

00:00;19;27 - 00:00;41;20

Stephen Gutowski

All right. Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to another episode of the Weekly Reload Podcast. I'm your host, Stephen Gutowski. I'm also a CNN contributor and the founder of thereload.com where you can head over to sign up for our free newsletter today if you want to keep up to date with what's going on with guns in America. This week we are taking a look at Kamala Harris and her Glock and what effect that might have on the race.

00:00;41;27 - 00:00;51;27

Stephen Gutowski

This week's episode, by the way, is brought to you by The Dispatch, which we will talk about at the end of the show. And we actually have, something of a Dispatch competitor or, friendly competitor.

00:00;51;28 - 00:00;54;17

Tim Miller

We love. We love our friends at The Dispatch this week.

00:00;54;23 - 00:01;03;19

Stephen Gutowski

We have from The Bulwark the host of the Bulwark Podcast, Tim Miller. Welcome to the show, Tim. Tell people just a little bit more about yourself before we get going here.

00:01;03;21 - 00:01;26;11

Tim Miller

Sure, man. I was a, Republican operative. Hack, if you will, press press spokesman, oppo research man. Up until 2016, I was Jeb's communications director. And then, Jeb lost, you might remember. And, I was asked to be the spokesperson for an anti-Trump PAC. Was kind of, Well, it's doesn't exist anymore, but it was, called our principles.

00:01;26;11 - 00:01;49;00

Tim Miller

PAC was, attempt to basically be anybody but Trump in that 2016 primary. And, that was a no brainer for me because I've found Trump to be, completely unappealing and under qualified, and unimaginable as president. From the moment that I, that he first floated his name into the ring. So, I joined that.

00:01;49;02 - 00:02;02;03

Tim Miller

And, what I thought was going to be a three month endeavor has turned into, like, the the last decade of my life, Never Trumpers speaking out in media, writing. I wrote a book about it, and, and, now I have a daily podcast over at the board.

00:02;02;05 - 00:02;21;23

Stephen Gutowski

And so I think that gives a pretty good indication of, your perspective on some stuff. And, and look, you know, I got David French on the show a couple times before, a little bit different probably approach than you to, but similar point of view. And I'm hoping to have maybe maybe. Sure. Michael Singleton, somebody like that on the show in the future to give, sort of the other.

00:02;21;23 - 00:02;23;21

Stephen Gutowski

Sure, point of view, but, but.

00:02;23;26 - 00:02;38;19

Tim Miller

Those guys are more than I should just throw this out there. I should just say just as a baseline because, you know, Never Trumpers, we get kind of lumped in as everybody's I. And it's kind of like, not true. It's like a really weird

coalition. It's a bunch of people that were just opposed to Trump, usually over character in judgment decisions.

00;02;38;19 - 00;02;56;18

Tim Miller

And so somebody like Sean Michael is much more conservative than the on guns. David French is much more conservative than me on a lot of social issues as an evangelical, I was always like a moderate squish, you know? So and I was always a political hack. So, like, I didn't kind of come up with, like, a deep idea.

00;02;56;20 - 00;03;15;17

Tim Miller

You know, a lot of times people on the conservatives were like, you've given up your conservative principles. And I was like, I was John McCain and Jon Huntsman slack. Like, I don't know, I think that I, I've changed my views on some things, but I was always kind of a center, right, moderate. And so I do think that that informs this conversation a little bit, because I am more squishy on on particular and social issues and.

00;03;15;19 - 00;03;41;20

Stephen Gutowski

Shoulds and, you know, I think we can maybe have a little space at the end to talk more about why, you know, you're you're you can make the case for why you think, people should vote for Harris, but I mainly interested in your analysis. The political hack part is what is interesting, because I think that while you have this point of view, you're not somebody in my experience listening to your clips on YouTube, which, by the way, have become very popular, lately.

00;03;42;09 - 00;04;01;03

Stephen Gutowski

You're not somebody who's sitting there saying everything Harris does is amazing, and everything Trump does is the dumbest, political decision ever. Despite what you might think about the two candidates or who you're going to vote for. And that's that's what I find intriguing and where I think you can give some some, you know, insight to, to our audience.

00;04;01;03 - 00;04;17;28

Stephen Gutowski

And, and I hope and again, I hope hopefully I can bring on some more someone from a different point of view that will give us, their, the same sort of analysis that's, that can give us honest analysis about what's going on. So. But, yeah. So let's start with that. Like let's start with the but put your, strategist hat on.

00;04;17;28 - 00;04;47;05

Stephen Gutowski

Right. Your yeah, your campaign hat on. And, and let's talk about the, recent strategy from the Harris campaign to really emphasize her gun ownership in what I would say, our top level base, basic, components. She owns a gun. She doesn't want to take anyone else's guns. She believes in self-defense with guns. That's the message she's been putting out there since the debate.

00;04;47;07 - 00;05;02;12

Stephen Gutowski

What? First off, what do you think of that strategy of this? This approach, that line that she's repeated? And do you think it's going to be potentially effective? Who should try it? Who do you think she's trying to go with her? And do you think it's working?

00;05;02;13 - 00;05;21;01

Tim Miller

Yeah. Who is that for is a good question. And I think it's true and I think it's a CIA is is really what I think it is. I think it is a, the vice president does not want to go full better. Well, I on a personal level, I do like Berto. He's a sweetheart, and he wears his feelings on his sleeve.

00;05;21;01 - 00;05;39;08

Tim Miller

And that came back to bite him. Big time on a few issues. And the gun issue in particular, talking about how we should go and take everybody's guns. And so I think that she I think there's a group of people that are more conservative than her on guns, you know, maybe, maybe some reload centers that are open to her.

00;05;39;10 - 00;06;07;02

Tim Miller

Right? Because they have they don't like Donald Trump. Right. And so I think that she's trying to reassure that voter, the Liz Cheney voter, if you will, that like the Harris administration is not coming for everybody's gun. So there'll be certain types of reforms we can talk about which reform she mentions, that, that she would pursue, and, but like at the top level, it is kind of a reassurance thing that you can put me in charge.

00;06;07;02 - 00;06;21;21

Tim Miller

You can set your fears aside that, you know, and hell, maybe in four years you can go back to voting for a Republican, but like, I'm going to get in there and the things that I'm going to do are kind of reasonable and bipartisan. And, and I respect gun owners, and I am a gun owner and so is Tim Walz.

00;06;21;21 - 00;06;39;22

Tim Miller

I think that is essentially who it's for. And it's it's a sort of like, even though the message itself is blunt and like, I'm a Glock owner, like, it's really more of a soft signaling thing than it is. I don't think it's something where it's like there's going to be there isn't some Glock owners out there. They're like, I think that's really cool and great.

00;06;39;22 - 00;06;44;22

Tim Miller

And now I'm for, you know what I mean? Like, I don't think it's a proactive message service so much as a CIA.

00;06;44;24 - 00;06;51;16

Stephen Gutowski

So you don't think it's an attempt to try and win over like NRA members who vote on gun policy, right.

00;06;51;18 - 00;07;16;27

Tim Miller

No, no, I think it is potentially an attempt to win over NRA members in the casual sense, not in the I'm an active NRA member, and that's part of my identity. But people who like join the NRA because they're gun owners who who there's a certain type of Democrat and there's a certain type of gun message that that that is so extreme that it might make them vote for somebody they don't like or in Trump, or that might make them not vote at all.

00;07;16;27 - 00;07;34;14

Tim Miller

Right. So I think that's, that is basically, the type of person I have in my mind that that she is talking to somebody that is a gun owner that cares about gun policy, isn't the number one issue. And basically, she wants to reassure them that they don't need to be scared of her.

00;07;34;17 - 00;07;54;00

Stephen Gutowski

Right. And and, you know, this does seem like something that, one let's let's talk about some of the maybe the differences between how she's doing it and how other Democrats have done this because it's not really a new thing right now. This is a common argument you hear from Democrats and you've heard for 30 plus years I own guns.

00;07;54;22 - 00;08;15;18

Stephen Gutowski

I just want common sense gun reform. And but usually in the Joe Biden Tim Walz version of this, this line, it's I own a

shotgun. I'm a hunter. I like to hunt. Right. Whereas Harris's line is I own a Glock because I'm going to shoot somebody who breaks into my house. Right. I own a Glock for self-defense.

00;08;15;18 - 00;08;29;01

Stephen Gutowski

Right. So, do you think that's more effective, perhaps, than the older line? I mean, because I could see that being closer to what? The average gun owner. What kind of gun they own and why they own it.

00;08;29;17 - 00;08;47;15

Tim Miller

Yeah, I don't know. I that's that, this is a bad pundit answer, but my answer to that is I'm not sure I'd like to see some data on that. And I'd like to hear actual, handgun owners, you know, in focus group. It's something that we can have so long, I'll do in 2025. We can kind of see how they sort of respond to those types of messages.

00;08;47;17 - 00;09;10;23

Tim Miller

I think that aside from the gun owner element of this, I do think that the other message that she's sending when she says, I have a Glock, and if you come into my house, I'll shoot you. It's as much and you're up a little bit like there is also that kind of that she wants to remind, and some of these are these Liz Cheney voters, but some of these are, like, you know, black and brown voters.

00;09;10;23 - 00;09;31;27

Tim Miller

The Democrats have lost a little altitude with on on crime and other issues, right? That she's like, I know like I am tough. You know, we are going there going to be punishments for bad guys like this is not, you know the, the whatever de you hate. This is not chess about food in, in San Francisco coming to the presidency, right.

00;09;31;27 - 00;09;51;18

Tim Miller

Like I'm a gun owner. We're going to we are going to prosecute criminals. And, and we are not going to prosecute law abiding gun owners. We are going to have common sense reform. So it's like, I think that that message is, is not just for gun owners, but also for maybe non gun owners who like, just want to be reassured about that.

00;09;51;18 - 00;09;54;23

Tim Miller

She's going to be tough, that she's going to be she's not going to be a pushover.

00;09;54;26 - 00;09;58;26

Stephen Gutowski

Interesting. So that kind of connects to like she talks about going after gangs.

00;09;58;27 - 00;10;05;14

Tim Miller

Yes I do think it's very similar to the going after gangs and cartels message for sure. Yeah. I think that those things all tied together okay.

00;10;05;14 - 00;10;10;15

Stephen Gutowski

That makes sense about. But you think playing up that it's a Glock. That's just a habit.

00;10;10;18 - 00;10;26;06

Tim Miller

I don't think it was a happenstance. I don't think she was playing it. Right. Because, you saw this a little closer to it. So tell me if I'm wrong. But she mentioned been gun on it several times without saying what the gun was. And then she

was an answer to Bill Whitaker. Was it an answer in 60 minutes when she first said it was a Glock?

00;10;27;04 - 00;10;46;26

Tim Miller

And then she did give a pretty natural I, I kind of enjoyed her response there, which again, I don't think was a message. Was her being authentic, which helps, I think in this case that it makes it work a little. It makes it more effective than it. You know, it didn't feel like John Kerry out there, whatever, whatever type of hiding he was doing in the in the fresh food, in the, in the, in the fresh.

00;10;46;26 - 00;10;58;01

Tim Miller

Kamau. He just looked ridiculous. It it didn't feel like that. She was like, yeah, I've shot it. Like, what are you talking about? Like I was in law enforcement. I've been to the range. Right? I, I liked that answer because it felt real.

00;10;58;11 - 00;11;04;02

Stephen Gutowski

Same for the Oprah line where she was like, oh, I shouldn't say this. Did you think that was candor?

00;11;04;03 - 00;11;20;02

Tim Miller

I know that one felt a little more. Can't, but I don't know. I don't I don't know. But, I again, if she feels comfortable, though, if there's a lot of candidates, she feels comfortable talking about it. When I when she first said it at the debate, she didn't really to me. And it was a it was a pretty strong debate, I thought.

00;11;20;02 - 00;11;40;18

Tim Miller

And like that that part I continued kind of lost in the wash really. But she brings it up and I don't know, at least people I was around. We're all like, is that even real? Right? Like there was a sense of like, is that true? Like, does she really own a gun? And, I think it shows that at the first debate, it did feel a little forced, like it was a practice line.

00;11;41;01 - 00;11;54;26

Tim Miller

But as it turns out, I just think that her comfort discussing it shows that it was not forced. And whatever you think about her gun policies like that, this is at least somewhat authentic. And I think that that gives it a little bit more power.

00;11;55;24 - 00;12;16;02

Stephen Gutowski

It definitely is a canned line. It definitely was at the debate there was she's repeated how she said it. This is a good point that you made. She didn't. She's not the one who voluntarily came out and said it was a handgun and it was a Glock. She was asked by 60 minutes. Bill Whitaker what kind of gun it was, because they had been very tight lipped on the details of this stuff, because it does raise a number of policy questions.

00;12;16;02 - 00;12;38;16

Stephen Gutowski

But but, you know, this is sort of a vibes thing. She's right. It's not a policy. It's she hasn't really changed anything on policy and is running on the same basic policy that Biden's running on. She's had to kind of walk back some of the more extreme stuff she was, supporting, you know, throughout her career, like the mandatory buyback of hours and, and then the, the total handgun ban in San Francisco that she backed.

00;12;38;16 - 00;12;56;24

Stephen Gutowski

But but, you know, it's more of a vibes line. And you're right. She was just saying I own a gun. Yeah. That means I won't take your gun. And, whereas the fact that we we knew it was a pistol because she had said this back in 2019, briefly in like one appearance, and we got some background from that.

00:12:56;26 - 00:13:05;14

Stephen Gutowski

And then now she's been asked about. So I suppose it wasn't saying it was a handgun is not part of her messaging. She just. Yeah. Being a gun owner is the message. Right?

00:13:05;16 - 00:13:22;23

Tim Miller

I think that that's right. I think that that's right. I'm interested I we can talk about that a little bit more of like the other element to this that is interesting to me. And that is maybe again, just CIA or maybe just Democratic caution, or maybe the fact that they just have PTSD from being losing on the gun issue for so long.

00:13:22;25 - 00:13:39;25

Tim Miller

But, you know, she's focused on that, on the defensive message, which is really is right, which is like, don't be scared of me. I am a gun owner. It's like, you're not she's not really trying to win anybody over. So just try not to lose anybody. You know, that might be gettable for her. That is a gun owner is really what that is the defensive message.

00:13:39;29 - 00:14:00;06

Tim Miller

Yeah. The offensive message of trying to wedge with the with Trump, is very like paint by numbers, like it's just as you said, it's like when I do the background checks when to people when talking about for 50 years and we're going to do, red flag laws, which I think are good look, good law. But again and we're going to do and she kind of throws in the assault weapons ban.

00:14:00;06 - 00:14:20;02

Tim Miller

But doesn't that maybe you've seen more details and I have but she doesn't talk about it. It doesn't give her any details. And I don't know man. I just I think that the Democrats have a have with, with the school shootings, with the, with the Trump, assassin attempted assassin being 20 with a lot of the school shooters being under 21, I know there's some leak.

00:14:20;03 - 00:14:38;13

Tim Miller

I'm not the legal guy. You have legal guys on this podcast. There potentially some legal issues with this, but as it just a straight political matter like I think gun age like offense of a gun, an offense of gun age message is something that I've been telling Democrats that they should run on because I think it's a winner and nobody wants it.

00:14:38;13 - 00:14:58;22

Tim Miller

If you think about the swing voters, Trump's trying to talk to, you know, these suburban, former Republican types, they're going to be mostly aligned with like 20 year olds shouldn't have a gun and 18 year olds shouldn't have a gun without certain, whatever. Like passing, you know, certain rules and licensing. Same way you could have khakis.

00:14:58;22 - 00:15:18;19

Tim Miller

Like, it's crazy that somebody can buy a then, somebody can't buy as an excuse me or a White Claw, but they can buy a weapon. Like, realize what you think about that is policy, I guess, a political message. I think that's super strong. And and there's been enough events that they could kind of tough on. And they just don't do it like it.

00:15:18;20 - 00:15:28;24

Tim Miller

To me, it just feels like they have given up on the idea that that common sense gun reform, that there's any element of that that could be a political winner. And I think that that's wrong.

00;15;28;26 - 00;15;50;26

Stephen Gutowski

That's interesting. Because and I do want to get probably at least touch on Trump and his strategy and what you're thinking there. But but, you know, as far as Harris goes. Yeah. Like, well, I guess before I get let's get into the policy side of it. Sure. The, the messaging of her owning a gun does feel like, as you said, a CIA thing, just like, hey, don't worry about me.

00;15;51;02 - 00;16;09;18

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, I know, maybe you want to vote for me because you're worried about, you know, Trump and trying to over this early election or any a number of other things with with Donald Trump. And but you're you're you're not totally sure that I'm going to be whether I'm going to be like, I was as the mayor of San Francisco or I'm going to be a more milquetoast Democrat.

00;16;09;24 - 00;16;38;12

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. You know, she's kind of putting out there. I'm going to be the more milquetoast version. But she again, that doesn't as you said, it doesn't feel like a, an actual attempt to get gun. People who vote on guns, gun owners who vote on pro-gun policy to come over because she hasn't she hasn't moved on. Where the campaign was on guns is they've just stuck with what they were, which includes, really a fairly far left position as far as the last 20 plus years.

00;16;38;12 - 00;16;40;13

Stephen Gutowski

Go on. With.

00;16;40;13 - 00;16;41;19

Tim Miller

The assault ban.

00;16;41;21 - 00;17;01;02

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, it's sort of in span has not been part of most Democratic presidential, campaigns over the years, you know, since al Gore. Right. And, so she hasn't actually moved that way. And also there haven't really presented any sort of new idea. I mean, I guess Red flag laws are kind of a newer thing, right? They poll fairly well.

00;17;02;18 - 00;17;19;08

Stephen Gutowski

But but you're right, they're not going into like age restrictions or something else on that the gun control community would want. Yeah. I mean like where, where do you see like I see. Yeah. That just feels like a pretty generic. Yeah. There's like do what? It's been since Biden's been in.

00;17;19;13 - 00;17;35;13

Tim Miller

Yeah I do, I mean I think even on the assault weapons ban, it's like it almost feels like you take she's taking the baggage of that without any of the plus rights because like she says that she's going to do it, but they're not campaigning on it. They're not running any ads on it. They're not trying to persuade anybody that that's a reason to vote for her, not Trump.

00;17;35;13 - 00;17;39;14

Tim Miller

Like, it's it's like a real it's a total box check. And I don't know, she's.

00;17;39;15 - 00;17;48;15

Stephen Gutowski

Just kind of threading the needle like, I don't want to scare off gun voters that might vote for me on things other than

guns. But I don't want to push away the gun control people either.

00;17;48;15 - 00;18;08;26

Tim Miller

Yeah, I want the progressives to worry that to know that I'm not like, you know, and that taking too far left of center. So, yeah, I, I don't know, there's a lot to be gained there and I just, I do look, I've long been an advocate, I think that the Democrats like 90s Democratic gun and crime policies are popular like in disguise.

00;18;08;26 - 00;18;30;26

Tim Miller

What you think about the merits of the policies? Only people on the left that don't like 90s crime, but these people on the right, they're not like the Democrats 90s gun policies, but they're popular when paired together. And Kamala having, this law enforcement background adjacent, you know, I gave her an opportunity to do that, I think, which is to say that, like, my message is crime is on the way down.

00;18;30;28 - 00;18;46;14

Tim Miller

We could crack down on crime even more like there. You know, we do need to support our police. You know, Donald Trump says he supports the police, but beset by nothing is the capital. Police are getting attacked. Right? Like I will actually be an ally for police. And, you know, kind of getting away from the defund thing.

00;18;46;17 - 00;19;08;20

Tim Miller

And we're going to pair that with more aggressive efforts to take guns out of the hands of criminals. Right. We're going to pair that with, you know, maybe an age restriction or some other new or kind of putting a little more meat on the bone in the red flag law. You know, we're going to pair that with making sure domestic abusers like, don't ever get don't get guns are outlet, you know, something you know, that is something new that people can hear.

00;19;08;22 - 00;19;34;25

Tim Miller

And, and I think that that would be a winner for Democrats politically. If, if it was a proactive effort to wedge the other side and they just don't want to go there, I think it's out of, I don't think it's based on data. I think it is out of trauma, trauma thing, traumatized by being that is being a losing issue for them for a long time and not really having maybe also the kind of ad makers that are good at it.

00;19;34;25 - 00;19;51;05

Tim Miller

I don't know, like I imagine my being a not for Republican, I feel like it gives me a better skill at this. I'm like, I think that of the push granny over the cliff ads that Republicans use to run, I think we could run. The Democrats could run some pretty scary ads related to gun stuff that they just don't want to.

00;19;51;07 - 00;20;13;20

Tim Miller

They don't want to go there, to try to be interesting. So anyway, that's that's my opinion. But so I think the strategy is it is to me and it all comes back to that word. We just keep saying see. Yeah. Like it's, it's it's can small see conservative not conservative policy but but temperamentally conservative at just trying to not upset anybody on this issue, not using it as a key part of the campaign.

00;20;13;22 - 00;20;31;18

Stephen Gutowski

And you know, what do you think? I guess, the other thing she could be doing that she's not is emphasizing that she owns a gun and Donald Trump can't, can't because he's a convicted felon at this point. It's it's it's a bit odd that they don't pair that bring that in because she is talking about his prosecution.



00;20;31;18 - 00;20;39;00

Stephen Gutowski

It's not like she wants to stay away from talking about the prosecutions or his convictions. Yeah, I understand that a.

00;20;39;03 - 00;21;00;19

Tim Miller

I do wonder if the data if there's let's see in something that makes them think that, that it doesn't work. Because she came out of the gate with that, you know, the prosecutor reverse the felon type thing and like, her first couple speeches, you know, the whole like, I know his type. Like, I knew people that were, you know, that were defrauded.

00;21;00;21 - 00;21;06;00

Tim Miller

You know, the public, I knew I prosecuted sexual predators. Right. So she did.

00;21;06;00 - 00;21;07;12

Stephen Gutowski

That mentioned speech to. Yeah.

00;21;07;12 - 00;21;26;11

Tim Miller

It's a up through the convention speech is that she's not doing it now, but like, it has been de-emphasized. And I do wonder if they just kind of think that, like, the remaining people that are gettable have already kind of decided they don't care about Donald Trump's criminal record. This now, I'm just this is just speculation.

00;21;26;11 - 00;21;40;07

Tim Miller

Yeah. I don't have any insight inside, but I got interested in the campaign that it's like, you know, you're down to the final group of people and these are people that are like, you know, that's not what the that's going to get them over the line. They know about Donald Trump on this. But yeah, I mean, it is a good one liner.

00;21;40;09 - 00;21;54;28

Tim Miller

And I think it's probably a mistake that, you know, this is give it to her is a little this is one area where I'll allow for a canned line, throw a little camp line about the next time it comes out being like, yeah. And I notice that my opponent isn't isn't legally allowed to have a firearm.

00;21;55;00 - 00;22;17;24

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. I just see like an obvious like the, the whole I own a gun. I'm not going to take your guns thing is a canned line that could easily add in that Trump cannon. You know, I don't know. Speaking of which, Donald Trump's strategy. Yeah. In this election, I it feels like a similar approach of don't hurt yourself with certain voters.

00;22;17;24 - 00;22;42;04

Stephen Gutowski

And the way they're doing that is by primarily, downplaying the the issue. It's stripped out of the platform, almost entirely. Yeah. He didn't mention it in his acceptance speech once. He doesn't talk much about it on the campaign trail. He has two messages. I would say, since the convention on this, which is one is gun owners don't vote.

00;22;42;07 - 00;22;48;04

Stephen Gutowski

And so they he this he has this for a lot of different groups, right. Not just got honors, but it's like.

00;22;48;04 - 00;22;49;13

Tim Miller

Guilt tripping them into voting.

00;22;49;13 - 00;23;09;16

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Christians don't. The gun owners don't vote. Jewish people don't vote or they're voting for the wrong party or, you know, and it's sort of all just like you vote for me. And this goes back to some of his other rhetoric that might cause problems for some voters, you know, like the you just have to vote this one time and you never have to worry about voting again.

00;23;10;00 - 00;23;19;17

Stephen Gutowski

Which has led to some of those, darkly hilarious exchanges on Fox News where the anchors will try to get him to say, you don't really mean that, right?

00;23;19;17 - 00;23;20;12

Tim Miller

Yeah. Right. And then he.

00;23;20;12 - 00;23;42;25

Stephen Gutowski

Will refuse to say he doesn't really mean, but regardless, like, what do you think of his approach? I mean, in addition to that, he will also to his credit, I guess, will say he will say that Harris wants to take your guns. Yeah. And Harris does have a background of supporting a total ban on handgun possession in San Francisco.

00;23;42;26 - 00;24;08;24

Stephen Gutowski

Mandatory buybacks of AR 15. So there's almost there are some guns that wouldn't fall under those two things, but most guns would. And so she has a pretty radical background on this stuff, from a national point of view, like in San Francisco. Politician. Sure. She's probably in line with a lot of. Yeah, sure. But, running as a national candidate for president, her background, that's why I think in large part, she's doing the CIA stuff that we just talked about.

00;24;08;26 - 00;24;15;25

Stephen Gutowski

But he's not not doing a lot to exploit that. Right? He doesn't know, just like she's not doing ads. He's not really doing any ads on guns.

00;24;15;25 - 00;24;39;28

Tim Miller

And you could, and I and I frankly think it's probably a mistake, just again, just politically that you wouldn't at least mix that in. I mean, they're running the ad that they're showing right now that has the most points behind it. I like the most impressions. So most times some someone somewhere has seen it. Is the ad about the as ad about Kamala supporting sex changes for prisoners?

00;24;40;01 - 00;25;01;01

Tim Miller

Yeah. Yeah, yeah. It gets into trans issues. So that's the number one ad they've run. And so like you think about it okay. Why are they doing that. Is it because prisoner sex change is at the top issue for voters? No. Right. Yeah. They're doing it because they're you. It is like just this vehicle to say she is so extreme.

00;25;01;04 - 00;25;17;12

Tim Miller

She is so far to the left. She's not like this moderate person she's trying to convince you of. You cannot trust her like she's so crazy. Laughs actually, that she wants to let like, murderers get a sex change and have you pay for it with your tax dollars, right? Like that's like that's the point of the ad. Like it's not.

00;25;17;15 - 00;25;20;29

Stephen Gutowski

Which is not a terrible like knowledge is there. And you. Right.

00;25;21;02 - 00;25;41;01

Tim Miller

So why not mix it in with other stuff like, you know, that's what I guess what I'm saying so I don't there's to me I don't see why what you just laid out handgun by handguns and AR 15 buybacks. Hingham bans like couldn't be another version of the same type of thing, right? Where it's like less a policy ad.

00;25;41;01 - 00;26;01;10

Tim Miller

Exactly like it's about some specific policy that you would do in 2025. But it's a the policy is being used as an example to just continue to paint her as the most far left version of herself. She voters and drop and bleed trust in her among the same center right voters that she's trying to regain trust with by saying that she owns a Glock.

00;26;01;10 - 00;26;17;25

Tim Miller

Right. Like those like the Liz Cheney voter. Right. Like that is your that's the person that both sides are trying to talk to on this. So I don't know why they don't do that. Because that isn't Trump. Like I know why Trump didn't talk about it. Because Trump isn't isn't comfortable talking about it. Like just flat out like Trump's not a big gun person.

00;26;17;25 - 00;26;38;21

Tim Miller

And if we lived in a different world where the parties were oriented or like the anti-immigrant party, like, was also the anti-gun party, Trump would be anti-gun, right? Like Trump does not care about this issue, like he cares about being anti-immigrant and pro tariff. And like I, he just landed in the party that that worked with. Right. Like he ran was a Reform Party candidate 20 years ago.

00;26;38;21 - 00;26;55;02

Tim Miller

So like he has 2 or 3 issues he actually cares about everything else is as post facto. So I like, he's not comfortable talking about it when he's out there on the stump. He talks about whatever he wants to talk about. He does the weave. You know, who cares about the election fraud I like?

00;26;55;02 - 00;27;05;18

Tim Miller

You can tell it. Trump cares about his kids anytime guns come up. Actually, he always references kids. He's like, he's like, yeah, I don't. I think that that Don Jr knows everything about that. You could talk to Don junior, right? So,

00;27;05;20 - 00;27;19;04

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, it's actually kind of surprise to find that the, you know, I think a lot of people were surprised to hear that Harrison's gone, even though she, she had said it in 2019, briefly. She got I think she got a lot of backlash for saying that in 2019. It was a very.

00;27;19;04 - 00;27;19;19

Tim Miller

Different time.

00;27;19;19 - 00;27;37;26

Stephen Gutowski

Atmosphere for Democrats at the time. But, you know, I was actually kind of surprised to find out that Trump owns a

guy, owns, owned three guns. It seems like, and the reason we found that out is because he had to turn them in, or at least get them out of his possession.

00;27;37;29 - 00;27;49;23

Tim Miller

Feels like. Yes, they're right. And it's hard to even picture him, like doing the gun thing. He just doesn't. Yeah. You know, it's like what he's going to go to arrange and put the put the, the earmuffs on his hair. You don't want to put. He does not putting anything on that.

00;27;49;25 - 00;28;17;23

Stephen Gutowski

I'm actually never seen like a picture or video of him shooting or even handling a gun as though he were going to shoot like you've seen him hold it. Usually guns that have his face, engraved into them, and he doesn't, you know, he'll hold it out as a like, oh, look, look at this. But, so, yeah, it's I mean, it's it's interesting because Trump is a bit of an enigma on, on that front because he's had a concealed carry license for a long time, even back when it was extremely difficult to get them in New York City.

00;28;17;23 - 00;28;43;13

Stephen Gutowski

He he had one. So, you know, it's, but yeah, they are reputation is certainly that. His sons are much more the driving force around, you know, the pro-gun stance of his campaign. But, you know, it it hasn't translated well this election. Like, he just doesn't, and, you know, I could I could see the argument that this is not a top issue in the election.

00;28;43;20 - 00;28;51;02

Stephen Gutowski

It clearly isn't as much as that's bad for people who run, gun politics publications, perhaps, but.

00;28;51;25 - 00;29;14;23

Tim Miller

Sex changes for prisoners are right like that. So that's the there's a way you can horn it in, and that's surprising that it's less that Trump is using it on the stump or debates because like, he's just not because that's not Trump. But lots of Qaeda and like the team. Yeah I think that's interesting. I think it's like it's not like Chris Los of either is a strategist has, you know, 40 years of running, the Democrats are going to steal your gun ads under his belt.

00;29;14;23 - 00;29;25;22

Tim Miller

And he could probably just like, go find an old script he did for an old campaign and just put Kamala his name in there and run it. So I, I don't, I don't know now just a little bit more of a mystery and, and.

00;29;25;25 - 00;29;51;25

Stephen Gutowski

And I will say too, like, you know, I said broke two similar stories in the 2016 election, in this election, both about the Democratic candidate and their, support for handgun bans. Right. In 2016, there was audio that came out of Hillary Clinton at a fundraiser saying she thought the Supreme Court was wrong on their handgun case, and the NRA took that and ran millions of millions of dollars worth of ads over it.

00;29;51;28 - 00;30;20;25

Stephen Gutowski

Now, did have audio. So there's, a media difference between these two stories, and maybe that explains part of it. But this year, right. We broke the story that Kamala Harris supported a total ban on handgun possession for San Francisco residents in 2005. You know, similar stories. And they came out at similar times, sort of weirdly, because they weren't I can tell you, as the person who wrote them, they weren't planned or anything just happened to work out that way.

00;30;20;25 - 00;30;37;28

Stephen Gutowski

And this time around, you know, one of the NRA doesn't have \$30 million to spend in the election like they did in 2016. And, and to, you know, I just don't see the focus on it like I did, from the Trump campaign in 2016. So I don't know. Yeah.

00:30:37:29 - 00:30:44:15

Tim Miller

It's it is not that just the, the story about the implosion of the NRA is that, is, yeah, maybe more than anything else, I don't know.

00:30:44:19 - 00:31:05:29

Stephen Gutowski

It could be. Yeah. I mean, because whether or not Trump wants it to be a top issue, the NRA should want it to be a top issue, I think. Right. And in an election like this where everything indicates it's extremely close, and the Harris campaign as we just got finished talking about, certainly seems to think they need to do some quiet on this issue.

00:31:06:08 - 00:31:15:04

Stephen Gutowski

Among the voters who may decide this election in places like Pennsylvania or Michigan, you know, any state, anything can swing it. And I don't see any.

00:31:15:04 - 00:31:36:06

Tim Miller

You look, I mean, I'm talking. Yeah. And I've talked about the Liz Cheney voter. You know, who in your head you think of is like, can you imagine that person in your head there, like a 55 year old white person in the suburbs? Right. But like, there's the other swing voter that, well, people are talking to, which is younger men that are kind of apathetic politically, that maybe are more culturally attuned to the Republicans.

00:31:36:06 - 00:31:53:14

Tim Miller

But I don't like like the Trump does nothing for them. That's like the a little weird, right? So it's your it's your Joe Rogan listener that's not fully red pill. Right. It's just like the kind of is there for the boobs and the like of that stuff like that. Right. So that person or what not Joe Rogan's boobs.

00:31:53:15 - 00:32:12:01

Tim Miller

Yeah. Maybe they're they're for their own PAC building and the boob jokes, right. Like that. The whole thing like that, that kind of guy in your mind's eye, that that's a that's another voter. Both campaigns are fighting. The Trump is fighting over more right now that Trump's trying to trying to gobble up as many of those guys as possible.

00:32:12:01 - 00:32:27:28

Tim Miller

Because that's the demo he's doing. Well. Well, if you would think this would be an issue that they could use, like a lot of these guys don't really know anything about Kamala's policies, right. Like you could be providing them a new piece of information about her, like, oh, she wanted to ban handguns. Like, oh, okay. I didn't know that.

00:32:27:28 - 00:32:38:26

Tim Miller

Right. And and so that could be a useful nudge. So yeah, because she's in the business of giving Trump advice these days, I do, I do I think that it's like that's feels like it would be worth a try, but they're not doing it.

00:32:38:29 - 00:32:53:04

Stephen Gutowski

Because you think those voters that are left who are undecided who this isn't their top issue, but it matters to them. You

think the race would be to define Kamala? She's trying to do it, on the one hand, by saying, I have no.

00:32:53:04 - 00:32:55:06

Tim Miller

Idea what is happening there. I'm sorry.

00:32:55:09 - 00:32:56:23

Stephen Gutowski

I was getting a call.

00:32:56:26 - 00:33:11:11

Tim Miller

I don't, so I must have pressed a button. But, and David, it's only one person. I've received a ton of texts. Maybe my husband's playing a gag on me and so, like, to get me to pay attention. His resignation because he made his own ring or different on here or something, I don't know. Sorry.

00:33:12:06 - 00:33:15:05

Stephen Gutowski

It's okay. Maybe it's crystal savvy to calling you for advice.

00:33:15:06 - 00:33:15:28

Tim Miller

On.

00:33:16:00 - 00:33:34:21

Stephen Gutowski

How to define Kamala. I don't know, but, you know, it seems like that's the race. She's trying to say. I'm a gun owner. I. I'll shoot somebody who breaks into my house just like you would. You don't need to worry about me with your guns. And on the other side, Trump is to some degree, he is saying she's going to take your guns, right?

00:33:34:29 - 00:33:54:22

Stephen Gutowski

But that's kind of it. Is he just kind of says it sometimes. And that seems to be largely the extent of it. And that should be the thing that they're trying to define or the other way, like she's a radical gun grabber. Right. That's and, and how that comes out, I mean, it could be a 12. swing in a swing state, right?

00:33:55:01 - 00:33:55:07

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah.

00:33:55:13 - 00:34:05:03

Tim Miller

Yeah. I mean, and again, I just keep coming back to this, especially with how much money they're dumping into the trans issue. Yeah. Like there's got to be diminishing returns on the trans issue at some point.

00:34:05:03 - 00:34:15:07

Stephen Gutowski

Also, the other thing about that ad is it it has a tinge of like vote for me if you don't like trans people. Right, right. I mean, isn't that the baseline?

00:34:15:07 - 00:34:43:27

Tim Miller

Yeah, it's also a very online thing. I think I must be working. They're not just pissing all this money away, I guess. So they must see something that makes them think it's working at least. But like the ending line, which is like Kamala's for

they them like that just feels like a really cutesy thing that somebody who, like, spends a lot of time, like posting on Reddit and reading the Daily Caller stuff, you know, like, oh, like it just it feels like something somebody that's like super engaged in the discourse.

00:34:43;27 - 00:34:52;07

Tim Miller

Maybe they just thought it was really clever, but I was like, if my dad's watching that, Abby, I think he's finally like, what are they talking about for a day that I don't think even.

00:34:52;07 - 00:34:52;27

Stephen Gutowski

Understands.

00:34:52;27 - 00:34:53;25

Tim Miller

The reference.

00:34:53;28 - 00:35:01;16

Stephen Gutowski

But it's also just like if it's sort of like, if you don't like this group of people, vote for me. Yeah, it's that's that's what I think.

00:35:01;16 - 00:35:06;08

Tim Miller

I mean, that's a pretty core part of the Trump message that with the Haitians and the immigrants and trans people.

00:35:06;26 - 00:35:10;09

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Yeah. I don't want to get too far beyond our.

00:35:10;17 - 00:35:11;18

Tim Miller

Your email thing.

00:35:11;20 - 00:35:37;25

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. But but regardless, yeah. I don't see why he couldn't do at least the same basic message if she's too radical for you. With this issue instead. But, you know, and speaking of which, there is some polling that might give it this. Yeah, we're getting into speculation here and extrapolating, but there's been some polling that indicates perhaps, there's a percentage of Republicans who are moving closer to Paris.

00:35:37;25 - 00:35:50;01

Stephen Gutowski

And, you know, do you think part of that could be that she's successfully defining herself as more of a moderate on guns, on vibes, more so than policy. But, maybe it's working, I don't know. Yeah.

00:35:50;01 - 00:36:07;08

Tim Miller

Well, I mean, I think that the Harris team thinks that their pivot to the center is working and has seen movement among this group. I mean, they don't like she campaigned with this Cheney. Like she didn't have to do that. Right. Like Liz Cheney could have done a, separate thing. There's potential risk there on the left.

00:36:07;08 - 00:36:35;11

Tim Miller

The people being like, are you getting too cozy with the neocons? You know, like with the warmongering Cheneys or whatever? Like, so she did it because there is, there is I think they feel like they've had some success with that group, but also because I think that there are more of those voters that are gettable. And if you look at the Marquette poll of Wisconsin among the undecided voters that are left, I think it was 50% were Republicans who don't like Trump.

00:36:35;14 - 00:37:01;13

Tim Miller

And then it was like 40% were independents and 10% were Democrats. So half of the remaining undecideds are Republicans. Don't like Trump. You got to assume that that group is mostly sympathetic towards gun rights, at least. Maybe they're gun owners, like they're somewhere on that spectrum. And so, I think that if you just look at the material the Harris campaign is putting out, it is not hard to define that in their mind's eye.

00:37:01;13 - 00:37:06;07

Tim Miller

They're talking to that 50%. Of the voters that are left.

00:37:06;10 - 00:37:26;23

Stephen Gutowski

A do you think they're trying to get here's the thing for me, right. Like I, I people who follow me know that I'm not the Donald Trump, voter. I haven't voted for him in the past. I don't plan on voting for him in this election. But it seems easier to get somebody like that to sit out the election, perhaps, than to vote, come over and actually vote for Harris.

00:37:26;23 - 00:37:42;27

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, especially based on if they care about gun policy on guns because she again, they haven't heard much at all on the policy side. It's more of a vibes just see y vibes message. So I don't know is that their attempt or do you think they really think they can bring.

00:37:42;28 - 00:38:01;25

Tim Miller

Yeah. No I don't I think that that's true. I again, I think that they if you put it all together, what they're trying to do is say, okay, you don't have to be scared of me on guns and on fracking and on. I'm sure we covered a couple other issues. Right? Like where she's changed on where she's like, I'm not going to ban fracking.

00:38:01;28 - 00:38:24;08

Tim Miller

I'm not going to take your guns. You don't have to be scared of me on that. You should vote for me because is democracy foreign policy standing with Ukraine? You know, opportunity, economy, small business, tax cuts, whatever, you know what I mean? Like, I think that is how they see it like that. They're that in speaking to those voters, there is like, I'm not the scary socialist.

00:38:24;08 - 00:38:34;28

Tim Miller

They say I am part to the message. And then there is a and here are some things that we're aligned on part to the message. I think guns vibes thing is in that first bucket not right.

00:38:34;29 - 00:38:39;09

Stephen Gutowski

It's not a we're aligned on guns. It's, I'm not as scary as.

00:38:39;12 - 00:38:42;19

Tim Miller

They want you to. Or you might be worried. I'm. I am or whatever.



00:38:42;23 - 00:39:02;15

Stephen Gutowski

Do you think she should do more on that? Like, she's got this very basic vibes message. She's not answering a lot of questions, even from places like the New York Times about the, for instance, the 2005 Ben. Like, why did she support that if she does not support it anymore? Why does she own, you know, there's a lot of things you can get to, that she could have some answer for it.

00:39:02;21 - 00:39:03;17

Stephen Gutowski

That. Yeah, I think.

00:39:03;17 - 00:39:12;09

Tim Miller

That's a is probably I mean, no, I my real honest answer is no. I just I don't know what is I, I feel like that's a bucket of water of bucket of vipers.

00:39:12;13 - 00:39:13;22

Stephen Gutowski

They just don't want to get into it. Yeah.

00:39:13;22 - 00:39:30;29

Tim Miller

I just think the more you get into it, the more vulnerable you are on the details. And, and I just don't think that that's necessarily a winner. And I think that there maybe I feel like they've gotten as far as they can get on that. I mean, clearly somebody you're a little bit of a different category, right?

00:39:30;29 - 00:39:39;25

Tim Miller

Because like, somebody doesn't like Trump. That is that is a potential swing voter for whom guns is one of their 1 or 2 top issues.

00:39:40;01 - 00:39:40;12

Stephen Gutowski

Right.

00:39:40;21 - 00:39:43;22

Tim Miller

I just think the Harris people probably like that's fine. Yeah. I mean, the.

00:39:43;25 - 00:39:44;19

Stephen Gutowski

Probably those people.

00:39:44;19 - 00:40:02;25

Tim Miller

Yeah, yeah, that a lot of those people and the best we can probably do with those people is that they just stay home or write in whatever vote down ticket, and that'll be a win if we can get them to that. We're trying to talk to the people that don't like Trump. Our Republicans are sympathetic to gun rights, maybe on a gun, but care.

00:40:02;25 - 00:40:13;17

Tim Miller

But the issues they care about are, you know, foreign policy or abortion rights or democracy, right. Like, that is like those are the people that they're trying to get to.

00:40;13;20 - 00:40;19;17

Stephen Gutowski

Right? So she's she's never going to put out a message or make a hard drive of trying to get, you know, somebody like me here.

00:40;19;18 - 00:40;25;28

Tim Miller

Or I don't think sorry. I know it's nice to be seen and loved and supported, but I don't I don't think that they're coming for you.

00:40;26;01 - 00:40;53;21

Stephen Gutowski

I don't think Trump is trying to get people like me either, though, honestly, people who have concerns about his behavior in the past, the election and all that. Well, and but, find his policies, his record on guns, at least better than Harris's. Right. But yeah, it doesn't seem like he keeps complaining about gun owners don't vote, but he's not really giving them a lot of reasons other than look at Kamala Harris's record.

00:40;53;23 - 00:40;55;20

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, to come out and vote. Right?

00:40;55;23 - 00:41;13;28

Tim Miller

Yeah. And I would also say to gun owners that like looking at him and voting for him, just on that, I would say like he is just totally unreliable on anything besides the border and tariffs and his own personal feelings about, like things that he wants, like he like he's I would say that about two people on any issue.

00:41;13;28 - 00:41;29;27

Tim Miller

Like he's totally he's totally and like beyond the only extent to which he would be really like a reliable ally on gun issues is because you would assume the people that would be around him executing most of the policy would be gun friendly. But on a personal matter, I don't, you know, I don't know, like, here's the question.

00:41;30;01 - 00:41;42;11

Tim Miller

In three years from now. And he thought that it could help him or help his kid or what? Like, you know, help it personally for him to do. So. I changed his mind. He would change his mind, like, I like. It's just not. That's just Trump.

00:41;42;14 - 00:41;50;24

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. On that front, I guess from your point of view, you know, I'm, just just trying to do a political analysis of it.

00:41;50;26 - 00:41;51;11

Tim Miller

Okay. Sure.

00:41;51;11 - 00:42;06;16

Stephen Gutowski

Do you think it's more likely that a major gun control bill passes under a Trump administration, and where Republicans have control of both chambers? Yeah. Or a Harris administration where Republicans control the Senate.

00:42;06;19 - 00:42;25;00

Tim Miller

Yeah. It's a good question. This is one of my favorite for counterfactuals for my enviro friends. I'm always like, if only

we had John McCain back in 2008. And I was like, you're all of your all of your cap and trade, climate, climate dreams that have come true with the Republican president, because they would have wanted to cut a deal on some issue that makes a lot more centrist.

00:42:25;06 - 00:42:46;16

Tim Miller

So, yeah, I mean, I, I think that you're correct about that. I think where you're going with this. Correct. Like it's going to be a Republican Senate. Okay. Like, who knows? Anything can happen in politics. But, the Montana and West Virginia seats are gone as far as I'm concerned. So it would have to be a very surprising win by, like, Colin or at in Texas or something for the Democrats to get to 50.

00:42:46;16 - 00:42:47;02

Stephen Gutowski

Unlikely.

00:42:47;18 - 00:42:59;15

Tim Miller

So I think it's super unlikely as such. Like there is not going no assault weapons ban is going to be passed like in a through a Republican Senate with Kamala Harris as president. Like that's just not at least not.

00:42:59;15 - 00:43:00;15

Stephen Gutowski

In the first two years.

00:43:00;15 - 00:43:17;09

Tim Miller

Yeah, sure. That the first two years and something else can happen. Two more years. You also have you could have stuff on the edges, right? Like the bump stocks thing got overturned by the Supreme Court. Go through Congress with a Harris and a Republican. Could that be something where a few Republicans in the Senate feel like this is something where they can give on?

00:43:17;09 - 00:43:20;14

Tim Miller

Sure. So I'm not saying that there's a 0%. And then in two.

00:43:20;14 - 00:43:22;23

Stephen Gutowski

Years, bipartisan Safer Communities Act type bill.

00:43:22;24 - 00:43:39;16

Tim Miller

Yeah, sure. Something like that could happen under Kamala. But yeah, I mean, I don't know. I mean, I think with Trump, you saw this on criminal justice reform, right. Like maybe the best bill in my opinion that Trump passed was it's like kind of crazy to think about that. It was like that with Republicans controlling everything like that.

00:43:39;16 - 00:43:53;27

Tim Miller

He was convinced by Jared and by some people around him that doing, criminal justice reform made sense. Might there be a world where he gets convinced that it helps soften his image or something for, I.

00:43:53;27 - 00:43:58;16

Stephen Gutowski

Mean, he's been supportive when he was president after,

00:43:58;18 - 00:43:59;09

Tim Miller  
Parkland.

00:43:59;09 - 00:44:34;15

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, he he talked about red flag laws and supporting them. I mean, he's talked even during this campaign about not being, you know, standing behind the bump stock ban, which he did unilaterally, which really kind of set up the model for what Biden has done through executive orders. And then also for stopping frisk policies, which, which are similar in nature to red flag orders and that they don't require, you know, court action for you or like, they don't have the same due process protections as other proceedings, at least, when it comes to taking someone's guns away.

00:44:34;22 - 00:44:55;26

Tim Miller

So and clearly, by the way, just if we could just stop on that one for a second when I think when you think about Trump and like, what what are the things that he actually cares about? I've been talk about immigration and tariffs. But I would say that that like also like letting police do whatever the FDA want is another thing that is a pretty visceral that is for Trump is much more visceral than gun rights.

00:44:55;28 - 00:45:06;20

Tim Miller

You know what I mean? So if like if, if gun rights and police rights come into conflict at some point during the Trump term, you know, which side Trump is going to fall on on that. Like for sure.

00:45:06;22 - 00:45:23;13

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Unless you again, I guess it's based on the people around him. Like there was a New York Times reported that after the, the Walmart, shooting in El Paso that he considered supporting an assault and ban. But, I do believe it was Mick Mulvaney told him it would through some voters. So he didn't do it.

00:45:24;26 - 00:45:45;23

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, I know where it's like that's of course, you look at the other side and you see Harris. And while she may be saying she wouldn't push for a mandatory buyback or whatever, like most people probably assume she would go that where her true. Like she keeps saying her values haven't changed. Right. And I think people would fairly believe that that's the case.

00:45:45;23 - 00:46:00;19

Stephen Gutowski

And she's probably going to sign any gun control bill. It gets to her desk. Yeah. Right. And then I guess the more serious concern is the like, how seriously do you take the court packing stuff from Harris and not a at this point? Because that's the bigger concern, right?

00:46:00;26 - 00:46:30;18

Tim Miller

Yeah. I mean, I guess I don't I don't, I don't know what from the last four years would make you think that the Democrats have the resolve to pass big fundamental changes to the political system in any way. I mean, like, they didn't even try like they had two years, like they didn't try to add, I think about things that are easy than DC or then, excuse me, the Supreme Court adding DC in Puerto Rico as a state like that, I mean, that is also challenging, right?

00:46:30;18 - 00:47:05;23

Tim Miller

But like if you think about fundamental reforms, like the types of things they could have done, like they're a bunch of things, the filibuster, like there are a bunch of things that they could have done that were that are, that have much fewer

political hurdles and court packing, and they didn't really even go there. So, I don't I mean, if we are running down a situation where Kamala Harris was if this was oh eight and Kamala Harris was potentially about to head into a situation where she had 59 senators and the House, like Obama did when he went in in oh eight.

00:47:06;18 - 00:47:31;11

Tim Miller

I guess he went in with 60. He got 69. Yeah, nearly 60. It ended up at 59. Then I would think that if you're listening to this and you don't like Trump, but gun rights is your number one issue, I would be saying to you, you should be you should maybe be concerned. I mean, I, I wouldn't be saying that to you because, you know, I still don't like Trump to win, but but that one, I do think the time for a legitimate concern and that's just like not the situation we're going in right now.

00:47:31;11 - 00:47:45;27

Tim Miller

And, maybe long term, generationally, there are reasons to be, you know, to think that the Democrats will prioritize the court and court reform. But, like, that's that's not a Kamala Harris first term.

00:47:45;29 - 00:48:08;08

Stephen Gutowski

You know, and and frankly, it doesn't seem like Democrats or Republicans are going to get to that point where they can get 60 senators for a while, any time in the future. In the future. I mean, this, this race, when I look at it and you just take each candidate in isolation, they seem like terrible options, right? Not not necessarily based on performance.

00:48:08;08 - 00:48:37;21

Stephen Gutowski

I think Kamala Harris has been fine, generally speaking. But she the Democrats tried to stick with with Biden, who was, I think, clear that pretty much every voter, that he was too old to do this for another four years. Yes. Yeah. For the rest of this term and then didn't have a real primary and then switched in the middle of July or the end of July to a brand new candidate who has had a middling performance in the national stage before this point.

00:48:37;21 - 00:49:03;19

Stephen Gutowski

Right. And yeah, and then and also then the inflation and all the, the economic struggles that they may be getting better, but they're still something that's top of mind for pretty much all voters. And then you look over at everything with Trump and trying to overturn of a third term, the last election, the general, polarizing nature of his character, where he's been under water pretty much his entire public career and politics and so on and so forth.

00:49:03;19 - 00:49:12;24

Stephen Gutowski

And you think in isolation, these seem like terrible campaigns that wouldn't win otherwise, except the fact that they're going up against each other. Yeah, I don't know.

00:49:12;27 - 00:49:22;19

Tim Miller

That's just thermostatic nature to all this too, right? I mean, I think that had to have the the Republicans nominated somebody better. I think they, the Democrats instead of sort of indifferent and vice versa. But here we are.

00:49:22;24 - 00:49:42;15

Stephen Gutowski

Well, each side sure seems to have thought up until this very moment that they would easily win this thing. And I think maybe that's where a lot of these problems stem from. But I don't know. Either way, I appreciate you coming on and giving me a point of view and trying to give us, you know, a fair, also analysis of what's going on and not just cheerleading for one side or the other, right?

00:49:42;15 - 00:49:42;27

Stephen Gutowski

That's what we're.

00:49:43;03 - 00:49:59;00

Tim Miller

Happy to do, is appreciate you're out there, man. And there need to be more outlets like this, and I. I come to you, even though I don't always agree with the policy proposals, I come to you for the straight and clear and understanding of what, of what's happening when gun stuff, flares up, no pun intended there.

00:49:59;00 - 00:50:02;15

Tim Miller

And, so, I appreciate the work that you all are doing, so stay in touch.

00:50:02;18 - 00:50:10;08

Stephen Gutowski

Hey. Absolutely. And I like having people from all different perspectives. As long as I can trust that they're trying to tell me what they honestly believe. And so that's.

00:50:10;08 - 00:50:24;18

Tim Miller

Why. Yeah, this is the key to podcasting. I was like, that's always that is my rule for board podcast. Yes. I was like, I only have people on that tell me what they think. And we've lost a couple of guests for the on this principle. So and that's okay. So yeah, people want to be good friends.

00:50:24;20 - 00:50:28;26

Stephen Gutowski

You know what they already agree with. There's a lot of places they can go to get that.

00:50:28;26 - 00:50:30;29

Tim Miller

Plenty of fish in the sea so that.

00:50:31;12 - 00:50:37;12

Stephen Gutowski

So hey, like speaking of the the podcast, can you tell people a little bit more about where they can find, more from you?

00:50:37;14 - 00:50:57;16

Tim Miller

Yeah, sure. Well, over on YouTube, the Bulwark YouTube page, pop it on there a couple times a day. The word podcast comes out every afternoon. And if you arrange a guess, I mean, the core guests are kind of never Trump Republican types. But then we mix in, center left Dems, subject matter experts on various issues, and, sometimes left.

00:50:57;17 - 00:51:13;12

Tim Miller

Are you Dems or Maga Republicans? I'll argue with not really. And right now during prime election season, but, I like doing that as well. So, it's, I've been I've really enjoyed the show, man. It's been really fun. And, I think that people, will find that the conversations are lively and honest. That's what I'm going for.

00:51:13;14 - 00:51:18;00

Stephen Gutowski

Awesome. All right, well, speaking of, promoting another.

00:51:18;03 - 00:51:27;29

Tim Miller

Podcast now, you got to run The Dispatch. It's not too late. I've gone over on The Dispatch podcast to argue them several times. It's hilarious. The Dispatch is like, it's also very dirty. Trump Republican, similar.

00;51;27;29 - 00;51;28;15

Stephen Gutowski

To the one.

00;51;28;15 - 00;51;46;17

Tim Miller

Took over from us on on their hostility towards Democrats. And so it's like we have these, it's the there's a line called I forget if it's Oscar Wilde. I don't know, somebody to check me on that. The narcissism of small differences. So it's like sometimes a Dispatch in the bar get really fighting because we have these small differences that are so important to us.

00;51;46;24 - 00;51;50;20

Tim Miller

But we're directionally aligned. And I love, I love, I love passionate out with those guys.

00;51;50;23 - 00;52;09;16

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. So, I'm going to tell people just a little bit more about The Dispatch and, and how they can get a free trial over there as well. So. All right, let's hand it off to myself.