

1:11

Can you raise your left hand if our state and our country are in the most trouble you've seen? Actually, keep them up. Raise your right hand if this is the most trouble you've seen California and our country be in in your lifetime.

1:27

That's why I'm running for governor.

1:36

I want to tell you a story about a couple in Alona, Iowa. A woman named Vicki and a man named Eric. Not me. Vicki worked as many jobs as she could find during the day to bring home as many groceries as she could afford for her boys at night. Eric was the local chief of police until a good old boy's network told him that he had to reverse cases that he was investigating against them or he would lose his job. Eric said, "I don't roll that way." They brought him before a public city council meeting and they said, "This is your last chance and he didn't flinch and he didn't back down and he was fired." And when the bottom fell out for Vicki and Eric, they went where dreamers always go. They went where prospectors put a pan in a river expecting to find gold. They went where young actors would drive a thousand miles focused on the one and not the so much in a million. And they went where a Syrian refugee would go after he got his girlfriend pregnant and was told that he wasn't welcome in Wisconsin. They came to California. They had a boy named Steve who would create a lot of jobs at a small fruit company he founded called Apple.

That's the magic of California.

But right now in our great state, people are scared and prices are high. 3:28 The next governor of California has two jobs. to create a firewall between the president and his ICE agents and the immigrant community of California and two to bring down the damn cost and acknowledge David Werta. I just wanted one more time, David and his members have been a firewall against the president and I promised to be a fighter protector for the most vulnerable. You may not know this about my congressional district, which is about an hour and a half away from here. It's the third most diverse congressional district in America. 40% of the people I represent were born outside the United States. 40% of my constituents were born outside the United States. And the people I've represented are running through the fields and factories where they work. Women being dragged by their hair and thrown into unmarked vans. And as governor, I'm going to lead the way I have always represented that immigrant community.

4:58

I've introduced legislation in Congress that takes away ISIS qualified immunity. They think they're invincible. They're not. I've made it clear as governor. I will use the powers of the office to tell ICE if you refuse to take off your mask. I will use the powers of the office to take away your driver's license. If you've worked if you have worked for ICE, consider yourself un-hirable in our state. We don't want We don't want more ICE. We want to abolish ICE from the root to the branch.

5:48

I want to tell you how cruel these people have been to Californians and why we need a fighter protector. Just a month ago, just a month ago, a six-year-old boy and his mother and his brother were met by ICE agents at their home early in the morning. The mother pleaded with the agents that her six-year-old boy is deaf and he needed his assistive listening devices.

Do you think they cared? No.

Do you think they let him get his devices before they put him in a detention center? They didn't.

They separated him from his home and they separated him from sound and then days later sent he and his family to Colombia. That's how cruel these individuals are. That's what we are dealing with now.

6:40

Mallerie, who is the voice of God reading our questions. Mallerie went to the boy's home, collected his assisted hearing devices, and flew all the way to Colombia to return the sound to his. So, the sound has been returned to the boy, but dignity has not been returned to our community.

And finally, if you harm a single Californian, when I'm governor, hire the best lawyer you can afford because we will prosecute you to the full extent of the law. The next governor has to be a fighter protector for all Californians.

7:36

on housing. We are a state where the average age of a first-time home buyer is over 40 years old. And I saw growing up with two parents who worked very hard. What home ownership could mean. We lived in 13 different homes. I went to 11 different schools before I graduated high school. But when we finally were able to own and not live with relatives or stretch every month to pay rent, for me as a child, it provided stability. For my parents, it gave them the first opportunity in their life to create wealth. In California right now, we have over 400,000 regulations on the books. Many of them are good and for good reasons. But on housing, we are a blue state held down by red tape. a blue state held down by red tape.

What I have promised, my first act in office will be to tell every agency in the state, you have 90 days to approve or deny every outstanding housing application so we can surge more supply, bring down the cost of rents for apartments, and create more pathways for home ownership in our state. Come on. And if it takes longer than that to get an approval, someone in the governor's office should come out should come over and hang the drywall. That's how I'm viewing this. A goal without a deadline is a dream. And Californians are done dreaming when it comes to home ownership. We have to be a state and a new California where you can take your first job, have your first kid, and buy your first home in the same decade.

9:21

on healthcare. On healthcare, as Arnold mentioned, this president so cruy (??) is kicking 4 million Californians off of their healthcare and also telling our immigrant community that they should go to the hospital when they get sick. I will make sure we have the revenue to cover all Californians because when they go to the hospital, when they get sick, we all end up paying more for it. It's the right thing to do. And it's actually the most economic sense of all of the options. But in Congress, I want you to know I have a record of defending the Affordable Care Act. And over 70 times over 70 times I have voted against efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. This president says he has concepts of a plan when it comes to healthcare.

10:24

And you know when you have to pay for the co-ay or when your paycheck sees a deduction every month, you can't tell your employer or the doctor that you have concepts of a payment. That doesn't fly. So, I will make sure that in our great state where federal research dollars have been taken, that we will create our own resilience and be not only a state that cares, but also optimistic enough that we're still a state that cures. A new California will get us through the next two years protecting the most vulnerable, but will also be optimistic to believe that we are better than this president. We won't be defined by this president, that we're a state that has remade itself over and over and over.

11:27

And as it relates to bringing down the costs, as it relates to paying for healthcare, we can do that again. And my promise on revenue is this. We will not be a corporate welfare state. If we're the fourth largest economy in the world, it has to mean something to everyone. Yeah, I will root for the success of anyone who invests and does business in California if they work with me to lift the wages of hardworking Californians and expand the benefits. And any corporation that's going to have you foot the bill for state assistance and medical, there's going to be a sur charge for that. No more corporate welfare.

12:28

Because when you go to the grocery store, when you're in the checkout line at Safeway or Lucky, you can't say, if you're like me, you look at the long receipt and wonder why the hell does it cost so much? You can't say put it on the fourth largest economy in the world. It's got it. When rent comes due and you're stretching, you can't tell the landlord, don't worry about it. The fourth largest economy in the world will cover this. If we get this right in a new California, in a new California, being the fourth largest economy in the world will mean something to you because you do better for yourself and you dream bigger for your kids.

I want to take your questions.

13:11 I don't listen to polls. I listen to people. And so Mallerie is going to come up and poll randomly the questions and read them off. And if you want to stand so I can see who's asking the question, you're welcome to. You don't have to. Uh but before as Mallerie comes up to do that, I just want to give one final acknowledgement again of some of the special individuals who are here with you all tonight. And they include State Senator Tim Grayson, a number of members from the assembly, Patrick Erenss, Tasha Barer, Mike Fong, Dr. Corey Jackson, Tina McKinn, and Nick Schultz. These are your leaders in Sacramento. Thank you.

14:02

Proud to be endorsed by the California Firefighters, their president, Brian Rice, and some of their executive board members. As was mentioned, UFCW is in the house. California Teachers. Where's the California Teachers Association? As we mentioned, the SEIU State Council is in the house. That includes Anakah Walls, David Werta, Crystal Irving, Rico Mendes, Terresa Rutherford, and also Tia Ore.

14:47

And we have the Lincoln Dems. Welcome Lincoln Dems. And we have the machinist executive secretary and treasurer Tom Brandon. So building trades labor in the house.

15:03

Mallerie, take it away. Before we get to general Q&A,

15:07

Congressman, you're going to be joined by Patrick Mason. He is the chapter lead for the students for small at UC Davis. He has a couple of youth focused questions for you to kick off. Yeah. Thank you, Patrick.

15:23

Thank you so much for me to take a couple questions for you. And I wanted to start off talking about cost of living. I've loved the state of California. I was born here and I hope to spend the rest of my life here, but I have asked myself it's impossible to live with your cost of living crisis. What will you do to ensure that youth Ross the state can afford to live in the greatest state in this country. Yeah,

15:48

I want it to be affordable to go to college here first and foremost. I want us to have the best university system in the world, but also one that has enough slots for Californians. That has to be the priority. And you're you're talking to someone who also still has student loan debt. And my parents are proud to see me be the first in the family to go to college. But too many young people and me, too many young people are in the financial quicksand of student loan debt, particularly those who we need to go into professions like medicine and dentistry. And I know we 16:31 have uh doctors and dentists in the house as well. We're proud to be endorsed by the California Medical Association and the California Dental Association,

16:42

but how are you going to get a doctor right out of medical school done with their residency to go into a rural area if we're saddling them with so much student loan debt? And that's only going to drive up the cost of care for so many in the community. So for us, we're going to especially focus on the professions that have a shortage right now and work to alleviate that debt, create better pathways and incentives for them to go into rural California and practice for you. Best thing I can do for you is to surge supply especially uh on rental housing initially. And that's the pathway, right? Is you rent, save enough because rent is affordable. It's affordable because we have more supply and then you have a pathway to home ownership. That means getting rid of so much of the red tape that stands in the way and and telling these agencies we can't admire this problem any longer. I I need action. I'm going to draw on my experience as a city council member in Dublin. (\*\* note approximately 600K total population in this district)

Anyone been to Dublin before? Evan's been to Dublin.

17:49

Growing up in Dublin in the 90s, it was a place of mostly fast food restaurants. Some would say low income and lower expectations. I went away. That's good. That's good.

18:16

After law school, I came back because Dublin had gone in renaissance and we were building like crazy. And what made Dublin so special was that we invested in economic development. The builders and developers who put more rooftops in our town, they couldn't just profit off the development. They had to

build new schools, new firehouses, new police stations, new community centers. And we attracted we attracted more restaurant and retail business. and eventually Fortune 500 companies who were priced out of Silicon Valley. The streets got safer, the schools got better, the quality of life went up. The high school that I graduated from in 1999, 25% of us went to college. Same high school today, renovated because of that economic development, 96% of the kids go to college. So my plan for the state and for young people like you is to incentivize economic development. Have expectations of those who do business that you're going to lift up the fortunes and wages of people in the community. And as I said, build like crazy to surge supply so you can afford uh to live here. What are you studying right now?

Political science.

19:26\

Political science. Okay. Good. Right here. Yeah. Yeah. Go ahead. Do you have another question?

19:33

Yes, I do. I just wanted to talk about housing market because as a young person who's entering the housing market, a home ownership seems to be a pipe dream.

19:43

How will you fight group young people to ensure that we can really own a home in the state?

19:48

Yeah. So, former Senator uh Bob Herzburg has legislation that he is working on that's going to be on the ballot in November which will provide more down payment assistance for first time home buyers uh and lower the threshold uh and the barriers of entry.

20:05

Right now, what we're finding is that young people saddled with so much student loan debt and not able to meet oftentimes, which is a 20% down payment requirement that the pathway is so far out of reach. And and so to have a larger pool of first-time home buyers, uh that is an initiative that I'm supporting. It's funded by a bond. Uh, but that kind of blank canvas outside the box, just because it hasn't been done in the past doesn't mean we can't do it now approach is what I'm going to do. I want to be a get done governor, particularly on home ownership. So, thank you.

20:44

Okay, Mallerie,

20:46

that was a relatively early bingo if I'm being honest. Yeah. Yeah.

Yeah, you take money, you take I don't drive into

21:02

Thank you. I I don't and I I I hope you ask the question and we get around to answering.

21:07

So, thank you right now. Yeah. Go ahead, Mallerie.

First question is from Michelle of Sacramento. Yeah. Michelle, would you like to stand? Yeah.

21:22

Yeah. important topic at my daughter's high school. What are you going to do about gun reform? Safety is a concern of these kids for their future.

Can you read the first part again? Sorry.

21:36

An important topic at my daughter's high school. What are you going to do about gun control? Yeah.

Our kids shouldn't have to live this way going through mass shooter drills. And I say that as a parent of an 8-year-old, a seven-year-old, and a four-year-old. And by the way, the these drills are also traumatizing.

And I don't know if it's the right way to prepare our kids 22:03 either.

But what we can do is be the state that takes the most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the most dangerous people. Period. And that that is under assault right now by by this president who the administration is trying to just unleash into our communities more weapons of mass destruction.

I will make sure that California's assault weapon ban stands. that it stands. And also, we invest in every community at the earliest ages possible to reduce gun violence. And gun violence affects our schools, of course, and and I will work with the schools, as I said, to harden their infrastructure to do what we can to protect our kids, but also to address the root causes of violence, which is a a mental health crisis we have in our state that needs to continue to be funded and not investing in hope and opportunity in every community in California. I was a 23:16 prosecutor in Oakland and one person told me uh as a prosecutor they said you know another one it's not always the best timing either uh but congratulations one person told me I thought they described it best that violence is the lowest form of communication and our job as a community is to make sure that our children have the foundation in our communities where they don't believe they have to communicate that way or grow and become someone who would communicate that way. And so my approach in governance is going back to the deal that I will make with anyone who invests in California. helped me create a strong floor. Good schools for every kid in California, access to health care for every Californian, access to mental health services, job training, especially as this economy continues to change. Invest in a strong floor. And for anyone in California, there can be no ceiling. But if we don't have a strong floor, then we'll see the worst outcomes as it relates to crime, as it relates to economic injustice. And so that's the bargain that I'm making with Californians is to have a strong floor, no ceiling as far as what anyone can achieve, but investing as early as possible to reduce the instances of violence and always to take a parent first approach because I know that your fears for your kids are same fears that

25:00

I have for my kids. And my job first and foremost is to protect California's children. Thank you.

25:08

I'm going to keep this rolling. Okay.

Our next question is from Lee Jones with SEIU Local 1000. All right. For many state There he is.

For many state workers, affordability isn't about luxury. It's about being able to stay living in California. As governor, what are your top three actions to ensure public sector servants can afford to stay here?

25:31

Yeah. I want you all to have within reach, if you if you don't already, home ownership. As I said, I want us to make sure that every Californian who works hard can afford to buy a home. We all do better when that's the case. And I I don't want us to become a persistent renter state if what you want is home ownership. So that that's why I'm so focused on housing on energy costs. We have to modernize our infrastructure. We have to increase where we get energy from. Right now, we see a federal government that has taken away hydrogen funding. It's taken away electric vehicle charging stations. It's taking away every clean air, clean water technology that we have invested in to bring down the costs. My job is to create what I call resilience. uh so to stand up a state fund independent of the federal government where we would invest in many of these technologies and that the revenue that comes back from those investments goes directly to Californians. And also I I just want you to know I support your ability to tele work and serve all Californians. No, that is it actually saves it saves Californians a lot of money as well. And my job is not just to bring in revenue, it's to find savings in as many places as possible. Thank you. All right,

27:12

our next question was, what are your thoughts on telework? There we go.

All right, shake it up.

I've done it for that.

27:32

So, next question is from Maren from Sacramento.

Um, how does a state law override a federal law? Governor versus president. Yeah. Is Maren around?

27:47

We are a nation state. We're the greatest country in the world, California.

I said that on my announcement on Kimmel and my wife said, "Did did you misspeak?" I said, "No, the greatest country in the world."

Bingo. But we have to start acting like it.

28:12 We have to start acting like it. And that's that's why I want to have **this California fund**. And I want to tell you just a little bit more about it because I'm going to ask many of you to be ambassadors and help us raise for it. I'm going to ask the best of Californians to do that because we are a donor state right now. We have invested so much through the federal taxes that we pay that's no longer coming back. aid to fire victims. Families in the Palisades and Altadena are not getting the same FEMA dollars that families all over Georgia, North Carolina, Florida, Texas have received.

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Our hardworking taxpayer dollars that we were all glad to send to those shaken communities are not coming back to us. cancer research funding. A 40% cut in a state that does so much of the research that finds cures. We should not be killing cancer research. We're the state that should be killing cancer.

29:28

And so my plan as governor is to create that resilience, that independence that only California can do. We have the most diverse workforce in the whole country. 200 languages spoken here, 60 nationalities. We can flex as a nation state. And I know, are you up for flexing as a nation state, especially in the next few years? Okay, Mallerie.

30:04

Next question is from Amy from Fair Oaks. California is 50 out of 50 for having the fewest librarians in the nation. What is your plan for intellectual freedom, AI literacy, and overall literacy in California? What do you What is your experience with librarians and how have they helped you?

30:20

Yeah. Yeah. Thank you. Nice to see you.

Hi. Yeah. Are you a librarian?

30:32 I am. I'm the past president of the California School Library Association. Oh, thank you. Thank you.

I will make sure as governor working with the legislature that we invest in 30:52 the core skills that we want our children to have as early as possible. that's why I'm proud to be endorsed, as I said, by California's teachers. I also will bring the experience.

31:05

You can laugh at this. I don't think it's on the bingo card. This is new to my staff. When I when I was on the Dublin City Council, I was on the Alameda County Library Commission. Uh and and so that was the first commission that I was able to be appointed to as a council member in the county and to make sure that, you know, we were expanding the hours of operation because libraries are always the first, you know, to that's like the first cut that cities, you know, end up making when they have to roll back. They'll they'll roll back library hours. And so I I just know as a parent, as I said, of an 8-year-old, seven-year-old, four-year-old, all three of them, you know, in the developmental stage, that investing, you know, in those core skills as early as possible, uh, is very important. Um, also, I just wrote a children's book that, um, I sold called That's What Daddies Do. Uh, and I know for our children, uh, and it's a daddy daughter, uh, book, uh, that I wrote. Um but for our children like the the core values that they also learn about communication about right and wrong uh that it's so fundamental and so fundamentally taught at our libraries.

32:18

So will you also what what else do you think I should know about libraries and and funding them and not collapsing them or just going to a complete digital society that doesn't have access to that? That's that's what I cannot let happen.

32:32

The one I need you to know is that Calgary school libraries are mostly um

32:37 uh employed by uh and no to our support staff but teachers certificated teacher

32:44

librarian 50 out of 50 in the nation and we should be working in partnership with our classified staff and having librally teaching information literacy so our kids can know what our news is broadcasting.

33:03 things that are not factual. They know to be skeptical. They know to search.

33:07 They know to listen. And they know to read. So well,

33:17 sounds like somebody who should come find me for an appointment after June. Thank you.

33:24

Our next question is from Susan Moore of Sacramento. Susan, I was on the We went from a progressive governor, Jerry Brown, to another progressive governor, Gavin Newsom. How will you ensure that we close the budget gap while maintaining our progressive principles?

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Yeah, Susan, revenue, revenue, revenue. That has to be the focus for the next government.

33:53

So, I have a near-term, midterm, long-term revenue plan. In the near term, I do not accept that the cuts that the president has put in place under the big, brutal bill are final. I just want to tell you why. I was on Speaker Pelosi's leadership team for six years. I chaired the largest committee in Congress called the Steering and Policy Committee. And every Monday night at our leadership meeting, particularly in the last two years of the president's first term, I learned so much sitting next to our speaker.

34:37 She was so strategic that she recognized if this clown was not able to fund the government for longer than 10 to 12 weeks and we had the power of the purse that that was an opportunity. It's an awful way to run a government, but she saw it as an opportunity to claw back as much as possible that was taken in the first two years from the tax cuts. If you recall, I see the same opportunity under Speaker Jeff when I'm governor of California and he's negotiating with the president next January that I don't accept that those cuts have to entirely come to California that we actually could find partners in red states who've lost equally as much in Medicaid in rural hospitals and work with them to start clawing back as much as possible.

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And Nancy Pelosi in a very Nancy Pelosi would say to the leadership team, she would say as she brought back something from a negotiation at the White House, she'd say, "I don't want to read a press release about what we just got. He talking about the president, he doesn't even know he lost it, so don't go reminding him that he had it.

35:51

That's why she was so good." So, in the near term, working to claw back as much as possible. In the midterm, the corporate accountability tax that I talked about at the start, we believe will yield 6 to 7 billion a year. And in the long term, it's having that resilience of a California fund that will start bringing revenue back that can make infrastructure investments in the state.

36:18

Thank you. All right. Alexandra Simeon from Sacramento,

36:27

can you expand on what a new California means to you and how it will enhance my life? Oh, hi.

Yeah. Will enhance my life as a middle class African-American woman. Yeah.

36:41

A new California makes sure that every community is believed in and invested in.

To me, a new California recognizes that hard work has to be met with wages that continue to go up. I bring the experience of being a little boy who would dread when the letter carrier would come to the house because I knew that it oftentimes would include a bill that we couldn't afford. And as my mom would look through the bills, I would look at her face to see if I could read or interpret what it meant to us. And that anxiety of of a woman who worked multiple jobs, married to a husband who also worked many jobs, that's not right. One job should be enough for every Californian. One job should be enough. but two to also really attack based on my experience as working as a prosecutor in Oakland and seeing the economic injustice that exists in many of our urban areas of California that every community has to be invested in and and hold me accountable on that because every child's God given potential has to be realized and it starts with whether our leaders are willing to invest in them in the classroom their access to health care. I also want to take our schools by the way and I think this will especially uh benefit many of the cities that have not seen the investment I'm talking about and create community schools. To me, a community school, if your community has a food desert and it's payday lenders and liquor stores and no grocery stores in your community, why can't we use our schools as places for food? Why can't our schools be health clinics? Why can't our schools provide so many of the essential services? They have a lot of the existing infrastructure and they're the most trusted buildings along with the firehouses in our community. I worked on this in

Alameda County at a firehouse and we saw that model work well where we had a firehouse also operate as a community health center. And so really going to the centers of our community and investing in them, not creating new services, but creating one-stop shops to make sure we can lift up all Californians. I did that locally. I look forward to building on that and expanding it across the state. Thank you.

39:24

All right. Next question is from Nights Landing.

What is your five-point plan to support both trans and immigrants in this state?

39:42

I approached this as I approach approached the job of being a hate a hate crime prosecutor in Alameda County. I I led the hate crimes division in Alameda County and and went aggressively at anyone who would attack somebody based on the color of their skin or their sexual orientation or how they identified. I start with the value proposition which I teach my own kids which is life is already hard enough.

Don't do anything to go out of your way to make it harder for others. And right now, we see a community that is exploited, that is attacked every day by the president. And I promise as governor to bring the same fighter protector spirit that I brought as a deputy district attorney who led that hate crimes unit to make sure that not only are you seen and valued but always fundamentally protected.

40:49

Thank you.

40:52

All right. Our next question is from Kevin from Sacramento. Do you take support from Aipac? Aipac is not involved and I guess I wish she had stuck around.

41:03

no, there's been no Aipac funding uh in our campaign and this race and there won't be. And they don't get involved in governor's races. And I also just want you to know I am not going to be distracted though from my core responsibility which is lowering the costs for Californians. That is my core responsibility.

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That's how I want you to judge me at the end of four years is did I lower your costs? Did I lift your wages? Did I expand opportunity?

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That's why I'm running for governor. Yeah.

41:39

For transparency purposes. People saw me take two. The second that was the state question. Takes me. Moving on to Oh, we have another one from SEIU 1000.

41:49

Inflation.

41:52

Inflation has outpaced wages for many Californians, including state workers.

41:56

on collective bargaining. What role should the governor play in stabilizing costs like housing, utilities, and healthcare? Yeah,

42:04

on housing, as I said, increasing supply, increasing housing vouchers for Californians who are, you know, on the edge of being evicted also incredibly important. But also having that expectation because you, as this president is finding, he promised he would lower costs on day one. It's like day 450.

40 million Californians want to tell him he's failed. Lowering costs, I think, through supply can work with housing. Lowering costs through infrastructure upgrades and an abundance of energy that the president has taken away can help with utilities. But on a lot of the other costs that continue to go up, we have to lift wages. And that's where I want to be a partner with you all on how do we lift wages and and that's my expectation as I said we can't be a state where so many in the C-suite and CEOs do well and so few feel like they work hard and they have to stretch. **I will root for** the success of every California business if they lift the wages of every California who work their ass off just like my parents did and want to do better for themselves and dream bigger for their kids. That's what a new California can do.

43:28

We have a question from Cecilia Wilson from Sacramento. What are you going to do to make California its own country?

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and Cecilia who's going to be an ambassador.

43:56

That's why I will not let this president define us. Like we we are Californians. Like we will get through this. We will protect our neighbors, especially our most vulnerable, but he's not going to define us. And because there's so many in the House tonight who have been a part of the resistance, I just want to kind of take stock of what you've done. You have shown up to the No Kings rallies.

44:32

You chased Kevin Kylie out of the Republican party. He doesn't want to be associated with them. You passed Prop 50. And I know we're going to get out of this because you don't believe that you just tell people to register to vote and then go vote. You believe that their agency, their power comes through engaging civically at the rallies, at the town square, at the town hall. and we march all the way to the ballot box. And then you hold your leaders accountable once they're elected. And you have that agency because you engage every step along the way.

45:25

We're getting through this. We're getting out of this. And we're all going to be co-authors in writing that new California story. That's the plan.

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I'm from Sacramento as a state worker for the EDUI office. We work for our community and Californians. We would like to have Juneteenth as a state paid holiday. Will our next governor make Juneteenth an official state paid holiday for all?

45:59

Yeah, I I would love to work with you on that. So yes. Yeah. See me as a partner on that. Thank you.

46:10

said, "Call me." All right, David from Fair Oaks. California needs more bike infrastructure.

46:24

What will you do to improve active transportation infrastructure like complete streets?

Yeah, the federal government

46:33 has pulled a lot of the community development block funding. We call them community development block grants. I I chaired that committee when I was a city council member and now it's being just like most funding pulled by the federal government. I want to work with the legislature to enable what local governments have to invest in infrastructure like that. locals know best and and yes, I'm running to be governor, but as I said, I was a planning commissioner, an arts commissioner, I was a library commissioner, city council member. I know that these are local possessions

47:10

and decisions. And so enabling you to make those decisions and investments, knowing what our priorities are on like reducing the number of vehicles on the road where we can because we have safe and accessible bike lanes. uh you'll have uh always a partner in me uh to do that and I think a legislature that also understands

Hey Mike, welcome. A legislature that understands uh the importance of that.

47:34

All right, Dylan from Sacramento. What's your favorite soccer team?

47:43

Where's Dylan? Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Well,

47:50

obviously it's the Dublin United Soccer League that I coached to a state cup championship 20 years ago. Um, but I'm an Arsenal fan. Uh, Dylan.

48:02

Yeah. Yeah. With Chelsea. Okay. Um,

48:07

yeah. I I would say I if I'm getting up at 6:00 in the morning on like a Saturday for the time zone change, I'm I'm rooting for Arsenal. But uh we also see the World Cup is coming to California.

Dylan, you might be asking me my favorite soccer team because uh soccer was my pathway uh to college. Uh and was the oldest of four boys. We all played soccer. Actually, I got cut from the little league team cut. And I have a brother who's 11 months younger than me. He didn't get cut. He made the All-Star team. And I remember looking at my dad. I'm like, he's always coasted on me being the sibling and he gets to come along on the teams I get on. Why am I the one getting cut? And my dad said, "Well, now I think is the time to tell you that you were always coasting on him and they were drafting him and you just came along and and that forced me to learn soccer and my brothers would shoot on me. I was a goalkeeper, but it I earned a division one soccer scholarship uh which got me out of California uh away from Dublin and came home and coached and and so I'm excited,

49:19

you know, the prospect of being a governor where you have the Super Bowl in California next year. Uh it's being played at what we call Levi South uh SoFi Stadium and the Olympics uh in 2028. And so you'll have in me though somebody who believes like sports and teamwork at the earliest of ages uh is good for our kids, all of our kids at the earliest of ages. Uh and to want to enable that and facilitate that and and be a champion for that. I'm looking forward to that. But go Arsenal.

49:56

Thanks.

49:58

All right. Next one is from Catherine from Sacramento. What is your position or support for clean energy and climate protection? Is Catherine around? Yeah. Thanks for being here.

50:14

Yeah, of course. Thanks for hosting me. and and and we will be a state that regardless of what the president does, we have the cleanest air and the cleanest water and we lead the way and we'll be at the table internationally with others just as our governor has done. As I said, we will have that resilience. But I also fundamentally believe there's so much more we can do by deploying clean technologies. I'll give you an example. Would you say Factory farms. Oh, I'm sorry. Factory farms. Factory farms. Oh, factory farms.

50:52

Yes. Yeah, I got it. Yep. And then that goes back to to funding enforcement as well and making sure that those who do pollute, who do break the law are held accountable. But I also see a 400mile aqueduct system where we lose thousands of gallons of water a day to evaporation where we could invest in putting solar panels across California on those aqueducts. And it turns out that solar panels cool the surfaces below them so you won't lose as much water and we won't have to see communities as much pitted against each other. So being a governor who's a modernizing force in the infrastructure we invest in whether it's reconducting the transmission lines whether it's making sure that our utilities are investing in the infrastructure that reduces not increases the liability and likelihood of fire but also cleaner distribution of energy in how they do it and also on water continuing to invest in as much local storage as possible. Uh so CI as I said is wanting to be a modernizing force on that and not to pit communities or the choice of clean air, clean water against cheap energy.

Thank you.

52:14

What is your plan to stop the proliferation of AI centers? Yeah. Yeah. Where's Reuben? Um,

yeah.

52:27

Here's the deal to AI data centers. If you are going to create more problems than you solve, we don't want it. We don't want it.

52:39

That That's my bargain to AI data centers. If you are going to just be here and profit

52:46

off of this new technology that could reduce jobs and bring harmful outcomes for our kids and have no seat at the table and no skin in the game or investment in solving the problems, it's not for us. But what I will do, as I said, as a parent who wants to protect my children from the worst outcomes on AI, but also make sure that I'm preparing them. What I will do is tell you, you invest and solve some of the water problems that we have in California and that you're going to contribute to because of the use and the drain. I can work with you on that. If you're going to reduce the utility costs that Californians have, not jack them up, I can work with you on that. But you have to be able to show Californians that you can do that. And on AI, I have heard from enough founders and developers that we have to be mindful that when many of these technologies are deployed, once the horse is out of the barn, there's no getting it back. So, I will work with the legislature to make sure that we always have the most updated oversight of what AI is doing. But I won't I'm not going to scare you or be afraid of AI. As I said, we're Californians. We remake and remake and remake. And so if we get this right, we can tell our children it cured a cancer rather than causing new cancers or diseases.

54:28

I remember President Clinton when I was a teenager and Vice President Gore as we went into the 21st century, people were anxious about the dot-com boom and the theme of his 1996 campaign was bridge to the 21st century. My job as governor is to not be afraid, but to make sure that, as I said, it solves more problems than it creates. It creates more opportunities than it displaces. And it lifts up all Californians, not just the few who are invested in it. If I if we can do that, it's welcome here. If not, we have to protect Californians. But I'm I'm not afraid of this at all because I'm so optimistic about how you and I can work on this together and see it as an opportunity. But that's the bargain. You're not going to drain energy, drain water, displace jobs, and see us as the capital of the world where you get to do that. That's not going to work.

55:33

Sacramento, Long Beach.

What will be your actions in the first nine months to address any of the following? Lower cost of living, address homelessness, address the budget deficit, or evaluate and direct state agencies about the return to office policy. Please don't just acknowledge these issues.

55:53

Yeah. Well, I've talked about a lot of them. On the return to office issue, as I said, we're looking at \$200 million savings because we found ways for our state employees to tele-work. And I'm often asked like, what are you doing to save Californians money? And so looking at how we can be mindful stewards of the taxpayers's dollars is exactly what that policy reflects to me. You also Mallerie, can you read uh read that one again? Sorry.

56:28

The third one. I said it down. Uh budget deficit.

Yep.

56:38

And then evaluate cost of living. Okay. Cost of living, homelessness, budget deficit. Evaluate return balance. Yep. On cost of living, I'm sorry. on budget deficit. I've talked a lot about like the revenue plan, the revenue that I have to find, make sure that **every corporate citizen is invested in helping me lift up wages**. I want to talk just a little bit about homelessness.

57:04

I don't believe this is a resource challenge in our state. We've devoted a lot of money to this issue and I think most of us would agree we're not getting the outcomes that we want. I was with the Pasadena Fire Department on a 10-hour ride along a couple months ago, and we rolled up on a 71-year-old man who had fallen out of his wheelchair in front of a grocery store, and his right leg uh had been a amputated. And as the paramedics were loading him up and putting him into the ambulance, one of them noticed that he had a hospital band on. So they called the hospital where they were about to take him and the hospital said, "Yeah, we just released him about eight hours ago."

I can tell you from a family experience. I have a family member who I would go find in the tenderloin too many times. One time waste deep in a garbage can looking for food to feed himself. I get him fed, get him showered. get him into a rehab facility and then call the rehab facility and find out the next day that they can't tell me if he's there or not. And it was frustrating. And I'd go to, you know, counseling with other family members who experience the same thing. And we all can diagnose what the problem is. is and we we all believe we have kind of a common solution for the severely mentally ill or the severely dependent, but we're helpless as friends and family members and the community who has a lot of resources to help. And so as governor, what I want to do is work with the legislature to find ways to provide these individuals who take up so much of the time of police and fire and resources with the care that they deserve, but with more freedom on the side of the people who can help them. And then I can really get positive outcomes on the single mom who's living out of her car and has a full-time job and just needs enough money to get a down payment for her security deposit to go into an apartment or the veteran who's in the same position and needs to go and get a new skill or re skill from what they've already learned.

59:35

But that personal experience has just convinced me that the mentally the severely mentally ill and the severely dependent need to be able to benefit from so much of the community's care and the family's care that wants to help them. That's not going to be easy. It's going to take a lot of work with the legislature to sort that out. They we've invested in Proposition One as a state that has gone a long way to do that, but that is going to be one of the hardest tasks of the next governor. And I I want you to feel like you're getting more for your money, but most importantly, that we're taking care of people who deserve, I believe, more compassion to get them well.

1:00:21

All right. So, this is going to be our last question and I'll use this as an opportunity to remind you to please stay in your seat when the congressman wraps. He's going to do a selfie video going around the room. Oh, am I? Okay. Do a selfie video.

1:00:34

You can volunteer from Sacramento. How can you help us seniors? We have the same bills as workers, just less money. Yeah.

1:00:52

So Sherry, did any of you knock on doors for Prop 50? Thank you.

Something that was so obvious to me as I was knocking on doors for Prop 50 were the number of seniors, oftentimes widowed, who lived in four-bedroom, two- bath homes, and wanted something that was affordable, that had the amenities and independence that they still want to have, but didn't see the supply of it in senior housing in our community. and equally a young family with more inventory on the market that would leap at the opportunity to raise and build their family in that same home. So, as governor, the 90-day shot clock that I talked about in the beginning will also focus on senior housing and making sure that we are enabling affordable senior housing so that you're allowed, as I said, to have independence, but not just if you feel like you're being held hostage because of the capital gains consequence that you're not. And I'm willing to work with the legislature also on what we could do at least on the state side. And I've supported legislation federally that would reduce that capital gains penalty where say you bought your home 20 years ago for \$200,000 and you would sell it today for \$750,000 and that is your pathway to senior housing, but you're going to pay a massive penalty that you can't afford. I want to work with the legislature for seniors as I said to to be able to go into if they wish, you know, affordable independent housing. And then on healthcare, I have to make sure, as I said, that we start to get back some of the medical funding that was taken away so that the overall pool of money is never put at risk. So, \\and let me Yeah. Go ahead. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I'm sorry. Can you say it again?

The only thing I want to add. Yeah. 2.8% increase for 2026. Yeah. That amounts to \$60 a month. Yeah.

I can barely get a tank full of gas for property taxes. That's right. Homeowners insurance. Those of us that do own our home.

Yeah. Okay. So, she she's talking about Thank you again. Remind me your first name.

Insurance home insurance.

Yeah. The question she also was asking about homeowners uh insurance and and so you have a fair plan that is almost a trillion dollars exposed. cannot have another catastrophic uh fire. And so,

1:03:53

you know, is is governor making sure that we invest in resilience in our infrastructure to, as I said, to reduce the risk of fire to bring down the cost to help communities invest in reducing their risk for homeowners, apartments, commercial development. Rely on these folks as the experts. That's why I'm so honored to be supported by the firefighters because I've told them I'm coming to you. I'm believing in science and the experts on what we have to do for wildfire prevention and mitigation. They're they're at the table. They're helping us do that.

1:04:32

Thank you. So,

1:04:38

thank you for joining me at this town hall. We're 27 days until ballots go out.

I told you about that couple, Eric and Vicki. That was my dad and my mom. I said was my mom because Vicki passed away not too long ago from cancer. Broke my heart. And as you know, no one loves us like our moms. They have, after all, a nine-month head start. and the best ones never relinquish the lead. But her last text message to me, she had seen me on TV and I because my parents are Republican, I think I was probably on Fox News, probably not even not even by my own choice, they probably had me on Fox News. And she said, "Are you eating enough?"

And isn't that such a mom question?

But right now in these times, isn't that such a question all of us should be asking each other?

Do you have enough to eat?

Do you have a job? If ICE is illegally coming after you, do you want to stay at my place and hide out?

I am my brother's keeper and you are mine. We are California.

And in this great state, in this great country, I know no one came here to be a Republican or a Democrat. They came to be an American. And if they are lucky, they get to be a Californian. So, we will remake over and over again. But what I want to invite you to do with me, can I tell you just one last quick story? You're a part of it, too. Back in 2018, I was on a flight from San Francisco to Washington. There's a redeye seat next to me was open. And you know that feeling when the seat next to you is open, you're like, could it really be me? Is is this my lucky flight? Like I'm gonna be able to stretch out. And right before the door closed, I saw this squinting and I see this woman and like three and a half inch heels, about this tall with a security detail behind her walking down the aisle. And I'm like, "No, no, no. I know exactly who it is. It's my work mom, Nancy Pelosi,

and she sits next to me. She's got this stack of papers. And she's handing me these articles that her staff have printed for her. And I try and get a word in. And I say, you know, speaker, she's a leader at the time, 2018 leader, do you ever sleep? She looks at me like I'm crazy. She goes, no, never. Do you? I'm like, no, no, of course. I'm going to stay up and talk to you. And so after she's handing me these different articles, I I finally get a word in edgewise and I said to her, "Leader, do you think this will be a wave election?" And she grabbed my arm and she said, "Dear, we don't wait for waves. We make waves. we make way.

So, will you make a way for me and with me to protect the most vulnerable to fight for our immigrant community and build a new California?

Thank you. Thank you all so much. Thank you to our brothers and sisters in labor. Thank you to our elected leaders. Thank you all. 27 days until ballots go out. I'll see you on the trail. Thank you.

1:08:50

There you go.

1:09:02

1 hour, 9 minutes, 2 seconds

Thank you all.

**Sync to video time**