

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 answer the question. How do we recalibrate reality to create a better and brighter future for New York? Today? We have one of the newest members of the New York congressional delegation, Congressman Ritchie Torres, whether it was during his time when the city council or now representing the Bronx and the state of New York and Washington Richie is someone who always puts aside political ideology for pragmatic non-partisan policymaking to benefit the broader community. And so with that, let's recalibrate reality with Congressman Ritchie Torres, Congressman tourism, welcome to recalibrate reality, but before we even start, how's it feel to be referred to as Congressman tourists?

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

It's, it's, it's, it's deeply gratifying. You know, I never thought as a poor kid from the Bronx that I would embark on a journey that would take me from public housing in the Bronx, to the house of representatives in Washington, DC. So my response is only in America and there's no one who's happier for me than my mother. She's my greatest cheerleader. And when I came home from orientation, she said to me, I've never had dinner with a Congressman before, and I've never had, my mother has never been more excited about watching C-SPAN. So if my mother is happy, I must be doing something right.

Scott Rechler:

That's really great. You know, to me, when my mom's happy, that's the gold standard. I know I achieved something, which is now you're one of the youngest members of Congress before that you were one of the youngest members of the city council. So you're, you're a great success story. You're a product of our city. So when you think back about when you were growing up, what were the experiences that helps you become the person that you are today?

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

No, for me, the starting point is public housing. You know, for foliage challenges, I would not be in the United States. Congress were enough for public housing and the stability it gave me and my family. You know, there are a few things in life that are as fundamental as safety, decent, affordable housing. You know, I could only imagine if I had been among the 60,000 people in our shelter system, right? A third of whom are children like imagine lurching from one shelter to the next. So I learned lurching from one school to the next it's, it's hard to succeed under conditions of housing instability. So I'm enormously grateful to the New York city housing authority for providing me with safeties and affordable housing. And I've made it the central mission of my life to advocate for the residents of public housing. I think a second contributing factor is education.

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

You know, even though I received something of a mediocre education, the extracurricular enrichment was profoundly formative and transformative. When I was in high school, I had the opportunity to serve as the captain of the Lehman high school law team, the core team. And I discovered a talent for communication. I never thought I had it taught me how to think and read and write and debate critically. I had the opportunity to argue a case before actual judges of the second circuit court of appeals in the face of relentless rigorous questioning. And it prepared me not only for the city council, but ultimately for the United States Congress. So I'm a huge proponent of extracurricular enrichment,

which could have a transformative life effect on the life of a young person like myself, and then mentoring, you know, you're only as good as the mentors you have in your life. And there was a, a former council member, Jimmy VACCA, who was the district manager in the Bronx. And he was looking for a young student to services district manager for a day. And my principal recommended me. And so I mentioned me back about 15 years ago and that fateful encounter began the journey that took me from the New York city council to the United States Congress. So educational enrichment, mentoring, affordable housing, I'm a product of the New York, city's social safety net.

Scott Rechler:

That's amazing. I mean, it sounds also like you were able to find your passion, right, because the extracurricular, and then even having that mentor, which then made this not about, about work, you know, it was a love of learning something that you became passionate about. Right. Which is, I think it'd be a key factor there. We're going to come back to public health and I want to talk more about it, but just, just to shift a little bit to where we are, you know, the, when I think about you as a person watching you through the years, you know, what's always been interesting to me is your pragmatic approach to politics, right? And realizing that it's not about ideological politics, but rather about policies to help the people. And you did that in city council. And now you're at, in the house of representatives and have a chance to do that again, but in a, in a really divisive environment in the house of representatives right now. And so how do you find that environment to be able to lean into your natural tendency, to be pragmatic, find solutions, find compromises in a place where that just seems really difficult to do

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

My answer to your question now would be different from my, what my answer would have been before the siege. You know, that was a watershed moment for American politics. You know, there's essentially a civil war, a cold civil war between Republicans and Democrats in Washington, DC. We are in a period of peak polarization in which there's deep animosity between Democrats and Republicans. And even though I think of my stuff as a pragmatist who strives to build coalitions and broker compromises, wherever possible, I will admit to you that I struggle with the calls for unity. You know, there were Republicans about half of the Republican conference in the house voted to overturn the results of the election. There was a smaller subset of Republicans when cited the insurrection against the us Capitol during the electoral college vote. And then there, might've been a few Republicans who actively aided and abetted the insurrection.

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

And so I asked myself, is unity even possible? Is it even desirable? Right? If you reject the peaceful transfer of power, if you're inciting insurrection against the capital, you know, that's beyond the pale, like you and I can have debates about what constitutes the optimal rate of taxation in our society, but there should be no debate about the peaceful transfer of power that is not up for negotiation. And so if you reject democracy and you reject the peaceful transfer of power upon which democracy depends, then there's no agreement on first principles that would form the basis for working relationship. Like it's one thing to have different values and beliefs, but if you have radically different facts and live in a radically different reality from my own, then it's a real, it's a real challenge. And the Republican party has done a disservice to the country. The, the siege on the Capitol was dangerously unprecedented. It led to the murder of a police officer who was bludgeoned to death by a fire extinguisher. And it could have done enormous harm to the political leaders of our city, our country, the vice-president, the speaker, the majority leader and members of Congress. So I do struggle with, with the calls for unity.

And I'm curious to know, I mean, you've been supportive of both Democrats and Republicans, any advice on how I should approach these Republicans? Ha ha how are you going to approach them?

Scott Rechler:

No, no, listen, I think you're, you're right. That when it comes to the, the very nature of the, the, the bedrock of our democracy, you know, being blatantly attacked both in terms of the seeds and then the, the sort of the rejection of the, the election in those that vote that's hard to do. Right. And I think that the people that have made that decision, and even when I was watching that live, it really, to me, paralleled watching nine 11, watching our nation be attacked, watching a sacred place or a nation being attacked, but it was not foreign actors, but it was, you know, other us citizens that were being directed by a sitting president. Right. And, and so it's even more disturbing in that context. And so I think there is for the people that have actually taken those steps and the people, your, your colleagues that, you know, not stand up and support the results of the election and, and, and certify them.

Scott Rechler:

I, I think it's a zero sum game in that instance. I think that, you know, and I think, you know, from our standpoint is as business leaders and, and myself, you know, we made it clear that there's not going to be any financial support, but at the same token, there are Republicans who, you know, did stand up, did do the right thing in the face, frankly, of, of, you know, repercussions, not only to their career, but there's even, you know, potentially harm to themselves in their and their family based on the passions of, of some of those supporters right now that I think also need to be supported. Right. I think so. I don't, I don't know if I would say the whole Republican party is out. I think that there's a unfortunate civil war within the Republican party. And we, I think that's incumbent upon us as a nation to try to support the people that have the, the courage to stand for the principles and values of our nation and, and, you know, punish the ones that don't.

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

I agree with that. And look, I have deep respect for Peter Meyer for Michigan and the freshman class who spoke out against the insurrection. It was one of the few to vote to impeach Donald Trump. That was a, it's much more courageous for a Republican to speak out against insurrection than it is for a Democrat. No, you know, one quick thought, I think the, you know, as a pragmatist, I see myself as a contrast to the extremes in our politics, but I feel like it's important to know that there's nothing on the left that is remotely comparable to the far right of the Republican party, the Marjorie greens of the world, you know, there were many on the left, including myself were outraged that George W. Bush and Donald Trump won the presidency while at the same time losing the popular vote. But we recognize that the electoral college is the law of the land and that we have to accept the outcome of the election, right. There were no left wing activists who stormed the United States Capitol in a violent attempt to derail the peaceful transfer of power. So I think what we've seen, not from over Republicans, but from too many Republicans is a willingness to aid an unprecedented assault on our democracy. And the siege on the Capitol was not an accident. It was the culmination of a months long delegitimization campaign waged by

Speaker 3:

The president of the United States at the time Donald Trump and his enablers in Congress.

Scott Rechler:

Yeah. That's a really good point. But you know, here, here in New York, we don't have the kind of extremism that's taking place in Washington, but we are seeing more and more ideologically driven policy. That's really the expense of the policies that benefit the broader community. A good example is Amazon in long Island city or [inaudible] city in sunset park and Richie D to your credit, you publicly supported both projects, but unfortunately, other members who maybe were concerned about getting primaried didn't support the projects and they failed. And we lost the thousands of future jobs and other opportunities for people who live in those communities. So, so how do we get past this growing dynamic where the loud vocal few overwhelmed sound policies that would help the community at large

Speaker 3:

You're you're exactly right. Visible vocal minority can easily be mistaken for majority. And part of the problem here is social media, which amplifies the ideological extremes in our politics. I feel like what's desperately needed is an infrastructure that cultivates the next generation of pragmatic leadership. Just like the DSA is actively promoting the next generation of, of democratic socialist candidates. You know, I think of myself as a pragmatic, progressive, like for me, the central value of progressivism should be progress, right? As elected officials, we should be judged by the progress we create in the lives of the people we represent. And we should never let ideological purity be the enemy of progress, right? Our mission should be to make government work, take Amazon, for example, you know, in what universe does the destruction of 25,000 jobs and \$27 billion in revenue represent progress. Like for me, we should not be debating whether we should grow, we should be debating how we should grow, right?

Speaker 3:

Without growth. There's no affordable housing. There are no jobs. There are no revenues to fund public services that we all take for granted, like growth is the cornerstone of the New York city economy. And there need not be a conflict between equity and growth. We can strike a thoughtful balance between the two. There's no need to pursue one to the exclusion of the other, but what we've seen in New York city it's become ground zero for the radicalization of progressive politics embodied in the rise of the DSA in the 2020 election cycle. The DSA won nearly every race. And, you know, I'm concerned about when implications that will have for, for governing. Like, you know, I respect activists. There is a role for activists to play in exerting pressure elected officials to

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

Do the right thing, or move the ball as far as we can, as much as we can. But in the end, the role of a legislator is different from that of an activist. Like we have to be mindful of the realities and practicalities of governing. And I worry that our politics is becoming too radicalized and too IDEO ideology.

Scott Rechler:

Right? And it's a politics of bright lines, right? You're either with us or against us, which has really challenged.

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

It's too performative. Like it's it's politics in New York city has entered the realm of the absurd it's descended into a theatrical production and Twitter is the stage and everyone is performing. And that is not what governance, that's not the kind of governance we need when New York city is teetering on the brink of a fiscal.

Scott Rechler:

Right? And to your point about, you know, you need equity and growth. I mean, the reality is much more difficult to create equity if you don't have prosperity. Right. I mean, if you're, if you have prosperity, it's much more, much easier to invest in program is much easier to invest in education, much easier to, to invest in housing, et cetera. So when you, when you cut through this, right, it comes down to the people and, you know, in your district, the 15 districts in the Bronx, you know, which you represent really was hit hard pre COVID. And frankly COVID was really, really hard in terms of during COVID the level of people that were laid off, the number of people that w w w got sick. And unfortunately, the number of deaths in the spring, and even now the economic crisis, when you talk to your constituents, like, what do you hear? And be good to get a sense as to really what did the people on the ground think? And, you know, what are their priorities? Is it public safety? Is it education? You know, obviously housing, what are what's on their mind right now,

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

All of the above, but weighs most heavily on families in the South. Bronx is economic insecurity. COVID-19 has been an economic catastrophe. You know, the unemployment rate in the South Bronx can be as high as 25%, which is comparable to the joblessness of the great depression. There's been a catastrophic loss of income. There are families who are struggling to survive. You know, the South Bronx historically has been known to be the poorest congressional district in America. But for me, COVID-19 has shown the South Bronx to be the central congressional district. But it's the home of the essential workers who put their lives at risk during the peak of the pandemic, so that most of us could safely shelter in place. And what those essential workers want is opportunity, right? Not a handout, but a fighting chance at a decent life. When I won my primary in June of 2020, I took the occasion to pay tribute to my mother. And I said that the South Bronx is full of single mothers, like mine who have struggled and suffered in sacrifice so that their children can have a better life. They did. That's what the essential workers and essential mothers of the South Bronx want. That's what all workers and mothers want is a better life for their children. And that's where our focus should be in government. You know, our highest priorities should be to put people back to work and to put income in the pockets of families who have been struggling mightily during COVID-19.

Scott Rechler:

Yeah, no, I completely agree with this challenge of COVID right now, and you, and you talk about your constituents wanting opportunity. One of the things that concerns me most about the impact of COVID was it discriminately, incrementally took away people's jobs, no matter how hard they were working, what they were doing. And that really has put us in this have, and have not economy. And, you know, you referenced the, the essential workers that have been out there who didn't have the luxury to be able to stay at home and, and, and take shelter at the time of risk where we're making our city tick. Yet you have these other, you know, companies that were able to actually flourish while people worked from home. And one of the concerns I have is that as we look at this from a macro perspective, we're going to see sort of a, a V-shape recovery on the surface.

Scott Rechler:

That's gonna look like things are rebounding quickly because the haves are such a big part of the economy. But when you look below the surface, it's going to be this case shape recovery, where all these people who were dislocated from the economy, indiscriminately, as jobs were lost, are going to have a much more difficult time finding themselves back into the workplace. Because when restaurants

closes their small business closes, it's much harder to reopen them, right? It's hard for people to get credit. It's hard for people to have the, the confidence to do it after losing so much in the, in this process and the policies out of Washington, which now you'll have a chance to shape have been more focused, I would say, on, on the bigger enterprises and building a bridge for employment and, and some businesses that survive to get through COVID, but really haven't yet focused on in a post COVID world. How are we going to create, you know, bold, intentional policies that actually help bring these people back into the workforce, because we've never lived through a dislocation like this before where so many people were removed from the workforce, and so many jobs have fully disappeared and are gonna take so long to come back. Do you have any thoughts or has it been any discussions within Congress about how to actually get directly to that segment of our, of our community?

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

Look, there's no single solution. I mean, I agree with your analysis that we, as a society had not fully come to grips with the depth of the COVID-19 impact, that there are families through no fault of their own, who have been dislocated from their jobs and the unemployment rate fails capture long-term structural unemployment. I have businesses on Arthur Avenue that have been owned by the same family for more than a hundred years. These are businesses that have survived world war II and the great depression and the great recession and nine 11, and those businesses are struggling to survive. No need an education. I think one of the greatest challenges in education is the loss of learning during the summertime. Well then what, what is normally confined to the summertime? The loss of learning has been linked in by COVID-19 to an extent we have not seen before, and that's going to have long and lasting consequences for the education of our students, especially students of color from the poorest parts of our city.

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

So we have not fully come to grips with all of it. The one policy that comes to mind for me is the child tax credit. You know, for me, we have to commit ourselves to fighting poverty in America. And the structure of the child tax credit is so regressive at the moment that it excludes a third of American families, the poorest families in our country, and in the South Bronx, two thirds of the families, there are excluded from the full benefit of the child tax credit. And it's worth noting that child poverty cost our country a trillion dollars every year. So research has shown that if we extend the child tax credit to the poorest families, we can cut child poverty by 40% in the span of one year, right. We can make it so that your zip code does not determine your destiny, right? And in the United States where you live should never be a ceiling on how high you can rise. So that's one example of what the federal government can do to bring relief to the communities that needed the most.

Scott Rechler:

Then they're going to get him gives again on the child, a tax credits that gives each child the opportunity to sort of live a life like you lived to find that passion and take advantage of education and mentors and grow that next level, which makes a lot of sense, you know, on the, on the business side, your one area that I think is important. It's also, we all need to take responsibility, right? I think we have to realize that our communities are suffering and what makes New York special is the whole community ecosystem. So when you, when you walk through our streets and the restaurants of those, of constituents, of yours and Arthur Avenue, who have, you know, after generations need to close down, then you're taking away the character of Arthur Avenue. And so we all need to say, you know, we need to invest in that future.

Scott Rechler:

We need to invest in that quality of life. We need to invest in those people. And we need to look at it differently than we did before. We can't look at this as just a, a transactional, you know, business investment. We need to look at this as a community investment that will ultimately lead to a stronger community, which then leads to stronger businesses for, for many more. So I think that's something that we focus a lot on it, I think more need to do. So, you know, the other area I'd imagine would be important when you think about your constituents is not just the insecurity from the economic environment, but public safety. So as you know, this, this past year crime has gone up and we've seen a disturbing increase in gun violence. And while the increase in crime may not be as severe as it was in the early nineties, any increase in crime in a community is a bad thing. So, so when you talk to your constituents, some who may have been impacted by the crime directly, or have fear of the violence in the streets, and they hear things like defund the police. What do they think?

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

One thing I can tell you is that Twitter is unrepresentative of the real world, right? You know, to, to be on Twitter, you would think that every new Yorker was in favor of defunding the YPD by \$3 billion. And I think when my constituents want is not more or less policing, but better policing is we can improve the quality and accountability of policing at the same time. Right? I think what, what I find painful about our public debate is that it creates a conflict where none need not exist. I suspect there is a broad consensus in favor of greater accountability in policing. You know, there are people who might oppose defunding the police by \$3 billion, which I consider irresponsible, but who would favor we thinking, or even abolishing qualified immunity or rethinking the blue wall of silence and rethinking the practices that might enable the, the worst offenders in policing to, to engage in misconduct with impunity. So there's no need for this debate to be as polarized as it might appear to be on Twitter, because I do believe that there is a consensus in favor of rational police reform. We can have public safety and rational police reform at the same time. Right.

Scott Rechler:

And then, you know, and again, here's an example where using sort of ideological logos, like defund the police, take an extraordinary complex problem and try to simplify it to a level that it becomes binary. And, and I think, you know, I think under States, the importance of the issue and the undermines, I think the progress that we could actually have in addressing the issue,

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

No it's government in the age of Twitter, right. Or you don't have a Twitter account by the way, just out of curiosity, by necessity. But, but I don't draw my public policy from Twitter. Right. I'm smart.

Scott Rechler:

What we're speaking about, issues that are complex. I want to talk to you about NYCHA subject. I know you're very passionate about nearly half a million residents live in what are pretty inhumane conditions, but unlike the subways, garbage, not being picked up or streets not being plowed there, isn't the same kind of collective outrage when it comes to fixing NYCHA. And not only feels like no one really wants to step up and fix it, but when someone does try and step in, it's incredibly challenging and complicated and frustrating. So, so who ultimately should be responsible for solving the problems with NYCHA and how do we make it better for the residents living in public housing?

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

So, you know, public housing is the, the central cause of my life. You know, the New York city housing authority is the largest provider of affordable housing in the country and houses a population of about a half a million new Yorkers. No, I think of nature as a city unto itself. And if it were a city unto itself, it would be the largest city low-income Americans in the country. And it's been so savagely defunded at the hands of the federal government, that it has a capital need of \$40 billion in County. So you have children who have been poisoned by lead, largely because of federal disinvestment. You have senior citizens who are freezing in their homes during the bitter cold of winter, largely because of federal disinvestment. But at the same time, for me, it's more than money. You know, Nitra is poorly managed and it is time to rethink the framework for funding, public housing.

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

You know, the notion that one central bureaucracy can efficiently manage 170,000 units of affordable housing, you know, strikes me as absurd. And if the federal government has chronically underfunded public housing in the past, there's no reason to think the federal government is going to act any differently in the future, right? Doing the same thing over and over again, and expecting a different results was Albert Einstein's definition of insanity. So we have to break out of the cycle of insanity and absurdity in relation to public housing. And I would tell people, look at most of affordable housing. Most of affordable housing is a public private partnership. Most affordable housing is funded by the public, but operated privately for the public. Good. And it's been a success. So why not apply the same model of public private partnership to public housing as we have done to the rest of the affordable housing stock, which by and large is a success right in the United States, we do have the right framework for funding, most affordable housing. What we need is actually more funding. I would argue that as a society, we should invest as much in rental housing, as we do in home ownership at the federal government, we should be doubling down on programs like the low income housing tax credit and tax exempt, bond financing and home and section eight. And so that, that to me, public private partnerships for me is the most sustainable model for revitalizing public housing.

Scott Rechler:

And th th I, I completely agree of public private partnerships. And, you know, we've seen that in our infrastructure, which I think in public housing should be considered part of infrastructure. We're used public private partnerships to create discipline innovation transfer of risk, which is key. And then I think you find when you have that projects are run better in this case, housing would be run better. The experience is better. The, the money is spent more efficiently. And when you do all that, it's much easier to then ask for federal support, to fund a program that you can validate that the money is being spent wisely, but I would argue, and I, I imagine you would agree, right? That the, the public housing challenge needs to be federally funded. There's no real state or city way to solve this problem.

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

Only the federal government can run a deficit and only the federal government can address a \$40 billion capital need. So,

Scott Rechler:

And I think, and I think, and I think in this post COVID world that we're talking about is things like this need to be structurally resolved right there, just like we were talking about earlier about businesses that have closed down that needed to be reopened and hire people. It's not going to happen. Naturally. We

don't have systems, we don't have policies, you know, capitalism doesn't function in that way. So we need the, the government to intentionally come in and support it. And I think the same thing is true on housing at that, that way.

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

And you made a powerful point and you have to think about not only the merits, but the politics, right. And if consider a section nine, section nine is urban rather than rural. And even among urban localities, it's overwhelmingly concentrated in New York city it's public sector rather than private sector. And it's mostly has the support of Democrats rather than Republicans. Whereas section eight is both urban or rural is both supported by Democrats and Republicans, both the private sector and the public sector have a stake in the section eight program. And as a result, section eight has had a much more stable funding stream than section nine. So there, there is a powerful political argument for converting traditional section nine public housing into section eight, so that it has a much broader constituency in Washington, DC.

Scott Rechler:

And there's the pragmatic Richie tourists coming out to try to bring as policies that get something done, which is makes a lot of sense. So we have a mayor race coming up, the democratic primaries in June 30. So candidates have thrown their hat into the ring, but you've already come out and endorsed Andrew Yang. What was your thinking in backing gang so early, and whether it's Andrew Yang or someone else, what's your advice for the next mayor of New York city with all the challenges that he or she will face on day one?

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

No, for me, the greatest argument for Andrew Yang is just independence. He's radically of a political establishment that has largely failed people in New York. And for me, he represents an infusion of new ideas and new energy and new leadership in a time of unprecedented crisis. And he has the kind of independence that would liberate him to govern pragmatically. You know, when, when he, if you were mayor, and if you would approach an issue, he does not have to obsess about returning political favors to various special interest in the city. He can simply ask, is that the right thing to do? Is that the responsible thing to do? Is it good for New York and good and good for new Yorkers? And so I find that independence to be refreshing, like I'm someone who admires pragmatism and independence in public officials, and he possesses both. You go, as far as the next mayor in general, I would advise you to learn from the experience of bill DeBlasio.

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

You know, when bill de Blasio first entered the mayoralty, he famously said that he's not the pothole mayor. He was on a mission to annoying himself as the savior of a national progressive movement. And I would advise the next mayor to avoid delusions of grandeur and not to be enamored with your own press releases and, and embrace the role of a pothole mayor, like immerse yourself in the details of governance. And remember that governing is not an ideological enterprise governing at the local level is a practical enterprise, right? Fiorello LaGuardia famously said, there's no Democrat or Republican way to pick up the garbage right. Much of what government does is about operations. It's about efficiency. And so I want to, I want a mayor. Who's going to be every bit as pragmatic, every British practical as the enterprise of local government itself.

Scott Rechler:

Yeah. And I think when you look, even now, what's happened through this whole COVID crisis at the federal level. And even some places in the city, you see how critical it is to have functioning government, right. And that the benefits you get from a government that functions well, and the cost we pay when government doesn't function well. And I think, you know, your approach to, you know, realizing that, you know, [inaudible], you know, politics, can't Trump, pragmatic policies for the people is something that I think that will help differentiate you in Congress. And frankly it could be the bridge, the hell, some of that divisiveness that, that we spoke about earlier in, in our conversation. So I encourage you to take, keep that, that pragmatic approach. And, and as you said, you know, you need, you need pragmatic progress, but you need pragmatic duty, pragmatic to have progress. And so I'm with you on that front Richie.

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

I appreciate it. And thank you for everything you do for the city. And, and for me, the, the best of New York city is a partnership between business and government. You know, we should combine the investment of government with the ingenuity of the private sector to solve problems. That's what the government give up.

Scott Rechler:

Richard, thank you for the time today. It's great. Good luck with anything, with everything, good luck with everything and your new role in Washington. Hopefully it calms down for you a little bit in the, in the coming weeks.

Congressman Ritchie Torres:

I hope so, too. Thank you, Scott. Bye

Scott Rechler:

Be well, thanks that concludes this week's episode of recalibrate reality, the future of New York, as you just heard, we can and should create an environment where all of us can do well and do good at the same time. Or as I like to say, doing good and doing well means doing better. Thank you again to Congressman Richard Torres. Thank you to the 92nd street, Y and the regional plan association. And thank you to the team who made this week's episode possible live from 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York. See you next week.