**Interviewer: Yuchen Zhao**

**Interviewee: Murad Newaz**

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**Location: Despensa De La Paz-Friedens Food Pantry**

**Event: Despensa De La Paz-Friedens Food Pantry**

**List of Acronyms: MN: Murad Newaz, IN: Interviewer**

**File: Murad Newaz\_6.29.2024.wav**

IN: OK. So, thanks again for the opportunity. So, may I have your name?

MN: Murad Newaz.

IN: Nice to meet you. So here you can see that we have a scale here right. And so for you, if thinking about the voting system and the voting process in general, like if 10 is very trust, and zero is distrust, where would you put yourself on the scale?

MN: 5.

IN: Could you tell us, like, why you choose five?

MN: See, it’s not reflective of the mass people. It is basically pushed by the interest group we have and their opinion is basically influenced by the very small group of people. Otherwise you should have more candidates. Only two candidates, that's not a system, a good system I can tell. So if you look at our system now, I don't like anybody, but I have no choice but to vote. That's why.

IN: So where do you think people should be on the scale?

MN: Yeah, it should be 10.

IN: OK, like 10.

MN: Yes, we have to be 100%. The only way to trust the system is 100%, ideally there’s no 90% or 10% or anything like that. The system should be trusted by the people, people should think that their likings will be honored.

IN: So what do you think people can do to improve that trust? Like under what situations or what can be done?

MN: Voters voices should be heard. If you don't hear the voters, voters will think that it doesn't matter what I think, it will not change. Right now, that’s the situation voters are in. they are not interested because they think that whatever I vote, whatever I think, it will not reflect what they truly want. So why go and vote? So that's the reason people don't want to vote. less than 50% participation is less than any developing country. That means they don't care.

IN: So do you have any like, personal experience in voting?

MN: No, I don't have personal experience to face this type of problem. But I see I am very open to lot of programs and talking so all this time I see through the lies, but I feel that there’s nothing I can do about it. I mean, I cannot believe this. A liar is killing us. Can be, can be convicted. I cannot even think what the process is. I cannot vote if I am a felon, you know, I can't even vote, but I can run. What is this? OK. This thing. It is not about a person, it is about a system. What type of system are we in where a convicted felon can run the election, but I cannot vote if I am a convicted felon?

IN: So we also have a Teach a Kid to Vote Challenge. Do you want to do that?

MN: Yeah.

OK. So yeah, so you see these kids here, they are kids from UWM’s Children's Center. So just imagine you are in front of them. How would you like to explain to them why we need to vote and what's the importance of the vote and how we do that?

MN: I mean, I mean, it's important to make them understand that it is also our responsibility to make it work as a voter. If you don't participate, if you just get frustrated, and you don’t participate again, it just gets worse and worse. Even if you don’t think that it works, we have to participate too. It doesn't matter if it looks like it isn’t working, you should still be involved anyway. You know, eventually I believe they should-that they should have to. If you keep getting frustrated that nobody is participating, it will only become a bigger problem.

IN: That’s nice. Is there anything else you want to add today?

MN: No. I want to vote, and I'll vote, but I'm not very satisfied with the system. Our system is not actually for poor people. It’s for rich people. Thank you.

IN: Thanks so much!