**Interviewer: Jake Clements**

**Interviewee: Kathleen Tahk**

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**Location: Bay View, Milwaukee, WI**

**Event: Outpost Natural Foods**

**List of Acronyms: KT: Kathleen Tahk, IN: Interviewer**

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*[Begin Transcript 00:00:01]*

KT: Here I can try and block the wind if it's coming from that way.

IN: Would you be willing to give our name, or not?

KT: Uh, sure, yeah. Just like first name? Full name?

IN: Full Name.

KT: Kathleen Tahk

*[00:00:10]*

IN: Is there anything you like to say about yourself, your position in the community?

KT: I don't know. No, we moved here. We're more recent. Like Milwaukee residents moved up from Chicago about two years ago for sort of economic reasons. Job reasons. So. And we just live a couple blocks away from here in Bay view. So pretty close.

IN: I am from Naperville.

KT: It's all Chicago land, basically, yeah.

IN: So here we have our trust slider. You don't have to physically move it, but you can. You can show it could just slide. On this side, we have trusting in the voting process versus distrusting. If you were to slide it, would you say you're leaning towards the trusting end or the distrusting end?

KT: The trusting end, yeah.

[00:00:53]

IN: And why would you say that?

KT: Because generally, think the system is, you know, accurate. I mean, the only thing that concern me are people being unable to vote, you know, restricted from voting. But generally, I think the way the votes are tabulated and recorded is, you know, trustworthy. And you know, it's the most reliable way of having democratic representation that we have. IN: Do you have a personal story you'd like to share about that process?

KT: I mean, I vote in every election. We live maybe like a block from our polling place. And so it's actually very convenient. During the pandemic, I voted by mail, I lived in Oregon for a long time. And there everything's vote by mail. And that was a very different voting experience because actually my friends and I would get together and you get a whole booklet about the candidates with their statements and information. And you can sit and, like, discuss with people while you're voting, which I think is a really different approach. And I actually really liked then.

Yeah, and as a result, we actually got a friend elected to a local position as a write-in because there was virtually no one running and we all wrote him in because we realized that it was possible. And, you know, I think that never would have happened here where it's a lot more isolated when you vote.

[00:02:12]

IN: And then you mentioned. [Interviewee’s daughter talks a galactic “space squirrel”] You talked about bringing your child with you when voting, can you talk a little bit about that?

KT: Yeah. So she likes to come. I always try to bring her right now, cause I am not taking a leave from working because I have a young child and so we vote whenever she's not in preschool, afterschool. Just so she sees the process and she likes to, you know, observe it to fill out, like the things and pretend she's doing it too. But just so it becomes like a regular thing in her life, that it's just one of those things that you do by default.

[00:02:58]

IN: I have one more question: for people leaning to the distrust end, what would you kind of say to them to kind of maybe persuade them about trusting? Or just to say why you're on the trust end.

TK: I mean, I think unfortunately for people who do not trust the voting system, it is very hard to convince them that, you know, if you mistrust evidence that can be presented to you, it's very hard to convince them. But, I mean, I think overwhelmingly there's very little evidence of any voting fraud.

My older brother is actually a political science professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. And so, you know, this is something that I know a lot about that from, you know, the reports from someone who's an expert and there's no evidence of any reason to mistrust of the voting system on any large scale.

And but I do think that if you're skeptical of it, that kind of evidence is something you're going to resist. So I don't feel like I have a strong argument to make to someone who's distrustful, because, you know, I think that that once it becomes ingrained in your mind, you're going to reject all evidence. And I think it is very hard to talk across sort of the political spectrum to talk across the divide. And I think that most of the people in my life do not distrust the voting system. And so I think I just don't think that they would listen to me.

You should trust it (Says to her daughter). Yeah, because itis accurately reflects our individual votes, the there's no evidence of any tampering or, you know, like false voters or anything like that, you know.

I know, but people. Yeah, I think that, you know, if once that's sort of seed is implanted in your mind, it's very hard to overcome it. So I wish I had that thing to say, you know, I. But I don't. So yeah.

IN: So thank you so much.