

Blake Fischer: The Homeless Conservative

[00:00:00] **Bob Gatty:** Hey guys. Welcome to the Lean to the Left Podcast, where we focus on the key issues that are facing us all today. Now, today we have as our guest, Blake Fisher, who is the host of the Homeless Conservative Podcast. That's right. The Homeless Conservative Podcast, which he says, cuts through the political bullshit and focuses on the facts.

[00:00:23] We'll see how that goes. So Blake, welcome. Glad you're here, my friend.

[00:00:28] **Blake Fischer:** Thanks for having me.

[00:00:29] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah. Now, I know you're conservative, but why do you call yourself the homeless? Conservative?

[00:00:35] **Blake Fischer:** It's the most common question I get. I'm sure to some it makes immediate sense. They're like, oh, I identify with that.

[00:00:43] And other people, it makes less sense. I feel like it. What it is I. I don't feel any less. I don't feel like obviously people evolve. I change my mind on things. I like to look at new information, but for the most part, I feel like I'm the same conservative I was five years ago, 10 [00:01:00] years ago, 20 years ago, whatever.

[00:01:01] As far as like the pillars of it are still there. At the same time, I don't feel like the Republican Party is the same as it was. And I don't feel like most of the ways, most of the direction the party is gone are not ways where I go. Yeah. I think that's a good idea.

[00:01:15] Or that I agree with those principles mostly. 'cause I don't think there are any principles. I think it's really is just whatever Donald Trump says, that's what we're going with. Uhhuh. Donald Trump's not, he's a admittedly not conservative Uhhuh, so that's where my problems,

[00:01:29] **Bob Gatty:** He used to be a Democrat, right?

[00:01:31] **Blake Fischer:** And even out loud, he'll say I'm not a conservative. And he'll say, America first means whatever I think it means, there's no

principle there. There's no ideals there. There's no limiting. Here's what we all think. And I think that parties have to have, I'm not saying you, I think both parties have done too bad a job lately of saying if you don't check off all these boxes. They don't want you. And I think that's why more and more people are becoming independents. Yeah. And both parties have been bad about that sort of this [00:02:00] ideological purity test. Yeah. The problem is like at least the Democrats have a list of things.

[00:02:05] Republicans right now, it's just a person that's at the top of that. I don't see how there's any future for that. Like you think beyond Donald Trump and what will the Republican party mean in five years? I don't think anyone can tell you. Okay. But I don't think it's the things that I think it should.

[00:02:18] **Bob Gatty:** All right. That answers the question 'cause I'm looking at your background and you certainly don't look like you're homeless.

[00:02:25] **Blake Fischer:** No I live in a house. I am, it's a metaphor. It is not a real thing. I have a house, I have wife and kids. I have a nice, okay. I'm not physically homeless. That is not a problem that

[00:02:38] **Bob Gatty:** I got it.

[00:02:38] But talking about homeless, what do you think of his force clearing out of homeless individuals in DC for example? He issued, wait a minute. He issued an order encouraging expansion of involuntary psychiatric interventions for people experiencing severe mental illness, [00:03:00] framing, homelessness as a law and order issue.

[00:03:03] **Blake Fischer:** I think homelessness is one of the trickier things mostly. 'cause we refuse to talk about it in the real terms of what's going on. It just is, it doesn't, it seems like everyone's just interested in not seeing it anymore. No one's really interested in solving it. Not no, but like largely. People don't wanna be inconvenienced by seeing it and they would like it to be somewhere else.

[00:03:25] And I I, I think that we've experimented a lot with what works and what doesn't work with homelessness. I don't think the mental health thing is tricky though because we swung a pendulum too far by basically shutting down all the mental, like the places people used to get sent to you.

[00:03:45] Yeah.

[00:03:45] **Bob Gatty:** Didn't Reagan do that?

[00:03:46] **Blake Fischer:** Yeah and a little bit before that, 'cause there was some controversies in the seventies I guess, that were, the way some of these patients were being treated, right? And so we just shut down all of those. And basically those people are living, those are the people that we see on the streets.

[00:03:58] Now, Uhhuh is the people would've [00:04:00] needed to be committed to some sort of psychiatric facility because unfortunately, what we've decided is that the only way to get people help if they have bad mental health or drug addiction, is they're gonna have to get arrested and go through the criminal justice system first to be able to get that help and that, like my cousin's, one of these people, he was, he's bipolar.

[00:04:18] Oh yeah. You're not on your medication. You make stupid decisions. And he had been arrested so much that some judge just threw the book at him. And of course, once he's in jail and actually taking his medication, he's a lot different and a lot better person. So in some ways he needed that. Now, did he need a 30 year sentence?

[00:04:34] I don't think that's necessary or help. 30 years he got. That was his, that he pled to 30 years. Pretty much. Oh my God, really? Yeah. And so he's been released since then because other judges, unfortunately, he has a sister that is has the resources to help him with this kind of stuff. And they've basically shown that like he was not in a right mental state of mind where he could accept a plea deal.

[00:04:53] He was manic at the time. He guys knew that and took advantage of it. So anyway he's out now, but it's a huge adjustment. So we gotta ask like.

[00:05:00] Is that really the path we need to go to get people mental health when they're not willing to seek it themselves? And I don't have a good answer for that because I do think there are people that need we have to help them.

[00:05:10] They can't help themselves. That line do they have to commit a crime first, right? Like, where's that danger to themselves or others line? It gets really tricky when you're talking about addiction and mental health issues. Not that's all of homelessness, but it's something It's responsible for.

[00:05:23] **Bob Gatty:** It's part. It is

[00:05:24] part, it's a very important part of it. It really is.

[00:05:26] **Blake Fischer:** It's a huge part of it. Yeah. To me, those things, we've gotta decide how we want to, as a society, take care of mental health, and I don't mean mental health, like going to therapy or slight depression. I'm talking about like really serious, like bipolar and schizophrenia and these things that tend to go hand in hand with drug abuse and homelessness. Yeah.

[00:05:43] **Bob Gatty:** You know what I saw a picture online. I, it might have been in the Washington Post of this homeless guy clearing out his tent in DC and there was a big machine of some kind [00:06:00] like a bulldozer waiting to clear his tent out of there.

[00:06:03] **Blake Fischer:** Yeah.

[00:06:03] **Bob Gatty:** That is fricking cruel in my opinion.

[00:06:07] **Blake Fischer:** Yeah. I mean it, to me, there's, Utah had some promising stuff and then we figured out they were like manipulating the data in a way that it wasn't real. There's all this argument about like housing first versus not, and I don't know the right answer there to me.

[00:06:23] We've not, no one has successfully done the thing where they're like, we're just gonna let people camp here and it'll be fine. It never is fine. No, that's not, I don't think that's good for those people either. I think often there's, there are some people that just think, oh, just let them do what they wanna do.

[00:06:38] They'll libertarian esque side of things. It's they're not hurting anyone. Yeah.

[00:06:43] **Bob Gatty:** You know what I used to live in, I used to live in dc I worked on Capitol Hill for a number of years and there were homeless people sleeping on park benches right outside the White House practically.

[00:06:57] Yeah. And so Trump is riding around [00:07:00] in his limo and he's seeing all this and it's pissing him off. Yeah. And so he just says, screw this, I'm getting rid of these people. And then come the bulldozers.

[00:07:08] **Blake Fischer:** Oh, I absolutely think Trump is the guy that just wants to not see it. And if he can't see it, it's no longer a problem.

[00:07:14] Exactly. That's, and that's where most people are unfortunately, is, I just don't wanna see it. I think it's way more complicated. I don't think it's really

something. A, the, I think the biggest problem is that drugs are different than they were 30, 50 years ago. Yeah, that's true too. Yeah.

[00:07:30] And fentanyl is like the addictive nature of opioids specifically. So it starts with pills for a lot of people it turns into fentanyl and heroin. I know. I do not know a person that doesn't know someone like very close, that has dealt with someone being addicted to opioids, just like it's such a widespread product.

[00:07:48] Yeah. Problem. I don't think anyone has a very serious solution to that. It gets harder and harder to me technologically when you've got something that can be produced at such a large [00:08:00] scale. Whereas the potency and the ability for it to kill someone is, it's like the size of a postage stamp that you can send around literally in the mail.

[00:08:07] To me, we're dealing with two parallel things that are similar with guns and with drugs. Is that as the technology makes it easier to make those things like 3D printed guns or that kinda stuff, the regulations are already out of date. You know what I mean? Oh yeah. You can already print things, so any kinda regulation, trying to prevent the sale of guns isn't gonna really help if people can just 3D print their own stuff. That's true. And same thing with drug manufacturing. That's, it's not like you have to like, it's not like cocaine. Cocaine took up a lot of space. They had to figure out some sort of way to get it across the border. Fentanyl is so easy to sneak in because it's so much smaller as far as how much, so we're just fighting.

[00:08:45] We're fighting the drug, war, gun, all this kind of stuff in old ways. And the technology's changing to a degree where we've gotta like drastically change what the mentality is there. And I don't think any of the old ways are gonna work.

[00:08:56] **Bob Gatty:** But you know what the good news is for you and me.

[00:08:59] **Blake Fischer:** Yeah, [00:09:00] I know.

[00:09:00] What is it you,

[00:09:02] **Bob Gatty:** we don't have to come up with solutions. All we have to do is talk about the problems.

[00:09:07] **Blake Fischer:** That's true. I like to come up, I like to look at solutions that have happened to places.

[00:09:11] **Bob Gatty:** I know it's always nice, but.

[00:09:13] **Blake Fischer:** The amazing thing about homelessness and like the thing that I think people forget about, like one thing I like about American democracy is that you've got, if you do federalism, like you should, it should be a bunch of states and municipalities trying stuff.

[00:09:26] And then when we see that something works somewhere, the other places adopt it. That's, that should be how things work. And there are some towns that have done better at the solving the homeless problem. Yeah. Okay. It's not Los Angeles. It's I don't think it's dc I don't think it's New York. It's places like Houston that have done some stuff.

[00:09:45] San Diego's done a lot of good stuff, but so yeah, we should look to those places and say, what did they do that worked? And normally it's not some sexy thing that politicians get to cut a ribbon on a new place, and so they're not interested in those solutions.

[00:09:59] **Bob Gatty:** Exactly. [00:10:00] All right. Enough about homelessness?

[00:10:02] I wanna know what you think about Trump deploying the National Guard into DC and the red states setting their personnel to DC to help out. Yeah. What do you think about all that?

[00:10:13] **Blake Fischer:** I don't think it's gonna do anything toward the goal that he wants. DC.

[00:10:18] For the left, the people on the left and the media that are pretending DC does not have a crime problem is laughable.

[00:10:24] **Bob Gatty:** That's bullshit. Of course, it has a crime. Every big city has a crime problem, but whether it is controlled by Republicans or Democrats,

[00:10:33] **Blake Fischer:** but DC has the fourth highest murder rate in the country.

[00:10:36] So it's not just a problem, it is a serious problem. And so for anyone on the left that pretended like. This is ridiculous. There is no crime problem in DC I saw that a lot. Or it's the lowest it's been in 30 years. It's let's actually look at the data and see what that said. It dropped from the nineties, it dropped from everywhere in the nineties.

[00:10:51] We had a really bad violent crime problem in the nineties. It went down to its lowest at 2012, and then it started ticking up again. It peaked again in 2018. In [00:11:00] 2023, and it's been going down since then. But yeah, just 'cause 2024 was 30% better than 2023. It's still the fourth highest murder rate in the country.

[00:11:08] Yeah. That should be something we are not proud of as Americans that are capitals.

[00:11:12] **Bob Gatty:** Exactly.

[00:11:12] **Blake Fischer:** Exactly. It's a problem. However, Donald Trump's sending the National Guard to be at the mall where it's visible and tourists will see it. That is not where that crime is happening. No, it is not. And so it's not gonna help.

[00:11:24] He needs more than 30 days. You cannot fix this problem in 30 days. Congress is not gonna give him that additional time, although I do think, I think he's totally within his power to do I do not think this is, I'm not into the, this is a constitutional emergency. It's not, he has the power to do it.

[00:11:40] DC has only been somewhat self-governed for the last 50 years, so yeah,

[00:11:45] **Bob Gatty:** he absolutely, I don't know if he has the power or not, but the fact is that he's doing it and. It's pissing a lot of people off that it, a lot of demonstrations in DC and so on and so forth. But basically it's because he was [00:12:00] mad because one of his buddies, yeah, one of his Doge buddies got his car hijacked

[00:12:05] **Blake Fischer:** or whatever.

[00:12:07] And look, this should, that should be something that upsets us. Like a couple can't be out. And not get mugged by teenagers. And he was like beat up. It was not a, just a carjacking. I mean he was, 'cause he was trying to protect her. They attacked him. That should not be happening in anywhere.

[00:12:22] No, it shouldn't. Of course not. Certainly shouldn't be happening. So he has a point about the crime problem. He also has a point about, democrats in the area not having taken it super seriously, especially after COVID and the Black Lives Matter stuff, and there was a tamp down in prosecution.

[00:12:36] Specifically DC has a prosecution problem. What's interesting about that is Donald Trump has already complete control of that. 'cause it's the US Attorney's office that processes serious crimes in DC so that's why you saw a drop under Biden. They decided they didn't want to prosecute crimes. So you, what you ended up in, in DC is a town in we're 2023.

[00:12:55] There was a one in five chance if you were arrested with a gun, Uhhuh not [00:13:00] allowed to have a gun. There was only a one in five chance that you'd be convicted of a felony. That's crazy to me that we can catch people with firearms. They're not supposed to have. In some case, they've modified them to be automatic weapons really, and they're not getting any jail time and they're getting hit with misdemeanor plea deals or they're not getting charged at all.

[00:13:17] That is because the US attorney's office chose not to prosecute gun crimes. Yeah. Got So you can't in one in, in one side of your mouth say, we take violent crime seriously. And then only prosecute one in five people that you catch with illegal guns. In DC you cannot have it both ways and Exactly.

[00:13:33] Unfortunately, I think where the left has an optics problem, unfortunately, which is so stupid because I don't feel like. I don't feel like most people really feel this way, but they don't like the idea of prosecuting those crimes. 'cause unfortunately, 96% of the gun crimes are committed by black people in dc and so they don't wanna look like they're mostly arresting young black men.

[00:13:55] But on the flip side of that, guess who are the victims of all those shootings? It's young black [00:14:00] men. They're dying at three and a half per one. Thousand people age 15 to 24, which is on par with the level that we lost soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq. Yeah. So if you were a black 14 to 24-year-old in DC, you have as much of a chance of dying by gunfire as the soldiers we sent to Iraq in Afghanistan.

[00:14:21] We can, that should not be okay with us. Like we should not be okay with that victimization rate or the perpetrator rate. And we know how to solve this problem. You arrest the people that are called, committing those crimes and you prosecute them and you put them in jail for it.

[00:14:32] And we would, but the US attorney's office is not willing to do that. And it's interesting to me that Donald Trump's not even talking about that aspect of it when that's really the problem. The problem is not arrest rates. Although

the police arrest fewer people, 'cause they see that nothing's gonna happen when they arrest these people.

[00:14:46] Lot of

[00:14:46] **Bob Gatty:** problems there. Okay. All right. I wanna switch topics a little bit here. I wanna talk about the Jeffrey Epstein situation. Okay. That's a fun one. Yeah. Tell me about what you think about whether the documents [00:15:00] should all be released without redactions of references to Donald Trump.

[00:15:05] And do you think all of this could actually threaten the Trump presidency?

[00:15:11] **Blake Fischer:** I waffle back and forth a lot on this one. I don't think there's some client list. I don't think that Jeffrey Epstein was stupid enough to keep a digital or physical file somewhere that had the list of all the crimes he's committed.

[00:15:21] I just, yeah, I

[00:15:22] **Bob Gatty:** bet you there's some videos though.

[00:15:24] **Blake Fischer:** The reason I don't think there is and I think this is pretty credible. I went back and read at the last kind of big brouhaha in June or July or whatever, that this kind of stormed back up went back and read the Florida. The federal prosecution in Florida that he did take a plea for, which was, I think underwhelming considering the crimes he had committed.

[00:15:46] It's really clear in that grand jury testimony that he is pretty careful about how he does stuff. And so I find it very hard to believe that he ever videoed it, because I think that's evidence of the crime. And I think he'd be foolish to do so and have other people know that video [00:16:00] exists.

[00:16:00] He was very careful about, he'd recruit someone. And then that person would go recruit people. But the story throughout the grand jury testimony was these young women who basically, this is the grossest possible way to talk about it, but they aged out of his preference. And so now he's asking them to go get younger girls.

[00:16:16] They always told the girls to say they're 18 when they're asked. And so then when whatever staff member was at the house or him is, how old are

you? They say 18, but to me that was so obviously something he told someone to tell them. It's plausible deniability. So I find it very hard to believe that guy that would go through all of those processes with individuals and trying to cover tracks and say I didn't know well.

[00:16:38] I find it hard to believe he has a list.

[00:16:39] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah. What do you think about all these pictures of him with these young, look like they're 13 years old, these young girls?

[00:16:46] **Blake Fischer:** One of them in the jury testimony in Florida was 14. She was, yeah.

[00:16:49] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah. And one of 'em actually described. The rape?

[00:16:55] **Blake Fischer:** Yes. No, multiple of them. Yeah. Essentially did. And they were describing it in a way [00:17:00] that they didn't realize it was that at the time. A lot of times. And normally it was like they're getting paid, it always starts with a massage and it's really gross.

[00:17:06] He victimized over a thousand girls.

[00:17:09] **Bob Gatty:** All right. You just said he victimized. Absolutely. So should he be president of the United States, given that

[00:17:15] **Blake Fischer:** hold on. I'm sorry. I'm talking about jeffrey Epstein did that. Oh. Oh, I don't. I think Donald Trump's a creep. I've seen no evidence that he creep with underage girls.

[00:17:24] What's so weird about the Epstein stuff with Trump specifically is that he obviously cut off the friendship with Epstein before any of those charges even happened, before the investigations happened. Uhhuh, you can be for, I've, I have. A friend, someone I would've considered a close friend that you know, was doing stuff that I didn't know about, and he's gonna be in jail for it.

[00:17:43] I don't think that just because you're friends with someone that does something bad, that automatically translates to you. I don't think it works with Bill Clinton. I don't think it works with Donald Trump necessarily. However, I do think most of these people knew that there was something wrong as far as what Jeffrey Epstein was doing and didn't do anything about it.

[00:17:59] [00:18:00] It's not that I think Donald Trump did anything illegal or that Bill Clinton did anything illegal. I do think that they knew he was a creep and continued to hang out with him, and that's enough for me to say that's a moral failure. I would be really surprised if there's anything beyond the mention of names in any of these documents.

[00:18:15] And I also wanna be careful about. I think unfortunately there's a perception that if someone is mentioned in these FBI investigations at all they're guilty of something. That's

[00:18:24] **Bob Gatty:** not how

[00:18:25] **Blake Fischer:** our criminal.

[00:18:25] **Bob Gatty:** Exactly. You gotta be careful about that. That's true. You gotta be

[00:18:27] **Blake Fischer:** careful. Yeah.

[00:18:28] And yeah I find it hard to believe that Donald Trump is actually guilty of anything that's a crime with an underage girl. In the sense that if there were really over a thousand victims, you would think we'd have more stories of. Bill Clinton, Donald Trump, Bill Gates, pick your wi pick your people that everyone thinks are part of this cabal, of child predators. I don't really buy it because I think there'd be more evidence that's happened and I've not seen it yet, but I am for the release of it. With that caveat of I don't want people jumping to the conclusion that just because [00:19:00] someone is mentioned in those files, that they're guilty of anything.

[00:19:04] Because I

[00:19:04] **Bob Gatty:** understand,

[00:19:05] **Blake Fischer:** I think there were people that were not Now, however, even the floating, the possibility of his associate Ghislaine, ma Maxwell, whatever first name is yeah, Ghislaine Maxwell. She's a monster too. She's an yeah, she is a monster. An absolute monster. Absolutely. That helped him.

[00:19:18] So

[00:19:18] **Bob Gatty:** why'd they put her in a cushy country club? You can't

[00:19:22] **Blake Fischer:** even call her prison. I think that again, it's about who you know. Unfortunately, it's cut a deal. Yeah. Yeah. I think that, it's not that great of a deal in the sense that you're still in prison and maybe that fits this kind of crime.

[00:19:34] I don't know enough about the sentencing structure of people that helped, victimized thousands of girls. It doesn't seem harsh enough to me because I think we should be protecting kids a lot better than we do. Yeah. I think it just proves that we're not really. I think everyone's scared of that.

[00:19:50] That information coming out, because I think that he was well connected to lots of Democrats and lots of Republicans, and I think that there are plenty of, I think Donald Trump's a creep. I think Bill Clinton's a [00:20:00] creep. I think that we should be able to say that. And not, but so often people only say it about whoever's not on their team, and I, it's unfortunate.

[00:20:08] Okay. Got it. All right.

[00:20:10] **Bob Gatty:** Now I wanna switch to the big, beautiful bill. All right. And what it does to Medicaid and other support programs for Yeah. Poor individuals, people that, that need help. Yeah. In order to pay for tax cuts for people that don't need help, upper income individuals. What are your thoughts about that?

[00:20:30] **Blake Fischer:** There's almost nothing I like about the big beautiful bill because mostly the first word in it it's big uhhuh and it's gigantic spending. Bill, that's all it is, and that's all anything has been in Congress for my lifetime, essentially since 2000. And so that's my biggest problem with it, is that, and I, this is maybe an unpopular theory, I don't even think they're very serious about the Medicaid cuts and they won't really be cuts probably because the way they structured them in the bill.

[00:20:58] I think it's pretty clear there were some [00:21:00] people, like Josh Hawley for example, there were some Republicans that were really like anti the Medicaid cuts. My understanding is they've been basically assured like, don't worry, they're not gonna really be cuts. It's like one of these fuzzy math things we do where we say, oh, we're gonna, we're gonna cut this funding if you don't do this.

[00:21:15] But really there's all these mechanisms where states can get more funding in other ways. So I think it's basically a big boondoggle to say we had

to say we are cutting something so that we could also a decreased tax revenue. The truth is, I think it's all a wash. I think that we're not really even a wash.

[00:21:30] We are, we end up spending more money. Plus it

[00:21:33] **Bob Gatty:** doesn't even take effect until after the midterms,

[00:21:36] **Blake Fischer:** right? There's all these tricky things that they're

[00:21:38] **Bob Gatty:** doing. So why the hell did they do it? All they can do is that now they're on the defensive.

[00:21:42] **Blake Fischer:** They gotta defend all this shit. Because you, it's interesting because BA essentially you get the 2017 tax cuts.

[00:21:49] But instead of doing it on a 10 year rolling thing, they did it on an eight year thing because they couldn't make the math make sense and 10 years. So they said, okay, just, we'll make it expire in eight years. Oh, they thought. Alright, that [00:22:00] it wouldn't be us that'd have to deal with it. They thought Trump would serve two terms and then the next president would have to deal with it.

[00:22:04] They didn't realize. Exactly was two non-consecutive terms. So it's interesting that they basically set up this thing in 2017 that they didn't know they were gonna have to deal with in 2025. 'cause they didn't think Donald Trump would be president in 2025. So I think Donald Trump just wanted his tax cuts extended period and yeah.

[00:22:20] But you can't touch social security. You can't touch other entitlements. And so it's this game where republicans pretend to be fiscally responsible, but they're not really being, and Democrats do the same thing when they're in power. And basically we're just spending our way to what we're at \$35 trillion in debt now, and it will just be, it'll be 40 by the time Donald Trump leaves office if he does nothing else. It's adding \$4 trillion of deficit spending. It's not gonna be good. It can't this, it can't be sustained for forever. And it's gonna be like me and my kids that end up paying for it. Somebody is gonna have to pay the piper. Yeah. At some point. And the truth is, I'll be dead stuff. Yeah.

[00:22:56] Everyone wants free stuff and doesn't wanna have to pay for it. And the truth is, you [00:23:00] cannot do the things that you can't do. The entitlement programs that everyone wants now, and I really say everyone 'cause

it is Democrats and Republicans. Everyone wants their own. It. They want different entitlement programs, but they all want entitlement programs, right?

[00:23:11] They want all these entitlements without having to pay for them. And everyone thinks we can just tax the rich enough to cover this. It is not possible though. The only way we're gonna get if we want this welfare state that a lot of people want now on the right and the left, if you want it, you're gonna have to tax the middle class.

[00:23:28] And no one is willing to say that truth. But that is the only way you can make it work. That is how. All the countries that the left loves to look at, and like Scandinavia, they love to look at those countries. They have really high tax rates. On the middle class, everyone is paying for that social safety net.

[00:23:42] Yeah. In America, for some reason, we think we can just soak one group of people and we can pay for all that stuff. It's just not possible when you do the math though, and so Republicans aren't being honest about it. Democrats aren't either, and that's how we end up with big, beautiful bills or the infrastructure thing that Joe Biden did or the big tax one before.

[00:23:58] I mean that basically we just do [00:24:00] these omnibus things every couple years and that's it.

[00:24:02] **Bob Gatty:** Why am I agreeing with so much of what you're saying?

[00:24:05] **Blake Fischer:** I think because it's obvious that no one is really trying to, solve these problems. I think everyone realizes on the left hand. Exactly.

[00:24:13] **Bob Gatty:** Exactly.

[00:24:13] **Blake Fischer:** People are not serious about it. Yeah. And unfortunately we keep sending them back to Washington and expect results.

[00:24:20] **Bob Gatty:** All right, let's talk about immigration and Trump's aggressive deportation policy that is pissing off even business people in his, in red states, 'cause they don't have enough labor now to pick their crabs and pick their beans and whatever.

[00:24:36] **Blake Fischer:** Yeah.

[00:24:37] **Bob Gatty:** And what it's gonna do to inflation. Moody's, chief Economist says it's gonna drive in inflation up to about 4% next year. What do you think about that?

[00:24:48] **Blake Fischer:** I think it could, I think it's an interesting thing that, much like the homelessness problem that we talked about a little while ago.

[00:24:54] Yeah. Most people just want to not see the problem. They understand though how I important it is. [00:25:00] So you'll notice there's like a little bit of a tell in the way Donald Trump talks about it in that he always says these big things and then business leaders come to him and go, Hey, what you're asking is not possible.

[00:25:10] And then they actually show them how things work. And then he comes and he's we're not gonna do raids on hospitality and farms. Yeah. Spread red state industries that need immigrants. It just things backwards. Our economy has always relied on an influx of immigrants that are poor and want those jobs.

[00:25:27] Exactly. There's always a tier of Americans that don't want those jobs, and so it's been the Irish, it's been the Italians, it's been black people after they were slaves. Obviously, slavery's a wholly different thing, but. The point is there's always been these people that go I'm willing to go to America to make a better life for myself, and I will take that job that other people don't want.

[00:25:44] You cannot simultaneously get rid of all the people that will take those jobs. And at the same time, expect to not have a labor problem. The problem is most people don't understand this because they are not at, they're not working farms. They're not really in [00:26:00] any of these situations where they're actually exactly.

[00:26:01] That happen. Now what's interesting is that. If any one of them watched someone build a house right, they would see that it's entirely Hispanic immigrants. Look, and

[00:26:10] **Bob Gatty:** I live in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and I had a new house built when we moved here, and every single one of the people that worked on building my house, was I don't know if they were undocumented.

[00:26:23] **Blake Fischer:** Yeah. You don't know, but they're definitely not from here originally,

[00:26:25] **Bob Gatty:** right? Correct. Exactly right. Yeah. And as a matter of fact, when they were done building my house, I wanted to have a concrete patio pour and so I hired some of 'em to do that.

[00:26:37] Yeah. And it was cheap. Yep. 'Cause. That's what they charged. Yeah. And but what, what cracks me up Blake, is that. These these people that are now complaining in red states, people that are running farms and whatnot saying that you're costing us all this money and we can't do this and blah, blah, blah.

[00:26:59] They all [00:27:00] voted for the son of a bitch.

[00:27:01] **Blake Fischer:** Oh, of course. Yeah. That's, no one's ever even that's what's I don't understand on the hold that Trump has on the party. 'cause he can a he can affect real people's lives who continue to defend him even though the now. That being said, I am willing to say that, hey, there are things that I'm willing to give up to.

[00:27:17] Say we get us to somewhere where we don't have a debt, for example, that's 35 trillion. Alright. However, that's not the language. It's being, it. It's like you are like actually being harmed. His policies are actually harming a lot of the very people that voted for him. And I think the biggest problem with that is that we're just not very.

[00:27:38] We're not very smart as voters anymore.

[00:27:39] **Bob Gatty:** I don't understand why people vote against their own interests. I really don't.

[00:27:43] **Blake Fischer:** Yeah. I mean I do sometimes if there's like a principle there.

[00:27:46] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah, but come on. This is mostly not that.

[00:27:48] **Blake Fischer:** No, that's not, this is just I like that guy.

[00:27:50] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah, that's right.

[00:27:51] I like what he says. He talks my language. Yeah. Alright. Free market capitalist.

[00:27:57] **Blake Fischer:** I would vote for that, even if it hurt me [00:28:00] financially. Like I'd be like, that's the right thing to do because I think it's the right thing for everyone. And, but this is not that broad of an intellectual debate.

[00:28:07] It's just that he fights, or, he's, whatever. He is gonna own the libs or something. It's never, and so to me, on the immigration policy. The real problem is that we haven't had comprehensive immigration reform since the eighties, and so we need it really bad. It's a right, exactly.

[00:28:24] So much is wrong, and what Biden did was I think Democrats are in a really bad position right now because of Biden's, just La Faire. Treatment of immigration and pretending it wasn't a big deal, and clearly voters cared about it, and I don't think he took it seriously enough until it was too late. The problem then Trump torpedoes that bill.

[00:28:44] That's bipartisan. Exactly. Right? To get an immigration reform bill that didn't have amnesty in it or any of these other things, if you could go, I read someone that said if you could go back in time. To 2005 and you show someone this bill. You would think that Republicans had like super majorities in the house and the Senate and [00:29:00] were just dominating politics.

[00:29:01] To get that bill on a Democratic president's desk, Uhhuh, he would not believe it's possible Trump torpedoes it. 'cause he doesn't really care about the issue. He wanted it to be an issue for his campaign. That's right. He was serious about it. He would've asked for an updated version of it to be on his desk on day one when he became president.

[00:29:18] All he's doing is executive orders and anyone that likes what he's doing, I say, okay, you can, I like, I agree that the border was a problem. Like we need to be able to know who's coming into the country. We need to be able to vet that, especially with kids going back to kids. Who can

[00:29:31] **Bob Gatty:** argue against that?

[00:29:32] **Blake Fischer:** And, but we're not like we, and to me that's a failure. For us as a country, if there are kids coming across the border, we need to verify that they're with people that they're actually related to and they're not being trafficked in a way that's, they're being becoming victims like that's on us once they're on our soil.

[00:29:46] We should take that very seriously. And it doesn't appear to me that Democrats are really serious about it. 'cause they were just like, let's just open

the borders. And you're like, that's not safe for those people. And if that's gonna encourage cartel human trafficking and all sorts of stuff at the same [00:30:00] time.

[00:30:00] It's not serious to believe that you can just shut it down and you can deport everyone and not have some problems. You're going to have some problems with manufacturing is something he desperately wants to bring back. We're manufacturing more than anyone other than China in the world, and we're manufacturing more than we ever have in history.

[00:30:15] We just do it with fewer people than we used to. But no one wants those jobs. Americans are not lining up for those factory jobs.

[00:30:21] **Bob Gatty:** That's exactly right.

[00:30:22] **Blake Fischer:** Yeah. I, it doesn't, I think when people think about it, when you ask them questions like, what are your goals? Or What do you, how do you think this should work? I think the two traps that most people get into is on the right. If you ask, they just think that no illegal immigrants should be working here.

[00:30:36] And I'm okay with that position except I go, okay, then you gotta give them a way to do so saying you don't want any green cards. They generally would say, no, that's not what they mean. Okay. Then I go, okay, then we need to make that system better, right? Where we can see who's coming in.

[00:30:49] We can say, yes, you're allowed to work here, and then they can go get a job. The problem is the left doesn't necessarily love that sometimes 'cause then they don't like the idea that some of these are low wage jobs because they want everything to be [00:31:00] \$20 an hour no matter what mindless thing you're doing.

[00:31:03] You can't do that either. Economically, it's like those jobs, if you minimum wage those jobs, they won't go to immigrants or teenagers or anyone because they will just, those jobs will disappear if you price it out where you're having to pay labor more than you can make profit on the thing that they're making.

[00:31:17] It's just supply and demand. It's like basic economics. I think we just have a really bad understanding of supply and demand. We have really bad understanding of how labor works in the country. Exactly. Or anywhere. And we just like to shout things about. No more illegal immigrants or we want

everyone have exactly middle class jobs and it's not every job can be a middle class job.

[00:31:37] Some of 'em have to be lower, just like nature of the labor market has to be that. That's true. That's true. Yeah. Although AI may change and now AI is a totally different curve ball, different curveball. I don't think it's gonna be the. People always think that jobs just disappear and they forget that most technologies create a bunch of jobs that didn't exist either.

[00:31:58] And normally those on net [00:32:00] are more than the ones that get go, yeah. But the thing is

[00:32:05] **Bob Gatty:** that a lot of people that have those jobs aren't capable of taking high, higher pay technology jobs that are replacing what they did.

[00:32:16] **Blake Fischer:** But I, to me, that means people have to catch up. I don't,

[00:32:19] **Bob Gatty:** some people are too old to catch up.

[00:32:21] **Blake Fischer:** True. I think that's yeah,

[00:32:23] **Bob Gatty:** Although I will say this now, okay. You're looking at a guy that's 82 years old and I am big into AI to help me with my podcast big time. I

[00:32:34] **Blake Fischer:** know. And so that's a good example though. If you are. I subscribe to the theory that we really have to create lifelong learners because no one's, for the most part gonna be in a job for 40 years like we used to.

[00:32:45] So pick a job and you'd stick with it and you'd retire from there. Yeah. That's how like most of the baby boomer sort of generation and some of Gen X even but like my generation is changing jobs a lot, changing entire careers, A lot evolving within those [00:33:00] careers. Sometimes having multiple income streams.

[00:33:02] I think that's gonna become more normal. As AI comes on board, it's also going to make people be able to be more entrepreneurial. Yeah. So there's,

[00:33:10] **Bob Gatty:** I'm seeing that already.

[00:33:11] Don't, aren't you seeing that?

[00:33:13] **Blake Fischer:** Oh, absolutely.

[00:33:13] Yeah. I'm seeing it help people that have, single. Sort of operational things where they're using it for some of the mundane stuff that they maybe have to pay someone for. But yeah, and to me, what excites me about it, it makes me nervous too in some regards, but it might eliminate all of those kind of like super repetitive, boring jobs.

[00:33:33] Yeah, that might be really disruptive to the labor force, but also maybe then those people are doing more interesting things at their jobs and enjoy them more. If they're not doing the brainless things that I'm asking, chat GBT to do.

[00:33:44] **Bob Gatty:** So I'd say that our tech schools need to catch up with all of this. If they haven't,

[00:33:48] **Blake Fischer:** all of our schools need to catch up. Yeah. Yeah. I think they're teaching in a way they're teaching like. And maybe this is an oversimplification. I still feel like primary [00:34:00] education for kids is teaching them as if the internet doesn't exist. So forget ai, it's like they're, it's like they're still teaching the dates and we want you to memorize this kind of stuff.

[00:34:09] It's no, I can look up any of that on my phone anytime I want to. I think it's, yeah, to understand why things work the way they work. The lessons from history, like why, how this affected things. It's not important to remember the names and the dates. I agree clearly as much as it is to remember why things happened and so I just think we're not teaching.

[00:34:27] And we still aren't teaching the skills of, my generation was the worst at just being, we were hammered with, you gotta go to college, you have to go to college, you have to go to college. As if you didn't have a plan to go to college, your life path was going to be worse than everyone else's.

[00:34:42] And I think it's pretty obvious that's not really true. There's a lot We need plumbers, we need electricians. We need a lot of people with skills that have nothing to do with going college. And honestly, sometimes they make a lot more than people that do go get some stupid degree that they don't use in college and they go into wild amounts of debt for so again, we just [00:35:00] told everyone they gotta do this thing that 33% of the country does. And I don't

think it was a very good way to do it. 'cause now I know a lot of people that are either saddle with debt or they have degrees they don't really need. As the workforce has changed, it's been interesting to see how that has like been watered down to a point where almost no one thinks that it's really as valuable unless you get a master's or you go to Harvard or somewhere be like, oh, that's an impressive Right.

[00:35:21] Exactly. That you got your degree from. So I think that we've gotta change the way we teach people. And plus like what a third of the country can't name the three branches of the government.

[00:35:28] **Bob Gatty:** Hey, Blake. There was one other thing I really wanted to ask you about. That's the tariffs and their impact on inflation.

[00:35:35] Oh, yeah. What are your thoughts about all of that? I cannot see any good coming out of it, frankly. All I see is higher costs. I go to the grocery store already. Oh yeah. And I was shocked at the price of coffee beans the other day. I brew my own I grind my own coffee beans and.

[00:35:53] I was shocked that what I was paying 10 bucks for is not 20 bucks, and it's just crazy. [00:36:00] Yeah.

[00:36:00] **Blake Fischer:** It's wild to me that. Going back to November. Clearly the two things that were at top of everyone's mind was inflation was outta control and was outta control. It was just a survey after survey. Yeah. Poll said those were the issues.

[00:36:14] Exactly. And that's why Biden and Harris had no chance because they had screwed those things up so bad.

[00:36:19] **Bob Gatty:** They blew it. They blew it,

[00:36:20] **Blake Fischer:** and no one was trusting them. Everyone said that even if I don't trust Donald Trump, I trust him more on those two issues than and those, and so those were top of mind. And Donald Trump gained in every demographic other than college educated white women. Yeah. He gained in every other demographic from 20 20, 20 16. Yeah. So it's very obvious that those are important things to then turn around and think that tariffs, I do think that's the one thing that Donald Trump actually believes is that trade is bad and he thinks that tariffs are the solution to all of our economic problems. He thinks it, he can talk in the same sentence about how they can do X and Y and doesn't see how those are in conflict with each [00:37:00] other. No I'm with you. I

don't think that, I think tariffs are just gonna increase costs. All tariffs are just attacks on consumers.

[00:37:05] Yeah. It's just a tricky way to do a tax on consumers. Yeah. So when Donald Trump's out there bragging about all this income that's coming in from the tariffs I don't think what he and Republicans understand is that if prices continue to rise, which I see no indication, they won't, I don't think we felt it as much yet because so many people stocked up right up to the talks about the tariffs happening.

[00:37:24] Exactly. We're, it's inevitable you're gonna see it on the, if once we run out of that thing, and that's why you're seeing it at grocery stores more than other places is because you can't stock up six months of avocados. It doesn't work that way. That's right. And so people are seeing at grocery stores they are seeing it on travel.

[00:37:39] There are plenty of indexes that show that prices are rising. Yeah. I think they're really gonna start rising in the fall. I think Donald Trump's only hope is that the Supreme Court comes in and says, actually, you're not allowed to do tariffs. And he gets to blame them. But the truth is he needs a way to back out of these and save face if he wants. If the Republicans wanna win the midterms because

[00:37:58] **Bob Gatty:** tacos. [00:38:00] Tacos,

[00:38:00] **Blake Fischer:** yeah. But, and now I feel like that's almost backfired because he's now doubling down against countries that it doesn't, none of it makes any sense. It's arbitrary. He likes the power.

[00:38:09] He likes being able to say 39% tariff. 50%, 15 for you.

[00:38:14] **Bob Gatty:** So what do you think about this announcement that he's planning to do away with voting by mail and voting machines, even though it would, huh?

[00:38:22] **Blake Fischer:** I don't think he has, he doesn't have constitutional authority to do that. No,

[00:38:25] **Bob Gatty:** he doesn't.

[00:38:26] It's not, you know what? On the same day, on the same day. Newsmax agreed to pay 67 million to settle a defamation case brought by Dominion Voting Systems, which

[00:38:37] **Blake Fischer:** that's a steal. That's only a 10th of what Fox had to pay him, I

[00:38:40] **Bob Gatty:** know, but they paid 40 million before to Smartmatic so

[00:38:44] **Blake Fischer:** They're a hundred in the tank.

[00:38:45] **Bob Gatty:** Yeah, they're a hundred in the tank and Fox News is 787.5 in the tank.

[00:38:51] **Blake Fischer:** I would say on the theory behind the case I do not like electronic machines that are connected to the internet. I do not think those should exist, although I do not think the federal government has the [00:39:00] power to tell people to not use them.

[00:39:01] I think states have to make that decision. There are some voting systems that are better than others. I prefer them to not be online. I prefer them to have some sort of paper trail behind them. I think

[00:39:11] **Bob Gatty:** I agree with that. Why do they need to be on the internet?

[00:39:13] **Blake Fischer:** They don't need to be I think it's a, it's a convenience thing, but to me, no. You have a station worker that has to call those numbers in or whatever, and then has to deliver the paper receipts. I definitely do not want a system that we cannot go back and count the paper ballots. Agreed. Why? Why, sure. Since 2000, Florida should get all the credit in the world for.

[00:39:34] Going from hanging Chads in 2000 and being a disaster. To, they have one of the best systems in the country now. We get all the Florida numbers almost immediately, while California's still counting for weeks, Uhhuh. Florida has done the work that they needed to in a relatively short amount of time.

[00:39:50] So good on them. More people should copy it, but I do not think the federal government has any say in this whatsoever. And I like it that way that we have 3000 counties doing this because it's much harder to hack. [00:40:00] Huh. It's impossible actually.

[00:40:01] **Bob Gatty:** I agree. All right. Hey, you know what? We covered a lot, didn't we?

[00:40:05] **Blake Fischer:** We, yeah, we did. It was like rapid fire. I like it.

[00:40:08] **Bob Gatty:** Alright man, it was great talking to you and I really enjoyed it.

[00:40:12] Thank you so much, Blake.