# Oct 29 - Sherrill - KatieCouric

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiwyJlzi33I federal prosecutor. She's a mom of four, and she's been a ve in a very contentious race against Republican Jack Chitterelli. Um, and this is one of those, uh, campaigns that's getting a lot of national attention. So, uh, I she said I can call her Mikey. Congresswoman Cheryl, aka Mikey, thanks so much for doing this. I really appreciate it. &gt;&gt; Well, thank you. Thanks so much. &gt;&gt; Have you done a Substack yet? I think I have, but it's been a minute. So, it was good to kind of go over some of it beforehand. That was &gt;&gt; Okay. Well, well, welcome. I'm really uh really thrilled to have this conversation. You have such an impressive CV, by the way. You're from Virginia originally. Where did you grow up? &gt;&gt; Mostly Rristen, Virginia. &gt;&gt; Oh, cuz I'm from Arlington. &gt;&gt; I thought you were from Northern Virginia. Okay. How &gt;&gt; did you go to high school? &gt;&gt; South Lakes High School. I graduated with Grant Hill. That's kind of my claim to fame. &gt;&gt; Well, you're a lot younger than I am. And I uh I all I know is who did Oh, Eric Schmidt went to my high school who started Google. &gt;&gt; Uh Emily Kurrick, my Emily Kurrick, my sister who um &gt;&gt; Oh, I got it. Well, Megan and Mary Cheryl then. Yeah. &gt;&gt; Yeah, exactly. &gt;&gt; Give me something for not starting there. &gt;&gt; But my sister was um you know was running for lieutenant governor. I don't know if you know this with with um &gt;&gt; God, what is wrong with me? Uh with Mark Warner and then she was diagnosed sadly with pancreatic cancer, had to drop out of the race and and sadly tragically passed away. But she was replaced by Tim Kaine. And the only reason I mention this is everyone thought that my sister Emily was going to be the first one day be the first female governor of Virginia. And now in Abigail Spamberger, uh, it looks like we could possibly get our first female governor. And I know that you two were roommates on Capitol Hill when you were both in Congress. How weird is it that you're both running for governor, governor of your respective states? &gt;&gt; It is bizarre, isn't it? Um, she was born in New Jersey. I was born in Virginia. She's running in Virginia. I'm running in New Jersey. She's the oldest of three girls. I'm the oldest of three girls. It's Yeah, we were roommates in Congress. It's It's one of those weird things. Um like uh Adams and Jefferson dying on the same day and you know, you're just kind of like the universe is a little odd sometimes. &gt;&gt; That is odd. It's like that Kennedy Lincoln thing uh that we used to look at when we were we were kids. So, you know, I I'm curious. I interviewed uh Abigail Spanberger. I guess it was last week uh or maybe the week before. I can't really remember. But um you both obviously served in Congress and and I'm curious why you decided you wanted to run for governor and some of the things that you believe you'll be able to do as governor that you couldn't do as a member of Congress. &gt;&gt; Well, we see that the president has just co-opted so much of the power in Washington uh through the presidency. And I I would say definitely it's a problem that uh Republicans have the majority in the Senate and the House, but the House and Senate leadership has have also just given so much power to the presidency. He's uh co-opted the courts pretty effectively. So there's really a need for governors to stand in the breach here and to expand state power. And you see it in so many different ways. as you see it in the Northeast Coalition of States working to get vaccines in the wake of RFK or to give good medical advice with RFK Jr. putting out um you know some very odd stuff that I I think sometimes he gets from influencers on TikTok. So at that point, you need governors to stand in the breach, but it's also in pushing back against things like National Guard on the streets or climbing back federal money to start to run health programs because uh the president's now taken away um things like, you know, federally qualified health care centers and and money for those and then the SNAP funding. So again and again you see this attack on how we create opportunity, how we run an economy, how we um have children get access to a great education and it's really governors that have the ability to make change here and almost no one else at this time. &gt;&gt; Yeah. Let's talk about some of your positions and and why you think you are pro the best candidate to lead the state. You know, if someone if a Martian landed here and said, you know, Mikey Cheryl, what do you stand for? What would you tell that Martian? That's a very weird question. I realize that yeah, that does make a good question. What would I tell a Martian? Um, but if the Martian was specifically asking me about running New Jersey, um, I would say, uh, largely I am focused on continuing the path that I I think the United States has been on for almost 250 years of opening up opportunity to people. Meaning that we all know people haven't had a seat at the table. But I look at the background of my family. It was my grandpa's union job after they lost everything in the Great Depression that helped put my mom's side of the family squarely in the middle class. Or my dad being able to work and put himself through college and then not be he wasn't in debt for 30 years, right? He just worked his way through college, got a good job, and that helped my family um be securely in the middle class. Even in my own lifetime, uh when I wanted to go to the Naval Academy and to be a pilot like my grandfather, um I remember my dad saying I was in about the fifth grade and he said, you know, well, Mike, I don't even I don't know if the Naval Academy even takes women or if the Navy has women pilots, but by the time I graduated, I graduated with the first class of women eligible for combat on ships and aircraft. And that completely changed the trajectory probably of my life and my opportunity. I don't think it's any accident that it was myself and Elaine Lura who were the first Naval Academy graduate women to serve in Congress because before they changed those those rules, you were just on you were a secondass citizen in the military. And so there are all these ways in which we've opened up opportunity pe for so many people. And it feels now as in as as if we're in this time of of compression of rights of taking away reproductive rights and um economic rights and the ability to u compete in so many spaces. And so I really want to make sure New Jersey continues to open up opportunity to everyone and has that ability. We have one of the most diverse states in the nation. We're one of the most innovative states in the nation. We have more engineers and scientists per square mile than anywhere else. So the attacks that Trump is doing are so out of line with what we want to do in New Jersey. And then my opponent has oddly just really tied himself 100% to trust to Trump. just won't even call him out on defunding the Gateway Tunnel, which is this huge infrastructure project, the biggest in the nation, that Trump has said he's going to terminate. And oddly, uh, my opponent said that's not a New Jersey problem. So, he just he won't stand up to the president on anything. Let's I I'm curious as someone who went to the Naval Academy who was a Navy pilot, how you felt about that gathering uh in Quantico, Virginia of military leaders from all around the world basically getting uh lectured by the Secretary of War, uh Pete Hegsath. Uh I I I wonder how you felt when you were watching that. You know, we have our military members have such a difficult choice. At what point are you serving your country in one of the most powerful organizations in the United States and trying to keep this train from careening off the tracks and trying to keep Hegsth, the most incompetent Secretary of Defense we've ever had, who's an alcoholic, has credible claims of sexual assault against him, has run every organization he's been in charge of into the ground. How do you like, you know, how can you stay at your job and try to keep the train from running off the tracks or at what point do you become complicit? And you just saw with the admiral who quit in the wake of the um bombings of of some of the ships off of South America, saying, you know, he he couldn't no longer serve if that was the job. But it's, you know, it's this it's this really difficult choice. I hear from people uh in the military. I hear it from people at US attorney's offices across the country who are just trying to figure out how do I fulfill my oath to serve this country and at what point like I said, you know, do you just find that you're complicit? It's really difficult. And I I kept thinking of that as I was watching this. And then um you know, it's been heartbreaking really to watch some of this because what's so awful about what's going on now in our military is is we had come so far. So um we had a superintendent who was a woman. We had a chief of naval operations, the highest ranking person in the Navy who was a woman. We had the first CEO of an aircraft carrier. Uh a good portion of our midshipman were women. It just it felt so different. It felt like everything, you know, all the kind of knocks that I I took and people of my era took as women in the military were worth it because we'd built something better. And now to see some of that being taken apart is hard to watch. &gt;&gt; Well, I'll I'll I'll bite Mikey. At what point do they become complicit? I mean, when they talk to you about that, whether they're, you know, lawyers and in US attorneys offices or if they're members of the military, uh they obviously are wrestling with this. Uh what are you hearing from those folks in terms of like whether they stay or whether they go and what they or whether they speak out? Yeah, it's a really difficult choice and some people feel they don't have much of a choice if they have a family um to feed and if they have, you know, a year out. But I I know one gentleman who had 18 years. So 20 years is a retirement with all the benefits. He had 18 years in and he quit because he just he felt like he had you know was about to cross the line. And I think sometimes it depends on what your job is and sometimes it depend you know sometimes it's picking your moment if you feel as if okay something is coming and you know it would be more powerful to for me to speak out at the right time but I struggle because um you know I have family members in the military and I'm just not sure I struggle with should I start to advocate for them to get out should I start to say you guys got to go you know before you find yourselves you know on the streets of Chicago um or do we need them there to try to dissuade others at this point? And so I think sometimes it's um it's a matter of the role you're in and the you know if you find yourself closer and closer to that choice but it's really tough too because in the military you can't just quit. You know what I'm saying? You you you can't all of a sudden just for many people it's it's very hard to resign. You might have a a service contract that you have to fulfill. So, it's really it's really tough and I I struggle with how I feel about it all the time as well and what the right time would be. &gt;&gt; I I'm curious, you know, you say that your opponent Jack Chidurelli is really uh you know, hitching his wagon to Donald Trump star, holding on to his code, however you want to describe it. Um, how much of this campaign for you has been has involved talking about Donald Trump versus your vision for New Jerseyians? Because I think one of the criticisms, as you well know, the Democratic Party is people know what they are against, but they don't really know what they stand for anymore, and it's not a very unified vision for the country. So, I'm curious how you've been able to balance those two things. So, two things. Um, you you know, I've always run really hard races. Um, in fact, the first race I ran in 2018, Michael Moore had um done a documentary on running a ficus tree against my opponent in that race because he said um he was so entrenched that it wouldn't matter if you ran a fist tree or Democrat against him that nobody was going to notice. He was just going to win again and again. So um feeling um that I could do better than a fus tree, I entered the race and we were able to have the largest red to blue swing in the entire nation because we we started I started by listening to everyone by just you know finding out what is that thing that's keeping you up at night and and what can I do as a member of Congress or now as your governor to address that. And I'll tell you affordability. And I know you know it's some sometimes when the answer is somewhat simple or widely known, people think you're missing something. You hear that this is about affordability because that's what people are feeling. And so it is uh you know, housing costs have gone up here in New Jersey by 50% over the last 5 years. Electricity costs went up 20% this summer. Uh we have some of the highest property taxes in the nation. And so all of that has led to um a real focus on how Trent needs to work better and addressing very specifically I'm going to declare a state of emergency on energy costs on day one and freeze rate hikes. Nobody's ever done that before and I think people need to see that as governor I mean business. And it's not like oh I'm going to commission a study and in you know a thousand years we'll do something. It's day one. I'm gonna stop this so you can breathe a little bit as we continue to put more power on the grid and drive down costs, etc. So, it's a very proactive focus on what you can do at the state level as governor to address people's needs. But I think uh you still hear Chris, oh, you know, sometimes I'll hear, oh, Mikey mentions Trump too much. Well, I think what people might be missing, what's different from 24 and now is Trump is the president and he's destroying the economy of the United States. and attacking New Jersey. So, if I ran a campaign where I didn't mention that um he's running a worldwide extortion scheme whereby tariffs go up on every, you know, prices go up on everyone here as he's made $5 billion, then people might not understand that I care about their grocery store prices or their cup of coffee and what I'm battling to make sure eventually I can drive that down. uh or if I didn't take him on and say, "Look, he's trying to freeze funding that Congress has appropriated for the Gateway Tunnel." And 200,000 New Jerseyians take that tunnel a day. They might not think I really get what's at stake here. And so he is the president now. and Democrats do have to take him on. But I would suggest and what is so far seems to be successful here and we'll know more November 4th is that when I take him on it's very directly tied to people's pocketbooks. And so while of course I care deeply about our democracy and you know I'm disgusted by his AI videos and I think the whole plan for the White House is a histo major you know as a historical building. Sure, I'm upset about it, but what I'm running on and what I'm talking to people about is cost and affordability and how I'm going to work to drive it down because there are a lot of people that are lying awake at night right now, not sure how they're going to, you know, feed their family and pay their rent. And so that's what I'm focused on. I I'm curious how you feel about this sort of what seems to be a drift though in New Jersey towards Donald Trump. Uh you know, Hillary won New Jersey by 14 points in 2016. Joe Biden by 16 points in 2020. Kla Harris won by six points in in 2024. So, I guess the question is, you know, clearly there seems to be an erosion of some Democratic support in New Jersey, and I'm wondering if you would explain uh, you know, explain why you think that's happening. You know, I think what Democrats have missed is because I think we often see that Trump is acting in a way that's co-opting power, that's undermining people's opportunity, that's, you know, um tearing down the ability of women to succeed and people of color to succeed and at the same time just white working people to succeed. just really tearing apart all the ways we've generated success for generations of people and co-opting power in a way that's very dangerous whereby he's having people charged and arrested um without good evidence anytime they go against him. And all of this is is so beyond the pale to so many of us that it it seems as if you almost are saying like there's a weird equivalency problem here, right? We have a we have a um president who's trying to become an autocrat and take away opportunity for people versus, you know, on one side and a a Republican party that's done nothing about it and then on the other side we have Democrats who are maybe bumbling and incompetent. But that's different, right? It it feels different. But what people on the ground are feeling is that they told Democrats that their prices were too high and the Democratic response was largely or the Biden response was largely no look at the stock market. It's fine. And then Donald Trump said he would fix the affordability problem and he's just raised costs. So now you have an electorate that's sort of in this position of okay, Democrats didn't deliver. And then I tried Republicans and that, you know, you saw that in the swing to the right and Trump hasn't delivered. And so this has oddly been one of the most nonpartisan elections I've run. And I know that sounds weird in these partisan times, but um I go to a lot of diners. I know it's cliche, but I'm a Jersey, you know, I'm a Jersey pouch here. So, I go to a lot of diners and I talk to a lot of people and historically in the red areas of my state, I'll go in a diner and I'll talk to a couple people and um tell them a little bit about my campaign, but you know, I'll find some people, you know, I I like Trump or I'm a Republican. Don't talk to me kind of thing. This time, nobody has really said that to me. One woman, one and I mean I speak to thousands of people day. One woman said, "I'm a Republican. Um, so I won't be voting for you, but good luck." That's what she said to me. But that's it. Everybody else is, "Hm, how are you going to lower my electricity costs? What are you going to do about housing costs here? What are you going to do about property taxes?" I I mean, everyone's been open to that discussion. I think people are searching for a leader that they can trust to really engage on those key issues for them. and um and so that feels very different. And I'll tell you the early vote, the vote by mail and then we've had two days of early inerson voting seems to the vote seems to be um I I think we'll see a better result than last year. I'm knocking on wood here. I get a little nervous talking this close to the election. Um, I'm not sure how how much of I you know, I'm not looking I don't think we're looking at like Hillary Clinton type numbers in New Jersey, that kind of swing. But I do think we're starting to build the, you know, build the Democratic party back on the ground. And a lot of that's through working people um who just realize their costs are going up and and Trump has really destroyed their ability to succeed. I'm curious. You know, obviously the Democrats are hoping hoping and and people who are upset with the Trump administration are hoping to send a big message during the midterms that they're not happy with the direction of the country by, you know, potentially changing Congress and and electing more Democrats and we have all these redistricting battles going on as you well know. But I'm curious if in your campaign you're meeting people who are Republicans and are potent, you know, are are upset about the way the Trump administration is doing business and their vote for you is as much as about their own pocketbooks as it is about sort of the future of democracy. Are you hearing, you know, you said you're focusing on on, you know, kitchen table issues, but are you hearing people talk about that? Is is it resonating in a statewide election, I guess, is what I'm curious about. &gt;&gt; I think sometimes what people miss when they're talking about issues of democracy is that it's a little baked in. So depending on how you look at the democracy and and what's going on here and if you have really strong feelings on it, then you probably are a diehard Democrat or a diehard Republican. And so it's really what we're we're the people we're talking to and the people we need to make our case to are people that generally vote on pocketbook issues. That's why you've just heard for years, it's the economy, stupid. and and yet you think, you know, and yet we hear more about democracy because those are people that are really focused um on these issues and are deeply immersed in it. But you're kind of &gt;&gt; and we're also who are speaking out who are trying it, right? Yet a lot of people who are just trying to live their lives and trying to make ends meet and get their kids to school tune into the election and are, you know, not aren't focused on this daily for every, you know, 365 days a year, but rather come into an election and are like, "Okay, who's going to make my life better? And I'm struggling right now." And wow, um I I just my grocery prices haven't gone down. Oh, look, and now my gas is going up and now we're not taking a vacation this summer. So, &gt;&gt; and now and now we may lose our healthcare. &gt;&gt; And now we may lose our healthcare. Now, you know, so they're they're gauging who is going to address that. And I'll tell you, um, I I usually, you know, given my congressional district, I usually win with about a quarter of registered Republicans in the swing, a large portion of the swing vote. So, I don't usually do that by um taking people on, you know, so are you sorry you voted for Trump? You know, how how do you like that vote now? Look at your pass your eggs. You know, I I don't kind of go right there. But um I do hear, you know, I I know the numbers in some of my communities of who voted, who swung, and I do think that a lot of the communities that are very sensitive to tariffs are taking a second look. So we've seen, you know, a lot of the numbers in the Latino community where Republicans were saying that they'd really, you know, gotten some good inroads into the Latino community. Well, a lot of our community here has a lot of trade with South America and they have small businesses. They import food, etc. So, they're very cost-sensitive. They're small businesses and we're seeing a swing back there. um a lot of the Indian-American community, Trump was in a really good place with Modi, if you recall, and now he's put 50% tariffs on India, which a lot of the goods sold in um some of the small businesses run by Indian-Americans here in New Jersey are only found in India. Some of the clothing and the food. So, I think we are seeing some of the bis the small business community which is being really harmed by this backing away. We'd also though anecdotally I just kept hearing about all these young people swinging to the right, you know, especially young men. Young men were really going for Trump and I, you know, I I have been speaking to a lot of people getting ready to graduate from college and the jobs have dried up. And it's not just there's, you know, people are worried about their job prospects. It's people who had had a job offer that has been rescended. I'm not sure everyone realizes how quickly this economy has undergone such radical destruction, but I'll tell you a little bit over a year ago, I was hearing from our businesses here that they needed to expand and they needed a workforce. Now I'm hearing from mayors saying stuff like, "We had a jobs fair. 1500 people came out for five jobs. I could hardly get employers there. Small businesses because of these costs associated with tariffs are going out of business. they just can't pass enough on, you know, it all on to their customers. And then large businesses instead of expanding as they were going to do before Trump got into office have been contracting just to, you know, because it's kind of and and you can shut me up if this goes down a boring a boring rabbit hole, but it's fascinating to me, you know, as I talked to these big businesses, one of them was telling me a big New Jersey company, they have a whole uh North American market. And so Trump said, "Reshore American manufacturing." That's where he was going. So they reshore American manufacturing and yet then and they had had manufacturing up in Canada. They reshore it. Trump gets into a big tariff war. So he gives he puts tariffs on Canada. Canada does reverse tariffs and then Canadians don't buy American. So suddenly their North American business is a disaster because they thought they read what Trump was going to do correctly, but it's so chaotic. You really can't plan for this. So now instead of trying to game the system out anymore, they're just like, "Look, we're just contracting. We're laying people off and we're going to try to wait this one out." So that's why you see even big corporations are suddenly contracting. That's why you see the reports. 22 I think states are in recession right now already. So it's happened really quickly and I think people are just starting to realize the impacts of it. I think as you said there's a lot of uncertainty and that makes it very difficult for businesses to plan for the future you know and the sort of on again offag again what will happen next is is a really difficult environment I know for small businesses I wanted to ask you about ICE raids because it seems governors across the country have really become front and center if you look at JB Pritsker for example in Illinois and and what's happening in Chicago. I know that New Jersey is home to nearly 2 million immigrants and refugees and uh you have sought to ban ICE agents from covering their faces. But how else I if you're elected uh Congresswoman, would you address the administration's attacks on immigrants? You know, I recently read that 170 US citizens have been held by immigration agents. This was from ProPublica and the headline is they've been kicked, dragged, and detained for days. Obviously, uh, civil rights advocates are arguing about the lack of due process in these raids, the violence of them, this family separation, etc., etc. And I'm just curious, is there anything you could actually do if you're elected about this? &gt;&gt; Yeah. So this is exactly where I think those of us who've served around the world as I have in the military understood this was headed. Uh when you start to see these attacks, it doesn't end with people who are undocumented. It the president was co-opting so much power and then putting together these forces and hiring up ICE agents um really really quickly and forming um you know what I would call a secret police force. I'm hearing in DHS that they're taking loyalty oaths to the administration, not the Constitution. So, it's really dangerous. And and so I, you know, I kept telling people, you should all be worried about this because it doesn't end here. It ends as the president starts to attack enemies of the state as they would be called in other countries around the world where people start to be disappeared in the middle of the night. And we're already seeing that, as you said, with US citizens. And I've heard parents telling kids, parents who are citizens and children who are citizens telling their children to carry their passport with them and afraid that they might get picked up um and detained. And so it's a really scary time, which is why I have said here in New Jersey, I'm going to make sure that along with our public safety officers, people can go to church safely, they can go to school safely, they can go to healthcare appointments safely, they can report crime safely. And part of the reason I'm so adamant about having agents be identifiable is I I don't know if everyone has kind of contextualize what's happening. Um, so I was talking to a police officer here who was telling me about in his town he came upon a guy, as he put it, dressed like he was going to Afghanistan. So here you have these people who are just hired really, really quickly to start to get into this um agency. I don't know that they're given much training and then they're kitted out with all kinds of weapons. They've got masks on. You can't tell who they are. They're not identifiable. So he went up to the guy and he said, "Who are you? Give me some ID. You know, you're in my town and you're carrying weapons. Imagine if you're walking with your kid down the street and this person's like in front of the grocery store." So, uh, the guy goes, "I don't have to show you anything." And he goes, "Well, then I'm going to take you to jail." And this guy goes, "Well, then I'm going to take you to jail." And the police officer goes, "Fine. We'll fight it out in jail. It's my town, buddy." And, uh, finally he shows him some ID. He was an ICE agent. But I mean that's unacceptable. So that's why as governor I'm going to empower our police to keep people here safe and continue to fight some of what's going on here in court because you're exactly right. There are no due process uh there's a violation of different due process rights. Um there are grave concerns about who people are picking up, people who are here legally and the community is very afraid and and I you know there's the whole public safety. There's the fear that I hate I hate to think that our community is afraid or people can't sleep at night or people are worried about their kids coming home to an empty house if they get picked up. I mean that is unacceptable. But I also I mean we're also seeing a hu as a huge attack on the economy. um people are afraid to go to work. We're seeing people not show up at the port. We have the one of the biggest ports in uh nation. So, it's really um it it's really the opposite of what any good government would do or good planning would lead you to do. And then we have that that's just one aspect of it. The other thing is the National Guard troops and then the president saying he wants to use our cities as training grounds for our military. And so, um, we've seen great success with, um, governors taking this to court in California and Oregon and Illinois to show that this is illegal and get rid of the National Guard troops. But you won't see that if you have Republican governors. And then I would just flag finally, and along these lines, we've also had we have the DOJ now coming into two states, and it's California, New Jersey. And I don't know if your viewers or or listeners know, but California now has Prop 50 on the ballot. &gt;&gt; Um, which is basically Why don't you explain what Prop 50 is? &gt;&gt; So, Trump is a Trump is redistricting um to cheat the election system in the midterms. So, he's calling So, largely um, as my mom might say, no good deed goes unpunished. So, largely Democratic states decided to do bipartisan fair redistricting. um Republican states kept the partisan redistricting going. So um what Trump has done is go to all the Republican state governors and say, "Look, just redistrict and make me some new districts so I can win, you know, hold the majority." Um and several of the Democratic states who have to go through a different process to redistrict um with input from the people. So, Prop 50 would allow um would allow California to redistrict uh because Texas has redistricted. I believe it was based on that if I remember. &gt;&gt; Right. It was. Yes. &gt;&gt; So, this is the this is a ballot measure that the people of California will vote on uh for their redistricting. They put forward some redistricting. And so, and then New Jersey is one of only two states with a competitive election. And so, um, Trump is putting DOJ monitors in California and New Jersey. Um, and we have a US attorney here, Alen Haba, who has said that she is going to turn New Jersey red. So, it's, um, as you can imagine, I think an attempt to really attack the vote here suggests it's not fair, um, as Trump tries to undermine faith in our democracy. But, we've worked really hard to run a fair election system. And I think if anything this will get more people out to vote because New Jerseyians don't really like to be threatened like that. So I think I think this might activate some people um and and get them out to the polls. &gt;&gt; I live in New York City. Uh and I have to ask you about this ad that's been running on a loop as you well know. Uh it was when you struggled to answer a local New New York uh reporter who asked you if you could pass one piece of legislation, what would it be? I wondered if you could take me back to that moment and I'm sure you'd like to do that interview again, Mike. Um so I I if you would like a doover, I'd love to re ask you that question. If you could pass one piece of legislation, what would it be? And I'm sure you've thought about this many times like I should have said this, I should have said that. &gt;&gt; Right. Right. Yes. Well, as you might have heard, affordability is the key issue here. So that's why um I am going to immediately as I said put a freeze on rate hikes but it will take legislation in the budget to pass money to um modernize our natural gas facilities to um end some of the regulatory and permitting framework that's keeping us from putting solar onto our closed uh landfills and rooftops. So, I'll get that done right away in legislation, as well as adding battery storage to some of the areas where we can connect them rapidly. Um, and then expand in the budget the um the first-time home buyers program so that people can get into a home because right now that's a huge issue. as well as um legislation to take on the PBMs. Those are those middlemen in uh drug pricing that are driving up some of the pharmaceutical prices up to by 10 10 times. So really housing, health care, utilities, those are the key issues that I hear about and the key uh pieces of legislation I'll immediately pass so we can really continue to work to drive costs down. when you answered the way you did afterwards were you like did you do a whole Homer Simpson like do kind of &gt;&gt; I just you know I I feel like that might have been one of the first interviews right there and I was just so mad at myself. Yes. &gt;&gt; Well, I I I'm glad I got an opportunity to ask you that question again because I think you you it's pretty clear what you want to do. I wanted to ask you about uh how your opponent's campaign filed for access to your military records and the national archives then gave them your full personnel record largely unredacted turned it over to reporters. Uh I guess the campaign Chidarelli's campaign then turned it over to reporters. Um what did you think of that? Uh what kind of legal action have you taken? And I understand his campaign is now under federal investigation. Can you bring us up to speed on that? And hey, are you having fun running for governor? &gt;&gt; This, you know, New Jersey is known for rough campaigns, but uh but certainly my opponent and and Trump really go outside the pale of anything you would expect. But I guess uh this is the new normal, unfortunately. we just really have to keep fighting it with everything we've got so that we can um take, you know, take back the presidency and the House and the Senate. And of course, the president's already saying he's going to illegally try to stay in office. So, it's really important that we continue to find ways to push back. But unfortunately, um my opponent sent someone to get my military records. And that person was told, "No, this is um you know, this is has privacy protected, so you would need to have a social security. I would need to sign for." And then so this was probably this was right before the primary, but a couple days two days after the primary, this person went back and found somebody um who was willing to give him the records. I'm sure he'd been told to call. So uh that person then someone at the archives had to have my social. So what they did was they went into a a government VA database to pull my social so they could get access to my military records. And then they were supposed to have a signature, which they didn't have. They were supposed to notify the Navy that they were le releasing them, which they didn't do. They just dumped it onto this person from Jack Chidarelli's campaign who said he was shocked and disgusted to see my unredacted social security number, to see my um parents unredacted information on my 80-year-old parents address, etc. and yet instead of flagging that this was a problem as with his shock and disgust decided to instead turn it over to a journalist. And um so I've had veterans from across the state saying, you know, you really need to protect records. I need you to be governor. I need you to protect records. And then some stuff a as I was going I had been hearing from a lot of seniors because they've been very worried about their social security information being released by Doge. And then I was talking to Josh Shapiro who's the governor of Pennsylvania and he was telling me about how the Trump administration had demanded that he turn over all of the voting files. And the voting files include um social security numbers and driver's license information um driver's license numbers and addresses. And he had said no. He they're in court now fighting it out. But I since have learned that some governors, Republican governors are turning that over to Donald Trump, which is really scary to me, thinking of how he might be using that um in an attempt to attack people and and um sort of cheat the system and the vote. &gt;&gt; Good times. &gt;&gt; It is. It is like times we haven't seen. But that's why um it's why I'm running, you know. I I mean if it's just these these I think governors are really standing in the breach now. Um I told you I was talking to Shapiro about that. Gavin Newsome is telling me how he's out in California. He's making insulin. He's having a factory in California make insulin because Trump is so screwing up the supply chains and um not driving down cost. Um Mara Healey is helping in the northeastern part of the United States to set up um a coalition of states uh that I will work with her on as governor to make sure we're getting good medical data out that people have access to vaccines and that insurance companies pay for them in the wake of RFK Jr. But this is this is how we've got to go forward. Um, I, you know, I have a big pharmaceutical manufacturing base and I've had people tell me without, with this FDA, they're not sure how they're getting new drugs to market. It is really dire and I think it's going to have to be governors that take the lead here. &gt;&gt; Well, I really appreciate your time. I know that you have to go. As I said, tomorrow is will be one week away from election day. early voting is happening and I'm sure you have many people that you still want to meet and talk to. So, I can't thank you enough for for spending some time with me on this Substack interview. We have a really great Substack community of smart people who are really interested in hearing longer conversations with people like you. So, um Mikey Cheryl, thank you so much for your time. It's it's a pleasure to meet you. I've never met you and uh just thank you for everything you've done for the country uh serving serving the country as a Navy he helicopter pilot and a former federal prosecutor. Um you're you're very impressive woman Mikey Cher back at you. It has truly been an honor. I've always been an admirer from afar. So it really has been an honor to be on this substack with you and thank you so much. Well, and thanks to all everybody who's tuned in and uh all right, I guess that's it everyone. &gt;&gt; This will be available on YouTube after two. &gt;&gt; Yes, this will be available to watch on YouTube, anyone, but also on Substack, either one. Pick your poison on your social media platform. Um, thank you very much. Uh, and and great to meet you. And that's it. &gt;&gt; Well, I don't know why. I don't know why I'm having so much trouble wrapping up this interview, but thank you. Well, if anyone wants to find out more, please go to mikeysher.com. And thank you so much. It's been great. &gt;&gt; Okay, see you later. Bye everyone. Bye.