Rep. Tom Emmer on the John Fredericks Show

Radio

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JOHN:

It's Tom Emmer, Majority Whip, Minnesota. Tom, thanks for being with us by phone today.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Hey, great to be with you, John.

JOHN:

Tom, you should have a little spring in your step, Minnesota Vikings. Let's start there, 5-0, beating everybody. Defense suffocating. You've got a quarterback now. You're throwing a ball all over the place. This team could, I tell you what, it could be between them and San Francisco, but the Vikings have played better than anybody thought. They look great. I don't think they have a lot of weaknesses on this team.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, I don't know that I agree with you, but I am a Vikings fan. They have a Super Bowl defense, John. There's no question. It's an amazing defense that Brian Flores has put together. The offense, look, Aaron Jones has been special, which is nice, and they're kind of finding their way, but I haven't bought into the new guy from Arizona. That line in front of him is pretty big, pretty big. You've got to find a way to see your receivers to get the ball to them. So last weekend was the first time that we saw anything that may be hopeful. We'll see. I'm a Minnesota fan through and through, John, as you know, and I don't want to get my hopes up. I would love...

JOHN:

We shipped out JJ. I don't know what the issue was there. He's no good. We'll see. He's no good.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, you say he's no good. This guy is a heck of an athlete, but it remains to be seen if he can be consistent and he can see over the line and find what he's got to do, so we'll see.

JOHN:

Well, he's got to watch the tape, stop playing video games, but look, you cannot... I'm not going to pick on him that way. By the way, we better hope JJ doesn't turn into the second coming in Fran Tarkington with the Giants.

REP. TOM EMMER:

He's not. That's not going to happen. I mean, he's just like... They put him in for two plays to run the football, okay? They don't even trust him. Harbaugh knows he's just a backup in case they go to the third quarterback. I'm not a fan of his, but I am a fan of your defense, and as my father said many years ago, since dead son, defense wins championships. So, you know, maybe NFL's changed a little bit, but when you got that kind of

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defense and you can stop anybody, you're in every game. So...

JOHN:

No, that is exactly right. And that was the Super Bowl last year, you'll remember. It was all defense. That's right. Well, when you come back, when you're back in the district after you guys win and keep the house, which we're going to talk about, when you're back in the district and the Wild come to... The Minnesota Wild hockey team comes to Cap Center, comes to what we call the Fortress. We're going to have you there. I got season tickets. We're going to a game together. You got to put on your wild garb and your bling, and it's going to be a lot of fun.

REP. TOM EMMER:

No, it'll be... It will be a lot of fun, although they had a kind of a poor loss last night against Winnipeg.

JOHN:

But your team had one too, I believe, last night. Well, we got beat by the Hurricanes on the road. It was 2-2 midway of the third quarter. This is the second night in a row now where we've given up goals late in the third quarter. Seattle beat us. But look, Winnipeg is playing good hockey. So, you know, that's nothing to sneeze at. They were at home. But the Wild are going to be there. The Caps are going to be there. So it's going to be a fun thing. Okay, we've got to get to politics. By the way, if you want to read my Caps column, just go to Disruptorsportsnation.com, behind the glass. Comes out after every game. I got to get a writer for the Wild. If you have anybody, I'm going to call Sally, see if she can recommend somebody for that.

REP. TOM EMMER:

I think she could do that. Big hockey coverage, right? Maybe your dad.

JOHN:

Okay, let's get to these races. I'm the only guy in national media boldly predicting you guys hold the house. We just, all these polls are fake. You know it, and I know it. You guys are looking at the numbers. We've got $276 million being pumped in to ground game in key districts by Elon Musk. And Tom, you're out there campaigning every day. That's why you're by phone right now. Tell us what's going on.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, you're right. I mean, this month alone, John, we're going to be in 56 districts by the time it's done, and we'll have visited 60 cities. And I'll tell you, I'm on a short swing through, what was it? It's the Texas Triangle, right? Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston. Today we're in Dallas, and then we'll do some stuff in Houston. I can tell you, I was here recently. Things have changed. I think the ground is actually starting to move the way there was a primary and a runoff that Republicans were divided on down here in Texas. And it's hard feelings that come out of things like that. But I think the Republicans now in Texas are getting over those feelings and recognizing that what's at stake for the country is much bigger than what our disagreements are. So I see the future Senator Ken Paxton starting to pick up momentum. I've been with a whole bunch of our incumbents and candidates down here. We're going to do well in Texas. You're right about the polls, John. There was a poll, actually two polls, you might've already reported on this, came out in Iowa a couple of weeks ago. What, the very same day. One said Ashley Hinson, our friend running for US Senate, was up by five points. The other one said she was down by seven, all right? Which one do I agree with? The one I liked, of course, the good one. But it just shows you, you can't rely on this. Remember the Des Moines Register before the presidential election published a poll that Donald Trump was down by 17 points. These guys, what's

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happening, John, I believe, is the math, they keep putting these polls up because they need content to talk about. The problem is we don't have landlines anymore. People have cell phones. On our side, people are very suspicious of surveys that come by text or come in their email or phone calls because Republicans generally do not want to be in a database and surveilled. So they don't respond, or if they do, believe it or not, John, some people tell the opposite of where they're at because they don't want the survey to know where they're at. So this is why you can't rely on them. You gotta rely on what's on the ground. Now, money is being moved around, and that's another thing that people have to be careful about because the media will report, oh, they just moved money out of this race so they don't believe they're gonna win that. Well, that could be it, or, John, it's also because that race is where we need it to be, and there's a better, more efficient use for that money. So this is the time when these decisions are being made. We got 20 days left, and I'm bullish, John, just like you. If our people show up, we'll be all right. I think it's a base election. I think we're gonna get the turnout. We break late. We gotta get early voting. We gotta get the mail-out ballots, but I've seen this.

JOHN:

This is the other thing. We're with Tom Emmer, by the way, Tom, Republican congressman, Minnesota. Tom also is the majority whip for the leadership of the House and has done an unbelievable job. The bills he's gotten passed with a two-seat majority is unheard of in majority whip lore. I mean, this guy has done a better job than anybody in history in this position, getting everything passed with a two-seat, three-seat majority, but, Tom, these are fake polls. They're trying to drive a narrative. I'm predicting a win. You were in Texas. We got five seats there that were redistricted. We were supposed to win all five. How did those look?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I think they look great. I mean, there's reporting today that they're moving money out of Texas 28, and, of course, the narrative that people wanna create, because that's the Tano Tierina versus Henry Cuellar, is the Cuellar is unbeatable. That is not accurate. Tano Tierina is a, I mean, he's got charisma. He is a very special candidate. We've got to work, though, that the people have to come out for our guys. If they do, you're gonna get Tano Tierina in Texas 28 down on the border. You're gonna get Texas 35, because Eric Flores is gonna beat Vicente Gonzalez, and Monica de la Cruz will protect and hold her seat. Again, if the voters turn out, and I just wanna tell you, the things you gotta look at, John, I've been with our conference chair, number four in the U.S. House, Lisa McClain, from Michigan. I think Michigan's gonna be a surprise. She was telling me, historically, Democrats are the early voters in Michigan, that they will exercise their right to vote early 20% more than Republicans. Guess what? The early voting has started. Republicans lead Democrats by six points already. When Republicans lead in early voting, and it's been so hard to get Republicans to early vote because of the right-wing clickbait talking about servers on the moon and algorithms and all this vote change nonsense, when you gotta early lead, when you gotta lead in early voting, that is a very good sign for us.

JOHN:

But we need to keep voting early, Tom. You can't give the Democrats two months like they do in Virginia, and we think we're gonna beat them in nine hours. You can't do it. Vote early, bank your vote. That way, we don't have to deal with it. You got Elon Musk putting 276 million in to a ground game. We don't wanna be knocking on the doors of somebody that already could have voted. You can reallocate those resources to lower-propensity Trump voters. Let's go up the spine. Let's start with Kiggins in Hampton Roads, Virginia, the Norfolk, Virginia, beach area. Jen Kiggins, tight race. What do you see there?

REP. TOM EMMER:

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Jen Kiggins is doing everything she needs to do to be reelected. And look, we talk about the contrast election, right? What Democrats offer, the mutilization of kids, the boys and women's sports, all that stuff they've doubled down on. And Elaine Luria will support all that stuff. But more importantly, Jen Kiggins is a nice person that works her tail off. Anybody who meets her, John, says, you are a sweetheart that I would be honored to have you represent me. Elaine Luria, on the other point, we've already seen this show. I just want her to keep meeting more people because then it will ensure that Jen Kiggins will be reelected.

JOHN:

No question about it. Rob Whitman won. A lot of people say he's at risk. If you guys hold the House, there's gonna be a vote for a new Armed Services Committee chairman. He's probably the leading candidate for that. He'll probably win, be the chairman. How's that look?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, last one first, the chairmanship, you're right. Rob Whitman, well-respected by all of his colleagues and frankly, by those on the other side of the aisle when it comes especially to armed services. But in Virginia, this guy is a, I mean, he is the classic hardworking, honest broker that he gets reelected because he's a character person, John. Now, they're trying to assassinate his character on the other side with loads of money. But I believe Virginians are just much smarter than these left-wing crazies think they are. Plus, Virginians are some of the most educated voters in America and they saw what Democrat votes will do to them. They voted for a governor who is literally Tim Walz in a dress. A woman by the name of Abigail Spanberger who lied a bit, she lied about everything which is why I call her Tim Walz in a dress. The day after she sworn in, maybe it was the day of, John, she completely goes opposite of everything that she promised the voters of Virginia. I think that example of failed Democrat, corrupted Democrat, incompetent Democrat leadership, I think that is going to carry over into all the races in Virginia, including Rob Whitman. I believe he's doing fine, but he's in a fight.

JOHN:

Well, listen, everybody's in a fight, right? It's just not Whitman. I mean, you go up to Pennsylvania, I think these three seats are gonna determine the balance of power in the House, which is, there's actually four, McKinsey, Perry, Fitzpatrick, who is gonna win again, guy always seems to win, and President Ham. Give us an update there.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, the challenge we have in Pennsylvania is a guy by the name of Josh Shapiro who is a, I mean, he's a Republican in Democrat clothing. This guy has managed to walk that tightrope between the parties, so he's a very popular governor, and he's trying to show that he could be a viable contender, presidential contender in 28 on the Democrat side, and he's doing that by going out and personally attacking the four seats that you just mentioned, right? He's raising money. They're dumping tons of money on these seats. It's not gonna work with Brian Fitzpatrick. He is going to come back. He's an amazing campaigner. He does his work. People who are listening need to understand, if you don't know already, in the House, because we have elections every two years, because it's such a short timeframe, John, every day, every day from the moment you're sworn in in Congress to the next election is a job interview, and if you are working with your constituents, if you are doing the job on the ground at home, you're accessible, you're humble, you're gonna get reelected even in difficult environments. Brian Fitzpatrick fits all of that. Ryan McKenzie, who beat Susan Wild in a dead-even district last time, this guy is an amazing, not only representative, because he knows how the Hill works, showed up with, I mean, he was kind of a sandbagger. He was much better and knowledgeable than he would have ever led you to believe before he got there, but he also knows campaigns. He knows his district. He knows where he's gotta

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maximize his votes. He's like our friend up in Hudson Valley, New York, Mike Lawler, right? He really knows what he needs to do to get the people out and to get the votes that he needs to win. I fully expect him to hang in there. Rob Bresnahan, everybody wants to try and point at this one like he's going to have difficulty holding on. I disagree. I mean, that was represented by a guy named Matt Cartwright for years, who is one of those people who comes to Washington as a complete communist, votes with Nancy Pelosi and company on 99%, if not 100% of her initiatives, and then goes home and tries to play in the middle of the road guy. Bresnahan beat him like a drum. Bresnahan has done a great job. Bresnahan not only deserves to be reelected, but he will be reelected. And then you got Scott Perry, who they keep predicting that Scott is, this is the election that Scott's not gonna survive. And despite having a little bit of Harrisburg, the Capitol, and having Josh Shapiro and all these guys all over, you know, Stelson, the galley's running against for the second time. You know, second time candidates, sometimes they're a little bit like roadkill. They don't get better with time. So I think Scott will be fine, but you're right. These races are gonna be pivotal on who controls the House.

JOHN:

Tom Emmer with us. Tom, let's get to Minnesota. Michelle Tafoya, give us an assessment of the chances she has to actually flip that seat.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, first you gotta talk about the gal on the other side that the communist Democrats put up. Flanagan. Her name is Peggy Flanagan, and she's been the lieutenant governor standing at Tim Wall's side as billions of dollars, tax dollars, were built out of the state of Minnesota's government by Somali fraudsters. In fact, there are pictures of her dancing around a year ago after a election. I think it was the mayor's election in Minneapolis, dancing around with a Somali friend of hers in Burkas that she's known for 20 years. By the way, that gal got indicted after that shot. Peggy Flanagan's right in the middle of all the corruption, all the fraud, so she's an incredibly flawed candidate, and she really only fits in Minneapolis, right? She doesn't speak to anybody else outside of the Twin Cities, which is gonna be her downfall. Michelle Tafoya, on the other hand, wow. Michelle Tafoya has never ventured in the political sphere this way. We know she's a professional communicator. We've watched her, many of us, for years when she was doing Monday Night Football, but this woman has a core. She knows it's about smaller government. She knows it's about our constitutional rights. She understands that this republic was created with the belief and understanding that our rights come directly from our creator, John. It's really been fun to watch her pick up momentum on the campaign trail, and I think she's going to, in the words of a former governor in Minnesota, shock the world by winning a seat that Democrats never thought they were gonna have at risk in the great state of Minnesota.

JOHN:

You know, she came out with a video yesterday, or two days ago, basically proclaiming that she was pro-choice. I wasn't really sure what the purpose of that was because if she is that, you know, why promote it? It's not really a campaign issue up there. What was it thinking there?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I'm sure it's some idiot advisor in Washington, D.C. Look, this election, especially in Minnesota, is about fraud. That's all it's about. It's about fraud, incompetence, corruption. It's about getting government to work for its citizens. Again, it's about making sure that hard-earned taxpayer dollars are actually going to what they're intended to go to. That's all the election is about in Minnesota. For whatever reason, some moron, this is what you usually have, a political advisor in Washington, D.C. who does not have their thumb on the scale in Minnesota. I can only imagine the bad advice. Michelle is literally on point. She has been on point from day one

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when it comes to the fraud issues, when it comes to Peggy Flanagan's involvement with Tim Walton. I don't expect that to stop in spite of whatever video you're talking about.

JOHN:

Tom, who are you out there campaigning for today?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, again, I was in Arizona last week, and Texas. I did a little bit in California, believe it or not. I'm not convinced that we're gonna lose all four of the seats that they claim. And plus, we've got one in the Valley that John Duarte held two years ago. He was beaten by Adam Gray after they counted, and counted, and counted.

JOHN:

And counted. And counted. And counted. Adam, yeah.

REP. TOM EMMER:

It was only a 600-vote margin, so they managed to steal that one with a very slim margin. So we did a little of that. Today, we're gonna be, like I said, in Texas. Tomorrow, we're gonna head up to Iowa, Wisconsin. We're gonna be in Ohio. I mean, it's just, it's nonstop. 20 days, John. This is when you leave it all out on the field. Lace them up and lace them tight.

JOHN:

Tom Emmer going crisscrossing the country for his candidacy. This is gonna be razor thin. Get out there and vote. Everybody you know, get in the vote. Forget the polls. Vote early. Vote by mail. Don't wait until game day. I don't care if that's your tradition. Break the tradition. Vote early. Bank your vote so we don't have to spend resources chasing it down, and we can go after the lower-propensity Trump voters. Tom Emmer, thanks for being with us.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Thank you. Hey, thank you, John. Keep singing. Talk soon.

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