

Audio file

Independent Perspective 1858 with Todd Vaarwerk on the Democratic Primary for Mayor and the Meet the Candidates Day held by WNYIL

Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

Welcome to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living (WNYIL). Our guest today is Todd Vaarwerk, chief policy officer of WNYIL. And I'm your host, Ernie Churchwell. Welcome to the program, Todd.

00:00:16 Speaker 2

Always a pleasure.

00:00:22 Speaker 1

And there are some events coming up in the political life of Western New York that you have the lowdown on. What can you tell us about primary day and things leading up there too?

00:00:32 Speaker 2

Well, as a registered voter, our listeners should always know when it's primary day for their political parties, because this is how they pick candidates for the general election. A couple of years ago, primary day was moved from September to June in order to allow for a longer campaign series for the general election and the next primary date for that will be next Tuesday, June 24th. So, for those people that count their vote as important, voting on primary day is really important because it helps choose your candidate and this year, we know that there's a hot button issue for the City of Buffalo in selecting their next mayor. WNYIL's kind of taking care of that for you though, because last week we had a Meet the Candidates Day specifically for the people running for mayor of the City of Buffalo. And we got 100% participation.

00:01:38

So, there is an opportunity for folks to watch on our YouTube channel our Meet the Candidates Day for the Buffalo Mayors and to see what kind of people that they might like to vote for.

00:01:53

Or for our friends who don't have a primary schedule, right? What kind of candidates will be up against your candidate in the general election?

00:02:05

So, I always want to encourage folks to go to WNYIL's YouTube page to look for new stuff, and this is definitely a thing to talk about this week.

00:02:15 Speaker 1

Alright. And how do they get to the YouTube page?

00:02:19 Speaker 2

Well, it's www.youtube.com and you're going to look for WNYIL.

00:02:28 Speaker 1

Good to know. What are the really hot issues are people to be interested in this week?

00:02:38 Speaker 2

Well, while we know it's the end of the legislative season in Albany, at this point both the Senate and the Assembly have completed their work for the season.

00:02:51

But, and normally I would do a wrap up at around this time, but the federal budget hasn't actually settled itself yet. And as we know, the federal budget currently contains a lot in there that's worrisome; proposed Medicaid cuts, proposed cuts to food assistance.

00:03:12

And that isn't anywhere near done because the reconciliation process with the Senate just started so we definitely want to keep an eye on what our friends in Washington are doing and how that will affect perhaps the state budget moving forward.

00:03:31 Speaker 1

So, the things aren't quite as calm and settled as some people may think sounds like.

00:03:40 Speaker 2

Well, it's always true with the new administration that they do things in a different way. This is just a conversation that everybody's having about proposed Medicaid cuts and proposed cuts to snap. And for those people that follow other federal issues, state and local taxes

are currently a thing that's going on with the reconciliation between the Senate and the House.

00:04:07

And obviously you can always invite me back when we've got a little bit more to say on that.

00:04:12 Speaker 1

Alright, we're actually running somewhat low on time. I'm sure people will have questions. How can they reach you?

00:04:18 Speaker 2

Oh, they can always give my office a call. 716-836-0822, ext. 101 or they can email me at tvaarwerk@wnyil.org.

00:04:34 Speaker 1

Thanks for being with us, Todd.

00:04:36 Speaker 2

Always a pleasure.

00:04:38 Speaker 1

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