

Scott Rechler:

Welcome to recalibrate reality, the future of New York, I'm Scott Rechler, chair of the regional plan association and CEO and chair of RXR working with the 92nd street. Y we've launched a new conversational series where leading thinkers and decision-makers seek to answer the question. How do we recalibrate reality to create a better and brighter future for New York? Our guest today is New York Senator Chuck Schumer just a few weeks ago. Senator Schumer achieved his dream of becoming Senate majority leader of the United States Senate, and the first majority leader of the great state of New York in today's episode, Senator Schumer shares his own traumatic story of the January 6th and direction how the federal government will help New York recover and rebuild and why he has hope for new York's future. And so now let's recalibrate reality with Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator, welcome to recalibrate reality.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

Well, I'm glad to be here. Thank you, Scott. Thank you. I want to thank both RPA on the why for doing this. This is a great series and I'm honored to be part of,

Scott Rechler:

But we're thrilled to have you here and you've had an extraordinary the last six weeks or so. I mean, I, you know, I, I watched in, in sort of horror on January 6th of what was happening in the Capitol and then seeing the footage afterwards. Maybe we can just start with you just sharing some of your perspectives and thoughts from that.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

Okay. Well, yeah, January 6th, I describe it as for me and for many others, but for me in my experience the best of times and the worst of times, that's the opening line in Charles Dickens' tale of two cities. So January 5th, as you may remember where the elections in Georgia, and of course I was, you know, on Tenter books because if the two Georgia democratic candidates won we'd gain the majority I'd achieved my dream of becoming majority leader. I stayed up of course, Tuesday night as Tuesday night bled into Wednesday morning, I was still up there. I was punching the computer to look at what happened in this County or that County, every 30 seconds eyes glued to the TV at 4:00 AM. It was clear that both Ossoff and more knock had won. And wow, my first reaction was just joy. Great joy. You, you probably experienced this just about everyone when you've had a goal that you really wanted and it's taken a long time and a lot of work to get there.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

There've been turns in the path logs on the rack, blogs on the tracks and you get there. Your first immediate reaction was just incredible joy. It's a great field. And I had that, but within about a few minutes, another emotion also started coursing through my veins alone with the joy. And that was the way I describe it as one of all. What do I mean by that? Not all awesome. You know, my daughters used to say when they were teenagers, gee, dad, that's awesome. But in the biblical sense when the angels, so the face of God, they trembled in hall and it just hit me after those few minutes of just a joyous feeling of what a tremendous responsibility had been placed on the shoulders of our democratic majority, me as their leader, there is so much to do in this country. Obviously the problems of COVID both the health and economic problems, but there's so much more so that also rested with me.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

I went to bed at 4:00 AM with her slept till about seven, got in my car at eight, got down to Washington, the session convened at one to count the count, the electoral college votes. So I was on the floor for maybe 45 minutes as the putative majority leader, hadn't even given a speech when a police officer and a big Bulletproof vest, a submachine gun across his waist grabs me firmly by the collar, just like this and says, Senator, we're in danger. We got to get out of here. And we left and made a right turn in any of you who watched the tape that the house managers showed had me on there. I didn't even remember exactly. It was all, everything was such a blur. We were in such a hurry. I was walking through a door, pretty briskly with the police, with my little police guard and two minutes, about 30 seconds later, I'm running out the door the other way.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

And this, I did remember we were in about 20 feet of these insurrectionists of these white supremacist, antisemitic, selfish, disgusting insurrectionists, have one of them, had a gun. I might not be here telling you the story. The two things I'd want to say about that. Or first I've met with the acting attorney general. And I've said to him go after every one of these people, whatever resources you need, I'm sure the Senate and house will provide. And I believe they will. They will. One way people can help the head of the FBI told me this. He said, wherever you speak, please mention it. The FBI actually has a website that has 700 pictures of people who will pick who they caught their images when they were in the building. They've not identified half of them yet. So go on the website, but we're going to go away.

Scott Rechler:

Yeah. I can imagine being really traumatic, even just watching it on TV while it was happening at live. It just brought back feelings of watching nine 11 live and being part of that and the, and the trauma and the moment of, of our country having a sacred place attacked by, by terrorists. Even in this case though, they were domestic, not, not foreign terrorist. So I can imagine how the impact for you and your other members that were on the floor. Living through that

Senator Charles E Schumer:

In my experience, wasn't as bad as some, I don't know if anyone heard, but Patty Murray was very brave and very courageous. And she told her experiences on NPR a few weeks ago or last week. And you know, they were knocking on her door and her husband was standing there against the door. They were afraid any minute they break in and more noticed, right?

Scott Rechler:

Well, you know, the politics is a tough business and this, this, this, you know, obviously no one bargained for what that circumstance, but you know, going back, I remember you telling me stories way back about when you first decided to go into politics when you're in your mid twenties and how your parents were, I believe now were in their nineties right in the back. Right. So late. Right? So in their nineties they were, they were not thrilled. I don't think with that, the decision coming out of Harvard law school. So when, when they look at you today as the Senate majority leader from the state of New York, achieving that, that pinnacle over your career, that you've seen, what do they say today?

Senator Charles E Schumer:

Oh yeah, they're proud now. And they watch, and they're my, you know, my dad struggled. He had this small little exterminating business, never successful. He paced the floor Sunday nights, 2:00 AM, cause he hated going to work. And so they wanted me to make a nice living. So, and you know, I love politics. I

had been part of the anti-war movement. I'd spent four years organizing marches and picketing and working for candidates who were against the war. I had lost new people who were lost in that one. It was just how they lost their lives to something like that. It was terrible, but I never thought I'd run for office, but I worked for a big law firm for a summer. I really didn't like it. No offense to all your lawyers who do like it. My brother's one and my dad hated his job. And I said, I don't want to repeat this.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

And I love politics. The assembly seat became open in my district and I ran against the democratic machine. The first day I ran Scott, I went into my local Barbara, Frankie. I said, Frankie, would you put a poster in the window? He says, short kid. And then he said, kid, I never told you this, not only local barber, I'm a local bookie. You are the 50 to one underdog. No one thought I'd win. But my mom was telling all our friends not to vote for me because they couldn't understand why I was turning down \$400 a week, more money than they had seen at a good offer from Paul Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton, Garrison. But listen, you know, I had a mentor. I went to him and I said, my parents don't want me to run. This is I give this advice to young people all the time. My parents don't want me to run. And here's what he said to me. He said, you probably can't win. No one thought I could do it, but if you don't do it and it's your dream, you will regret it the rest of your life. So I'm glad I did it. And here I am,

Scott Rechler:

As a, as a new Yorker, I'm thrilled that you ran. And today I'm thrilled that you're the Senate majority leader, because the, with the challenges that have ahead of us as a state and the country, it's critical to have someone like you in that, in that spot. And really, you know, the point of this series is to take a step back and recalibrate reality for post COVID world and what it means for the state of New York in New York city and how we're going to recover and rebound and, and, and deal with that. And when you think about what's happened to New York, we've had this existential crisis that had widespread damage throughout New York. And, and, you know, it's shut down the economy completely gutted the budgets of our States, our local governments, our school districts, healthcare systems, transit systems, and, you know, the it's, it's almost, and I'm glad that the relief bill that's out there right now, the Biden bill is called a relief bill, because really it's no different than when we had the, you know, they'd have to have relief in a post Superstorm, Sandy like disaster relief for what's happening in Texas today that you need disaster relief, right?

Scott Rechler:

This is where you need the federal government to step in and be that safety net to help us. And so I know you're in the midst of negotiating that today and with all the challenges we have, maybe you can just share with us sort of where you think we'll be in terms of bringing back some support to help them.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

You know, first I'm the first majority leader from New York and new York's in my bond. So I try to make sure you mentioned New York, that every bill we passed is very good for New York. We've gotten over \$150 billion in aid to New York and the various bills that have come through through checks to people through unemployment, a massive amount of money to our hospitals. Some of our finest hospitals in those days in the spring could have gone under, had we not been able to deliver that aid? And I made sure the formulas focused on New York hospitals, the MTA we've already gotten 8 billion. The next bill will have six. And they announced yesterday. It was very good that they're not going to have to cut back

on service or lay off people because of the money we've gotten. We've gotten money for schools between the in-class bill that passed in December.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

And the next bill we'll have about \$240 billion. New York gets again, a very good chunk of that money. And it will, the goal is to allow all the schools to be totally open by September costs, money, cause they got to open safely, right? You know, you need new ventilation systems. And a lot of these old schools, you need double the number of buses. So the kids don't sit next to each other and stuff like that. So there's money for that. There's money for our small businesses. And I worked very hard to see that nonprofits were allowed 20% of our New York economy is nonprofits to make sure our churches and religious institutions were allowed. You know, in a lot of you go to the inner city and the churches do so much of the social service work and they were going under no collect, no people settling up, no collection plate, no money.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

So we helped New York in a whole lot of ways. And this new bill will be even better at the top of the list is state day. Now, even in the last bill, we got \$12 billion. McConnell would not allow money to go directly to the States and cities, but we found new ways around it. So New York got education money. We got mass transit money and I set up a separate little healthcare state healthcare system where New York at \$1.5 billion. So we did put some money there, but that's not, we still need good direct state aid and Nancy. And I was speaker Pelosi, who I get along great with them. And I like her very, very much. We went to Joe Biden and said, we need a large amount of state aid. And now we have \$350 billion. If that bill passes, New York state alone will get \$23 billion in aid, 12.7 direct to the state coffers and then money through education and transit.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

New York city will get about \$5 billion in our localities. We'll get 10 billion. We divided the aid up 60% goes to the state, but 40% goes to the localities, the cities, the States, the towns. There's also some good things in there for our businesses that I put in. We depend on the arts. So we put together a program called save our stages that helps arts institutions to huge percentage of our economy. And it helped Broadway. You know, Broadway is not just a couple of people. It's thousands of people and billions who come to New York go to go to Broadway. They were having all the places where people congregate, but in the arts, it wasn't just Broadway. It's all these little arts, these independent venues, these independent theaters that were all going to close. So we, this was called save our stages. And the money is a long-term grant, you know, through September to help them.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

And in the new bill, we're doing the same thing for restaurants. Our restaurants are really hurting. So we have the PTP program, which is the small business program. But for certain industries like the arts, like the restaurants, it wasn't enough and this will really help them. I've worked with Tom Colicchio. Who's done a great job. He's not just on top chef. He's out lobby in the Senate, so he's doing good. But we did that. And I also had to fight very hard for our cultural instance, our large ones. Again, you know, my colleagues said, well, they're fancy rich institutions, but they were laying off people they're ready to go under. They need to come back strong. So this package, both the package we put together in December and even more. So this new bill, which is you say is relief is hugely helpful to New York in just about every way that we, that we need help the goal.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

But maybe the most important thing in this bill is not New York related, but general, which is vaccines. In the first bill, we provided that every person should get a vaccine for free. You shouldn't have to worry about a deductible or a copayment or whatever. And this new bill, the federal government will directly administer the vaccines. You know, the States they're told to do it by Donald Trump. And there was some money there, but Hey, he didn't, we put about 8 billion for it. He didn't distribute the money, but more importantly, he didn't even coordinate. So the States didn't even know when they were getting vaccines, where they were going, what type they works at this bill says the federal government does it all. And the federal government will we'll set up centers. There'll be scores in New York city, probably punt over a hundred in New York state. I don't know the exact number and the federal government will administer it all.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

Using FEMA, employees, national guard employees, and a hundred thousand new healthcare workers, temporary hired. They will send the vaccines there. So everyone will, there'll be no problem of logistics and coordination. And there'll be many fewer requirements. The requirements drive people crazy and stand online three hours. They say, Oh, you're 63. You don't qualify. Or you have a thyroid. I'm just speculation. I don't know. That's not on the list of pre-existing conditions. Go home now with very few criteria with these many centers, with a direct pipeline of vaccines, the hope is some say September, some say July the sooner, the better that we will have enough people in New York vaccinated that we'll be able to be post COVID. There'll be that what they call her to immunity. And I'd say one other thing. And this once that happens, new, York's going to take off the vitality of you asked about New York.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

And I have to say this, the vitality of New York is going to be bigger and better than ever. There are a certain number of centers there need to be in the world that attract people, rich, poor every region of the country who want to make a better future for themselves. And they want to be in the place where it's at and that's been new York's history. And there were very few cities like that. We have 10 different circles of things swirling around, you know, Washington government, Los Angeles entertainment, but we have 10 or 12 of these. And I believe the city will come back bigger and better than ever before. I really do, but we have to get over this hump. And it's the federal government's job, as you mentioned. Right.

Scott Rechler:

You know, it's it, it's interesting. It really does highlight, listen to you speak how critical good leadership is and how destructive bad leadership can be in terms of being able to deal with things like growing out the vaccine or the testing protocols, or, you know, all the different protocols that we've lived through, trying to navigate through through COVID. And I, and I do want to know, because I've had this personal experience, you know, for all of your growth on the national stage, your focus locally is extraordinary. I'll never forget. I was running a half marathon once and exhausted. I run through the finish line and there's, you know, Chuck Schumer has given everyone high fives and you grab me and you wanted to talk about some project that w that we were working on. Cause you wanted an update. So, right, exactly. So, yeah. So yeah.

Scott Rechler:

So you do go through that. So thinking just one, one thing locally that you didn't touch upon, I wanted to get your, your take on is the state and local tax deduction, right? Which so you've spoken a lot about,

and the Trump administration made a, put a cap on how much could be deducted. And the States like New York, obviously where we have high taxes, the middle class had been harmed. It's like real punitive tax on our are working people middle-class in New York. Is that something that is going to be in this bill, a next bill? When will that be addressed? And how will that be addressed

Senator Charles E Schumer:

Healing? The cap on the salt deduction is very important. How did it come about again, nasty. Look, I gotta be candid here, nasty wing right-wing nastiness. Oh, the blue States spend more money. We have better programs for the poor, for education. And you know, then Wyoming or something like that, that's always been our choice. And the federal government, the tax system has always said, you want to make that choice fine. We shouldn't be doubly taxed for doing it. But in any case, it has to go, it's hurting New York. And this idea that it's just for rich people, totally not. So go to long Island, you'll have somebody who's a nurse and somebody who's a firefighter, they're paying their taxes because taxes are high here at 20,000 bucks. Here's an interesting, I had a town hall meeting in Southeast Queens saying all Springfield gardens, middle-class black neighborhood in, in Southeast Queens.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

What's the first thing they asked me about the salt deduction. So it applies everywhere. And we, we are very, very high on the list of appeal. Now, the first bill, we'll try to get it in there, but that's not dealing with taxes. The second bill does deal with taxes. I didn't explain it. So this first bill is recovering, right? Joe Biden has two big bills. He wants us to pass at the very beginning. The first is the ARP. And I talked about all the things in there for state and local government and education and hospitals and unemployment and restaurants and arts venues and museums. But the second bill is more structural. It's so huge. It's a big infrastructure. Bill could be 1.5 trillion could be 4 trillion. It's big it's to get the, it's not simply to recover, deal with the sort of, you know, the, the rescue that's needed rather a longer term recovery.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

And it'll stand over certainly more than a year. This bill is a year and infrastructure is a major piece of it. And green infrastructure. What's beautiful about this bill is it brings together the issue of climate change, the issue of creating a lot more jobs through green and clean infrastructure, as well as are the older and deals with the fact that communities of color have been left out. And it puts it all in one big bill. And it's a great bill and that will have tax changes. And that's a great place where we're going to fight very hard for getting rid of the cap on the salt reduction. If we can't get it in the first bill, which we're still trying to do, global aid is number one,

Scott Rechler:

Right? Which it makes a lot of sense. I mean, that's the recovery piece, right? And so, and I think what's interesting about the second bill, which is critical is that, you know, in the post COVID world, if we're going to create a more sustainable, more equitable world than before we need more than just relief, right? We need to be reinvesting. And re-imagining on all the things that you talked about. Education, infrastructure, sustainability, affordable housing, healthcare, right?

Senator Charles E Schumer:

And the poor communities that have been left out, you know, you can have a society where the top twenty-five percent is doing great. And the bottom of 75% isn't, as I said, my mission as majority leader,

it's a political mission. It's an economic mission. Tomorrow. A mission is a salary is in the land because people don't think they have hope for the future, which has always been American hallmark optimism. We're going to have a better future. We have to restore that. We have to restore point and just build back better. Bill does a lot of that. And so it's going to take a major effort. We probably will again, use the, if our Republican friends want to join us so much the better. And by the way, this first bill were, no Republicans are on board right now. Over 50% of Republican people are foreign, you know, Republican voters when they pull them, it's just the people in the Senate, the Republicans who have Trump on their case.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

But if they'll join us on something like infrastructure, we'd welcome in welcome. Do you need to have a big recovery? We need to, it's going to take a while to overcome this pandemic. There was an article in the paper today or yesterday in the New York times. I think it was that a lot of the old jobs aren't coming back. Well, we can't just say to toe too bad for people who lost their jobs. We have to have a plan to bring it back and give America the optimism that it always had. You know? Well, can I tell you a little story here? I lied. So I have interns every summer and they're a diverse group, economically racially, geographically within New York. And every year I have lunch with them and I asked, get to ask them some questions. So since 1999, ask them this question. Do you think you'll be doing better economically than your parents from 1999 to 2012, every single one of them, they were about 20 raised their hands starting in 2013, not everyone this year, only three, only three of this diverse group.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

And one young lady came to me and said, I want to tell you how I feel my parents, when they got married, they were able to afford a house. I can't, my parents didn't have debt. When they got out of college, I've got \$80,000 a debt. And my sort of knew what path they were going to take. I have no idea what the world changing so fast. That person needs to be given some hope and some help when I have a good society. And so I would tell everybody, whatever your economic, we all got to pull together and move the country forward in a way where people are not left out.

Scott Rechler:

Yeah, no, I think your point on hope and help is critical. And one of the things that concerns me now, right, as you look at the economy, you're seeing, you know, the economy seems to be picking up steam almost like as a V-shape recovery on the surface, but you look below the surface and it's all these people that don't have the voices that are suffered like in New York, for example, our public housing NYCHA, right, where we have almost a half a million people that live there. But, you know, even to sort of invest in, in Nitra, which has about \$40 billion of repairs that need just to make it to acceptable conditions. It's not something that's spoken about that much, right? It's not like the subways. It's not like the gateway tunnel that are sort of where you have everyone focused on, but they don't have it. Have you on public housing and things like that. Is that an area that you think we could delve into

Senator Charles E Schumer:

In our infrastructure bill it's, it's not just traditional infrastructure, roads and bridges and tunnels. Of course, it's a lot of green stuff getting, you know, getting carbon out of the atmosphere, but we also have a large provision to update public housing. I think it's like \$60 billion, which will be. And again, I try to write little things. So we have, I put one little provision in there that said a special fund going to only housing, public housing authorities and receivership while there are only three in the country. And we're

the biggest one. So the dollars that go there will go, dispropor, you know, not disproportionately by report for New York, but yes, public housing is part of it and upgrading some of our schools as part of it, too. Right.

Scott Rechler:

It was just, just you, would you think about just even the bills that you talked about, you're probably over \$4 trillion of spending, which I think is about what the normal annual federal budget is, you know, in total, right? So it shows you how much do you think, you know, in today's world where even in your own caucus where there's, you know, views on the left and views and the more centric centrist area, can you hold that together? Can you bring it together? A consensus,

Senator Charles E Schumer:

The points first on your first point about, you know, \$4 trillion. There is a growing view among the economists and not just liberal economists, but something that really there's a professor. I think from Columbia named Tuohy, I think is his name who's written about this. And the basic theory is when a different type of economy, he said the federal government pumped \$4 trillion into the economy between 2008 and 2018, some huge amount of money, 4 trillion, which on a percentage basis would be greater than 4 trillion now, I guess. And he said that that was all by the way, not through fiscal, but through, you know, low interest rate buying bonds and things like that. He said there was no inflation and prices didn't go up, no inflation, no interest rates going up. He said, that's because in our world, technologically driven economy deficits are not the bugaboo that they used to be.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

And I think that has a lot of truth to it. More and more people in my caucus do, I would not put deficit reduction. Number one on my list in terms of how we have to recover. Many of the things we talked about now, five or 10 years from now, might it become more important? Yes. But at the moment we don't see any sign and you know, very stable, smart economists, like yelling and Powell, oddly lefty, believe that in terms of my caucus, what I do is I spend a lot of time bringing my caucus together, talking to one another. So I have a leadership team every Monday night, we need to have 10 senators. Who's on the leadership team, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, two of the very most progressive members and Joe Manchin, and more than one or two of the most conservative or more moderate members in our caucus, we talk it over and we realized that working together is the key here.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

Because if we divide, we're not going to get anything done so far, it's worked. And that's how I try to do it. I also, as you know, I had my cell phone and every, I have the phone number and every one of my members has my phone number and I'm always talking to them, always. I enjoy it. I love my colleagues. They're great. And by constantly communicating and walking in the other, person's moccasins, respecting what other people think we've been able to stay unified. Now it's more essential than ever now. It's harder to work than ever with just 50 votes and being in the majority and this such a large burden, but God gave me a lot of energy and I'm spending a lot of it trying to make that

Scott Rechler:

Right. Well, you've always been a progressive that believed that it's important to have progress. And you, weren't going to put yourself in a situation where you had a situation where you were going to sacrifice the good for the perfect along that way. Right? So I think trying to find that balance now

Senator Charles E Schumer:

My job is to get the most, I want to move America in as bolder direction as we can accomplish. So just have big bold plans and not accomplished doesn't work, but to have many minimal plans and accomplish doesn't work, you got to find the right vector right there.

Scott Rechler:

And interesting, by the way, your, your, if you think about your constituents in New York, it's a little similar to what you have in the Senate right now, in terms of places like the suburbs and upstate versus the city, the Progressive's right. You have a little bit of that mix that works through,

Senator Charles E Schumer:

You know, I still visit every one of the 62 counties people ask, why do you go to street fairs? You know, you don't need to go to street fairs anymore. I love it. And 50 people will pass you by, or just say, hi, Chuck, thanks for coming. And the 51st stops and talks to you, but if you stay there for two, three hours, you're talking to 200 random people who really have thoughts and ideas. So I love mixing and mingling. It helps me do my job. And in New York people forget very diverse state. If you took away New York city and the four suburban counties, it would be the still the seventh or eighth largest state. We have the third largest rural population in America, in many of our cities, our state Buffalo or Rochester Syracuse, or like Midwestern cities. So it does give me some understanding of the places my colleagues come from.

Scott Rechler:

No, that makes a lot of sense. So in New York city, we have our male race coming up to the primaries in June and as new Yorkers, they're thinking about who to pick for the next mayor. Just curious if you have some advice for what they should be thinking about and in your opinion, Just pay attention and get involved, which I think is key. You know, and I think, you know, one of the things that that has key generally is the civic responsibility. And I, you know, I always have these conversations with people who don't vote and then complain about the elected officials. You know, if you're, if you're gonna not vote, you sorta lose the right to complain. Right? And I think you also, it's incumbent upon all of us to be civically engaged and, and take responsibility for our communities as a whole, right?

Senator Charles E Schumer:

Wait, but it's then our responsibility to show them that there are things that we can do to actually make their lives better. Let me give you a little example. That was a great experience for me, Georgia. Just this recent election, there were about 40 to 50,000 people who did not vote in November in the presidential election. And of course then for Senate, but who did vote in the runoff? Why? Because Stacy Abrams and her crew convinced them that if Democrats took over the Senate, there'd be things that matter to them, checks in their pocket. Maybe Georgia would take join up with Medicaid, which is one of the 19 States that didn't money for hospitals and a large number of these people or young, black, and rural. You can, if you have a program that affects people and able to knock on doors and tell them about it, you can mobilize people. So it's a two way street. We want people to be involved, but we elected officials have to show them a good reason to be involved too.

Scott Rechler:

No, that's a great point. And the reality is there's a lot of people that have lost faith in government and by delivering results that people that are tangible, that made people's lives better, give them opportunity to give them hope. As you described, hopefully encourages the next round of Chuck Schumer's in their young twenties to decide that they want to get involved. And in government,

Senator Charles E Schumer:

Their parents, they're running for the assembly and not joining a fancy one.

Scott Rechler:

Exactly, exactly. So, you know, we, we talked about your parents and there's one to ask you one concluding question here, but I want to move to your, your grandchildren. And, and so as you think about your grandchildren growing up, you know, if you have to pick one thing in terms of that has left your Mark on our state, that that you'd be of, and you'd they be proud of you for as a legacy? What would that be?

Senator Charles E Schumer:

Well, it's hard to pick one, but let me tell you a thought that I have one grandchild two year old.

Scott Rechler:

I figured it out that there's gonna be more on the way though. So I was giving you the benefit.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

Anyway, let me give you a thought about Noah. And one of the things that I put on the list. So I used to play basketball, as you know, and now I don't anymore. I used to tell people our team wasn't very good. Our motto was, we may be small, but we're slow. But so then I started riding a bike, okay. And I'm not a spandex die. I'm not riding at 40 miles an hour. Even the lawn I ride. And I look around, sometimes I stop and talk to people. But one of the places I love to ride is the Southern shore front of Brooklyn, along the belt park, where they have a great bike path there. And it's a beautiful wetlands and I love it. It's right alongside the collision. You can see parts of it, the Rockaway peninsula. And right after my grandson was born, about two weeks later, I'm riding my bike there.

Senator Charles E Schumer:

It's a beautiful, beautiful day, cold, but beautiful. And I think to myself, if the oceans rise three, four inches, he's never going to see this even an inch or two. And it made me understand how important the imperative was to make, you know, to deal with climate change and deal with it quickly. So seeing things through the eyes of your grandchildren is a good thing. And it's one of the things we have to do as a society or the damage we've seen COVID create will be nothing compared to the, the damage that global warming will create. You know, probably just 10, 12 years down the road, we're seeing it already in magnitude. Just look what happened in Texas.

Scott Rechler:

No, that's right. No, there's no doubt. Well, I think you're a hundred percent right. Thinking through and looking through the eyes of the younger generation does give us hope. And I think if more leaders do that and deliver, as we talked about, we'll have a better brighter, more equitable, sustainable future for

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New York. So thank you for all that you do. And thank you for taking the time centers from. I appreciate it,

Senator Charles E Schumer:

Scott. It was a pleasure. And thank you for caring and putting this series together.

Scott Rechler:

Speak to you soon. Thanks. You're welcome. Be safe. That concludes this week's episode of recalibrate reality. The future of New York COVID-19 devastated our region and it's the federal government's job jobs. Not only provide the safety net to recover from such a disaster, but also the necessary funding that will help us rebuild to a more prosperous, more sustainable and more equitable New York. Moving forward. Senator Schumer said the federal government must provide hope and help during these challenging times. And he plans to do just that. Thank you again. Senator Schumer, thank you to the 92nd street, Y and the regional plan association. And thank you to the team for making this week's episode possible. I'm Scott Rechler from seventy-five Rockefeller Plaza in New York. See you next week.