

00:00;19;23 - 00:00;45;27

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 and sign up for our free weekly newsletter today. If you want to keep up to date with what's going on with guns in America from a sober, serious perspective, and of course, if you want to get access to exclusive content, you will not find anywhere else hundreds of pieces of analysis and news.

00:00;46;00 - 00:01;06;25

Stephen Gutowski

You can buy a membership. And that will also go to help support the work that we do. As an independent outlet. Here at the Reload this week, we are bringing back a guest we had before the election to, do a little bit of post-election analysis on what exactly happened in this race and, that is

00:01;06;29 - 00:01;10;08

Stephen Gutowski

Semafor's Dave Weigel, welcome back to the show. Dave, thanks so much for joining us.

00:01;10;09 - 00:01;12;11

Dave Weigel

No, it's good to be back. It was fun last time.

00:01;12;14 - 00:01;16;15

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, absolutely. I tell people a little bit more about yourself for for anyone who doesn't know me.

00:01;16;17 - 00:01;37;01

Dave Weigel

Yeah, I helped start Semafor. It wasn't doing the hard work, like setting up people's health insurance and the investors. But I was one of the first reporters here, wrote in the Americana newsletter. Although I'm about to have a little holiday time off. And I cover politics mostly from around the country. Just politics has been in D.C. for the last two weeks I've been here.

00:01;37;04 - 00:01;55;19

Dave Weigel

But that's always been the goal is go around the country or pay close attention to things happening. And with open eyes. Not saying, how can I guess my one of my principles is, is never saying, can you believe this? What happened is, how could they get away with this? I just assumed, unexpected things can happen.

00:01;55;21 - 00:02;09;23

Dave Weigel

It's probably a good ad to to take into, the confirmation process and the second Trump administration. There are people who I still think, look at it alert on their phone and get shocked by stuff. And I do not get trapped by stuff.

00:02;09;26 - 00:02;30;07

Stephen Gutowski

Yes. Well, that's probably is a good, perspective to to take in what was going to unfold here. But, but, you know, you're also one of the top reporters, I think, in, on the national political scene. You break a lot of stories, and I think you have a lot of good sources inside of, Capitol Hill and, you know, a lot of these things.

00:02;30;07 - 00:02;52;09

Stephen Gutowski

And, you've been doing this for for quite a while now. And, so I think your, your perspective is quite valuable. And

that's why I'm glad to have you back on the show. Let's start off here with, just, we are going to leave a little bit of evidence from the election. You know, obviously we have the the outcome, which we can speculate and analyze and, and which we will do.

00;02;52;14 - 00;03;22;10

Stephen Gutowski

But, it's good to start with some concrete stuff. And, I think the, the best thing we have right now, we have some exit polling, that, that ask people about their top issues and guns is included in there. But we also just got some polling from Gallup that is kind of interesting. One one of the polls they released dealt with, support for handgun ban, and support has fallen back near all time lows.

00;03;22;10 - 00;03;46;09

Stephen Gutowski

It's only 20% of the population, but supports the idea of banning possession of handguns, except for, law enforcement. And the particularly interesting thing about the the crosshairs in that poll are that Democrats are the ones who drove that support back down. They had actually been the last couple of years trending up in support for a handgun ban.

00;03;46;11 - 00;04;25;24

Stephen Gutowski

And then, to actually almost, almost 50% was the 49% for Democrats last year. And this year it dropped significantly by double digits, which drove this support for a handgun ban back down. And I think it's reasonable to look at the campaign and draw some conclusions that the poll doesn't specifically ask this, but I think it'd be hard to not notice that the Democratic presidential candidate was running on the fact that she owns a handgun, a Glock, and that that, probably played some role in this movement.

00;04;25;24 - 00;04;27;29

Stephen Gutowski

Right. Well, what do you think?

00;04;28;01 - 00;05;00;29

Dave Weigel

I think that's a good insight. So where did that come from? Kamala Harris had run for president 2018. Dropped out of the race was a very progressive California senator, was was even pretty progressive. So this is the thing that got tangled in her story that she was she the most progressive person in California? She ran for Senate. No, she had she had in ways that affected the campaign, pissed off a lot of activists with how she, she handled, cases in California with you saw this in the primary that she was too soft on.

00;05;01;01 - 00;05;12;06

Dave Weigel

Sorry, too hard to say on truancy, or on drug, drug crimes, nonviolent drug crimes. And so she runs for president, and she corrects for that by being very, very liberal on crime. Yeah.

00;05;12;11 - 00;05;13;07

Stephen Gutowski

In 20 and 20.

00;05;13;07 - 00;05;32;27

Dave Weigel

20 and 20 1920. Yeah. The 2020 race in 2019. And then she so I think I heard her talking about the gun she owned, which is never debunked. I believe that she owns one. As a way to cut against that. And they picked Tim Walz at him for the ticket. He also is a gun owner. He's a shooter who's the National Guard.

00;05;33;00 - 00;05;59;13

Dave Weigel

I saw that as as a as a correction to of the Harris image. That wasn't that obviously she did win. So nothing sounds successful when you don't win. Right. She did decrease she increase your favorable numbers and she slightly decrease the number of people who thought she was liberal. But it was more about that and gun rights, gun gun safety as Democrats, the I guess the dichotomy now is between in rhetoric is gun safety versus gun rights.

00:05:59;16 - 00:06:24;22

Dave Weigel

Right? She was a gun safety. She did not talk a ton about it. She didn't ad Mark Kelly's the Ticket where that would have been his issue. She it was much more about the, the idea that Republicans are adding more danger to people's lives by not keeping the status quo and also not restricting, the sale of guns to people with mental illness.

00:06:24;29 - 00:06:43;16

Dave Weigel

And so during the camp before she's the nominee, Thomas Brooks takes a shot at Trump. And don't and Democrats don't even say in that discourse now it's a very it's a hard discourse to politicize. They don't even say, oh, this this assassination attempt proves that what we need to do is make it harder for someone with this, with his profile, to buy a gun.

00:06:43;18 - 00:07:00;08

Dave Weigel

That's the origin of the handgun. Legislation in the 80s is the Reagan assassination. So they really rhetorically give up on a lot of progressivism. And it came out of that, it came out of the idea that, people are going to see her as liberal, but she, we we can't let that happen. She needs to emphasize that she's not that liberal.

00:07:00;15 - 00:07:17;28

Dave Weigel

And I did think, I'm not to repeat myself. Yeah, the NRA was against her. It just it just wasn't during the campaign. It wasn't what the emphasis, emphases, that Trump and and Vance made with the exception of the VP debate when, it's memorable because Wallace is trying to say he's met with the school shooting victims.

00:07:17;28 - 00:07:35;29

Dave Weigel

He says, school shooters. Right. But but the the the Trump campaign does get that idea out there that Republicans want to harden schools and make it harder for shooters to get in, possibly let teachers get armed or. No, I wouldn't say require you know, the issues there. But no, it just this was less of an issue.

00:07:36;02 - 00:07:46;27

Dave Weigel

It was kind of, dialed back to 2012, where before Sandy hook, when Democrats just said, we need to reach people who don't like us on 10 or 12 other issues. We can't do this. We can't talk about guns.

00:07:46;29 - 00:08:12;14

Stephen Gutowski

Right. So, there's some evidence for for what you're getting at here as far as, like, the issue didn't matter that much in, the two major exit polls that came out, gun policy was, an issue, but it was, I think, the sixth or seventh in both of those polls. So it's pretty far down the list, obviously, the economy being the top issue for most voters, in the election.

00:08:12;14 - 00:08:25;11

Stephen Gutowski

And so so yeah, it wasn't necessarily something that, I mean, Trump didn't necessarily emphasize it either. Removed a lot of the gun policy promises from the Republican platform, for instance. But.

00:08:25;14 - 00:08:27;16

Dave Weigel

There was a lot from the platform that was notable. Yeah.

00:08;27;18 - 00:08;48;04

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, absolutely. And we'll talk a little bit more about to the implications of what the election might mean for gun policy. You know, down the line here in the next administration, the next Congress. But but yeah, I mean, one of the consistent messages that Harris had was basically she, you know, she didn't not talk about policy at all.

00:08;48;04 - 00:09;10;02

Stephen Gutowski

She would mention it. She'd, she ran basically on the same platform that Biden did. She had to walk back, for instance, her mandatory, buyback support for air fifteens and other types of firearms. But she mainly ran on universal background checks, red flag laws and, just ban on the sale of assault weapons. But it wasn't a the top issues she was running on.

00:09;10;02 - 00:09;36;17

Stephen Gutowski

And the main message you really got from her in media appearances or at the debate, for instance, is, was that she owns a Glock, like she owns a handgun, for self-defense. And I think that's where you're seeing probably the movement in this polling. Like, why did Democrats suddenly think it's okay to, own handguns? Probably because their presidential candidate kept saying she owns a.

00:09;36;21 - 00:09;37;24

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, right.

00:09;37;27 - 00:09;39;25

Dave Weigel

I totally believe that. Yeah.

00:09;39;27 - 00:10;03;05

Stephen Gutowski

And and then on the flip side of it, yeah. To get at what your, I think main point there was as well like it also the same exact poll and this one question reveals the kind of baggage she was working against with this message because Harris had supported a handgun ban as district attorney in San Francisco.

00:10;03;08 - 00:10;32;19

Stephen Gutowski

She had supported the. She was the one who, put into effect the micro stamping requirement in California's handgun roster, which effectively banned the sales of new models of handguns in California. So she has this background of restricting handguns. She supported she opposed, for instance, the Heller ruling and at the Supreme Court in 2008, which was about, again, handguns, about issues about Washington, DC's, handgun ban.

00:10;32;19 - 00:10;58;13

Stephen Gutowski

But nonetheless, she has this record of supporting handgun bans or severe handgun restrictions. And, you know, that's the other thing I think this Gallup poll tells us, which is that that's not popular. Right? That's something that's extremely unpopular at this point in time. In the United States. And so she was had to kind of run away from that and had to try and cover it up like, I mean, right.

00:10;58;13 - 00:11;02;00

Stephen Gutowski

Is that do you think that's a fair takeaway from both ends of this poll?

00:11;02;03 - 00:11;32;06

Dave Weigel

Yeah, it was, I think so it was interesting that that I mentioned the debate. I was trying to get all the stuff that they set out, in the campaign in my, in my answer. But this whole campaign operated in a environment where, courts with Trump appointees and in the Supreme Court especially, just have limited the scope of what you could do if you're if you're a state, especially if you have federal legislation.

00;11;32;08 - 00;11;57;25

Dave Weigel

And that that's where everything that's where all this is happening. It would be ridiculous for Democrats to promise the passage of a bill that they that they know would be overturned. The action you're going to see over the next couple of years, no matter what new appointees are made, is going to be courts hearing challenges to state gun restrictions and overturning and overturning them.

00;11;57;28 - 00;12;14;20

Dave Weigel

So I feel like it makes sense in the campaign not to have too much discourse about a thing that they don't think they can change. More than the politics of it, because that is, maybe Democrats care about a little bit more about this, about making promises on the campaign trail that they can't match. But they do tailor that.

00;12;14;20 - 00;12;19;28

Dave Weigel

And they don't. They don't want to be asked, how will you actually do this and not have an answer.

00;12;20;01 - 00;12;46;22

Stephen Gutowski

Right, right. But, yeah, I mean, it's it's it seemed to me, like a quick move, right. Like she's saying she's bringing up her gun ownership, because she's trying to cover up for this, this background of supporting pretty unpopular policies. She, she did this and in a lot of ways, right. She ran away from a lot of the progressive stuff she did.

00;12;46;23 - 00;12;47;12

Stephen Gutowski

She kind of. Yeah.

00;12;47;18 - 00;13;09;03

Dave Weigel

Like you ran away from it and didn't explain it. That was the fact was, I wouldn't say. The problem is, it's not clear if that would work. But that's what reporters notice if you checked, if she still support. Because what's her career? She's, she is a senator. The president has a bunch of policies, and then she's Joe Biden vice president, and they don't achieve a lot of things that she ran on.

00;13;09;07 - 00;13;30;11

Dave Weigel

So she's not from it. She hasn't promised them in five years, but people are still checking with her. But I think in general, as Democrats, were they they they talk less about their record because even compared to 2019, if you're running in 2019, you still, as a Democrat, have the hope that, Ruth Bader Ginsburg lives a little longer and you replace her if you're President, you maybe get a liberal court.

00;13;30;12 - 00;13;45;13

Dave Weigel

They just all of their ambitions have been tailored, so they talk less about what they're that's talking less about. Her record was a theme, but I do think a reason they talk less about the record is just, we can't do this. We want to we we're going to we're going to work with gun groups. We're going to invite them to the white House.

00;13;45;16 - 00;14;02;16

Dave Weigel

When there's a school shooting, we're not going to say just thoughts and prayers. We're going to say, this is why we need the background check legislation. This is why we need, legislation Biden passed, which he talked a lot about. But it was it was minor. The changes were minor because they they can't get much else passed, originalist scrutiny anymore.

00;14;02;19 - 00;14;06;00

Dave Weigel

Oppose both Heller post press pro and scrutiny.

00;14;06;02 - 00;14;16;15

Stephen Gutowski

Sure. Plus the yeah. In addition to that too that like, some of this stuff was pretty unpopular, right. Like the like the handgun ban. So they didn't want to run on it necessarily.

00;14;16;18 - 00;14;38;12

Dave Weigel

Yeah. Well, in California generally, California has it's not her. It is it. She's never been she's, she's attorney general, but she enforced laws and she had some, some influence in shaping. But that's been other people running the state. But this is another theme of the campaign that, there just was stuff California has done. Democrats are responsible for.

00;14;38;12 - 00;14;43;13

Dave Weigel

They did not want to talk about them. They did not want the idea that this is going to be carried nationwide if she want.

00;14;43;15 - 00;15;08;28

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, yeah. For sure. I guess just going off of this, it's if we don't have a ton of data, like there's not a lot of polling on. Hey, did this message influence your vote? Did it, did it work? Did you, agree with Harris? You mentioned, you know, she got she improved her favourability, and she had people thinking of her as as a liberal, a little bit lesser.

00;15;09;00 - 00;15;34;06

Stephen Gutowski

You know, she she, you know, was able to move some of those numbers. Clearly she moved Democrats on the, the idea of a handgun ban. But, you know, did her did her strategy work on this policy, like, did it actually comfort people who because, you know, we talked when we've talked about this before, it seemed like her strategy was not really to try and get gun rights activists on board with with her campaign.

00;15;34;06 - 00;16;07;10

Stephen Gutowski

Right? I mean, she wanted to keep the gun control activists on board. She didn't really change policy, not from where, at least not from where Biden was. She might have walked back a little bit of what she had said in 2019. But, you know, they stuck with the same basic policy platform and, but they tried to, you know, it seemed like part of the idea of getting these crossover suburban Republican voters who were uncomfortable with Trump to come on board, or maybe some minority, men who become dissatisfied with Democrats.

00;16;07;12 - 00;16;26;02

Stephen Gutowski

You know, maybe you can reach them. And part of that is putting forward a more moderate, you know, facade. I don't know what to call it. It's not because they didn't change policy. She just, a more moderate picture of herself on guns. Like, I'm not going to take your guns. I own a gun, you know?

00;16;26;02 - 00;16;36;03

Stephen Gutowski

Same thing for Tim. What did that work? Do we have any evidence that it worked? Do we have any, you know,

evidence that it didn't work? What is your takeaway on it?

00;16;36;05 - 00;16;58;03

Dave Weigel

No, not. Not really any evidence that it worked. Again, this context that this this just was not even even after the assassination attempt of Trump. This is not this is not an issue that Democrats were forcing in a campaign. You need to you need to have a fight about something. There needs to be. So there you can when you're earning media, giving speeches or interviews, you, have ways to do that.

00;16;58;03 - 00;17;12;14

Dave Weigel

You can fight about something. You can show up at a location, give a speech about it. If you're paying for media, you can run ads. And they just didn't do that. I'm unfamiliar with any ads that the. And I looked I tried to look for them all. And he ads they ran about about this issue, know.

00;17;12;15 - 00;17;42;19

Dave Weigel

So yeah they did they just what would what would her presidency have been like? It would have been like the Biden presidency, where they're appointing judges who are skeptics of the recent precedent. And they would have, again, I would have been more about blocking that within about achieving things. And that's not very exciting. That's not a very, this is this is this was the overall theme of her campaign, is that she tried to run on some smaller, achievable ideas and pick some small fights, but she didn't want to get into a, into a topic if she didn't have a good answer.

00;17;42;21 - 00;18;14;14

Dave Weigel

For example, the answer on where she differed with Biden, she didn't want to get sucked into that. She was a very, the theme of all this, that she was very cautious candidate with a cautious campaign, perhaps over correcting for how she ran 20, 20. So, yeah. I'm not trying to dodge your question. Just love this thinking, but looking back at what I covered knows reviewing it before this, it just there wasn't a moment where, issue was forced and they said, well, here's a here's an opportunity to draw a huge contrast on guns between me and Trump.

00;18;14;14 - 00;18;19;14

Dave Weigel

That's just not how they approached it. Because they were so worried about putting out fires and other things where she was seen as left wing.

00;18;19;16 - 00;18;36;23

Stephen Gutowski

Right now, I think that's very accurate. I mean, on guns, like she talked about owning a gun, but it was mostly like I said, it was like a CIA thing. Like she's not as liberal as you think. She's not as radical as Trump is saying that that was sort of the the message more than than drawing. Yeah.

00;18;36;23 - 00;19;01;29

Stephen Gutowski

Like a very stark contrast on policy or anything like that. And, although I, you know, and I do think it is difficult to kind of drill down onto this one issue that voters said was not one of their top issues and trying to figure out, did this messaging actually work? We can kind of guess at what she, who she was trying to appeal to, and certainly it didn't work well enough to win because she lost.

00;19;02;02 - 00;19;22;11

Stephen Gutowski

Maybe it worked to some degree. The swing states were closer as far as the, you know, the non swing states swung more to Trump than the swing states did. So her campaign seemed to have some impact, but not enough impact to win. I don't know, but but how can you say anything more specific than that? You know, I don't know.

00;19;22;14 - 00;19;39;23

Dave Weigel

No. And you can look at the vote now. Uvalde a Texas just Trump did better than he did four years ago there. So there wasn't any place where this was a salient issue where she improved. I read about this, right after the election that, the turnout is going to end up being, I think, total turnout for everybody.

00;19;39;25 - 00;20;03;02

Dave Weigel

One and a half, 2 million less than 2020, which is considerable when you consider how much states that had expanded easy mail voting rolled it back. Not all of them. California didn't, but other places. And she, you know, she ran behind Biden. He ran ahead of himself, but she did much worse in safe states. I was just talking to the the chair of the Minnesota Democrats, who's running for DNC chair.

00;20;03;05 - 00;20;25;07

Dave Weigel

And I was pointing at me not to shame him. I was just noting these are states that are next to each other. And Minnesota was very proud of its turnout record. It usually said it. And she got, 50,000 fewer votes in Minnesota than four years ago. And he got, sorry. And she got 37,000 more in Wisconsin and different situations in Minnesota.

00;20;25;13 - 00;20;44;01

Dave Weigel

Tim Walz is Minnesota is a place where Democrats had a trifecta and they actually could pass a lot of progressive bills. And yeah, they know they they lost a little bit of ground in, in legislative elections. But people were less when they were not pouring money into turnout and voter targeting. They were doing worse. And Trump was basically doing the same.

00;20;44;01 - 00;20;52;06

Dave Weigel

There's not, I need to go run the math. I didn't see a state where he got fewer votes than he got in 2020, and I saw 43 where she did.

00;20;52;08 - 00;21;32;13

Stephen Gutowski

Right? Yeah. But at the same time, places where she she was close did better, where the swing states where she was focused her campaign so that like, yeah, it seemed to have some effect. Not enough of an effect, to hold back the swing towards, Trump or maybe even more accurately, a swing away from Biden. And, you know, it's just one of those things that it's hard to zero that down on to like, oh, well, did she do better in Pennsylvania than, you know, as far as the shift in vote goes than in Minnesota because of her gut messaging, I, I don't, I don't I don't know that you to say that.

00;21;32;15 - 00;21;55;07

Dave Weigel

It was notable that Walz didn't help the ticket there, that she did she did better than Clinton but worse than Joe. The Joe Biden in trends of the last. Yeah, eight, ten years did not did not decelerate in the state. That Vance didn't seem to help a lot either in Ohio was was it was slight improvement, but but was was is Steve can't argue with it.

00;21;55;07 - 00;22;05;26

Dave Weigel

Well, they did a little bit worse than wall the state. They did and Trump did a little better in advance of state. There wasn't much of a mandate for we like what Governor Tim Walz been doing. We want to expand it nationwide.

00;22;05;29 - 00;22;27;07

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. Or at least like that. His approval in the state translated to votes for the presidential ticket. Right. But so, you know, I do think, like, this is one of those areas where, like, the easy thing to do would be to, to be like, well, she lost.

So clearly her message didn't work at all. Or Trump's message on guns was clearly superior.

00;22;27;07 - 00;22;53;29

Stephen Gutowski

And that's why you and and you just there's not a lot of evidence for this stuff. In fact, the biggest was evidence we have, at least from the exit polling is just that it wasn't a top issue. And, and so it probably didn't affect significantly the trajectory of how the race came out. Speaking of which, shifting gears from Harris to Trump now, Trump won right.

00;22;54;01 - 00;23;18;25

Stephen Gutowski

But again, this was not a top issue in the race. He didn't really emphasize it all that much, himself. But he did make he's made some promises to to gun rights voters. Right. What what should people expect to see from the Trump administration this you think it's something he's going to actually be focused on as president?

00;23;18;27 - 00;23;27;22

Stephen Gutowski

A lot of, I will say, a lot of his promises when he when he spoke to the NRA in February, for instance, we're we're focused on undoing things that Biden had done.

00;23;27;26 - 00;23;28;19

Dave Weigel

Yeah.

00;23;28;21 - 00;23;30;22

Stephen Gutowski

Do you think he's just going to stick with that or.

00;23;30;22 - 00;23;51;25

Dave Weigel

Yeah, there was great pressure on me. You have to do something with guns. We did, and we did nothing. So that was his sorry to interrupt you, but yeah, that that's that is the agenda. And if you look at what he ran because he actually ran on a very, comprehensive agenda, before the RNC platform came out, he, he had pages for everything he was going to do.

00;23;51;27 - 00;24;11;03

Dave Weigel

But look, he, he campaigned in New York, and he didn't say, we're going to get rid of, concealed carry restrictions in your state. He didn't emphasize it. And that's where I go back to the courts. It's not too much because it's it's nothing you talk about. They exist, you know, they're not being politically, by, by by one election in one weekend.

00;24;11;06 - 00;24;26;18

Dave Weigel

But yeah, it's more about you're not going to who is who is going to be at the room and who's not going to be at the room in the room. You're not going to have, Giffords and Moms Demand action in the room after a shooting or when something is being debated. You have a Republican House and Senate.

00;24;26;18 - 00;24;47;01

Dave Weigel

They're not going to pick this up there. Is there a possibility that Democrats run on some of this in 2026, in House races? I think there I think there is, buffer in terms of his white House. Yeah. They're not saying here's stuff, here's the stuff that we're going to, we're going to do for gun owners in states, in Republican led states.

00;24;47;04 - 00;25;07;09

Dave Weigel

Just everything is moving in one direction. This has been true since Sandy hook. I, trend that a lot of this wrote about was since that shooting, since you saw, the return of gun legislation, I would say nothing ever stop. You saw a Democrat saying, all right, we're going to pick up this, this, this third rail again.

00;25;07;12 - 00;25;24;26

Dave Weigel

Gun laws have been liberalized across more of the country than not. There there are blue states that passed restrictions. Some of them struck down in court. There are red states that loosen restrictions. They haven't been struck down. So that that is it's really savvy for the NRA audience to listen to Trump and be satisfied with that.

00;25;24;26 - 00;25;27;05

Dave Weigel

There's not a lot else that they need to ask.

00;25;27;07 - 00;25;38;15

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. So, you know, in your view you think he and you're right, he has kind of presented himself more as a shield, I guess, than, so absolutely. This in this.

00;25;38;20 - 00;25;39;07

Dave Weigel

Way put it.

00;25;39;09 - 00;25;48;11

Stephen Gutowski

Circumstance. So he's more about not adding new restrictions, although he of course did add new restrictions when he was president previously with the bump stock ban.

00;25;48;13 - 00;25;50;16

Dave Weigel

Which has been thrown out by court. So we didn't really have an.

00;25;50;16 - 00;26;11;06

Stephen Gutowski

Answer for that. Yeah. Which was found unconstitutional by by his own, Supreme Court appointments. But, you know, he does seem to have this desire to undo what Biden has done, though. Like, I think that's probably fair to expect, but maybe not go beyond that and try to do the pro-gun version of what Biden has been doing with executive orders.

00;26;11;06 - 00;26;12;16

Stephen Gutowski

What do you think?

00;26;12;18 - 00;26;35;02

Dave Weigel

So he could say about the executive orders is that, he again, he's not detailed some of what he's going to do. He his emphasis, remember, is I'd be a dictator, but only on day one comment, which I thought at the time was a stupid for Democrats to focus on. I think that was that was correct, because clearly what he meant was Biden had, and he said this Biden did executive orders on immigration that I can reverse.

00;26;35;02 - 00;26;57;28

Dave Weigel

And if that's dictatorship and whatever, he didn't say what he would do on guns. And there are because of the attention on project 2025, the Heritage Foundation, not just them, but it was conservative groups under the umbrella of the Heritage Foundation saying, here's our plan for another Republican presidency. Their ideas there that again, start with

undoing Biden executive orders.

00;26;58;01 - 00;27;18;02

Dave Weigel

And but the details are a little thinner because because of the way that the Trump was talking about them, the negative stories being written about them. I wouldn't say negative. That's unfair. The fact that there was this window, he were talking to them, and then they then they realized Democrats were attacking conservatives with the material from articles of oppression, 2025.

00;27;18;04 - 00;27;37;26

Dave Weigel

The Heritage Foundation has been working on executive orders, but they won't tell you what they are. And I've actually as a reporter, I'll probably get some background information about what to expect, how it looks, but they wanted to not have this be an issue in the campaign. So we're not entirely sure what he do, what has been vetted.

00;27;37;28 - 00;27;53;17

Dave Weigel

Because these are written and they're can actually kind of be written in real time. There are, yeah. Let's say you write something in June, and then a decision comes down the Fifth Circuit and that it would be moot. You don't you want to write, you have to rewrite it. You have to consider new information. But there will be executive orders on guns.

00;27;53;17 - 00;28;02;10

Dave Weigel

They're mostly going to be anything that about, that that Biden took put on the desk. We're going to take it off. We don't know what the additions would be. Yeah.

00;28;02;12 - 00;28;24;04

Stephen Gutowski

Right. That and yeah. And or if he's going to like, prioritize doing anything beyond trying to get rid of what Biden has done, because getting rid of what Biden has done is not, you know, a simple day. One thing necessarily, some of it is, you know, the Office of Gun Mines Prevention is just a random office that Biden made up, you know, he just created.

00;28;24;05 - 00;28;26;12

Stephen Gutowski

So Trump can undo that for.

00;28;26;15 - 00;28;44;16

Dave Weigel

Yeah, whatever I mean, pro-life activists want to take his road, pro-choice post Dobbs task force and turn that into a pro-life task force. And I've heard more about. Let's get rid of this task force. I've not heard. Let's turn it into a gun rights task. Office there. I think there might be some pressure to do that, but I haven't, I haven't I haven't seen it.

00;28;44;16 - 00;28;46;05

Dave Weigel

I wouldn't rule it out.

00;28;46;08 - 00;28;56;00

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, well, we'll see what he ends up doing with it. You know, firing the ATF director that Biden appointed is another one that he could do immediately. If he.

00;28;56;02 - 00;29;04;02

Dave Weigel

And there's some calls during the campaign, just get rid of the ATF. But he he didn't endorse that. There definitely are

people want jobs ministraton to want to get rid of it.

00;29;04;02 - 00;29;31;29

Stephen Gutowski

And I think that would likely require legislation to do it. Yeah. I think project 2025, the the only real gun stuff in there is to move ATF back under, Treasury. So instead of Justice Department, I don't know if that's something he can do administratively or not, but regardless, it's it's, you know, I think it's he has made in public at that NRA speech promises to undo Biden's acts.

00;29;31;29 - 00;29;49;03

Stephen Gutowski

Some of them will take longer, like undoing the federal rules that the ATF put in place. You have to go through the whole rulemaking process again. Some of them you might not. He's probably not going to be able to to grasp at like, the bipartisan Safer Communities Act. Some likely he's going to be able to repeal that because that would take legislation.

00;29;49;03 - 00;30;15;05

Stephen Gutowski

And it would also take a lot of Republicans reversing their position from when they voted for it the first time. So, just an unlikely thing to happen. He can probably have, you know, he can change maybe how some of the funding is allocated from that bill. But regardless, you know, but yeah, there's just a lack of really proposals to do more in, going the other direction.

00;30;15;07 - 00;30;39;25

Stephen Gutowski

But doesn't mean he won't, but it wasn't something he did in the first administration, and he didn't he didn't go out and make a bunch of pro-gun executive orders. He did very occasionally he would do something like withdrawal from the UN, arms trade agreements that got a lot of criticism from gun rights, because he actually did that in a very, theatrical way.

00;30;39;25 - 00;30;53;15

Stephen Gutowski

He did at the NRA annual meeting one year. He brought the thing out on the stage and he signed it. And, so maybe he'll do something like that in the future. I guess we'll have to see. But it doesn't feel like a high priority. Right?

00;30;53;17 - 00;31;07;06

Dave Weigel

Not really. No. And that's not one of the things they're mentioning, not one of things that you deliver on because so much of the Trump, the premises, what Trump needs to do that he ran on are things Biden screwed up that he has to fix. And this is not top of list. Yeah.

00;31;07;08 - 00;31;40;02

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. So beyond Trump, obviously we have, anything that would be extremely significant change to federal gun policy would likely have to go through Congress. And we we will have a new Republican Congress. And so I, you know, I'm interested in your thoughts there. On what do you foresee any significant gun policy making it the gun gun legislation and making it through this upcoming Congress, given, you know, the margins at play?

00;31;40;05 - 00;32;04;16

Dave Weigel

No. Unless so, Republicans say they don't want to get rid of the filibuster, which in theory, they could do if if 51 Republicans or 50. And the vice president just say we're holding a vote, we're changing the rules. Democrats did that with judicial nominees. They did it with Supreme Court nominees. You could do that. That's a huge judicial and cabinet.

00;32;04;18 - 00;32;33;04

Dave Weigel

And which, not I want to go a tangent. Whether it was a good idea, I didn't really think it was is the status quo of anyone being blocked by 50 by 41 votes was not great for any either party. Over the over the long run. They have not done it with legislation and a big get because so much of what you want you want to do on guns, you can do in court, you can just find the right you can find the right court, sue to overturn the law, find a right to constitutional carry, etc..

00:32:33;06 - 00:32:51;14

Dave Weigel

Not a this would not be the one that that Republicans change the filibuster over. There's just not the demand. I'm not even seeing the demand from the NRA or, other pressure groups to to do it. I've not seen a do constitutional carry as part of this year, even concealed carry reciprocity. I can see that being added to something.

00:32:51;20 - 00:32:55;10

Dave Weigel

But think of it. And two parts of this one.

00:32:55;12 - 00:33:00;12

Stephen Gutowski

Do you think you could, get some sort of national reciprocity as part of a broader package?

00:33:00;12 - 00:33:11;28

Dave Weigel

I only think that because there was an effort to do this 15 years ago when Obama was president and people and Tom Coburn was trying to make it happen. I think the politics of change, I just know that there was a time when you could get.

00:33:12;01 - 00:33:12;02

Stephen Gutowski

A.

00:33:12;04 - 00:33:28;21

Dave Weigel

Force. But that's what I was getting. That was getting. Yeah. That's what I was getting to is that think of who the Democrats are. And so they've got, one a pretty, a pretty strong House minority. It's, I think, going to be the largest House minority. And, everybody keep setting records. The largest like 100 years.

00:33:28;25 - 00:33:29;27

Stephen Gutowski

It's going to be wild.

00:33:30;01 - 00:33:38;25

Dave Weigel

And none of them will none of them feel pressured on on gun legislation, kind of, Marie Perez kind of, I said no, no name people. I would say it's.

00:33:38;26 - 00:33:39;21

Stephen Gutowski

Maybe like five.

00:33:39;21 - 00:34:11;08

Dave Weigel

Liberal, five people, feel like they might have to. They might be pressured if they vote on the wrong way on a gun bill. And the House will do a lot of messaging legislation, which which will test them. It always does. What would what Democrats in the Senate would feel pressured to vote for something? I don't think any because Jon Ossoff is the the one

Democrat in cycle in Georgia who, holds what's technically a Trump state's state that's moved, to the left since 2016, a little bit further to the right since 2020.

00:34:11;10 - 00:34:41;21

Dave Weigel

And but the reason Democrats are won, the state has very liberal gun laws, and there's no sign that changing, two Democrats, they're they're they're competitive or they win because they they win in metro Atlanta. They win in the college towns. They hold on to the black belt. Just he's not cross pressured the way that a conservative Democrat like, or a Democrat like Mark Pryor or Blanche Lincoln, the Democrats who all lost in the Obama years, even this time, like John Tester and he's John Tester is gone.

00:34:41;26 - 00:35:02;25

Dave Weigel

Joe Manchin is gone. You just you just don't have anyone who's going to feel like they have to vote for this. So if there is no change the filibuster, they bring up a Senate bill. I don't think you get any Democrats on most gun legislation because what's what would be the point. And if you're Ossoff, you need to keep I know there's some changing relationships between Democrats and the pressure groups, not the gun groups.

00:35:03;01 - 00:35:28;13

Dave Weigel

They have a very good relationship with, with Moms Demand with with Giffords. I don't think they're they're inclined, to cross them before an election. And again, it wouldn't you look at the math like, does it help you in Gwinnett and DeKalb County to do that? Probably not. So that is a difference where you you had ten years ago, eight years ago, enough Democrats where you could try to pull some in the Senate and make a problem for him.

00:35:28;13 - 00:35:30;19

Dave Weigel

And he he's don't have that anymore.

00:35:30;21 - 00:35:51;29

Stephen Gutowski

Right? Yeah. No, I think that's a good a good point. There's just not that same level of Blue Dog Democrat type out there anymore. To that could vote for some of this that some of this stuff. Someone is knocking on my door as I'm recording. Oh, it's fun times. Just going to ignore them and hopefully they will go away.

00:35:52;01 - 00:36:16;10

Stephen Gutowski

That's how I handle all my problems. But, Yeah. No, I, you know, it's it's certainly something where I could, I think that legislation is just not not really possible, but maybe, maybe there's some compromise or what do you think of reconciliation? This is another area that people often bring up as kind of a, you know, a way to get things through.

00:36:16;15 - 00:36:49;28

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, but can't get to 60 votes. What? Something like, for instance, reclassifying suppressors or silencers, taking it out of the National Firearms Act, which is a tax technically. Like if you remove the tax stamp, the tax requirement from them, that maybe you can stretch that as a budgetary, bill and get somewhere with that. I don't know, like, do you think that kind of thing is because again, reconciliation only requires 51 votes, right?

00:36:50;00 - 00:37:01;23

Stephen Gutowski

It's sort of the workaround to the filibuster that has existed for a long time. But there's a lot of rules to how how you do it. Do you think there's some space there?

00:37:01;25 - 00:37:30;24

Dave Weigel

Yeah. The way that that would be done, you mentioned what they could try to add because reconciliation, you get two runs that every Congress to to two appropriations bills. So. Sorry. Yeah. Two funding bills that are, only need 50 votes to, to pass. And that is where you put everything. That's where Democrats try to put a minimum wage increase.

00:37:30;26 - 00:37:57;01

Dave Weigel

Immigration reform, the ways and immigration reform the every time what you need to do is argues to the parliamentarian, that this is germane because it affects federal, the federal finances, this this will raise revenue. This will decrease revenue. So you can come up with a rationale and say to the parliamentarian, this, this piece of gun legislation that we're adding to this package, has a fiscal effect, therefore it's germane.

00:37:57;01 - 00:38:19;11

Dave Weigel

Leave it in. The the parliamentarian in 2021 knocked out what Democrats wanted to do. They did not contested the Biden position was I won't contested Trump has not been super interest is a Trump has been odd about this because he's called for the end of the filibuster on and off when he's not getting his way, and then he's giving up on it, and he's never really gotten in the weeds on the on the Senate parliamentarian.

00:38:19;11 - 00:38:39;10

Dave Weigel

But what Republicans could do, and they did, under George W Bush is get a ruling. They don't like unfavorable ruling and just, say, all right, there's a new parliamentarian. Now we're putting somebody in who we think is going to rule our way. It's easy to imagine Trump winning that for one of his priorities. I don't know if this be the priority, but that's that's how it would happen is we're we're trying you know.

00:38:39;10 - 00:38:51;28

Dave Weigel

Step one, we have an idea. Please approve it. Step two, you didn't approve it. We're going to get rid of you. That would be the steps before they try to do anything with, the vote threshold on all legislation.

00:38:52;00 - 00:39:19;21

Stephen Gutowski

Right? Because, I mean, you could make an argument that literally anything is budget related or have some impact on the budget. Right. But it's all about what the parliamentarian allows. And then then it's a fight, a like you said, that then it's a fight over the parliamentarian themselves if you want to take it that far. But generally speaking, Senate Republicans, not haven't traditionally been as willing to use those kind of tactics as Donald Trump.

00:39:19;24 - 00:39:20;27

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. But I don't know, maybe.

00:39:21;00 - 00:39:40;18

Dave Weigel

John Thune is and and John Thune is the leader and he's, attitude really exactly like Mitch McConnell on this. The Rick Scott was running for leader and Rick Scott wasn't even fighting on this. His his complaints about how the party move for more just there were there are priorities that could pass that McConnell would never, would never put on the calendar.

00:39:40;21 - 00:39:44;05

Dave Weigel

But yeah, this is not leadership that's inclined to do that.

00:39:44;08 - 00:40:13;00

Stephen Gutowski

Okay. Interesting. So I guess the the last bit then is maybe the most impactful. Right. We, we talked about this with brothers last week and Punchbowl. But it's probably going to be the judicial appointments right. I mean do you see any reason that there won't be four straight years of Trump judicial appointments and just getting what he wants because you're probably going to have Republican control of the Senate for that entire time, right?

00:40:13:00 - 00:40:19:06

Stephen Gutowski

Just just glancing at the 2026 map, it doesn't seem yeah, a lot about pickup opportunities there for Democrats.

00:40:19:09 - 00:40:26:24

Dave Weigel

Yeah, the caution is that Republicans had 55 seats in 2004. And they and they lost 6 in 2026. So it's possible.

00:40:26:25 - 00:40:29:20

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah it is, but it's a it just depends on the politics town.

00:40:29:25 - 00:40:49:21

Dave Weigel

Yeah. And even this time I'm not just the conversation and sort of a news judgment around covering Senate races. It was very clear that when Joe Manchin retired that Republicans were going to get 50 seats at least. And it was very clear when John Tester was not leading in any poll that Republicans were probably gonna win the Senate.

00:40:49:24 - 00:41:12:22

Dave Weigel

But reporters were pretty cautious about saying that and covering the, kind of outside, outside bets that the Democrats were making of can we put Texas in play, which they couldn't, can we put Nebraska in play? Couldn't. Although that was that was actually closer than Texas could could try Florida. That wasn't at all. So there'll be a special election.

00:41:12:22 - 00:41:36:14

Dave Weigel

Ohio will be a special election in Florida to replace Marco Rubio, you know, in Ohio to replace JD Vance. And, briefly to deal with this, there is a shot that Democrats, they could win Maine. They could win, they can win a special election. Ohio. Sherrod Brown comes back. They could win North Carolina. They could maybe win Alaska Mary Peltz all around.

00:41:36:14 - 00:41:55:02

Dave Weigel

So I don't think until we know the candidates in a year will you say impossible? But you're right. More likely. I mean like it's more likely than not that they have it. And this happened in the, the Trump years. It was actually, they had 52, you know, they had a Senate majority when Trump took office.

00:41:55:04 - 00:42:27:11

Dave Weigel

They lost the seat in Alabama. They regained, they regained that not that Alabama seat till until 2020. But they held that majority and with a very narrow majority, they could pass lots of people. They were only losing judges. If they were just they just seemed incompetent. And this was this is what would happen. There was in this hubris where, they wanted some young conservative judge without very much experience, or a conservative attorney without much experience on the bench, they'd have a hearing and they'd be humiliated because they didn't know anything.

00:42:27:18 - 00:42:45:05

Dave Weigel

Not to be too mean to them, but this is sort of the John Kennedy style in Judiciary Committee meetings is quiz them on

not basics, but also somewhat obscure law to see if they know what they're talking about. So they actually they only lost nominees if they were terrible. And so, yeah, I think you're basically right.

00:42:45:05 - 00:43:16:20

Dave Weigel

I just say that Democrats are looking at this map and they're had it been a 55, seat, but I mean, really just but for 30,000 votes in Wisconsin, and 30,000 votes in Nevada, they could say, oh, we're done for a decade, and they're just on the cusp. I think we're, you know, they they might they might with a really good election, let's say let's imagine because I imagine not because it's good, but imagine a scenario, a situation where, just the economy actually does decline.

00:43:16:20 - 00:43:24:25

Dave Weigel

There's some sort of crash. Oh, yeah, they're unpopular cuts. All of a sudden he's polling at 25%. That's the scenario where Democrats say, all right, we're going to make a run at these things.

00:43:24:27 - 00:43:31:16

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, well, I don't know that Trump could ever pull at 25%, but I could certainly see I'm getting I think popular. Yeah.

00:43:31:16 - 00:43:50:21

Dave Weigel

But less popular and with and with a coalition because this is a big is a big factor. I'm not sure. Just get I'm trying not to take it's too much off the topic to, the pure electoral stuff. But this is the thing that makes Democrats more confident about the midterms and not the the word I would not use to describe Democrats now as confident, but I think that makes them think we could have a great midterm.

00:43:50:25 - 00:44:15:12

Dave Weigel

We could gain we you know, the House is not as good as done, but we could gain. It is because Trump has activated so many voters who don't usually vote. Republicans are going to spend two years trying to convince people who never voted until 2020 to come back, to come back to, vote in the midterms for people who are not Donald Trump.

00:44:15:16 - 00:44:37:15

Dave Weigel

That might be tough. Whereas Democrats are going to rely on this coalition of college educated voters. Not that they all have college kids, but their coalition now is like college educated liberals, college educated moderates, 85% of black voters, 55% of Latino voters. And that's been pretty effective in midterms. This is a reason why Democrats, Democrats have the disadvantage 20 years ago.

00:44:37:15 - 00:44:39:00

Dave Weigel

They have an advantage now.

00:44:39:03 - 00:45:08:11

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. No, I think you're absolutely right on that. And I will and I will say, like, if you look back at the early Obama years, for instance, even after that, what what is probably the closest thing we're getting to a landslide presidential election in our lifetimes? Although I guess I was I was born in 87. You might have been around for the last Reagan landslide, but but, you know, even after that, even after Democrats had 60 votes, you know, Scott Brown won in Massachusetts of all place as a Republican.

00:45:08:11 - 00:45:37:20

Stephen Gutowski

So, you know, if people the country can turn pretty quickly in these scenarios and you might see some surprise wins,

depending on on how things go over the next two years. But that'll all be again, I guess, depending on how things go the next few. There are some of these structural aspects to, the coalitions that can point you in a certain direction, or you can look at the map and not see really amazing pickup opportunities for obvious pickup.

00:45:37;23 - 00:45:55;10

Stephen Gutowski

You know, it was pretty clear, like you said, that this time around, Republicans were probably going to win the Senate either way. However, this election came out. But, you know, you don't necessarily see that in 2026, but you do like you said, there are reasons to think maybe, maybe the Senate doesn't stay Republican through all four years.

00:45:55;10 - 00:46:17;05

Stephen Gutowski

But I would still say on the whole, more likely than not, and more likely than not, that Trump is able to push through a lot of judges that will, favor gun rights. And that will probably be the most substantial part of his upcoming administration, just like it was the most substantial part of his previous administration on this stuff.

00:46:17;05 - 00:46:17;20

Stephen Gutowski

Right?

00:46:17;22 - 00:46:37;20

Dave Weigel

Yeah, certainly. Certainly in the near term. I was toying with the midterms just because it's interesting. But in the near term, in the next two years, that will be the priority. And if they if they have a and if they have a bad at this point, two years November 2026. If they if they manage to lose the Senate, the Senate is just going to, John Thune is going to open it up and confirm every everyone who an opening they could possibly do.

00:46:37;23 - 00:47:02;29

Dave Weigel

The one thing I haven't heard anyone do because it would require 60 votes or require, filibuster reform is there's the occasional discussion about, expanding the number of judges, period. Just to excuse me. Just saying. Well, let's look at the countries when we're complicated, or we should split the Ninth Circuit and add another circuit. I haven't heard that at all, but I and I don't think they would do that in this circumstance because they're just going to have enough openings.

00:47:03;04 - 00:47:22;15

Dave Weigel

The difference between them and, and coming in at the, I would say ironic to really put a difference between them in the last time that Trump is coming in to replace a Democrat is because Obama didn't have the Senate for the last two years of his term. And just McConnell strategically, obviously famously with Garland, but strategically kept a ton of seats open.

00:47:22;15 - 00:47:40;29

Dave Weigel

And Amy Coney Barrett got a seat they've been kept open for for years. Just they would not let Obama fill it. And that and that is as we talk right now, it's the the main goal of Democrats is filling every seat they can. So Trump can't do it. They're leaving a few that were they do not have a nominee, they can get to the floor.

00:47:41;01 - 00:47:58;27

Dave Weigel

This is not they do take this seriously. This is occasionally somebody on line is like, we'll fantasize, but it's finding some, you know, 22 year old, Georgetown law student making him a judge. They do need to vet. There is a process, for this, but, they're going to they're not going to leave a lot of empty space for Trump.

00:47:58;27 - 00:48:04;26

Dave Weigel

It's going to be more conservatives who retire take senior status, and people who die that.

00:48:04;27 - 00:48:15;25

Stephen Gutowski

That's something that's a very important point, because that's not something we've talked about yet on the show. It's like there won't be as many opportunities for Trump to appoint judges this time around as there were.

00:48:15;27 - 00:48:17;12

Dave Weigel

Not immediately. Yeah.

00:48:17;14 - 00:48:31;19

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah. So good point. But all right. Well, hey we appreciate you joining us again and giving us, your post-election view like you did with the pre-election view. I think, a lot of good, insightful stuff in there. If people want to read more of your reporting, where can they do that?

00:48:31;22 - 00:48:58;00

Dave Weigel

They can read it at Semafor.com. I write Americana. I it comes out once a week for now. It was twice a week before the election, I think go above it back to twice a week later. But no offense to Virginia, new Jersey. I don't have two stories a week, but Virginia, new Jersey elections. But actually I am going to be covering more assignment for generally I have the newsletter every week, but I'm writing more, when I see a story, write it, things and writing more about policy because I, I enjoy covering campaigns.

00:48:58;00 - 00:49:21;21

Dave Weigel

But this conversation is a good example. When you get power, you do interesting things with it. And so once once people are in place and they're, they're parts of this I've been covering for years. People said, we have a plan, we can implement it if we just win the presidency and the Congress. So yeah. So if I was going to have all that I post on, x as Dave Weigel, I post on blue Sky as Dave Weigel, and I don't hate blue Sky.

00:49:21;25 - 00:49:28;08

Dave Weigel

People have opinions about it. I kind of feel like I'm having fun there. I am blocked by maybe a thousand people because they think you can.

00:49:28;08 - 00:49:40;08

Stephen Gutowski

Sir, it is definitely, it does skew left for sure. Not as much as it did early on where people my gosh, you know, I know people talk about it as an echo chamber now, but early.

00:49:40;08 - 00:49:41;07

Dave Weigel

On, that much was.

00:49:41;13 - 00:50:08;04

Stephen Gutowski

But, you know, it is much closer to your sort of, old school Twitter than X is. It's just a lot less algorithm algorithmically driven and, you know, and then all the Elon stuff, obviously, isn't, isn't a factor on, blue Sky. But I personally, I think the more interesting thing about it is just, it's basically just what Twitter was, and how you find people, how things get into your feed threads.

00:50:08:04 - 00:50:33:29

Stephen Gutowski

It's been fine. But yeah, I just these, everything's in the algorithm now, and I just don't. I don't want that, you know? I want to follow people I trust and see what they're saying and what they're retweeting. And so that's what I like about blue Sky so far. Anyway, you know, I still post all our stories on on X and threads and I try to go where people are, but but yeah, I follow you on I think all of them too.

00:50:33:29 - 00:50:45:16

Stephen Gutowski

So we have three different ways of keeping up to date with one another. So that's that's always fun. Also finding an app where you can actually cross post across it. I haven't tried to do that.

00:50:45:20 - 00:51:04:25

Dave Weigel

I've not tried. I I'm, I'm pretty days about what I post because I do try to put it if I got news I put it on our website. People can click, click through to it. But there's so much stuff. And one thing I did this week was I was just at a meeting of Democrats and I quoted one thing, and that blew up and I didn't write a story till Friday, so it's still worth following me on those things.

00:51:04:25 - 00:51:07:02

Dave Weigel

I try to, if I get information, I put it there.

00:51:07:05 - 00:51:29:09

Stephen Gutowski

Yeah, sometimes it's not worth the full story or it's not the bandwidth to write it immediately or whatever. You want to still get it out there. They're still useful for that, for sure. And then also, you know, complaining about sports or, trying to buy a car. I was complaining about that on social media. So if people want to hear this, that's, go there instead of the podcast, but,

00:51:29:11 - 00:51:34:10

Stephen Gutowski

All right, well, we appreciate you joining us. And, we'll have to have you back on in the future as well.

00:51:34:17 - 00:51:36:21

Dave Weigel

Yeah. Awesome to do it. Thanks for having me.

00:51:36:24 - 00:51:40:00

Stephen Gutowski

All right. That's all we've got for you guys this week. We will see you again real soon.