



Policy Conference

Saturday, 2/1/20

3:30 pm

Speaker: Alyssa Ahlgren – Alyssa was born in Chicago, IL and raised in a small town in northern Wisconsin by two incredible parents: mother is an immigrant from Croatia and a small business owner, and her father is the kindest most God-fearing man you'll ever meet. Together, they raised Alyssa and her siblings to believe in the inherent value of freedom, faith, virtue, and personal responsibility.

Alyssa was a collegiate hockey player at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and graduated with a Bachelor's in Business Administration. My path has not been a straight line; like many others', it has been jagged and filled with obstacles. I spent eight years fighting health issues, losing and regaining my faith, and struggling with the idea that life is worth living. No one's adversity looks the same, but how you react to the adversity comes in only two forms. You either let it hold you down or you don't.

Her life has only further solidified my cultural and political viewpoints. We have inherited a divine gift – our unalienable rights. These rights are protected under the greatest political document known to man, the United States Constitution. This document must be fought for. Simply recognizing its existence isn't enough. So, that's what she is doing and is committed to fighting for our American values.

Title: *Be A Voice – Socialism and Beyond*

Outline

Shift the paradigm

- The current strategy employed by advocates of capitalism is to talk about the evils of socialism. We hear ad nauseum about how socialistic policies will destroy the country. Yet, 70% of millennials would vote for a socialist candidate. Our strategy isn't working.

My Story

- Politically inactive one minute to syndicated columnist and conservative commentator the next. The one message that got noticed; the message of prosperity.

What can we do?

- The overarching question burning in our heads is what in the world can we do to combat this rise in socialist thinking? The answer lies with the individual. We must each decide to "Be A Voice."

Action Items

- Don't shy away from your beliefs and conversation. The opposition isn't.
- Get involved at the grassroots level.

- Communicate. Talk to your friends, cousins, nieces and nephews, sons and daughters about American values and how fortunate we are to live in the time and place we do. Promote gratitude.
- Promote positivity more than condemnation but don't completely exclude the latter.
- Do not wait for someone else to make the changes you want to see.
- Write, blog, speak up. Everyone has a platform in the age of social media.
- Be a *voice*, not just an opinion.