

WEBVTT

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00:00:04.200 --> 00:00:09.480

Nick Josefowitz: Hello everybody we're just going to let people filter in a little bit, and then we will get going in.

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00:00:10.889 --> 00:00:11.639

Nick Josefowitz: brief moment.

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00:00:28.530 --> 00:00:37.860

Nick Josefowitz: So hello, and welcome everybody, my name is Nick sephora wits and i'm supposed Chief of policy Thank you so much for joining us this digital at this digital discourse today.

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00:00:38.340 --> 00:00:45.720

Nick Josefowitz: Many of you here today are spur members, so thank you for your support and if you are not a Member, I encourage you to join, to support spurs ongoing work.

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00:00:46.140 --> 00:00:53.640

Nick Josefowitz: and using education policy, analysis and advocacy to make our cities region and state more prosperous sustainable and equitable places to live.

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00:00:54.180 --> 00:01:05.580

Nick Josefowitz: Your financial support enables us to continue our work, including the hosting of programs like today's perform find more information about membership online@spurred.org slash join.

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00:01:06.930 --> 00:01:13.140

Nick Josefowitz: Our next digital discourse is scheduled for this evening at 5pm it is titled answering the call to build equitable housing.

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00:01:13.620 --> 00:01:20.520

Nick Josefowitz: can participate in a multi part series that will examine the lasting impacts of property ownership on families neighborhoods and cities.

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00:01:20.940 --> 00:01:30.480

Nick Josefowitz: And probe its relationship to intergenerational wealth exclusionary housing and recently passed legislation that strives to address inequities of the past and present.

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00:01:31.080 --> 00:01:38.100

Nick Josefowitz: In this first program working Torres San Francisco's assessor recorder will lead a discussion about the myriad of tools once used.

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00:01:38.430 --> 00:01:50.700

Nick Josefowitz: To enable exclusionary practices from redlining two races covenants and how less overt but equally malicious transcriptions continue to persist today, such as under appraisals the property owners of color.

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00:01:51.540 --> 00:02:01.800

Nick Josefowitz: Here from housing justice advocates researchers lawmakers and journalists that are taking action to activate equity and housing and stronger communities across the country.

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00:02:03.600 --> 00:02:13.680

Nick Josefowitz: today's digital discourse is calling all Californians as California looks to tackle the mounting challenges, ranging from climate change to housing affordability the office of the governor's.

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00:02:14.580 --> 00:02:20.730

Nick Josefowitz: California volunteers is tasked with engaging and mobilizing Californians and service volunteering and civic action.

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00:02:21.210 --> 00:02:34.260

Nick Josefowitz: One of the most prominent initiatives developed by California volunteers, is the California, is for all initiative, launched in response to the covert 19 pandemic to develop a statewide volunteer corps, to provide additional support to the States emergencies and disasters.

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00:02:36.300 --> 00:02:47.430

Nick Josefowitz: Join us in this discussion today with kellen to California volunteers chief service officer George Friday, as we take a deeper dive into the importance of volunteerism and how California volunteers are taking on the challenges.

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00:02:47.730 --> 00:03:02.640

Nick Josefowitz: Facing California and josh Thank you so much for joining us today it's really exciting to have you i'll give you a quick i'll give you a quick bio and then we'll we'll jump into into question into into the kind of meat of it.

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00:03:03.090 --> 00:03:04.650

Nick Josefowitz: So it just serves as a.

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00:03:04.890 --> 00:03:12.510

Nick Josefowitz: California chief service officer within the office of Governor governor Gavin newsom the lead service volunteer and civic engagement efforts throughout California.

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00:03:13.830 --> 00:03:23.010

Nick Josefowitz: Since appointed California volunteers, as long as the nation's first statewide climate action core Californians from all volunteer initiative statewide neighbor to neighbor campaign.

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00:03:23.190 --> 00:03:24.930

Nick Josefowitz: The California school college call.

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00:03:25.140 --> 00:03:38.040

Nick Josefowitz: To help thousands of California to commit to serving for a year pay for college and California, is for all youth job corps program to employ underserved youth across the state and critical areas and a bunch of those programs have hashtags in front of them.

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00:03:39.450 --> 00:03:44.160

Nick Josefowitz: Joe josh is a military veteran and the former mayor of novato his hometown.

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00:03:44.550 --> 00:03:54.330

Nick Josefowitz: And received his law degree from the uc Berkeley Berkeley school of law he's married to molly an educator and they have three energetic and totally adorable young boys.

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00:03:54.990 --> 00:04:04.650

Nick Josefowitz: So josh Thank you so much for coming in, so you know why don't you just tell us a little bit more about kind of what role the.

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00:04:04.650 --> 00:04:18.900

Nick Josefowitz: State plays in volunteering opportunities, I think a lot of people probably think of volunteering is like you go down to your church or your mosque synagogue or whatever we go to a food bank and what's the state got to do with it.

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00:04:19.500 --> 00:04:28.290

Josh Fryday: yeah I appreciate that well first thank you, Nick for for having us and spur for hosting this conversation it's really fun to be here and to be able to talk with you.

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00:04:28.770 --> 00:04:36.270

Josh Fryday: And I think appropriate because you are thinking about it's for how do we come up with big solutions to some of our biggest problems.

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00:04:37.320 --> 00:04:40.980

Josh Fryday: Throughout the state and how, how can cities deal with those and communities.

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00:04:41.670 --> 00:04:52.050

Josh Fryday: solve some of these problems and we're thinking about a California volunteers, how can we engage what we call our most important asset which is the 40 million people that call California home.

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00:04:52.350 --> 00:04:59.610

Josh Fryday: In actually solving these problems so we're thinking about very much, how do we solve the same problems, but from a people power perspective.

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00:05:00.030 --> 00:05:07.380

Josh Fryday: And part of what we're trying to do, you asked what is, what is the role of government, I think we believe in the governor believes strongly that.

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00:05:08.100 --> 00:05:20.670

Josh Fryday: We have to invest in actually creating opportunities for people to engage in new ways and be part of the part of solution, you mentioned the litany of programs that i'm sure we're going to be able to dive into in this conversation.

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00:05:21.570 --> 00:05:33.330

Josh Fryday: But we, we do believe that, and this is how we're approaching it, whether you have a year to give as part of a service program that we that we've created or you have an hour to give.

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00:05:33.990 --> 00:05:46.980

Josh Fryday: Your church on the weekend, or otherwise, that there's something that literally every California has to contribute and we actually need them to contribute, we need people to step up We need people to be part of solution and and we're creating those opportunities to do it.

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00:05:48.060 --> 00:05:56.160

Nick Josefowitz: it's really you know it's it's it's fair it's it's really exciting and you know I having been both a volunteer and someone who has sort of.

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00:05:56.550 --> 00:06:05.820

Nick Josefowitz: Had the the opportunity to manage volunteers you realize you think when you show up to volunteer oh i'm like you know i'm doing this and and i'm you know.

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00:06:06.180 --> 00:06:12.660

Nick Josefowitz: It just works, but there's so much effort that needs to go into actually like recruiting and managing and training.

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00:06:13.140 --> 00:06:18.870

Nick Josefowitz: volunteers and then, of course, I think one of the exciting things that you do is you make sure that.

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00:06:19.350 --> 00:06:35.130

Nick Josefowitz: volunteers are compensated for their time because otherwise volunteering can become quite an elite activity so so maybe you can kind of give us a little bit more of the sort of the details of like how how some of your programs actually actually work.

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sure.

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00:06:36.990 --> 00:06:42.270

Josh Fryday: yeah I appreciate the opportunity because you're right, I think it people think about volunteerism.

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Josh Fryday: And it's limited and we're trying to expand that scope, I like to remind people that when I served in the military, I was a volunteer I did that voluntarily.

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Josh Fryday: And I got paid, it was my also my job, and it also happened to be a great service, I think, at least, I felt it was.

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00:06:58.350 --> 00:07:05.880

Josh Fryday: To our nation and what we're doing with our programs is creating opportunities for people to serve our state in our communities and meaningful way.

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00:07:06.210 --> 00:07:17.760

Josh Fryday: And, asking them to step up and use their time and talent to do it and we are, in many instances, paying them, but we like to think about the the civic engagement approach or model that we're taking.

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00:07:18.720 --> 00:07:29.220

Josh Fryday: As as like a pyramid So if you think about a pyramid at the very top and there's three layers to our pyramid of civic engagement, at the very top is service So these are people who.

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00:07:29.610 --> 00:07:38.670

Josh Fryday: take on an opportunity for a specific period of time whether that's a semester or summer or an entire year and most often they get paid to do the service.

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00:07:39.090 --> 00:07:45.630

Josh Fryday: They get a stipend to live and then we've also created an opportunity for scholarship above to \$10,000 in California.

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Josh Fryday: That you get to either pay down your student loans are put towards college in the future so we're actually creating real economic opportunities.

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00:07:55.470 --> 00:08:04.860

Josh Fryday: While getting the ability to work in your community in make change for a specific period of time, the second tier of the pyramid is around calling on people to be volunteers.

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00:08:05.550 --> 00:08:14.340

Josh Fryday: So that's to join a local organization that's to work at a food bank that's to take climate action on a Saturday to a tree planting event to do take a variety of.

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00:08:15.150 --> 00:08:27.660

Josh Fryday: Opportunities where you're volunteering more regularly but you're not doing an unpaid capacity and then the third tier we like to think about encompassing all Californians which is creating ways for literally.

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00:08:28.380 --> 00:08:37.530

Josh Fryday: Every California, to take action, and these are providing the tools and the educational resources for people to understand how, in their daily lives they can make a difference.

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00:08:37.800 --> 00:08:47.370

Josh Fryday: And that's everything from saving water we're in a drought right now to learning how to take climate action at home also learning how to check on your neighbors in a in a disaster.

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00:08:47.760 --> 00:08:58.650

Josh Fryday: But trying to empower people at all levels, so we like to think that we're covering a login every California and giving creating an opportunity for them to plug into some way.

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00:08:59.520 --> 00:09:08.190

Josh Fryday: But these programs are very formal and, as you mentioned it's a lot of work, so when we talk about how do we rebuild our civic infrastructure.

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00:09:08.760 --> 00:09:11.820

Josh Fryday: In in our society it actually takes investment.

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00:09:12.540 --> 00:09:24.540

Josh Fryday: You can't just you can't just hope it and then all of a sudden, a bunch of people appear and they're doing something that's meaningful and actually making a difference, we have to invest in this and that's why i'm so proud about what we're doing in California.

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00:09:25.230 --> 00:09:28.080

Josh Fryday: Because our governor and our legislature.

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00:09:28.260 --> 00:09:31.080

Josh Fryday: is taking this very seriously and is investing in.

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00:09:31.080 --> 00:09:32.190

Josh Fryday: unprecedented ways.

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00:09:33.930 --> 00:09:47.310

Nick Josefowitz: So maybe we can pick out let's say start with one of the programs let's say don't count your climate action core Maybe you can kind of describe to us a little bit how it was and how it came about and what you you hope it can achieve.

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00:09:47.730 --> 00:09:48.840

Josh Fryday: yeah so the climate action.

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00:09:48.960 --> 00:09:52.680

Josh Fryday: is one of the things we're most proud of is the first in the nation and.

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00:09:52.770 --> 00:10:03.150

Josh Fryday: And there's been a lot of chatter over the last several months and year from the vitamin station and Congress about creating national climate core which we're very excited about hopefully that happens at some point and.

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00:10:03.510 --> 00:10:12.000

Josh Fryday: And a lot of people really looking at what we've done in California as a model for it, but we started it with a simple idea, and this comes from my background I the chance.

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00:10:13.170 --> 00:10:19.890

Josh Fryday: To run a national organization focused on on climate change and how do we engage people in the political process around climate.

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00:10:20.370 --> 00:10:29.400

Josh Fryday: And what I often found was we get people fired up about climate or we get them scared about climate and then they'd ask the question, what can I do.

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00:10:29.790 --> 00:10:34.260

Josh Fryday: And we'd say go vote and they say great I voted now, what can I do.

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00:10:34.560 --> 00:10:44.730

Josh Fryday: And we never really had an answer and people we know what we learned was like people wanted to take action they wanted to feel like they can actually do something in their lives in their neighborhood in their community.

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00:10:45.570 --> 00:10:51.090

Josh Fryday: But I just don't know I just don't think we, we are at least well enough answer that question what can people.

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00:10:51.090 --> 00:10:53.100

Josh Fryday: do so, we created the climate action corps.

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Josh Fryday: To actually answer that question, so that we could say to every California there's something that you can do today in your life.

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Josh Fryday: Whether you have a year to give as a climate action core fellow where we actually have you organizing communities around climate events and taking climate action and you get paid to do that, and you get a scholarship.

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00:11:11.400 --> 00:11:23.430

Josh Fryday: or as a volunteer or just in your daily life, to take climate action and so we're we're in year two right now it's been very exciting just some unbelievable inspiring stories of young people.

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00:11:24.540 --> 00:11:31.800

Josh Fryday: who are committed to this issue, obviously organizing and low income communities around things like urban greening.

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00:11:32.190 --> 00:11:44.190

Josh Fryday: Building Community gardens dealing with tree canopy and especially cities where they have heat islands that have been under in areas that have been under invested in for a variety of reasons, doing a lot around.

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00:11:44.340 --> 00:11:46.950

Josh Fryday: waste reduction, which in California, is a.

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00:11:47.130 --> 00:11:49.200

Josh Fryday: is a big focus about reducing waste.

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00:11:49.500 --> 00:11:50.550

Josh Fryday: And edible food.

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00:11:50.550 --> 00:11:58.230

Josh Fryday: recoveries a way to make sure food doesn't end up in landfills which, which has a huge impact on greenhouse gas emissions to obviously dealing with the fire.

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00:11:58.860 --> 00:12:02.220

Josh Fryday: hazards in our in our state and how do we mitigate, how do we home.

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00:12:02.700 --> 00:12:13.290

Josh Fryday: fired issues, how do we harden homes are we clear defensible space, so what we've done is essentially take what is a an existential issue that we all I think are should be at least.

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00:12:13.710 --> 00:12:26.820

Josh Fryday: very concerned about California is taking huge strides on policy, but what we're again what we're trying to do is bring the people power to say if we're actually going to solve this issue, we need everyone in the game.

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00:12:26.940 --> 00:12:28.170

Josh Fryday: in a big way, but we.

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00:12:28.200 --> 00:12:30.060

Josh Fryday: actually have to create those opportunities.

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00:12:30.090 --> 00:12:38.640

Josh Fryday: We act and so that's what we've done with the climate core and it's been super fun we've learned a lot and we're going to continue to expand it in the coming years.

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00:12:39.930 --> 00:12:46.110

Nick Josefowitz: that's awesome and then on a practical level, you partnering with state agencies or nonprofits or companies like how.

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00:12:46.440 --> 00:12:58.230

Nick Josefowitz: How do you kind of like if someone's like i'm on, and I want to be a volunteer I want to be a, how do you how do you then like how like what is the process for getting them to actually do the work do the volunteer.

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00:12:58.650 --> 00:13:03.060

Josh Fryday: yeah so it's all the above it starts with our climate action corps fellows who we.

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Josh Fryday: refer to them as organizers.

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00:13:04.890 --> 00:13:13.380

Josh Fryday: That they're actually climate organizers to engage people in the Community around some of these issues and and to take action and so.

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00:13:14.520 --> 00:13:19.500

Josh Fryday: But I like to say just across the board on the how all this work is structured that.

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00:13:20.220 --> 00:13:31.710

Josh Fryday: We can accomplish anything we want to do around rethinking civic engagement and civic activity if it's just government, we have to work with local governments, we have to work with.

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00:13:32.160 --> 00:13:41.490

Josh Fryday: nonprofits, we have to work with business, so we we work with all of those entities in this program but just practically speaking, the way we, we have to give you an example.

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00:13:42.120 --> 00:13:48.270

Josh Fryday: Is we have fellows who are working in both to pick a Bay area city in San Jose.

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00:13:48.990 --> 00:13:55.140

Josh Fryday: That are doing urban greening and working with a nonprofit or city forest in San Jose.

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00:13:55.470 --> 00:14:04.530

Josh Fryday: And they're working to engage volunteers on the weekends throughout the week in educating them about how to do urban greening how to take care of trees.

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00:14:04.860 --> 00:14:09.990

Josh Fryday: And so that's that's an example of how we're partnering with their paid for by the state.

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Josh Fryday: And there are climate action organizers but they're partnering with local organization they're working with the city of San Jose the mayor's office in San Jose to meet the San Jose's local goals around tree planning.

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00:14:22.620 --> 00:14:32.580

Josh Fryday: So it's a total collaboration, which of course it needs to be for any of this to be successful and i'll just say just because I had an informed, how we set that this particular program up.

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00:14:33.330 --> 00:14:44.070

Josh Fryday: When we started the La, for instance, higher to trees are to help them meet their tree goals tree planting goals and one of the things that was shared with us.

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00:14:44.610 --> 00:14:51.750

Josh Fryday: From from their perspective is that people understand trees, they get really excited about trees, you can touch and feel it.

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00:14:52.110 --> 00:15:03.930

Josh Fryday: And people love investing in trees, and so what but what happens, as you all, probably know better than I do you plant trees and then people forget about it and trees, then die they don't make it and i'll get cared.

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00:15:03.930 --> 00:15:14.460

Josh Fryday: For, and so what was identified for us is the work that doesn't get invested in is in this particular example is the actual Community engagement.

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00:15:14.880 --> 00:15:16.650

Josh Fryday: Before the trees even get planted.

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00:15:16.890 --> 00:15:23.940

Josh Fryday: And then the education, so that the people who are then benefiting from the trees know how to take care of the trees feel invested in the trees.

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00:15:24.300 --> 00:15:38.760

Josh Fryday: And so that's the role that that our climate action core organizers are playing in many of these communities is doing that actual Community engagement on the front and the back end so that communities have understand, not just why the trees are there and the.

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00:15:38.760 --> 00:15:39.540

Josh Fryday: climate impact.

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00:15:39.720 --> 00:15:46.050

Josh Fryday: But actually then feel and that they have stake in it as well, and so that's that's the kind of thing that we're trying to accomplish with the climate core.

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00:15:48.330 --> 00:15:58.650

Nick Josefowitz: So I just wanted to make sure the audience knows that i'd love to kind of get your questions click on the Q amp a button at the bottom of the zoom type it in, and I will try and get it.

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00:15:59.100 --> 00:16:11.370

Nick Josefowitz: Get the question to to josh so josh someone asks how can I join the climate action corps and I guess the kind of the the follow up question is if you're an organization.

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00:16:12.420 --> 00:16:19.380

Nick Josefowitz: How do you think you'd be a good host for volunteers, how do you how do you how do you know how does that work as well.

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00:16:20.190 --> 00:16:23.670

Josh Fryday: Climate Action core.co.gov that's easiest plug.

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00:16:25.260 --> 00:16:27.750

Josh Fryday: And i'm sure we have a hashtag in there as well, somewhere, Nick.

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00:16:28.350 --> 00:16:39.270

Josh Fryday: Whatever feminine action core I go to our website and all seriousness, we are constantly looking for partners and for people to host fellows as well, we do have an application process for that.

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00:16:39.510 --> 00:16:52.020

Josh Fryday: And i'll just share with you because i'm super proud about this and I and and we're obviously we share this with the legislature and the governor to try to continue to build momentum for these programs, but we had interest.

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00:16:53.220 --> 00:17:00.180

Josh Fryday: We had four times the amount of interest, then slots available from community groups.

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00:17:00.930 --> 00:17:07.230

Josh Fryday: So community groups actually asked for for four times the number of slots that we have currently funded right now.

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Josh Fryday: which I think just shows the demand for this, the demand for this kind of work in our communities, but we are always looking for community groups, so please go to our website and fill out an application or email us and we'd love to work with you.

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00:17:23.250 --> 00:17:30.240

Nick Josefowitz: So um you know, one of the one of the things that often comes to mind when one thinks about these types of programs is like young people.

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00:17:30.660 --> 00:17:40.800

Nick Josefowitz: People out of high school people in college people out of college, but that's just like a young people earning a small sliver of California, how do you think.

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00:17:41.400 --> 00:17:58.230

Nick Josefowitz: Tell me a little bit about how some of your programs kind of think beyond the young person frame to kind of bring volunteering opportunities to maybe seniors who you know who are retired and looking to kind of give back or.

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00:17:58.860 --> 00:18:07.170

Josh Fryday: or other yeah it's a super important question and something we think a lot about so there's there's a couple specific things we do we just.

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00:18:07.560 --> 00:18:15.120

Josh Fryday: received \$10 million in this last day budget to increase, something that we call senior corps which is actually paid opportunities for seniors.

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00:18:15.630 --> 00:18:23.130

Josh Fryday: To be able to volunteer do things like Tutoring and mentoring communities so we're expanding those kinds of programs in a very real way.

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00:18:23.850 --> 00:18:28.770

Josh Fryday: it's why we do focus on in our California, is for all program building out the volunteer.

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00:18:29.430 --> 00:18:37.590

Josh Fryday: component of this work, because we do need to call on on all Californians and that's just not a few young people to do a few service positions.

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00:18:37.980 --> 00:18:46.440

Josh Fryday: that's calling on literally all California, is to say whether it comes to Tutoring and mentoring coming out of the code and all the learning loss and we've seen especially.

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00:18:47.010 --> 00:18:55.980

Josh Fryday: With our low income children or it comes to taking climate action we need literally everybody, and so we have to create those opportunities and and our calls to action.

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00:18:56.310 --> 00:19:02.730

Josh Fryday: are very focused on on engaging everyone we're also about to launch an aggressive neighbor to neighbor campaign.

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Josh Fryday: that's very much going to be focused on how do we connect neighbors to each other in order to take action on a variety of issues.

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00:19:11.220 --> 00:19:21.150

Josh Fryday: And so that's very much focused on on literally every California and and what we've seen in specifically because you asked the question about how to adjust as our older Californians and.

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00:19:21.630 --> 00:19:34.620

Josh Fryday: Our work is in the master plan for aging that the State recently put out and has been recognized as a key component of dealing with social isolation with loneliness and some of the issues that too many older Californians.

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00:19:35.190 --> 00:19:46.140

Josh Fryday: Face but we've seen we've, we know that there's research significant research done that older older people if they know their neighbor and if they.

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00:19:46.620 --> 00:19:54.060

Josh Fryday: are connected to their neighbor live at live happier lives that we also know that if you have a sense of purpose and you feel connected.

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00:19:54.570 --> 00:20:06.750

Josh Fryday: that it has a huge impact on mental health, it has a huge impact on staving off things like dementia and alzheimer's and so we're we're when we when we talk about how do we create opportunities.

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00:20:07.500 --> 00:20:23.010

Josh Fryday: For all Californians it's it's important to deal with these these real big issues that we have to solve but it's also to to provide real benefit, I think, for Californians real bet you know personal benefit around physical health mental health.

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00:20:24.030 --> 00:20:34.320

Josh Fryday: And, and also recognizing again back to one of the earliest things I touched upon that every California and has something to contribute, that we that every California and.

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00:20:34.650 --> 00:20:45.480

Josh Fryday: has value that we as a society need to take advantage of We just have to do a better job I think of drawing it out and creating a way for people to actually be able to engage in meaningful ways.

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00:20:46.470 --> 00:20:54.660

Nick Josefowitz: I mean, I think the role that you know the volunteerism and civic participation play in a kind of a healthy democracy is just really can't be.

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00:20:55.020 --> 00:21:09.120

Nick Josefowitz: underestimated and we're going to get to that a little bit later in the discussion i'm really excited to kind of get your perspective on that because I think it is, it is so important, but we got to know we still got a number of questions about like how how the programs work and.

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00:21:09.360 --> 00:21:21.480

Nick Josefowitz: You know, one of the things that i've been really impressed about you know, and this is really one of the measures of success, not the only one we can talk about others afterwards, but one of this is how many people in such a short time.

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00:21:21.960 --> 00:21:29.220

Nick Josefowitz: you've had engaging in your programs, can you, you know so tell us a little bit about about that.

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00:21:30.300 --> 00:21:40.320

Josh Fryday: yeah we're very proud about this Joe Biden had a has a famous statement at one point that does it say don't show me your values show me your budget and i'll show you your values.

147

00:21:41.280 --> 00:21:46.410

Josh Fryday: And since I started this role, and since governor newsome create a cabinet level position for service.

148

00:21:46.950 --> 00:21:59.070

Josh Fryday: He in the legislature have invested significantly in this work and because of their investment and things like the climate core and things like college core, which I hope we get a chance to talk about a huge jobs core program we've launched.

149

00:22:00.030 --> 00:22:14.550

Josh Fryday: And our other America or programs that we're very proud of Just to give you a sense of scale of how we've grown in a very rapid time over the next couple years we're going to base we're going to have an army or a force of Californians.

150

00:22:16.260 --> 00:22:23.430

Josh Fryday: Three times literally three times the size of the Peace Corps over 20,000 Californians in a paid service opportunity.

151

00:22:24.360 --> 00:22:31.140

Josh Fryday: for a significant period of time working on really important Community issues and so we're gonna see.

152

00:22:31.500 --> 00:22:41.640

Josh Fryday: I think I think we're going to see this on the ground and it's going to feel special because it is like I think what's happening in California right now is really special at a time when people feel despondent.

153

00:22:42.000 --> 00:22:49.800

Josh Fryday: People feel you know sincere despair about what's happening in our country what's happening in the world and are looking for hope.

154

00:22:50.280 --> 00:23:02.580

Josh Fryday: we're actually showing that we're investing in in people to do incredibly inspiring work and meaningful work all across our state and we're investing in it in a real way so we're super proud of.

155

00:23:03.060 --> 00:23:12.030

Josh Fryday: The scale that we've reached you mentioned it's not the only marker of success it's certainly not, but I think when we see the impact that it has not just on the Community.

156

00:23:12.450 --> 00:23:17.550

Josh Fryday: And the you know, not just the number of trees, or the number of Food Banks support it, or the number of low income.

157

00:23:18.360 --> 00:23:23.670

Josh Fryday: students who are going to receive Tutoring and mentoring, for the first time, not just the impact on the Community.

158

00:23:23.910 --> 00:23:29.250

Josh Fryday: But the impact on future generations on the future leaders of California, who are going to learn.

159

00:23:29.520 --> 00:23:35.700

Josh Fryday: What it means to serve your community who are going to have the tools to work with people who think differently than you have different perspectives.

160

00:23:35.970 --> 00:23:44.040

Josh Fryday: and have new hard skills at an early stage in life, I think that investments going to pay off for generations to come and we're super proud about it.

161

00:23:45.060 --> 00:23:51.450

Nick Josefowitz: You know I think you should you should, I think the the scale is even more impressive because the p school serves the whole world.

162

00:23:52.560 --> 00:23:58.740

Nick Josefowitz: And you just southern California so you're kind of like per capita engagement is is off the charts.

163

00:23:58.740 --> 00:24:02.520

Josh Fryday: Compared to California, is a big state but yes.

164

00:24:02.670 --> 00:24:05.940

Josh Fryday: that's that's I think that's why we use that.

165

00:24:07.080 --> 00:24:16.710

Josh Fryday: That comparison and and I we use the Peace Corps a comparison, because it is the marquee program for the country it's something that every American is proud of.

166

00:24:17.700 --> 00:24:32.340

Josh Fryday: And it, you know it sort of represents the kind of the pinnacle of service of what it means to to serve and and what we're doing in California, is trying to create our own version just deploy it on on dealing with lifting up California communities.

167

00:24:32.550 --> 00:24:43.860

Nick Josefowitz: yeah um, how do you like you mentioned some of the other goals that you have, how do you track that kind of the impact or how do you think about like kind of measuring the impact.

168

00:24:44.310 --> 00:24:54.990

Nick Josefowitz: That your kind of volunteering opportunities have either on individuals or on the Community, because I think we've all we've all had the experience of showing up to volunteer or something and it being a really crappy experience.

169

00:24:55.230 --> 00:25:05.880

Nick Josefowitz: Totally like oh Why did I waste my time doing that and then we've all had experience a lot of those maybe not everybody, but a lot of us have had experiences, where you show up and you're like wow.

170

00:25:06.450 --> 00:25:23.100

Nick Josefowitz: This was like just an incredibly powerful way of spending my Saturday or Sunday or whatever, and I feel like i've contributed a lot they really respected my time and how do you how do you kind of how do you think through like not just kind of the numbers side.

171

00:25:23.280 --> 00:25:33.600

Nick Josefowitz: yeah but actually kind of making sure that that that people are having great experiences, leading to personal growth, leading to kind of civic engagement of the outcomes you're hoping to achieve again matt.

172

00:25:34.320 --> 00:25:41.040

Josh Fryday: yeah it's a terrific question it's something we spend a lot of a lot of time on it hasn't been invested enough so for so.

173

00:25:41.580 --> 00:25:51.390

Josh Fryday: We are for the first time spending money on evaluating our programs, for instance, our college core program received which we'll talk about it's one of our biggest programs.

174

00:25:52.260 --> 00:25:59.010

Josh Fryday: That I refer to as a California GI bill because we're providing debt free pathways for low income students who commit to a year serve.

175

00:25:59.730 --> 00:26:10.710

Josh Fryday: Here in California and we're we're investing in in in having making sure that we're evaluating the impact on both the Community and the people that are going through the Program.

176

00:26:11.040 --> 00:26:24.690

Josh Fryday: I think you're right, I think, in in that sense that our work doesn't I don't think we measure our work and just in terms of how many trees, we we we plant, how many students get tutored how many how many.

177

00:26:26.730 --> 00:26:32.100

Josh Fryday: boxes of food, do we give out at food banks that, because what we're trying to do is is.

178

00:26:32.670 --> 00:26:43.230

Josh Fryday: is so much bigger than just those numbers and it's and it's really about building social cohesion in the fabric of society so we're trying to understand, we just launched a.

179

00:26:44.100 --> 00:26:59.340

Josh Fryday: New program with uc Berkeley to try to understand how to measure the impact of people when they do a service program together How does that deal with things like political polarization how to, and how does it How do people come out of those programs feeling.

180

00:27:00.480 --> 00:27:05.220

Josh Fryday: Hopefully differently about other people that that think differently from them, or have different perspectives.

181

00:27:05.460 --> 00:27:08.700

Josh Fryday: Because certainly anecdotally That was my experience in the military.

182

00:27:09.060 --> 00:27:14.070

Josh Fryday: Is that when you serve with people side by side, you have a common mission, you have a.

183

00:27:14.070 --> 00:27:14.910

Josh Fryday: common purpose.

184

00:27:15.240 --> 00:27:18.960

Josh Fryday: And it makes you It makes you sort of understand the humanity different.

185

00:27:19.920 --> 00:27:25.410

Josh Fryday: As we do these programs up and down the state where we have thousands of people who are going to now be serving together.

186

00:27:25.920 --> 00:27:33.960

Josh Fryday: We need to make sure that that's actually happening that that they're actually gaining that experience that, hopefully, will deal with some of the political.

187

00:27:34.410 --> 00:27:44.970

Josh Fryday: division in our society so Those are the kinds of things we're thinking about and but it's hard work so open to any any ideas or any thoughts or input you or anyone else as.

188

00:27:46.050 --> 00:27:54.960

Nick Josefowitz: I mean, I think this is a great transit transition to kind of stop talking a little bit about kind of the role that volunteerism plays in in our.

189

00:27:55.560 --> 00:28:07.080

Nick Josefowitz: In our democracy, and you know kind of President Kennedy's call to action I might even butcher but like arsenal what you what your country can do for you ask what you can do for your country, I mean that's sort of.

190

00:28:07.500 --> 00:28:08.160

Nick Josefowitz: And then, a lot it.

191

00:28:08.370 --> 00:28:20.070

Nick Josefowitz: And then that goes the peace corps and kind of get started and and this sort of sense of like you know that a healthy democracy is not just is about these kind of mutual.

192

00:28:20.490 --> 00:28:30.240

Nick Josefowitz: sort of webs of obligation that you have with your country and your state and your community, and not just the kind of like what you can what your country can do for you.

193

00:28:32.040 --> 00:28:38.610

Nick Josefowitz: And it's sometimes feels like in this moment with the political polarization that you talked about that we've kind of lost.

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00:28:39.300 --> 00:28:48.240

Nick Josefowitz: Some of that kind of sense of mutual obligation that people no longer feel that they're part of a larger Community that's kind of where everybody's in it together.

195

00:28:48.690 --> 00:29:02.790

Nick Josefowitz: And a lot of the sort of what I found really interesting is so much of the kind of democracy reform that we hear about it gets talked about focuses on election reform campaign finance reform gerrymander all really, really, really important stuff of course.

196

00:29:03.030 --> 00:29:17.190

Nick Josefowitz: yeah but we kind of often I think miss the sort of the next level down of like the kind of how ultimately our democracy is a reflection of our communities is a reflection of our relationships with each other and.

197

00:29:18.690 --> 00:29:23.610

Nick Josefowitz: So maybe we can kind of you know zoom out from the specifics of some of these programs to that.

198

00:29:23.820 --> 00:29:35.970

Nick Josefowitz: yeah bigger question and and i'd love to kind of hear your your kind of thought about about that and the role that that you can play in in perfecting our democracy.

199

00:29:36.660 --> 00:29:45.300

Josh Fryday: yeah I love this question, so what we think about every day it's in it's under see the underpinning of why we're doing this work.

200

00:29:45.600 --> 00:29:52.500

Josh Fryday: it's why I think governor needs are so passionate about it certainly why i'm so passionate about it, we talked about it all the time in California volunteers.

201

00:29:53.430 --> 00:30:05.520

Josh Fryday: That that our work is really about and and I don't think we're being hyperbolic saving our democracy, I think we're in a we're in a very dangerous moment right now we all feel that we all feel very divided, we all feel very isolated.

202

00:30:06.660 --> 00:30:14.430

Josh Fryday: And I do think that there's something very, very not just powerful or inspiring it goes beyond that necessary.

203

00:30:15.090 --> 00:30:27.210

Josh Fryday: To call on our people and say we expect you to be involved, we expect you to be engaged, we expect you to sacrifice and do something and we're going to create the opportunity for you to do that.

204

00:30:28.650 --> 00:30:38.310

Josh Fryday: And that's what I would argue, at least my personal feeling is we as a society have not invested in that for for a generation or two.

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00:30:39.360 --> 00:30:48.450

Josh Fryday: And and we've lost that civic infrastructure we've lost that ability, you know Putnam talks about it in Bowling alone, the brooks talks about it.

206

00:30:49.020 --> 00:30:58.830

Josh Fryday: All the time in in in his writings and many others that we've lost this social fabric, the social cohesion, they used to be so important.

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00:30:59.400 --> 00:31:05.100

Josh Fryday: And is so much the foundation of a democracy and to me when I think about that I think about.

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00:31:05.910 --> 00:31:10.380

Josh Fryday: On a few levels, I think about as it relates to this particular work and you're right that.

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00:31:10.650 --> 00:31:22.470

Josh Fryday: we're talking about democracy reform it's not we're not the silver gold to everything, but I think we're a critical piece of it, because the foundation of a democracy is trust at the most basic level and and.

210

00:31:22.830 --> 00:31:32.010

Josh Fryday: I think about that trust in two ways one trust in ourselves, we have to trust each other as Californians as Americans as San franciscans.

211

00:31:32.370 --> 00:31:42.570

Josh Fryday: And that's because that's how people deliberate in a democratic body and compromise and come to solution, so we there has to be a basic level of trust.

212

00:31:43.200 --> 00:31:49.290

Josh Fryday: That, I think you know all data shows is eroding right now trust in each other trust in institutions.

213

00:31:49.770 --> 00:32:00.270

Josh Fryday: But we also have to trust in our collective ability to actually get things done to actually like solve problems to actually help people to actually make society work for people.

214

00:32:00.810 --> 00:32:10.080

Josh Fryday: And I feel like now we've you know that's literally the whole premise of self government that we collectively can come together and do things for the benefit of each other.

215

00:32:10.590 --> 00:32:16.350

Josh Fryday: And I think so, you know so much now we see some with this and the pessimism and polls and the cynicism.

216

00:32:16.830 --> 00:32:23.550

Josh Fryday: And you know the feeling that we're not doing enough around climate or gun control or poverty which we're not on any of those.

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00:32:23.910 --> 00:32:27.960

Josh Fryday: But this idea of like we have to trust that we can actually solve problems together.

218

00:32:28.560 --> 00:32:38.130

Josh Fryday: And the way we build trust on both those levels trust interpersonal trust that I trust you I trust your intentions, even if I disagree with you on on everything.

219

00:32:38.730 --> 00:32:45.510

Josh Fryday: But I trust your intentions and I trust that you want the best thing for our society, and also, I trust that we're actually gonna be able to solve problems.

220

00:32:46.290 --> 00:32:59.610

Josh Fryday: I think we can rebuild that if we rebuild and think about civic engagement differently and we tell people that being part of a democracy, a democratic society is not just about voting, although that's absolutely critical and you have to do that.

221

00:32:59.910 --> 00:33:10.590

Josh Fryday: it's not just about jury duty if you can't get out of it and it's not just about paying taxes there's there's actually so much more to what it means to be in a democratic society, and if we do that.

222

00:33:10.950 --> 00:33:14.790

Josh Fryday: If we can broaden out this idea of what it means to.

223

00:33:14.820 --> 00:33:24.540

Josh Fryday: to live in a democratic body in a social body, then we can actually build that trust that is literally the foundation of a democratic society.

224

00:33:24.990 --> 00:33:35.760

Josh Fryday: And so that's why and again it's it's anecdotal it's my experience in the military, the power of service to bring people together, but we also see it in all the research around.

225

00:33:36.210 --> 00:33:45.900

Josh Fryday: If you know who your neighbor is, and if you trust your neighbor you're going to be happier and violence goes down in your neighborhood you're more likely to be saved in the national disaster.

226

00:33:46.290 --> 00:33:56.310

Josh Fryday: which then makes you feel different about how your ability to actually solve some of these big problems, I mean there's there's a whole bunch of data around the role of connection and the role of community.

227

00:33:57.720 --> 00:34:04.050

Josh Fryday: For people to just feel like society works, and I think we're at this moment, right now, or like too many people are like things are not working.

228

00:34:04.350 --> 00:34:19.380

Josh Fryday: And I think we can rebuild that by by giving by both calling on people and saying you have to be in the game and there's something for you to do, but then creating that opportunity and I think the last if I guess maybe quickly hit on on talking too much, but the last piece of.

229

00:34:19.650 --> 00:34:20.730

Nick Josefowitz: Growing your head josh.

230

00:34:21.600 --> 00:34:32.520

Josh Fryday: I want to hear from you, though, Nick I want you to critique all of this, the last you know part of I think this is democracy idea which really does animate why we're here.

231

00:34:33.690 --> 00:34:42.840

Josh Fryday: Is I you know I think there needs to be like a spiritual renewal in our country, we we have the Dalai Lama wrote about this right before trump was elected in 16.

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00:34:43.110 --> 00:34:51.450

Josh Fryday: You know, and asked a question about like why in a society that is so wealthy as America is there, so much economic and political anxiety.

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00:34:51.900 --> 00:35:04.770

Josh Fryday: And it's a real question and his his thesis or you know just to paraphrase is basically it comes down to people want to feel valued in their community, they want to feel like they have something to contribute, and we see, we see the insecurity.

234

00:35:05.610 --> 00:35:11.520

Josh Fryday: That so many Americans are facing right now we see the mental health crisis that we're in, especially among young people.

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00:35:12.060 --> 00:35:18.330

Josh Fryday: were just people are not feeling mentally secure and then I feeling financially secure and I really feel like.

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00:35:19.170 --> 00:35:26.580

Josh Fryday: As part of this spiritual and neural if we can give if we can help create purpose if we can remind people that you have something to contribute.

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00:35:26.880 --> 00:35:34.380

Josh Fryday: That there's something meaningful, you can do that is critical to solving things like climate change and poverty and name every other issue under the sun.

238

00:35:34.680 --> 00:35:38.400

Josh Fryday: That that that that's that's really critical for us to get back on track.

239

00:35:38.790 --> 00:35:52.710

Josh Fryday: As a country and it's how we create pride and patriotism again as a veteran you know when you sacrifice or you do something you care about it more it's I don't think it's any different than like when you, you know when you when you.

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00:35:53.550 --> 00:35:58.860

Josh Fryday: paint your House, or you mow your lawn or you just you know you actually you care, but there's a pride that comes with that.

241

00:35:59.190 --> 00:36:06.240

Josh Fryday: And we need to rebuild that in this country, and so I appreciate you asking the question because I think there's some really deep things happening.

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00:36:06.930 --> 00:36:17.700

Josh Fryday: In our society that go beyond the important stuff you mentioned like voting and electoral reform, but are absolutely foundational for us to to to get our democracy back on track.

243

00:36:18.240 --> 00:36:24.810

Nick Josefowitz: And you know I think what you're talking about is it's a really sort of like radical idea that it's quite almost sort of counter.

244

00:36:25.200 --> 00:36:35.580

Nick Josefowitz: Cultural right now, because you know I think so much of the momentum is around systems change, and you know that's that's kind of what we say we do at spa we.

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00:36:36.030 --> 00:36:44.310

Nick Josefowitz: run legislation we run ballot measures we kind of do deep kind of thinking, trying to trying to kind of help people understand what's possible.

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00:36:45.060 --> 00:36:50.760

Nick Josefowitz: And when ones in the kind of systems change mindset it's often difficult to kind of get motivated.

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00:36:51.180 --> 00:37:00.360

Nick Josefowitz: By going out and doing something sort of very specific doing something which may appear small it's like we need to pass build back better we don't need to go plant.

248

00:37:01.050 --> 00:37:11.790

Nick Josefowitz: trees, I should be spending my time sort of like you know mobilizing people to do the big thing rather than actually going out and doing the little thing but.

249

00:37:12.540 --> 00:37:30.540

Nick Josefowitz: But Yet if you don't if you kind of do too much of that as you're saying you miss the foundation, the fabric, how do you kind of try and sort of bridge that would you see that as like, how do you sort of think about your the sort of motivating people to get excited again about.

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00:37:31.830 --> 00:37:38.340

Nick Josefowitz: About kind of you know, making the small improvements that kind of together make the change happen.

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00:37:39.480 --> 00:37:45.630

Josh Fryday: yeah it's a fantastic question because, and this is the way I think about it is, we have to do both we.

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00:37:46.140 --> 00:37:53.970

Josh Fryday: We absolutely have to do both the system stand is critical, we got to be bold and would you know let's talk about maybe just in the climate context.

253

00:37:54.630 --> 00:38:04.710

Josh Fryday: We need big policy we absolutely do it's why in California we're pushing so hard and leading on on big policy and it's why we need to keep pushing into why American leadership on this issue is so important.

254

00:38:05.670 --> 00:38:14.190

Josh Fryday: We need big policy but we can't stop there that's what I think that's the argument that that I would make is that it's not it's not an either or.

255

00:38:14.580 --> 00:38:26.010

Josh Fryday: it's that we need big policy and we need everyone, because this is what the foundation of a I think a healthy society to feel like they have something to contribute and there's something meaningful that they can do.

256

00:38:26.220 --> 00:38:32.520

Josh Fryday: Because the answer is because the truth is there is there actually there, there is something that people can do around climate change in their own daily lives.

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00:38:33.390 --> 00:38:39.930

Josh Fryday: And whether that's taking a simple action at home or whether that's signing up to be a climate organizer for a year that's meaningful.

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00:38:40.290 --> 00:38:46.320

Josh Fryday: And if we create those opportunities they both really matter, so we so i'd like to think about it is we need both.

259

00:38:47.010 --> 00:38:56.130

Josh Fryday: it's not one or the other, but I do worry about I mean I don't know if it's a radical notion that might be giving me too much credit or putting us out on a limb here.

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00:38:56.970 --> 00:39:15.090

Josh Fryday: But I do think that there's a there's a trap that we can sometimes fall into and i'll say that as a, you know as a state government leader, that of saying government's going to get it done for you don't worry about it, and I think that creates a paralysis.

261

00:39:15.780 --> 00:39:16.950

Josh Fryday: In our communities where.

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00:39:16.950 --> 00:39:26.400

Josh Fryday: People then either you know it's easy to conclude this either thing it's too big, I can't do something in my own life to fix it.

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00:39:27.180 --> 00:39:32.580

Josh Fryday: or someone else is going to do it for me and again back to your question of democracy, like.

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00:39:33.000 --> 00:39:41.070

Josh Fryday: That is not how democracy works if people feel like they don't have agency or the ability to make change around them, then what's the point of all this.

265

00:39:41.490 --> 00:39:53.040

Josh Fryday: like that is the point of a democracy is is that we self govern and we can change the world around us, we can have an impact in the world around us and I felt like it's been my experience personally.

266

00:39:53.340 --> 00:40:01.170

Josh Fryday: That when i've been had the chance the times, where I felt like I haven't had the biggest impact to the biggest contribution to society is when i've served and that's either.

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00:40:01.500 --> 00:40:08.760

Josh Fryday: serving as a as a high school student in the Dominican Republic that serving as a in the navy at serving as a local elected official.

268

00:40:09.420 --> 00:40:21.210

Josh Fryday: In my hometown serving on a nonprofit it's it's by serving is how we, I think, is, you know as humans feel like we're actually contributing and changing the world around us, which is, I think.

269

00:40:21.600 --> 00:40:38.880

Josh Fryday: Critical to the broader demand democratic project, and so you know so again, I think it's both to your question, but, but if we get lost on just systems change, I think we don't bring people with us and, and I think there's political fallout from making that mistake.

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00:40:39.600 --> 00:40:43.380

Nick Josefowitz: I, I completely agree with you, and I think you know I don't know how other people feel but.

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00:40:43.770 --> 00:40:54.420

Nick Josefowitz: I find that political activism that kind of systems change stuff is often the least satisfying form of civic engagement, the most frustrating form.

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00:40:54.930 --> 00:41:00.810

Nick Josefowitz: of civic engagement, because you feel like it's so difficult for your actions to have any impact.

273

00:41:01.200 --> 00:41:08.340

Nick Josefowitz: And then, most of the time what you're advocating for doesn't happen, and then, when the few times when while you're advocating for does happen.

274

00:41:08.850 --> 00:41:15.570

Nick Josefowitz: That it gets watered down there's a tons of competition of compromises it's not nearly sufficient to kind of achieve the goals.

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00:41:16.110 --> 00:41:21.090

Nick Josefowitz: That you entered into, and I think you know, the fact that, as a society we've we've kind of.

276

00:41:21.690 --> 00:41:30.750

Nick Josefowitz: got so many young people especially and and and that's kind of influences society at large kind of just so singularly focused on political activism.

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00:41:31.170 --> 00:41:39.120

Nick Josefowitz: Has has generated so much frustration and and one of the things I love about what you're doing is.

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00:41:39.720 --> 00:41:54.120

Nick Josefowitz: is how it can be how it's sort of engagement which, which is which which makes you which which actually is very which doesn't lead to frustration, it leads to kind of fulfillment and it leads to kind of new connections.

279

00:41:55.170 --> 00:42:05.910

Nick Josefowitz: And and a feeling that you're actually kind of achieving something and I think that's that's so powerful compared to the kind of paradigm, that we have got going now.

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00:42:06.570 --> 00:42:17.880

Josh Fryday: And I would hope, and that is what we see with our climate action core members and volunteers, is that they do feel that they feel renewed they feel rejuvenated they feel like they want to continue to do this work.

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00:42:18.300 --> 00:42:30.330

Josh Fryday: And I think our hope is if we can provide that what you just described that sense of fulfillment and renewal and inspiration The hope is that you should bring that with you into your political activism.

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00:42:31.260 --> 00:42:39.420

Josh Fryday: lead that refuel you and and and so So my message I hope no one takes away from this, a message that political activism doesn't matter because that's.

283

00:42:39.420 --> 00:42:40.500

Nick Josefowitz: Not the case it's.

284

00:42:40.890 --> 00:42:45.120

Josh Fryday: really important it's critical is just as important and democracy is anything.

285

00:42:46.080 --> 00:42:53.040

Josh Fryday: But it can't end there, and I think that's what we're trying to do is broaden out the definition of what does it mean to be engaged.

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00:42:53.970 --> 00:43:04.620

Josh Fryday: In in our society, what does it mean to be a Californian and our hope is is that that that you want to just as much as you want to show up to City Council meeting.

287

00:43:05.640 --> 00:43:20.880

Josh Fryday: or or vote that you want to go out and plant a tree, or you want to tutor somebody on issue you know or take take some other action, something you care about and that that's going to hopefully like I said, continuing to fuel you to want to be an even more active member of our society.

288

00:43:22.380 --> 00:43:31.320

Nick Josefowitz: You know, when one thinks about volunteerism one of the things you know I brought this up at the top, one of the, the first question one of the things that one thinks about is.

289

00:43:31.650 --> 00:43:42.960

Nick Josefowitz: The kind of civic institutions, they used to enable volunteerism and you brought up Bowling alone, and one of the really foundational books in my thinking about America but.

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00:43:44.280 --> 00:43:54.480

Nick Josefowitz: You know one thinks about obviously religious institutions one thinks about social clubs one things about you know sports team sports leagues or.

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00:43:55.170 --> 00:44:01.980

Nick Josefowitz: You know so much of the so many of these civic institutions which Bowling alone published now almost 20 years ago, showing our age.

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00:44:02.400 --> 00:44:20.730

Nick Josefowitz: But like documents how they've been in decline in America, for the last 50 years attendance of club meetings at the time of Bowling alone getting published down 58% over the last 25 years family dinners down 43% you know religious.

293

00:44:21.750 --> 00:44:25.530

Nick Josefowitz: sort of participation religious services similar styles and numbers.

294

00:44:26.700 --> 00:44:28.170

Nick Josefowitz: Are we kind of rolling.

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00:44:29.220 --> 00:44:35.790

Nick Josefowitz: Up hill you think in kind of trying to like or how steep is this hill that we have to kind of climb.

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00:44:36.570 --> 00:44:49.470

Nick Josefowitz: To kind of encourage volunteerism civic participation, when so many of the institutions which were created in communities to encourage that kind of atrophying and people are no longer really participating in.

297

00:44:50.850 --> 00:44:54.540

Josh Fryday: yeah I think we are rolling up Hill, and this is where I think leadership matters.

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00:44:55.140 --> 00:45:03.210

Josh Fryday: This is where I think our leaders within, and in part it's government leaders it's me it's governors it's mayor's it's our you know, President.

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00:45:03.750 --> 00:45:10.410

Josh Fryday: But it's also our other civic leaders are our business leaders our education leaders our faith leaders.

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00:45:11.250 --> 00:45:24.420

Josh Fryday: need to say to their constituencies and the people that will listen to them that they influence that we need you to be part part of something we need you to be part of something bigger than yourself.

301

00:45:25.140 --> 00:45:32.190

Josh Fryday: Like the message that was, you know that I think has been given for for a generation or two is your job is to like you know.

302

00:45:32.820 --> 00:45:41.520

Josh Fryday: Go to college or get a job that's going to pay you a lot, so you can live a good life, and I feel like now we're like coming starting to reckon with the fact that people are like that's not enough.

303

00:45:41.730 --> 00:45:48.720

Josh Fryday: Right, we would life needs to be more than more than just that and thinking about myself and so.

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00:45:49.680 --> 00:45:57.660

Josh Fryday: So yeah it's it's we're in a tough spot right now and and, by the way, that I think that's related to where we are in our democracy they're not they're not disconnected by any means.

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00:45:58.080 --> 00:46:07.590

Josh Fryday: And so what we have to do as as leaders across the board is is both calling people set the expectation, the cultural expectation that John F Kennedy did.

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00:46:07.860 --> 00:46:12.690

Josh Fryday: That you reference that you're that we expect you to serve that's what it means to be a California.

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00:46:13.590 --> 00:46:27.210

Josh Fryday: or an American and we're going to actually create the opportunity, and so this is why we create it was so important, we created a college core, which is dealing with the crisis, the student debt crisis that our state is facing, and in our country is facing.

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00:46:28.470 --> 00:46:37.140

Josh Fryday: But but also giving young people the opportunity to serve and build skills and build social networks and get on a path to career.

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00:46:37.620 --> 00:46:50.040

Josh Fryday: it's why we, we made sure that we are doing it with the leaders of the UC system, the CSU system, the Community college system in California and private schools, because we needed presidents to have stake.

310

00:46:50.220 --> 00:46:56.760

Josh Fryday: In saying to their students by being a student in our school whether it's uc Berkeley or CSU long beach.

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00:46:57.630 --> 00:47:04.500

Josh Fryday: or or a Community college what part of what that means is that we expect you to serve we want you to serve.

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00:47:04.920 --> 00:47:14.340

Josh Fryday: And we want you to be involved in the Community, while you're at our institution, which is a college and we're going to help you pay for school, if you do.

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00:47:14.640 --> 00:47:19.260

Josh Fryday: And so the program we created you is for 10 you get \$10,000 for doing an academic year service.

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00:47:19.680 --> 00:47:26.490

Josh Fryday: Which is important because, for pell grant students that's the amount they have to come up with by they're taking out loans so that's why they go into debt.

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00:47:26.760 --> 00:47:33.360

Josh Fryday: or by working so I when I was a pell grant student I did I did clean golf carts in a golf shop the others have to work at starbucks.

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00:47:33.630 --> 00:47:43.650

Josh Fryday: And then you take your eye off the ball of studying, so our idea is to say let's let's help people that's help students pay for school but let's ask you to serve and let's set that expectation.

317

00:47:44.250 --> 00:47:47.700

Josh Fryday: Not just from the governor but from the institutions of higher education.

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00:47:48.060 --> 00:48:00.780

Josh Fryday: And from professors that serving as part of what it means to be a part of this campus now that's one example, this is we're also doing a job score program or mayor's we're working with mayor's to create jobs for foster youth.

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00:48:01.110 --> 00:48:05.520

Josh Fryday: For formerly incarcerated youth for low income youth all across the state.

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00:48:06.210 --> 00:48:18.570

Josh Fryday: That are that are service oriented jobs they're actually contributing something to the Community in a very meaningful way and so that's important to have mayor's saying we're going to create opportunities for you to serve your community.

321

00:48:19.050 --> 00:48:29.940

Josh Fryday: So I do think we have an uphill battle, but, but if leaders are willing to step up and invest in this, I have a ton of confidence and hope, and I think we're starting to see that, on the ground now in California.

322

00:48:31.980 --> 00:48:44.130

Nick Josefowitz: One of the things that and you've talked a lot about your military service, one of the things that I think often comes up in these conversations is is national service is kind of the company, you know, the draft or.

323

00:48:45.120 --> 00:48:53.670

Nick Josefowitz: or whatever one wants one wants to call it, and because there's there's there's I guess a sense that you know, to reach the scale.

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00:48:54.930 --> 00:48:56.550

Nick Josefowitz: The one the.

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00:48:57.570 --> 00:49:11.280

Nick Josefowitz: Teresa next level of scale beyond just kind of people stepping up and volunteering there's and to kind of fully sort of meet the kind of the the aspirations of this kind of sense of mutual obligation.

326

00:49:12.300 --> 00:49:17.730

Nick Josefowitz: That sort of a mandatory national service or manifest state service or something like that.

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00:49:19.350 --> 00:49:28.470

Nick Josefowitz: Is is something that should be should be thought about and we kind of do it a little bit in height in our high schools where we have kind of mandatory community service requirements.

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00:49:29.370 --> 00:49:37.290

Nick Josefowitz: To be able to graduate i'm not sure that that quite fully replaces the impact of of the national service but.

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00:49:38.430 --> 00:49:55.650

Nick Josefowitz: But it kind of has its it's still a feature, to a certain degree of our Community, what do you think about kind of the kind of the the the sort of the idea of sort of mandatory service versus kind of the the idea of kind of voluntary service.

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00:49:56.340 --> 00:50:09.060

Josh Fryday: yeah well just so no worries about me getting in too much trouble in this the governor did say when we launched college core that if he were king, he would wait you'd wave his wand and make service mandatory.

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00:50:10.110 --> 00:50:12.360

Josh Fryday: And so, and I certainly support him.

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00:50:12.390 --> 00:50:22.710

Josh Fryday: In that feeling but he's not and I think we have a political reality right now that would probably make that tough doesn't mean we shouldn't.

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00:50:23.970 --> 00:50:36.810

Josh Fryday: advocate for it or or try to push for that, so I think what we're focused on right now is it just short of mandatory, how do we make it an absolutely a cultural expectation.

334

00:50:37.530 --> 00:50:42.840

Josh Fryday: How do we make it a cultural expectation that what it means to be in California and is that you serve.

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00:50:43.290 --> 00:50:51.510

Josh Fryday: And that's and and and so you know, maybe it's not going to get us 100% of where we need to get to but it's going to get us a long way there.

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00:50:51.930 --> 00:50:58.860

Josh Fryday: And, and because then we're going to see we're going to see employers who say I don't want to hire you unless I unless you served.

337

00:50:59.310 --> 00:51:07.050

Josh Fryday: Right once we start to see that, when we start to see college Presidents say we're going to we want to admit students who want who want to go into a life of service.

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00:51:07.320 --> 00:51:15.870

Josh Fryday: Or we want to graduate students who now have a deeper sense of what it means to be to serve and being a community, then I think we're going to start to see.

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00:51:16.500 --> 00:51:22.200

Josh Fryday: The kind of paradigm shift that's that's necessary and I think we can get there if we create this culture expectation.

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00:51:23.190 --> 00:51:31.980

Josh Fryday: So I would love to see mandatory service I think it's fascinating I was supposed to go to Israel, with some leaders right before coven started to look at.

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00:51:32.520 --> 00:51:40.230

Josh Fryday: Their program and to think about how we can apply some of their learnings to California so i'm still looking forward to getting that trip back on the books.

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00:51:41.010 --> 00:51:49.440

Josh Fryday: But I think listen I think it's so important, I generally do not believe we solve climate change or poverty or any of the other big issues.

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00:51:49.770 --> 00:51:58.410

Josh Fryday: Until we tell people, they have to be part of the solution and give them the opportunity to do it and I don't think we live in a fully healthy democracy.

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00:51:59.190 --> 00:52:11.550

Josh Fryday: Where people feel like they have stake in our system and people feel like they actually have a voice until we give the opportunity for everyone to serve in a meaningful way and so that's what we're trying to do here in California.

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00:52:13.110 --> 00:52:22.680

Nick Josefowitz: I love it and I think you know, I was just in Israel, not on a trip designed to like explore kind of national service but you can't escape it when you're there because it's so much.

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00:52:23.010 --> 00:52:29.580

Nick Josefowitz: A sort of a part of that of that culture and they kind of think about it, as you kind of alluded to.

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00:52:30.180 --> 00:52:40.500

Nick Josefowitz: there's there's an obligation that people have to serve their country, but their country of this also has an obligation to give them opportunities to serve and so everybody.

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00:52:41.070 --> 00:52:56.340

Nick Josefowitz: No matter your kind of physical or other abilities is provided with an opportunity to serve to serve the country and, and I think that that really sort of that I thought that was a really beautiful concept and.

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00:52:57.360 --> 00:53:04.440

Nick Josefowitz: And, and you know service shouldn't be something that is this reserved for us for a certain group of elite to have a certain way.

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00:53:05.940 --> 00:53:14.520

Nick Josefowitz: So I you know we got five more minutes, I want to get to some of the questions and I want to encourage people to kind of get questions and we've been kind of getting to them throughout the discussion.

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00:53:15.300 --> 00:53:27.690

Nick Josefowitz: But Alexandra asks that a lot of your programs are relying on service members and job corps members to organize volunteers and Community organization, how is the current hot job market affected recruiting.

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00:53:28.110 --> 00:53:37.110

Nick Josefowitz: These service members and how do you attract people to your long service positions versus taking the potentially kind of higher paying jobs that might be available elsewhere in this kind of.

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00:53:38.160 --> 00:53:39.210

Nick Josefowitz: A hot job market.

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00:53:39.630 --> 00:53:45.690

Josh Fryday: yeah great question, we certainly see an impact of the job market, on some of our americorps programs.

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00:53:46.440 --> 00:53:58.260

Josh Fryday: in recruiting but i'll share this with you, we just recruited for our next class of climate action corps fellows to do an 11 month program where they get paid \$30,000 and then a \$10,000 scholarship when they finish.

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00:53:59.310 --> 00:54:10.500

Josh Fryday: And we had five people apply for every slot available, which is just an astounding number, and I think that I think that reflects a couple of things, I think that reflects that when you actually.

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00:54:11.370 --> 00:54:17.490

Josh Fryday: Both calling people to do something and then create the opportunity that they answer that call I think we're seeing that.

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00:54:17.760 --> 00:54:24.870

Josh Fryday: And then I think what it also shows is is that we need to make sure that as we build out these service programs and civic infrastructure across the board.

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00:54:25.200 --> 00:54:35.910

Josh Fryday: That we're doing it on the issues that people are most passionate about and, and so we obviously know there's a lot of passion around climate, and so I think that's that's one of the ways that we're dealing.

360

00:54:36.480 --> 00:54:50.790

Josh Fryday: With this with this job market and then the other way is just through our college program again making it may building service into the education experience is something that is a new model that we're trying here in California.

361

00:54:53.190 --> 00:54:59.280

Nick Josefowitz: The best way for someone to find opportunities in their town or to kind of get more engaged is to go to the website.

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00:54:59.520 --> 00:55:01.590

Josh Fryday: Is is California.

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00:55:01.620 --> 00:55:06.480

Volunteers that ca.gov ca.gov.

364

00:55:07.710 --> 00:55:08.820

Nick Josefowitz: awesome i'm.

365

00:55:10.260 --> 00:55:16.650

Nick Josefowitz: an anonymous attendee that says that you know systemic racism is just a huge deterrent.

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00:55:17.280 --> 00:55:25.560

Nick Josefowitz: To trust and so maybe, could you talk a little bit about how you're trying to break down institutional systemic racism and.

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00:55:25.830 --> 00:55:41.970

Nick Josefowitz: and bring people color into Canada in California into the conversation and getting involved in in volunteerism and and they also mentioned that which I don't know if it's true but historically volunteerism is difficult in underserved communities.

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00:55:42.540 --> 00:55:50.670

Josh Fryday: yeah but both great points, yes, we know that systemic racism erodes trust, we also know that economic inequality erodes trust.

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00:55:50.880 --> 00:56:01.020

Josh Fryday: So, in a place like California, where we have more billionaires in any other State, and we also have the highest rate of poverty it's a real challenge, and so the ways that we're thinking about that as we're building our programs.

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00:56:01.950 --> 00:56:09.330

Josh Fryday: Is is making sure that we're both providing opportunities for for that reverence for California, is that represent the state.

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00:56:09.780 --> 00:56:15.630

Josh Fryday: Which is why we increase the way than the amount that we're paying people we've created more educational opportunities, so we can get.

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00:56:16.350 --> 00:56:31.140

Josh Fryday: More people involved, but we're actually doing the work in the communities that are under invested and have been under invested too long, so we know we've we've talked a lot about tree planting we know tree planting has a history of racism in the state that communities.

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00:56:32.730 --> 00:56:40.380

Josh Fryday: That have were red lines just did not receive investment in any tree canopy, and so the first feel the effects of.

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00:56:40.920 --> 00:56:50.370

Josh Fryday: Climate change, the first to feel the effects of these heat waves, and these heat islands and so we're investing our programs into those kinds of communities.

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00:56:50.850 --> 00:56:56.970

Josh Fryday: To try to make an impact there first and so we're there's a lot we're trying to do our college core Program.

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00:56:57.420 --> 00:57:06.960

Josh Fryday: Is the first national service program in the country to include dreamers they're excluded from America and other programs that are federally funded, but because of the the state has stepped up.

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00:57:07.230 --> 00:57:21.420

Josh Fryday: we're including dreamers for the first time, so we're trying to be very intentional about how do we make service more inclusive because, again, what we really believe is that every California has something to contribute and has something of value.

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00:57:21.990 --> 00:57:36.690

Josh Fryday: To our society, and so what we need to do is empower and give everyone the opportunity, and that includes thinking about those populations, who have been excluded for too long and making sure that they're very much able to participate, along with everyone else.

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00:57:38.070 --> 00:57:45.240

Nick Josefowitz: Well josh we're getting to the end here, and you clearly have talking about every California and has something to contribute you clearly.

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00:57:45.540 --> 00:57:50.430

Nick Josefowitz: have a lot to contribute and you've been doing an amazing job at California volunteers and it's.

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00:57:50.970 --> 00:57:59.820

Nick Josefowitz: Incredibly inspiring to hear about your successes and such a sort of short period of time that you've been this agency has been kind of up and running and.

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00:58:00.450 --> 00:58:15.090

Nick Josefowitz: i'm really grateful that you can took the time today to come talk about it with us and to kind of share your vision for what's possible for not just for California, but for democracy, so thank you very much justin Thank you all for coming and participating.

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00:58:15.450 --> 00:58:18.660

Josh Fryday: Thank you, this is so much fun really appreciate everybody, thank you, Nick.

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00:58:19.230 --> 00:58:20.970

Nick Josefowitz: Okay cheery I bye bye.