



Counter Stories: When whites become a minority

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1 Speaker 1 0:04

You know, it seems like every day when we go into an office, a workplace, a library, a government building, we're surrounded by people who aren't like us. But you know, sometimes when my imagination takes me away, I find myself in a place surrounded by people who are like us. Can anyone think of that time maybe in a book or a movie, or a song even where you could imagine just being in that place that was so diverse, so multicultural, so different from everyday life,

2 Speaker 2 0:36

makes me think of that john legend song and don't have to change, where he's talking about remembering back in his family traditions, you can hear the sounds of family louder, and then talking, I kind of think back on that. family gets together spontaneously breaks out in song, and nobody looks at you funny. Because you might be singing or you are, look, they all can sing or something like that, you know,

3 Speaker 3 0:58

makes me think about the Latin Grammys or the Latin billboard awards. Because typically have you I haven't had to hang with you then is that when you're watching the Grammys, or the Oscars, or anything else, billboard Awards on television, seldom do people look like us. But when you're looking at these particular awards, whether it's a Latin Grammy or Latin billboard,



have to watch. And I bring my girls in a room. And there's a complete validation of our culture of our music of our stars, and of our people, and certainly a great example of how we have reached the national level. Not yet completely mainstream, if you will. But it's such a invigorating experience to watch that.

4 **Speaker 4** 1:55

I have a very strange story. When I was in South Korea, and I was there with several of my sisters, we decided to go to one of the public bath houses, which is everybody's just taking a bath together basically in these different pools and these different tabs and stuff. And so my sister and I were really nervous when we say, you know, this the person, we're gonna see each other naked since we were like kids, right? Is How weird is that? And so we went to this place, and it was just all bunch of other Asian women. And it was very comfortable. And we didn't realize how comfortable it felt until a white woman came through. And then we were like, oh, and then all of a sudden, we all became very uncomfortable. And and you know, it's just the body, our bodies are different. And then we were just like, wow, we never realized how uncomfortable it could be to be the minority in such a big group of, of Asians.

5 **Speaker 5** 2:48

Well, I have to share two quick stories. One, my dad is was from Des Moines, Iowa, and he would take us down there as kids to visit his side of the family, which was African American. And in certain parts of Des Moines was all black. And when we get together for these family reunions, family picnics, we'd be at this parks, and there wouldn't be any white folks, it just be all black. On my mom's side, we'd go up to the reservation every weekend, every other weekend during the summer when we were kids. So we'd be surrounded by our family or relatives powwows culture, the whole thing, and it would be nothing but Native Americans. And so for me, I have to share both because it's, I would have experienced both of those on both sides of the family. You know,

1 **Speaker 1** 3:33

the Minnesota Orchestra just got back from Cuba. And I was struck by the



my time there about eight years ago. And I'll never forget just the overwhelming sense of differentness. Even though I had come from Miami, which is a heavily diverse place, a lot of people from different cultures, I've never seen so many black people speak Spanish, so many mixed couples, and how it was just seemed overwhelmingly, even in that sometimes difficult place. Just normal to have all those people living so close together. And, you know, sort of celebrating that oneness. Sounds like we're onto something here with what it would be like, in a different world, a world where you weren't surrounded necessarily by people aren't like you were you're not the one and the only where your child isn't. You know, that seems to be the common story in Minnesota for people of color. But it's not the counter story. That's what we're all about. I'm your host, David Kessler is here with the counter stories crew ready to get into a discussion about what life will be like what life could be like when the nation stops being what it has been for so long and becomes a place where minorities, the majority, what's that gonna mean?

1 **Speaker 1** 5:09

This is the show by people of color for people of color, and everybody else gets called counter stories. And just about every week bring to you a different narrative than the one you hear or see, every day. It's the one where multicultural voices bring you, all those perspectives that you're missing, but you so desperately want you do you know, you do go ahead and admit it. And we've got it for you. I'm David Kessler is your host joined here by some pretty good people, and they're gonna lay it on me right now, just as they always do.

2 **Speaker 2** 5:40

Anthony Galloway black male race, equity advocate and educator in the West Metro Twin Cities area,

3 **Speaker 3** 5:46

lose muddy FTS and attorney with the public policy background.



5:50



5 **Speaker 5** 5:52

Dan Eubanks Mille Lacs Band members, system professor at Metropolitan State University and cultural consultant, hey, I

1 **Speaker 1** 5:59

was in Chinatown just a couple of months ago in New York, but not the real Chinatown. Because the real time towns in Queens actually somebody told me, but I was in the old Chinatown. And I was surrounded by Latin American immigrants speaking Spanish and Portuguese, rather. And I was I felt so great. I was like, wow, this is cool. And then I got back on a plane full of except for me and my family, full of white folks, and headed back to Minnesota, and back to normalcy. But it's really cool idea to think about that experience and how it might someday be the normal thing for many of us in this country. Maybe not all of us because, you know, the way our country is set up, people live heavily on the coast. And that's where the most diverse populations are. But you know, times are changing even in my hometown of Indianapolis, you hear Spanish on the airport airwaves of speakers. So I'm really intrigued by this possibility. He may happen late in my life, but some of y'all are gonna see it in the midlife. What do you think about that?

3 **Speaker 3** 6:56

It'll be the new normal, right? The new normal is having all of our cultures, I mean, you've got over 100 languages spoken, and each of the school districts in St. Paul Minneapolis. So it's happening already. And that, generally speaking, is measured with kindergarten classes. So give us an idea of what it's going to look like projecting, you know, the the population thereafter as adults. And I'm seeing it in my work on a daily basis interacting with our communities of color. But the minute you go into boardrooms and business rooms, it shuts off. So it's almost this dichotomy, that we're living on a daily basis. And I think that holds true for our own lives. We as as bicultural, and biracial individuals, were constantly having to navigate, going from one culture to another, and from one surrounding to another, and turning on and off, and how we feel each day ends up being very, very different.



where you easily walk and navigate in multiple cultural and racial contexts?
With with without question, or with ease?

1 **Speaker 1** 8:10

Well, sometimes it's not easy. When I first moved to South Florida 20, some years ago, I had a guy come up to me, a black guy asked me something in the most ethnic of ways. And I answered him, just as he spoke to me, then I had a Cuban person come up to me and speak to me in Spanish. And like, answered that person in Spanish as best I could. It's not my first language, but I do okay, in a good day. And I felt really good about that. But living in that space in Miami really taught me a lot about the friction and potential for a little bit of difficulty when groups come together, and I can navigate between the Latino world and the black American world and in larger white society, pretty well. But I can also see hey, sometimes you know, there's a little bit of an ethnic spoil game that goes on in politics and education and business and, and and because everybody's trying to get their piece of the pie. That's the American way.

2 **Speaker 2** 9:04

So there's two conversations we're having here, one in which the numbers are gonna change over but I hear what I'm hearing out of out of what we've kind of talked about so far is the day beyond that when actual, you know, culture and identity, that piece is going to lag far behind the change. And

1 **Speaker 1** 9:21

yeah, I mean, you carry your humanity with you, even when you're in the pack so to speak. You still got your your biases, as Louise talked about recently, you still got you still got prejudices, you still got your ambition and drive and you know, a need or a feeling that you want to do better than somebody else. And, and sometimes, you need to put that aside and treat all people well. But so people are going to be people, but it opens the door to some different kinds of interactions where maybe not everybody is you know, sort of suffering. Under the long standing rules, the rules are changing, and you got everybody's gonna have to figure out how that works.



I'm not so as optimistic, too. think that it'll happen in my lifetime? I think the number of thing Well, no, you know, all of us put together will outnumber the white people. But the white people are still the ones with the billions and trillions of dollars who, by politicians and who, you know, set can send their kids to Harvard, even though their kids might be dumbest, don't like, and then they continue this cycle. You're right, those kids and becoming politicians, because their parents blah, blah, blah, blah. So I don't know,

2 **Speaker 2** 10:28

when when our norms gonna shift numbers can shift. Yes, but when is the norm? What is the normative behavior gonna shift? Right? The idea that the would this talking this way, these types of things that you see, when that population change? Are we going to start seeing what I

3 **Speaker 3** 10:41

think is really actual change? And yeah, what I think is really important to consider is that it goes beyond race and culture. It's really the normative part of it that you were alluding to Anthony, the US capitalist society here in us is an individualist based society. So everyone needs to think for themselves and get ahead, right? It's a very competitive type of mindset. There are benefits. Yeah, there. And I'm not knocking. I'm just saying, factually speaking, we're individualist society here in the US, compared to a fair amount the majority of other countries around the world which are collectivist in nature. So if you if you begin to see how these particularly these cultures, Latino culture, and, and African culture and the Asian culture, many other cultures around the world, those individuals who are here in the US, there's constantly this cultural dynamic, and this clash, if you will, between being individualist and collectivist. And I think and I hold true as an optimist, that if we continue to shift both in numbers that we will get there in power, not necessarily in my lifetime, but that collectivist nature to cooperate together, across communities of color, for the better good. And the game. That's really what we're about. So



12:02

what's what's the year we're talking about? 2042?



In Numbers, okay,

2 **Speaker 2** 12:07

so just saying we have a lot to learn from the nations a lot closer to home who were collected list before Europeans that set it up on this. Yes, this great nation. And I'm looking at you, Mr. Eubanks?

5 **Speaker 5** 12:17

Well, again, even in that comment, we were statistically insignificant, but the numbers game, you know, cuz what 2040 2042 when when the numbers change, and whites become the minority, but that's because collectively, all the other groups of color, and American Indians will outnumber white people in the country. But they'll still be the largest minority group in this country. So I think that, you know, it'll be interesting to see what happens, because while I'm optimistic also, that I would hope that all these various communities of colors, and the American Indian community can collectively come together to work things out in this country. I don't know, what do you what do you I feel

4 **Speaker 4** 13:01

like right now, and I've mentioned this on this show before is that the Asian communities, there are so many different groups of us, the Hmong and the Vietnamese component, you know, all of us, we barely work together now. That I don't know how we're gonna come. And in the next 30 years, to work with everybody else, nope. Nobody knows that. So.

3 **Speaker 3** 13:24

But, you know, that holds true for the Latino community, to me, at least when 1819 countries within our collective Hispanic,

1 **Speaker 1** 13:32

there's a couple of Latino, at least one Latino candidate, who has nothing in common with most Latino people in this country politically.



situations like this, where you really can begin to frame the narrative differently. I think people are open to that, to be able then to strategically begin to work together. I know, here in Minnesota, maybe because we started at a very small number. And we have grown, of course, significantly, but there's a strong base of people coming from different cultural backgrounds within the Latino community that work very well.

1 **Speaker 1** 14:13

But politically, the lines are drawn in look about not just here, but everywhere. The lines are drawn to protect certain groups and drawn to protect minorities,



14:24

to tell what the gerrymandering of not just

1 **Speaker 1** 14:26

gerrymandering but the way Congress's and and and Congress are set up and state legislators are set up and and even city districts are set up council districts, I mean, everybody's got a place where they're running. And so if the population of certain states or cities or counties or areas is predominantly white or predominantly Latino, whatever those groups are going to have to hold sway in their communities. So even if the numbers the overall numbers bode well for minority communities, the way the lines are drawn, doesn't necessarily mean the power is going to shift. But that's

3 **Speaker 3** 15:02

why it's so important to be strategic. So this is 2015. The set, the next census is 2020, at least two years in advance, which is 2018, the conversation will begin along the lines of defining those districts. And if we are strategic as communities of color, we will begin having those meetings and planning sessions. So that when those districts are drawn, they're drawn based on the input that is being received and given by people of color locally and nationally, we didn't have to get our act together.



the next largest minority group in the United States, followed by either Asians or African Americans. And as Native Americans, we still remain the small portion. So again, collectively as a whole communities of color will outnumber white America. But that doesn't necessarily mean that that's going to bring that kind of understanding between us.

3 **Speaker 3** 16:06

But you know, what, within the Latino community, I think you'll agree, we are indigenous, so many of our people are indigenous, when you look at our countries, we have our indigenous languages that the Spanish really Eve hasn't even been brought in or adopted, I should say, and accepted by many of the villages in our home countries. I'm talking about what Amala and Mexico on dudas in, in Peru, Brazil, well put together. But so there's, there's still a lot of that, I think. And again, it's about reaching people where they are and and going towards a commonality. We talk about the Latino community. And what's exciting to me is since 2012, there's been this projection that over 60,000, youth, Latino youth will turn 18 each year for the next 20 years. That means over 2000 a week, nationally, which is mind boggling if we begin to leverage that into some real power strategically and win

1 **Speaker 1** 17:11

them over in ways that perhaps you're not winning over white 18 year olds, or,

2 **Speaker 2** 17:16

or subsequent generation or older generation. But Don, that's your that's to your point, this is the consciousness tag that's going to come behind numbers, right. So numbers change power, power can change, right, just from the marketing standpoint, you have a whole lot more people who might push this product, I might actually be able to go to my neighborhood Target store and find the hair products, I can instead of this little section of the aisle, right, so so that may change. But if the consciousness doesn't change along with that, then we might have more people of color in power. But we're still also be perpetuating this this normativity supremacy that has tried to kill the native person, the indigenous person in this country. So we have to make sure that



those kinds of power in the same ways that perpetuate the marginalization of native folks? You know, just your

5 **Speaker 5** 18:04

example or any other group or any other country? Because and that's what I'm alluding to? Because I think that the conversations that have to go in between our own community, yes, in order to prevent something from from replicating what we currently have, is a very real thing. Even when white America becomes the mind minority? I think those conversations have to happen. And you know, and

3 **Speaker 3** 18:32

and they have to happen at the national level and the local level. I mean, that's, that's where I see the biggest omission, nationally is our leaders, quote, unquote, and across this aisle, right, you know, in terms of the native leaders, and the Asian leaders, Latino leaders, and black leaders need to be having those conversations publicly, they may be having a privately, we don't know, but be more visible, I'm



18:57

saying we're thinking about all our communities.

4 **Speaker 4** 19:00

Is this like, hey, let's all get together and have this discussion about these numbers. Because now we can leverage them. And how do we do Is it is it you know, let's all work together because it's us against the white people. What from,

5 **Speaker 5** 19:13

from my perspective, as a native person, I mean, when we start really dissecting and looking at this, for us, as native people, we always go back to those treaties. And those treaties gave white America the land. And so I mean, so when those numbers start to fudge, and we start looking at those treaties,



perspective, that's a large part of this conversation, regardless of whether our numbers grow or not. And so that's what I'm saying that it will have to be a very interesting discussion for our communities to come together and figure this out. Once those numbers shift. I don't really know what that means for this country.

2 **Speaker 2** 19:59

And then there's the pool. All right so that folks are going to be pulling as you start to walk in in the numbers change to see more folks who look like you You start to walk with a certain amount of agency just as a result I mean what



20:09

is this? I mean

2 **Speaker 2** 20:11

I mean yeah I mean it's there's that pool right so I'm gonna go back to that I'll we're all the ethnic haircare products are at Target right now your best bets midway. Right? May midway or Yeah,



20:22

cuz you're not gonna find Shoreview or or even Roseville.



20:26

All right, it's true true.

2 **Speaker 2** 20:33

In that aisle, you see, and this is this is a really topical service example. But in that aisle, you see some of the conflict. I've got this much space for ethnic haircare products, and I have all these different things that need to get there. Now right now Talia YG is kicking button the natural haircare side, right. But what happens when you have to compete with all those things? Or then the food aisle pieces? Or then all those things start to pull?



THIS IS AMERICA BABY THE MARKETPLACE? DECIDE?

2 **Speaker 2** 21:01

We're gonna be having that same example, not just in terms of products, right? But but in all these different aspects? And how do we navigate that in a way that honors? And how

 21:10

we examine our history I collected?

4 **Speaker 4** 21:12

I'm afraid of what of the bad things that might happen? And

 21:17

say more? You

5 **Speaker 5** 21:19

mean? So like, they'll just have an eye on what we're Brylcreem just takes up a little.

4 **Speaker 4** 21:26

Like right now, right? It's like the ideal person, the ideal American is like the white American who becomes the next one. Is it like the mixed children? Because there will be a lot of those guys? Or is it? Or is it gonna turn out to be men against women?

3 **Speaker 3** 21:43

Why does it have to be just one? I mean, I guess that's what my issue.

1 **Speaker 1** 21:47

Let me get back to everything and what what makes you think there's an ideal representation of what it is to be, quote, unquote, American,



I mean, like, you know, the the billionaire, whatever, that when people think of America, people outside of America, think of America, right, that's what they think of people. And those are the ones that are favorable for employment, rather favorable to get into schools, blah, blah, blah, whatever. So it's, if we're talking about this as minorities, versus white people who becomes the next white people.

1 **Speaker 1** 22:19

Beauty standard of beauty, and of height of because now if you're a six foot four, white guy, you probably have a chance of being in a better chance of being executive than a five foot five brown guy explains a lot of things life. But so those standards are going to change, but maybe a five foot five round guy is going to be the next 15 years from now.

4 **Speaker 4** 22:39

Right? Then will it become a woman male issue, like it is now become bigger?

2 **Speaker 2** 22:48

There's a whole lot of things that could come and take the place. That's where that consciousness is coming in, right? How are we going to walk forward as these big huge benchmarks start to change? How are we going to walk forward differently than we have now what

1 **Speaker 1** 22:59

that would, to me that means when we start making little incremental changes, when we start taking two steps forward, and one step back, when we start talking about equity and diversity, whatever

3 **Speaker 3** 23:09

inclusion will mean completely something different. I mean, something bigger, much bigger. But we'll describe that standard ends up being more of what this



23:24

I mean, much more multilingual than this room is.

1 **Speaker 1** 23:26

Yeah, well, yeah, we're working on it. But this is why this is my favorite time of the week.

4 **Speaker 4** 23:35

Is it gonna turn out? Is this what you guys are envisioning is right now, I have gotten diversity, internships, diversity scholarships, will that become like white person internship, white person scholarship? Is this the world that you are envisioning?



23:51

I'll be the new diversity.

1 **Speaker 1** 23:55

white privilege is gonna be around you know, people money talks, exactly. And and, and establish tradition talks, and power talks. And people don't give up those things easily, even if they're outnumbered.

5 **Speaker 5** 24:09

So even if they become the minority, like they're saying in the census is sane and projections are showing us. But unfortunately, there aren't many of us in that top 1%. And that top 1% controls over 90% of the resources in this country, if not the world, and that's still 1% is going to be in that percentage. There's not going to be a big shift in that and those resources,

4 **Speaker 4** 24:32

but that's exactly that's exactly my point. Right. The point I made earlier was that I really honestly don't see it changing because that 1%



might differ. Here's, here's my my position on that is done. It's in my mind is not mutually exclusive. Yes, you're right, the 1% Top 1% has the largest amount of wealth here in terms of dollars and we know that in terms of income inequality issues and all the all the research that it supports that. But I also contend that there's a an awakening in our society among people of color. Granted, right now, it's black lives matter around police brutality issues and things of that sort. But from an awakening and civic engagement point of view, there is there is a movement afoot in terms of communities of color, and those who are our allies to really come up and begin to question authority and power, structurally and otherwise. So I think those dynamics really call for a better, I don't know what it looks like just yet. But I've got more faith, because it's not

1 **Speaker 1** 25:41

just those movements, either just no ordinary people have a lot of power, just saying good morning, and good afternoon to your neighbor, just making sure that your child knows that, hey, they should be accepting of all those kids at school, and in those days of sending your child to school and saying, Oh, don't play with that child. You know, it's kind of funny looking, those days are fading. And, and there's a lot of power in the margins, or in those, that that less rich portion of society. But you know,

5 **Speaker 5** 26:13

and I, and I'm not disagreeing with what Luiz just said, however, I've hit that point in my life where this is almost becoming cyclical. So when I was in junior high school in high school, that was during the Civil Rights there, you talk about civil disobedience, you talk about everybody coming together to get things done. And then we followed it up with the 80s in the me thing. So while I'm agreeing with what she's saying, I've seen this before. And so part of me says, Yeah, all this stuff is great. But what's really going to happen afterwards, I mean, I I'm Look, I looked at the the younger generations that are coming up, and a lot of them are active, they're being very, they're they're advocating, they're actually doing in using tactics that we use back in the 50s 60s in the 70s. And I think that needs to happen again. But a part of me also says that it is cyclical, and we're gonna ride this wave for a while. And



although with social media, don't you think that is enough to completely redefine how we're going to bought me the the ability, the ability to command this instant reaction by way of sending out things, either on Facebook or tweeting it or Instagram or whatever other tool that is out there, you know,



27:38

who controls Facebook and Twitter?

2 **Speaker 2** 27:43

You know, David, you, you you said earlier on, you describe this picture of walking through Miami and being able to grip up and and say what's up to the brother on one side, and then turn around and speak in speech

1 **Speaker 1** 27:54

that's very imperfect society and black people, they will tell you that the civil rights movement basically passed over them,

2 **Speaker 2** 28:00

this does this, I will not true, but what you described is a moment where you're able to walk through many acculturate in many different spaces at the blink of an eye. And that that is one thing that I see in this change that is going to require us to do some work, I'm going to need for my kid to be able to walk in so many different communities comfortably. Not even necessarily comfortably but but at least confidently competently. And language is a part of and a huge part, you know, but but in language and custom and all these things. So when I get hired, I can be dispatched to whatever community and basically you know, get in and in an authentic way and and not an outsider, I'm gonna take make use of your, your land spaces to make sure I speak to the native experiences in many places, but like that's gonna be required, you know, and I think that's a benefit that's going to be pulled out of it just thinking market system wise.

1 **Speaker 1** 28:53



countries on the coasts, and heavily minority cities are New York and Chicago and LA and Miami and Houston and that kind of thing. But this population shift is going to change the country. Is it going to change mostly in those places? Or are we also going to see it in Minnesota and Iowa and, you know, with



29:13

climate change, probably.

3 **Speaker 3** 29:18

I think, you know, it's really interesting because I there's this one quote that I remember, just so strongly when I was in law school from one of the professor's which was, you can be a small fish in a big pond are big fish in a small pond. And when you talk about the ability to make change, I think here I would consider a small pond compared to what's going on on the coast with these large populations. The ability to have impact, communities of color here, I think is is much greater, insofar as you have a smaller rain, and there's we can leverage our networks much more effectively. Then The large masses with the heat,

1 **Speaker 1** 30:01

you have to bring it, you have to bring the white folks along with you here.

3 **Speaker 3** 30:04

And we and we're doing it. You know, I think there's there's a fair amount of that going on, I'm not completely idealistic saying that it's all done. But I think the ability to impact change here is pretty significant. How

1 **Speaker 1** 30:17

long will change be dependent upon white people doing the right thing?

2 **Speaker 2** 30:21

Well, that's just an important piece that Marcus is just gonna start drawing



some power that we can start to exercise in, even if you can't Marshal everybody together at once. Because that I think we're kind of far past at least within our community, my community, but but if it's big enough, and there's enough of us, we can start to draw some market, some market pressure to do this or that. So

1 **Speaker 1** 30:50

when the new movie that comes out, that you really want to see comes out, and you know that it's going to take all that minority support to make it worth worthwhile to make it a profitable venture.

2 **Speaker 2** 31:02

Look at the response to Donald Sterling, right? That is an area, that basketball game is an area where you can get enough market pressure from black folks to make some folks feel pressured to do something. And they took their Don Sterling pretty quickly as a result of that. So as this change happens, I'm starting to think about what other areas do we command that level of market pressure,

5 **Speaker 5** 31:20

see, and that's what makes me nervous. Because as a market Native Americans, we're not a big market now. All right. And that's why when we frame these discussions, and in this kind of terminology for me, and I'm not again disagreeing with Louise, I think that there's a lot of rhetoric going on right now, I think there's a lot of participation, if young people are taken to the streets, they're doing this. But for me, in 510 years, when I look at the next Wilder report, and if those disparities haven't changed, then we're making a lot of noise. But it's until the structural changes actually happen, you know, when there's less of our kids being removed from the homes when there's more people getting work here in Minnesota, because I you know, I think the rest of the country, we're gonna see that change, I think, Minnesota, we're not gonna see that change.

3 **Speaker 3** 32:12



it's an older population. And queues of color have a younger population. So the older population, and they're getting busier, so I'm getting there. There's crickets,



32:37

crickets, crickets. on radio, right?

3 **Speaker 3** 32:43

society older enough, they have fewer children are not of the childbearing years. And the younger kids of color, particularly the immigrant communities are younger and of childbearing years, so that you've got this population decline by way of age and less number of babies being born in the white society in the white community, versus a higher birth rate and a lower death rate of kids of color. And that is that in and of itself, also, is going to push the conversation as well,

1 **Speaker 1** 33:16

even even in the short run, because many of the Republican voters who cast ballots just four years ago, have died. And I think the number is greater than the number of minority voters who we've lost since then. And we have all those young people coming up.

4 **Speaker 4** 33:34

I think my Okay, so a couple of things. My my fear with that is that rich, white people are not going to take this sitting down. I think there will be a lot of mean things done and said in the next 30 years to kind of stop this, like voter id



33:52

constitute. Exactly, exactly.

4 **Speaker 4** 33:55

And the other thing I think is also I think there's a lot of this, like relying on the



because a lot of us are very active. But I don't think it's any different from your generations. like not to meet him like you're older or anything, but like, your generations are still true to



34:20

that message from about a year ago.

1 **Speaker 1** 34:23

But at some point, we built a history of voting and I habit, and I haven't been voting for three decades or more, and never stopped. And sometimes I hear younger people say, Well, we didn't do any good the last time or Oh, my votes not gonna do any good. You know, it's not gonna mean anything and like, What are you talking about, you know, and those people who that who are against your interest, they know their vote counts, because you're saying that?

4 **Speaker 4** 34:49

I think it comes down to you know, yes, younger people. We can share things on Facebook. We can share things on Twitter and be like, Hey, I'm totally like, I totally understand into this. But when it comes down to everyday life, you know, a lot of these people are very active, and they're in college. And then they get to the real world where they need to pay bills. And then you know, they take a corporate job or whatever, and it kills a lot of souls. But I know a lot of those people being

1 **Speaker 1** 35:14

active isn't dependent upon your being a member of card carrying member of some movement or holding the sign. Sure, you can. And if you need to do that, do it. But there are many, many ways to be active and participatory in our society. And that could be participating at your kids school, it could be helping elderly, it could be any number of things that build community. So when people think, oh, I've got to be part of the movement, or I don't have time to do that, no, there's all kinds of different ways to be involved.



anything other than our small community? How does that move from our small community to nationwide where we are not the people in power? I didn't want to bring everybody down. No, no, no, no,



35:57

that's that's the question, though. You know,

1 **Speaker 1** 36:00

it's every time I walk into a voting booth, I know, it's an act of faith, you know, I'm doing the right thing. And I know there are millions of other people doing the right that we're not talking to each other. And we're all doing the right thing at the same time. And a good year, something big and magical happens.



36:16

Yeah, we got Jesse Ventura, I would

3 **Speaker 3** 36:18

say building off of David's earlier comment, when you're developing those relationships, whether it be with your family, or your larger community, as you just described, you can leverage those conversations later on, when you're encouraging people to go to the polls to vote, if they know that holy, you're going and it matters to you. And it's important and you and you indicate why there's a higher likelihood that they will follow your path because of the relationship that they have with you. So, so yes, there's a good that you can leverage out of that, that that will still be of value down the line.

1 **Speaker 1** 36:52

When my when my daughters were like four and five, and six years old, I held their hand and we went into that voting booth together. And they saw their father cast the vote. And it may not mean anything to a lot of people. But I wanted to make sure that every time I voted, they were with me, or they saw me they knew I voted or they saw that little flaa stickers thina that they put on



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47:07

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4 **Speaker 4** 37:21

In in the real world? Like, that's really great, you know, but like in the real world, we have to have organizations like the Minneapolis Foundation, or the St. Paul Foundation, or what are the bush foundation to fund people to just tell people of color to vote, I encouraged my mom to vote and my grandparents to vote. And I've gone and translated at the polls before. But how realistic is that really expect that's really happening for every person to be hiring other people, therein lies another good benefit of the population change ever. So

2 **Speaker 2** 37:51

if you're if we're having a hard time changing the percentages of people and community, in particular communities voting, that it's a good thing that those communities, those populations are going to get higher and higher if that percentage doesn't change. So the more votes go in there, but you mentioned something to the earlier a lot of your discussion right now sounds really analog to me. And in a digital world where voting should be easier and easier. And yet we're having to do all of these. Those are all these these these different things in the way of me just being like, Alright, I want to vote here. Let me just do this boom, done. Well,

3 **Speaker 3** 38:20

in Minnesota, the Secretary of State's office has been trying to do that for the last at least five years, and it's been getting shut down by



38:27

you're not gonna go down? No, I don't know.

3 **Speaker 3** 38:31

But this year some gain was made. In 2014 there was some gains from the



alternate places as well. So there, there was a vote banded, gave up



38:53

pieces of frybread, we'd all show up.

4 **Speaker 4** 38:57

But this brings me back to Okay, we went to the movie Selma. And it was talking a lot of talk about voting rights. That movie was kind of really focused around the voting rights. And I remember being really angry, because when there was the anniversary of Selma, some of the people who were originally there, with the protests, were at the anniversary celebration, I thought, how horrible to be that person who fought and lost people to try to get these voting rights. And right now we're having the same fight.

1 **Speaker 1** 39:25

I don't I don't know that those folks would see it that way. Because they know that their ancestors and their parents and their grandparents died or were beat in the head or, or despaired and never had haven't had the chance to do that simple, basic part of our democracy,



39:44

but now their kids are gonna have to fight this.

3 **Speaker 3** 39:47

We also have an African American president, though, I mean, and and that's not a complete solution to what you're asking. But there there are certainly milestones that have been made over the course of the last 50 years. Are there setbacks? Absolutely.

1 **Speaker 1** 40:02

When I get down at Lee, and I think about my family, my parents got married in 1952. And they went to Chicago to get married, because they were worried about the anti miscegenation laws in Indiana. I think about the fact that I was



sudden the farm, you know that the property just disappeared. Oh, it's already gone. I'm sorry. So my take on it, I think about those things, I think my my father hanging off the side of a building with a rope, and no scaffolding or anything painting, you know, and his life. And he did what he did. So I could do this right now. And I'm not, I'm not disappointed, because I know that what he did had great value, and put me right here in this seat. And I could be gone tomorrow. But I had the chance because of what he did. You know, he just took me home. And when it happens in my house, and you get home and all the elders start to speak about about what's wrong with our young kids in the world. But But this, but don't despair, this is

2 **Speaker 2** 41:00

a good point, you know, as the population changes, we're going to have a lot more voices that could speak to how this particular vote or how my vote connects to me on the ground today, which is something that especially with our legislature, not doing the job and all of this vitriol everywhere, even me who understands that voting is great, I'm going to continue to vote and all that kind of stuff. But I am getting a little disaffected with what actually is going to change or connecting to real issues

1 **Speaker 1** 41:25

is a big game, isn't it? You know, time is very short. These things happen over centuries. And and life passes in the blink of an eye. I've lost my father recently. And it really caused me to think a lot about these things. And, you know, it seems like oh, nothing's changed, nothing's happening. But a lot is happening. It seems like it doesn't happen fast enough for us. But I'm not thinking about me anymore. I'm thinking about my daughters, and about, you know, all that stuff.

4 **Speaker 4** 41:49

And that's the thing, like, I just feel like, you know, if your grandma fought for the this voter rights law, and then you have to fight for it now, doesn't that conclude that your children would probably have to fight for it in another 50



1 **Speaker 1** 42:02

Yeah. But maybe there will be a better fight an easier fight, or they'll be fighting for the next thing. And that for this thing that we're still fighting for, who knows? I don't know is that they'll be able to do it in a country that looks a lot more like them. And they'll be able to turn on the TV and see stuff that's a lot more like them,

5 **Speaker 5** 42:19

then again, one political party could probably change their platform a little bit. We wouldn't have to deal with this. Yeah. Yeah. I mean, all kinds of things that can happen. I think that when those numbers begin to shift, and I still hold hope, because you know, we still have those outliers in each one of our communities, we still have folks who are very right wing and Native American country, and in Hispanic population. I mean, how do we count for a Ben Carson? Or how do we view children? How do we hear these individuals who, who I truly don't understand, you know,

1 **Speaker 1** 42:56

because they know that the path that he's chosen has, he might, he might actually have some good ideas in his head. But to get to the point to be able to express this, he has to go through this gauntlet that his party has established that requires him to go way to the right. Now, you mentioned the other party, that is no longer happening so much because of the changing. I've saw some recent research on this, the changing views and the changing wave of activism that, say Hillary Clinton, who you would expect to run to the left and democratic primary and swing to the center. Well, some of her positions I think she's taking a stance on immigration that is seems hopeful, she that she realizes that she didn't have to swing so far anymore, because the voting populace least in the Democratic Party is coming for her

3 **Speaker 3** 43:43

wait for her on her campaign. Yep. which is unheard of. She hired a white dreamer, one of our dreamer, kids, so children who came here, undocumented, you know, through their their parents or their journey. Kids who were



1 **Speaker 1** 44:03

she's a high powered Latina as a political operative woof. And she doesn't pull any punches. Amanda says her name I heard she plays a mean basketball game, a former college athlete,

5 **Speaker 5** 44:14

I'm hoping that in 2014, when the numbers begin to shift, and more of us become more active in those parties. And I would hope that we might become active in both those parties, that then those parties, ideologies begin to change and actually begin to reflect who we are and what we look like and is right now they don't and are we going to accept that that

2 **Speaker 2** 44:39

might be surfacey and topical to start as folks as it just becomes part of what you have to be



44:44

that's where I think white America gets nervous when

3 **Speaker 3** 44:47

the other part of this we can't let go of is that it won't happen unless and until more of our individuals of color run for office. I mean that is fundamentally what has to happen. And there's research that shows that when individuals of color run, there's a higher election rate for those individuals, and we just had a native woman locally announced her candidacy for a house seat that just became vacant last weekend. And we know that there is a phenomenal opportunity there. There's only one native member, right. She's building



45:23

from a strong coalition.

4 **Speaker 4** 45:25



susceptible to being corrupt. So I think it's more than just getting one No,



45:39

no more. So more so than than white.

5 **Speaker 5** 45:42

See, I differ. I think we need to get more because what happens is that right now, Susan, and Peggy just announced, so that means we have to, but two votes cannot vote when the rest of them are voting against. So I mean, we need to get

4 **Speaker 4** 45:55

no I agree, we need to get more. But that is not the only solution. Is was what I'm saying. Of course, we need to get more I'd love to see more Asian women.

1 **Speaker 1** 46:07

Do you know what I'd love to see, I'd love to see you embrace the rainbow of possibilities. Time is coming. And you have all five of us here have the greatest opportunity to benefit from this wave of change. And I'm telling you, I can feel it coming. And



46:25

1980 Jesse Jackson, Rainbow coalition, I'm

1 **Speaker 1** 46:28

feeling that feeling. I'm feeling at least generation. It's gonna happen. And we know what's going to happen because we discussed it here on counter stories. And we're gonna talk some more about this in coming weeks, because I think we just opened the door to something. I'm David cassowaries. For the counter stories crew. We'll be back

