describe to m what is voting? What happens when you vote?

EZRA: So basically, well, I don't really know how to explain it.

IN: OK, that's fine.

AN: Can you think of,, like a word that’s, like a synonym, Ezra.

EZRA: No.

AN: You guys do surveys at school, don’t you? Like, when you ask people their favorite stuff. Right? What can you tell us? What do you think? I need you to pause the game for a minute.

EZRA: I don't know how to pause it.

IN: It's OK, it's OK.

AN: You vote at school. You take surveys with your classmates. Can you tell them what you vote with your classmates on?

AN: Like, you guys do lots of surveys in their classrooms about places people go or colors or animals, all sorts of stuff, and then they make tallies and they do surveys for science and for social studies topics.

IN: That's one of the examples of voting, right? Yes? So what happens there? What do you what do you guys do when that happens? How is the voting system? What do you do in that process? Do you know that?

AN: What happens when everybody votes for the same thing in your survey in class?

[Indiscernible]

AN: Yesterday was the last day of school.

IN: That’s so valid. We just don’t wanna think. That’s perfect. That’s okay. Don’t worry. Thanks you guys! So, thank you so much for sharing your ideas with us today. I really hope you can enjoy your day today.