**Story 4: John**

Endika

OK. So just to test the audio, what do you have for breakfast this morning?

John

A single cheese stick. And then I came here and I had one of the wraps to supplement.

Endika

That sounds great.

John

Yeah, it felt.It does its job.

Endika

Perfect. So like on a scale from 1 to 10, when you think about the process of voting in the United States, where would you say you are between trust and distrust?

John

I'd say I'm a little more on the slightly more into the distrust proportion that's. But I'll clarify. That's not to discredit the process of voting entirely. I think how we vote and our idea of voting is a bit skewed as to how it actually gets things done. For example, the President, I've come to realize will always be the least important thing to vote for. The most important thing will be whatever is the most local to you. Whatever happening in your city, your constituency, whatever. And I, but I also think that I don't feel that we have a lot to do with our vote because frankly, this country just has a dearth of plurality. Let's not say that our congressional system is inferior to a parliamentary system, which is irrelevant, but more that the how this country is constructed. We have so few areas to actually conglomerate votes equally and so we're forced into like maximizing it and like form of the representative gerrymandering is a very American thing of huge issue. I can go on and on, but those are some of the things that I can list as to what it aggravates me about.

Endika

So you think that we should give more importance to a local voting area?

John

Absolutely. Absolutely without a doubt.

Endika

Interesting. So, I think you already talked about this a little bit, but can you share the story of why you picked that spot on your level of trust?

John

Let's say because I think following the 2020. I mean, like summer of unrest in 2020 about police brutality and opening my eyes to how many awful things that happen that the police can get away with and thinking “ohh I wanna make sure my vote counts” and so, aparently, that translated somehow the voting for Joe Biden who has only like given more money to the police and now, with the situation in Gaza, I do not plan on voting for the President at all because both him and Trump, because of course we're having a second match between these two decrepit old men who are only getting older. It's not going to change anything. I do not care for either of them.

Endika

OK, so let's say that you just can't come up with a correct option, right for this selection.

John

What do you mean by correct?

Endika

Like not correct, but like a suitable option for you.

John

A suitable option? Uh, I think a suitable option. I think I'm when I say I'm not voting for the president, that doesn't mean I'm not getting every other part of the vote. There are going to. There's going to be other things to vote for in the general. Looks like there is right now. That is what I'm going to put more emphasis on improving local areas that I want to vote for.

Endika

OK, perfect. So, can you imagine the conditions in which you could be in so that you could trust the system? What should change so that you can trust the the voting system?

John

I would say well, like I mentioned, gerrymandering; completely abolished that. Make that criminal. That would include like redistricting, like Wisconsin's very heavily gerrymandered state; the only reason why that's starting to come undone is because we happen to vote for or one Supreme Court just one justice for this state, Supreme Court and other states don't have Supreme Court elections in their states, not all of them do. It's a ridiculous bifurcation and stuffing up of areas where it can happen versus where it can’t. And in terms of demand, I mean demand is going to have to be more done outside of just simply voting like community organizing, also unionization, thinking using that in in tandem with voting locally. Voting for the President... sure, they can come to that points where that can come to be of importance. But, as of what people should prioritize, it should always be local. The what's happening, the closest to you first and foremost, because it's going to directly affect you.

Endika

Good point. Thank you. And I don't know, would you like to add anything else to this interview, anything you would like to share with us related to this topic?

John

Get involved. Figure out where your local community is. I know like now, as someone who experiences this, I do not want to be locked in my room all the time. I want to go out and do things, I want to go out and places. If you if we don't have a lot of third spaces now because of how we've been taught to prioritize, like streaming social media; but as that becomes itself monopolized, we have to go back to that. We have to start making those. Again, when we have to to create an actual community to talk with each other, something that is as desperate as vital function for actually contributing to our well-being, but also to create to staying up to touch with what's happening in our elections quite directly.

Endika

Perfect. So thank you so much for participating here. I hope you can have an amazing day.

John

Yes, thank you. You too.