

## Crystal Quade – Boone County 10-05-2024

### Summary:

Crystal Quade discussed her journey from a young person inspired by public policy to becoming a social worker and elected official. She highlighted her efforts to address non-partisan issues like affordable childcare, public schools, and healthcare. Quade emphasized the need to overturn Missouri's strict abortion laws and raise the minimum wage, guaranteeing earned sick leave for all workers. She noted the challenges in Jefferson City, including divisiveness and low bill passage rates. Quade stressed the importance of breaking the Republican supermajority and thanked supporters for their help, noting the need for continued financial support to effectively communicate her message.

### Action Items:

#### **1. Overturning Missouri's Abortion Ban:**

**[0:05:51 - 0:07:34]**

- *"What we have right now in the state of Missouri is the most drastic abortion data in the whole country, without exceptions for being the princess, and this year we're going to overturn, yeah..."*

#### **2. Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Land:**

**[0:08:41 – 08:50]**

- *"...my opponent was the deciding vote to allow foreign ownership of ag land, even though that's what they like to talk about all the time."*

#### **3. Raising the Minimum Wage:**

**[0:5:51- 0:6:00]**

- *"...we're going to raise the minimum wage. But not just that, guarantee that every single Missourian gets earned sick leave for them."*

#### **4. Guaranteeing Earned Sick Leave:**

**[0:05:53 - 0:06:18]**

- *"...every single Missourian who is working deserves the opportunity to be able to take care of themselves and their family, and we're going to get that done this year."*

### Transcript:

### Crystal Quade:

I was at school that I realized everything I wanted to do to help people was dictated by public policy. So I decided to go to Jefferson City and learn a bit more. My family was not one that watched the news often. We didn't need to get the paper. It was not a thing that we talked about. And so I knew that I needed to go into the beast to understand government and learn more. And I some of you have heard me tell this story before, but I'll never forget being a young person, getting to work in this amazing, beautiful building full of such history, and going to learn from these amazing leaders who deeply cared. And then I got there, and I realized real fast that there are too many people in positions of power who don't understand what regular working class people the way this, you know, this time was before Medicaid expansion, and I remember listening them to talk about low income families and working class families like mine, families who struggle with addiction like mine, with quite honestly, Some disdain and discussed and just a lack of understanding. So in that moment, it was like, I want to get involved. I want to do this work. And quite honestly, if people like this could get elected, I could probably do it too. So I had the great honor after after school to work for Senator Claire McCaskill. And then after Obama became president, I jumped over onto the campaign side and became a community organizer, spending a lot of time in rural parts of our state talking to people about why they should care about government. It wasn't very It wasn't as much of a partisan gig as more of a this is what a letter to the editor does. This is who your local elected officials are, why your county commission matters. And I did some of that work, and then we got farmed out to work on an actual on Robert carnahan's US Senate race. And then after that, I went back home to Springfield, became a social worker and started my family and then in 2016 decided to run for the most contested House seat in the whole state of Missouri, and became the only elected Democrat south of Columbia in the state. Asked me,

How in the world did you do that? And the answer is really honest, and I know a lot of you in this space do this work, so you understand what I've got to say, but we won by showing up, and we won by talking to people, and we won by having my yard sign right next to Donald Trump yard signs in the same yard as a pro choice Democrat in southwest Missouri. Because we found, and still find today that when you talk to people and you ask them, What do you want from your state government, the answers are always the same. You know, it's I can't find childcare that's affordable, and I can't go back to work. I'm really worried about our public school system, or I can't go to the doctor's office, and I'm scared I'm going to go bankrupt and fight you right? These issues are not partisan, and that's how we won in 2016 and that's how we've been winning since, and that's how I know that we can do this work here in 2024 as mentioned, I've been serving in the state house for the last eight years, six of them as a Democratic leader. And I mean it when I say running for governor in 2024 was not really part of my life plan. I have a 10 year old at home, and you know, there's I'm obviously relatively young in this space, and I've got plenty of time to do this, but the last eight years in Jefferson City have been so governed. And you know, we could talk about the fact that we have some of the lowest paid teachers and lowest education funding in the whole country, or that we've lost 18 rural hospitals in the last decade, or that we still have places in Missouri where you don't have access to broadband internet, our roll. Roads and bridges are crumbling. We're ranked d minus on the national scale for infrastructure. We have maternal mortality rates of third world countries. And you guys know the statistics that we have those are those are such tremendous issues, but it's also the divisiveness that has continued

to grow in that place and across the country. You know, when I first got to Jefferson City, it was every day you would be on the floor and you'd debate with each other, and then folks who disagreed would go and have dinner with each other a few hours later. That's not what's happening anymore. I mean, you guys, a lot of you in this space, are so involved, and so I know I'm preaching to the choir, but there's so much anxiety in Jefferson City right now that we have the least amount of bills passed in Missouri's history. This past year, we have one party in charge of all the statewide offices, in charge of the house, in charge of the Senate. We had a surplus this year, and we still passed the lowest amount of bills ever. And it's because the guys who were in charge right now only care about their next election. They only care about running against each other. I mean, you all watch the primaries that happened in August when the flame throwers and the ridiculousness, instead of actually talking about the issues that actually matter in our state, and I decided to jump in because I know that we deserve better than what we have. Obviously, a lot of issues at stake this year when it comes to Missouri being a place that everyone can feel welcome in and thriving, where young people actually want to stay and start a family, particularly in the rural parts of our state that that are losing population every single day and no businesses want to come to because of all the things that we just talked about. But beyond these issues, we have so much tremendous opportunity in Missouri this year, you guys know that we have an opportunity to get politicians out of our doctor's offices and stop the most stressing. I can't tell you by how many I mean a lot of you I know knock doors and collect signatures and thank you so much for that work, because I know that you've also heard firsthand the stories from women who were miscarrying and going to the doctor's offices and being told you're not close enough to death yet you got to go home. I've received those phone calls. I know you all have heard those stories. What we have right now in the state of Missouri is the most drastic abortion data the whole country, without exceptions for being the princess, and this year we're going to overturn, yeah,

raise the minimum wage. But not just that guarantee that every single Missourian gets earned sick leave for them. We know, as I know, I'm sorry. I Mom. I can't tell you how many times over the years that my little ones sick and I'm like, oh my god, I can't call into work again. I don't have any more PTO. Every single Missourian who is working deserves the opportunity to be able to take care of themselves and their family, and we're going to get that done this year. Not only are these amazing initiatives getting through, but we have tremendous opportunity here in the state of Missouri to bring balance back. Now I know the numbers. We could sit and talk about it all day, but I want you to know that the poll numbers are also really good, and we have a pathway to victory here in this race, and not just with the Democrats that we know are going to be excited to vote for the first female president in Missouri's history. People who are excited to overturn the abortion ban. We know that voter turnout is going to be up, but we also know across the whole state of Missouri that people are getting frustrated. I have been traveling to every corner of this state, going to a lot of places that Democrats aren't supposed to show up in, and I'll tell you everywhere that I'm going, we are having record numbers of crowds. And I know Lucas coons is saying the same thing. If you guys follow his social media, we are having record number of people showing up. And it's not people who are necessarily saying like, Oh, I'm with the Democrats. It's that they don't like what's happening and they want to hear what the other options are, yes, and that's huge when it comes to taking our state back and bringing balance back. I'm a

strong Democrat, and I will never shy away from that, but I'll be the first one to say that without different opinions at the table, you are not going to come up with good public policy

in these statewide races, and I know that we can. We are also going to break the Republican super majority in the state house, in the States, yeah, right here with seated Weber in the Columbia I'm governor, and they over try to overturn amendment three, which they're already saying that they're doing. My opponent is already saying it. Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman is already saying that the first thing she's going to do on day one is work to own, to undo what the voters have to say in November, when I'm governor and we break the Republican super majorities. We can stop that from happening. Yeah, we know that this race is an uphill battle. I'm not going to say Carolina you guys and say that it's sunshine and roses, and we've got all the millions of dollars my opponent spent \$17 million to win his primary. That's a very expensive race. We know what we're up against here, but what I want to say to you guys is that there is a pathway, and we know who those voters are that we need to talk to. We We know who those, who those, what the messages are between abortion and the fact that my opponent was the deciding vote to allow foreign ownership of ag land, even though that's what they like to talk about all the time, we have a voting record. We have a path, and we know who these people are, but it does cost money, and so I again want to thank the coalition and all of the folks here who are helping us get that message out. We are going to be up on TV on Monday, which is two weeks ahead of my opponent, which we're really excited about, unless he changes his mind having you know that makes sense, but as of today, and so we're going to be up in Kansas City and St Louis first. I'm going to be honest with you guys, we don't have as much money as we need to get the message everywhere that we've got to be so we're going to start in the larger markets. As we continue to raise money, we'll be here in Columbia and in Springfield. But I want you guys to know that that's coming, but we need your support to do so, and so I really appreciate you showing up in the Coalition for always being here and helping us get that done, because that message is key, folks. Often we are just chat about this at this table of kind of, how did we get here, in terms of the imbalance that's happening in the state of Missouri? And I want to leave you guys with a couple numbers real quick, when Chris kosters and Jason Kander ran, the Democrats, spent \$60 million that year, 60. When Nicole Galloway ran, we spent five. So when we talk about our message not getting out to these places, that is a big piece of this conversation. The next thing that I want to say to you, however, is that. We have more candidates running for the Missouri House of Representatives this year than we've had since 2010 so we're not going to outspend them, but we cannot work there, and in these counties, like where I grew up, we're not going to win. But when we have Democrats there showing an alternative message, holding people accountable, which everyone should be once they're running for office, we move the needle two or three points. That's how we get abortion done. That's how we win this governor's race, and we have an opportunity to do it this year. I can't thank you guys enough for all the investment that you've given into me and so many amazing women across the state of Missouri. But

I'm also happy to answer questions if you if you want to do that. But thank you guys. You guys can have first conversation. I appreciate you all being here. Thank you.