

Speaker 1: Welcome to The Bill Walton Show, featuring conversations with leaders, entrepreneurs, artists and thinkers. Fresh perspectives on money, culture, politics and human flourishing. Interesting people, interesting things.

Bill: Welcome to The Bill Walton Show. Jenny Beth Martin is the leader of the Tea Party Patriots. [00:00:30] For those who cherish freedom as I do, Jenny Beth is a true American hero. For the last 10 years, she's been a leader in the fight for fiscal responsibility, free market principles, and limited constitutional government. Her network reaches millions of Americans every week with education and action items to impact our public policy fights. Jenny Beth is a frequent guest on almost every major television, radio, print, and [00:01:00] online news outlet in America. She's a lifelong Georgian, and has a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia. Jenny Beth.

Jenny Beth M.: Oh, it's so good to be with you.

Bill: Yeah. Joining me to talk with Jenny Beth is Sara Walton. Sara attended Jenny Beth's very first Tea Party rally in Washington D.C. Sara, when we met, had impeccable progressive credentials, ABC network news, Nightline, illustrating 30 covers for The New Republic, [00:01:30] and art director of Harper's Magazine. Then she had a change of heart. We'll learn why later on on the show. Today, we want to learn about Jenny Beth's story, the state of the Tea Party movement, some of today's critical policy issues and what on earth is going on with the mania to impeach Donald Trump. Jenny Beth, Sara, welcome guys.

Jenny Beth M.: Thank you.

Bill: So, Jenny Beth, what led you to this point in life where you're leading a very [00:02:00] important movement in America? When did you get started?

Jenny Beth M.: It's hard to say exactly when I got started. I've been active and paying attention to politics since I was a child. I was programming computers. That's what my degree was in at the University of Georgia. I did that professionally, but the whole time I was doing that, I was always volunteering in politics.

Bill: Your family was very involved or very interested in politics. You had a lot [00:02:30] of dinner table conversations with your father and the rest of the family.

Jenny Beth M.: I did. My dad is a Methodist minister. So, I grew up in a family that did a lot of volunteering and worked with a lot of volunteers. When Iran took American hostages, that was really a pivotal moment. I was only-

Bill: In 1979.

Jenny Beth M.: Yeah. I was nine years old, but I remembered it. It was on the radio. It was on the news. I asked my dad a [00:03:00] particular question one day about Iran

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and Iraq. He answered the question, but he treated me like such an adult. Even though I was just a little kid, he treated me like such an adult that it made me to want to continue to pay attention to news and politics. From the moment he did that, I've never looked back.

Bill: And you were a system's analyst or a programmer?

Jenny Beth M.: My major was management information systems. So, I programmed, and then became a project [00:03:30] manager. I worked for the Mid Corporation and the Home Depot.

Bill: You were working at Home Depot in '79 or '89. I'm trying to remember when we got this started.

Jenny Beth M.: Well, we got started in 2009 and I had left Home Depot by then. I had gone through fertility treatments and had twins. I was in a-

Bill: They're now 16 years old.

Jenny Beth M.: They're 16 years old now. So, I had shifted out of doing project management and moved into different [00:04:00] areas. I thought I was going to be a stay-at-home mom, but life throws you some curve balls.

Bill: Yeah, I'm going to talk about your travel schedule in a minute. So, you had a change of heart. You didn't start out with a conservative family. What brought you to the movement?

Jenny Beth M.: Well, I have to say not a conservative family. My mother was a suburban Betty Friedan fan. I saw The Feminine Mystique lying on the coffee table when I was in seventh grade, and I thought, "I'll read this. Maybe I'll know [00:04:30] how to get boys to like me better." So, I was always this [inaudible 00:04:34], but no, I was an art director. There are three people in every magazine that read every single word: the editor in chief, the copy editor and the art director. For years, I was reading all this progressive intellectual stuff. Finally, I thought, "This stuff is crazy." I was 36 years old. I was living in New York. I was divorced, [00:05:00] and I thought, "These ideas are not helping me live a happier life." So, I began to rethink things.

Bill: One of our themes about what we believe is we think our ideas make people happy, they're moral, and they work. I think that's kind of what led us to where we are today where we think you are so fantastic. So, let's go back to when the Tea Party got started. What was the trigger?

Jenny Beth M.: I would say that the biggest trigger was [00:05:30] the TAP bill in 2008 before the election happened in 2008.

Bill: TAP is the bailout bill.

Jenny Beth M.: Yes, and Senator McCain put his presidential campaign on hold to go back to the senate and vote in favor of TAP. He voted the exact same way that then Senator Obama voted. People were looking at that going, "What's going to exactly be the difference in the two?" Where I lived, [00:06:00] in the area of Georgia where I lived, people actually started cutting of the McCain part of their bumper stickers and just putting palin on their car. Then you fast forward a few months and Barack Obama becomes President Obama. Then he and the Democrat controlled Congress passed the stimulus bill and people were going, "Wait, we've had bailouts and bailouts and now we've got a stimulus bill. It's just more and more government spending, and a bigger blow [00:06:30] to more bloated government."

Bill: And this would have been in the summer of 2009?

Jenny Beth M.: It was one of the very first things he did. So, it was in February of 2009. Rick Santelli on the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange had a rant on CNBC, and he was complaining about the stimulus bill. He said that our founding fathers will be turning over in their graves, and we should have a Tea Party just like they did. That kind of was the spark that went around the world, or the rant that went around the world. I heard the rant in my [00:07:00] car, and I said, "I have to do something about this." I was already active on Twitter and involved in a couple of online organizations including Smart Girl Politics and Top Conservatives on Twitter.

Jenny Beth M.: Through those groups, Michael Patrick Leahy organized a conference call through Twitter. We got on a conference call in freeconference.com. There were about 22, 23 of us. We said, "We're going to have a Tea Party." This was a day after his rant on a Friday night. [00:07:30] The following week, we had 48 Tea Parties around the country with 35,000 people in attendance total. That's one of the ones you went to.

Bill: Well done.

Sara Walton: Yeah. I went to one of the first ones. I saw the rant on TV. It was exhilarating. I decided I have to go. We lived close to where it was going to be in D.C. It was one of the most exciting days ever. When I heard you were going to be on the show, it just brought back all those memories. Bill told me that you've said a lot of people thought the first [00:08:00] one was just an amazing, amazing experience. So, you're a hero to me.

Jenny Beth M.: Well, thank you. It's odd when people say that I'm hero because I just think I'm just a mom. I'm just the person who responded to the call and I had the right skill set to be able to do that but it's important. Our country's future is so important.

Sara Walton: And a lot of people didn't have the right skill set. There were a lot of people, once it started, who were vying [00:08:30] to get to be the head of the Tea Party. You can see, you need to have the whole package.

Bill: Well, it okay it's interesting your background in systems management. I see that we've worked together and that really shows up in the way you organize your people. You got a very systematic way of doing it. Things happen. They happen on time, and you gather a very complex organization and get it marching more or less in one direction.

Jenny Beth M.: Yeah. I think that that really had a lot to do with it. The project [00:09:00] management training that I got really helped especially in those very first days. A lot of what we do now we know how to do it, but in the first days trying to figure out what we were doing and create a system was very challenging to say the least.

Bill: You're watching The Bill Walton Show, and I'm here with Jenny Beth Martin and Sara Walton. We're talking about the foundation, the beginnings of the Tea Party and what it meant to people to be there at the time when this great thing was happening. [00:09:30] What were the emotions that other people had?

Jenny Beth M.: Well, let me take a step back. In that rant that Rick Santelli had, he talked about how people would... He asked some people standing behind him, "Who here wants to pay for your neighbors home who has more bathrooms than you and can no longer afford their home?" The people behind him were going, "Boo-boo. No, no." Well, that was part of the reason why I felt like I had to do something and had to get involved. It was because at the time in [00:10:00] 2008, my then husband and I went through financial crisis and we lost... Personal financial crisis. He had to close his business. We wound up filing personal bankruptcy. We lost our house. We lost our cars. We lost everything. Instead of taking a bailout from the government to stay in a house we could no longer afford.

Bill: You were offered a federal loan.

Jenny Beth M.: We were and I'm pretty sure it was from TAP or from the earlier bailout a little bit earlier in 2008. It was a Fannie Mae, Freddie [00:10:30] Mac type of loan that would have brought us current in our mortgage and we would have paid a little bit each month. Who in their mind offers someone who just came out of bankruptcy a loan? Only the federal government would be crazy enough to do that. We just decided we couldn't afford it. We were opposed to those bills as they were going through Congress and we couldn't take that money. So, we didn't and instead, we were cleaning our neighbor's homes, cleaning their bathroom instead of them paying for bathrooms we could no longer afford.

Jenny Beth M.: [00:11:00] When did that and made that decision, it was deeply personal. It was not something that we thought we'd be sharing with the whole entire world,

but I think that that's part of what we were looking at as all these bailouts were going on. People saw their neighbors losing their homes and the government just getting bigger and bigger and deciding that some businesses were too big to fail while small businesses around the country were failing and struggling. There was something unjust [00:11:30] and not right about it and people were angry.

Bill: Not taking federal money, we did that. Our company didn't take federal money.

Jenny Beth M.: From the same programs.

Bill: And it was painful to not take that federal money.

Jenny Beth M.: It was.

Bill: Tea Party... Go ahead. Sorry.

Jenny Beth M.: That the government should decide from a far who deserves the money and who doesn't. How do they know?

Bill: Well, everybody deserved it.

Jenny Beth M.: Yeah.

Bill: But the Tea Party, people think it's name taxed enough already. It's about taxes. It's not just about taxes. It's about [00:12:00] much more than that.

Jenny Beth M.: Yeah. That rant that Santelli had was not about taxes. It was about the government spending too much and doing things it shouldn't have been doing. Of course, taxes, we don't want excessive taxes. We know that tax cuts will lead to economic growth, but we also were concerned about a government that was outside the bounds of the constitution.

Bill: Now, let's fast forward to today. What does the Tea Party look like now and who are your [00:12:30] allies in bringing about these things we want to bring about?

Jenny Beth M.: Well, we have over two million supporters. We have a million and a half fans on Facebook. We have 1.2 million mailing addresses and email lists that's over 600,000 and phone list that's over 400,000. So, we have a very large reach. Then we have local groups around the country. We meet with the local leaders from around the [00:13:00] country every Sunday night on a webinar or at least every Sunday night, the Congress is in session on a webinar. Then we coalesce with other groups within the conservative movement. Some of our best coalition partners are FreedomWorks, who does a lot of the same kind of things that we do.

Bill: And it's Adam Brandon.

Jenny Beth M.: Adam Brandon, Dave McIntosh at Club for Growth especially when our super pack is engaged, they do a lot of ads. We do a lot of grassroots [00:13:30] activity. So, we kind of work hand in glove together. Brent Bozell has been one of my biggest mentor and is-

Bill: In Media Research Center for America.

Jenny Beth M.: Yeah, Media Research Center. He's never looked at me as... We might be friendly competition in some ways although we do different things, but he's always there to answer questions and to help me out. He's never acted jealous in any way of anyone in the movement. I respect him so much.

Bill: Now, I think you also work with Penny Nance at Concerned Women.

Jenny Beth M.: Yes. [00:14:00] We've worked with her especially with the Gorsuch confirmation and the Kavanaugh confirmation. She's just this amazing woman who is leading other conservative women around the country and on college campuses.

Bill: Well, the thing that I admire so much is everybody is competing for donor dollars, and yet when it comes to issues, you all work together like there's nothing else that matters except that issue.

Jenny Beth M.: Exactly. Exactly, [00:14:30] right because we're all focused on the same angle. I kind of see it as we're all par of this big pie and each of us has a little, we take a little slice of it and we do our part and together we make a whole. If you miss one or two of those components, you're missing the whole pie.

Bill: Your mission statement is lovely. The Tea Party Patriots' mission is to equip Americans with resources and training [00:15:00] they need to be engaged citizens and effective activists. Our vision is for a nation where individual liberty is cherished and maximized, where the constitution is revered and upheld and where American are free to pursue the American dream. I don't know what's not to like about that.

Jenny Beth M.: I hope that it's something that people who don't understand what the Tea Party movement is about can understand that this is what we stand for.

Bill: Well, it just characterized as the Tea Party is all right crazy people. It brings [00:15:30] us back to the faces of the people in the Tea Party rallies.

Jenny Beth M.: Right. That's what I couldn't believe.

Bill: What did that crowd look like?

Jenny Beth M.: I couldn't believe the difference between what the crowd was and how it was portrayed in the media, the whole media, all of it. My recollection of it, it was a lot of middle class, middle aged white women, some men but heavily women, who were there because they were worried about their children's future.

Bill: The Tea Party movement is what, 60, 65% women?

Jenny Beth M.: [00:16:00] I think it is. I mean, most of the people are women who we interact with. There are men, of course, but really it's moms. It's moms. It really is moms who are worried about what's going to be there for their children.

Sara Walton: And the tones was not angry protest. The tone was being positive saying what can we do to keep everything on track, so our kids can have as good a life as we've had?

Bill: And our producer [inaudible 00:16:27], this was really the beginning of fake news because [00:16:30] when they would go to a rally, and you had all the people you just described, and you had one guy over in a commando outfit looking pretty scary. So, what's does everybody do with the cameras? They go over to this one guy and make him the face of the movement, and it was utterly not representative.

Jenny Beth M.: Yeah. That is exactly right. It just was a problem. Then on top of that, [00:17:00] at one point progressive groups were sending out emails suggesting that progressive should and infiltrate Tea Party events with bad signs to make us look bad, which was not smart on their part because while you can wind up with footage that might make your opposition look bad, there's also documentation that you are trying to do that. So, it calls into question any bad message. But we call people out if they've done the wrong, and they're standing in our event. [00:17:30] We're telling them to remove their sign. We did that from the very beginning. We've tried to stay on message. When there's a huge crowd, there's only so much you can do.

Bill: Well, it's a small thing, but it's a symbolic important in that if you go to one of the rallies, and we're here in the Washington area. After the rally is over, usually it requires massive amounts of sanitation workers to clean things up. After a Tea Party rally, it's clean as whistle. There's was nothing left.

Jenny Beth M.: [00:18:00] Cleaner than it was before. After all, they're women cleaning up.

Bill: They were tidying up.

Sara Walton: Tidying. Right.

Bill: What are the activities? You send out a weekly feature, the action item, to everybody, and you've got newsletters. You have training manuals, and you have ways to contact your congressmen. You help people design scripts. You

give phone numbers for all of the congressmen and senators so people can... A congressman's favorite thing getting a phone call from an activist, but it's necessary.

Jenny Beth M.: It is necessary. [00:18:30] In recent week, we've had people showing up at congressional offices. We filmed some of those to show people what happens and how some of the liberal Democrats don't actually want to even let their constituents in the office at all. We provide these resources and tools so people can go and talk to their own member of Congress. We're a grassroots lobbying group. That means you equip the grassroots and then they make the [00:19:00] phone calls to their own members of Congress. It's very rare that I'm going and advocating for our issues individually to members of Congress.

Bill: Well you're not top-down. You're bottom-up.

Jenny Beth M.: It's very strange, but we are.

Bill: And that can be difficult because very often the level of sophistication and insight and what's really going on isn't out there. But on the other hand, you know what people are really feeling and what they really care about and where we ought to have a consensus.

Jenny Beth M.: Right. We are bottom up. What that means [00:19:30] and practically speaking is that we will... On our webinars that I mentioned that we have every Sunday night with our local leaders, we make sure that we are telling them what's happening in Washington D.C. We give them a very thorough update about what's happening. Then when there's an issue that we think we need to take a stand on, we discuss the issue, answer questions, kind of debate it and then we'll vote whether we're going to support it or not as an organization. So, we give them the [00:20:00] information they need so they can make an informed decision.

Bill: You're watching The Bill Walton Show. I'm here with Jenny Beth Martin and Sara Walton, and we're talking about the Tea Party and how its organized and just all sort of good things that they're doing together. So, Jenny Beth, to what extent is the story of the Tea Party, the story of the Trump voter. I remember back when we were working together in 2016, we were really more of Cruz people than we were Trump people. We kind of got towards Trump [00:20:30] gradually.

Jenny Beth M.: Yes. It was gradual. Senator Ted Cruz had fought alongside of us from 2013 on from the moment really he became a senator. He is a strong advocate for constitutional principles. What happened though as the primary move through in 2016, Cruz did not win. It was I think that the Republican primary [00:21:00] voters across the country sent a very strong message in the primary when you looked and you saw that the final two people in the primary were Ted Cruz and Donald Trump. It was not an establishment person. It wasn't someone who had

been engaged in politics in Washington D.C. forever. It really, in some respects, was two outsiders or an outsider and a very new person in Washington politics.

Jenny Beth M.: What Donald Trump did [00:21:30] that I think appealed to people even when we still were supporting Ted Cruz is that he showed people he was willing to fight and to stand for their values. He was not afraid of it. He wasn't going to back down and he wasn't going to cower. As the primary went to the general election, before even the debates in the general election, we knew we were supporting him. We'd endorsed him and began working, but during those, I remember watching him in one debate with Hillary Clinton. [00:22:00] The abortion pro-life issue is not one of our issues that we focus on, but he had this moment in a debate where he gave the most impassioned stance about pro-life. He was more pro-life and he talked about it without any shame whatsoever in a way that I didn't even see George W. Bush do. He didn't back down from it.

Jenny Beth M.: I remember in that moment thinking, he's not going to go [00:22:30] from being a strong advocate for issues on the right and go to the middle to try to reach moderate voters. He's going to stay true to who he is and show there's a real contrast in the two candidates. He's done that throughout his entire presidency much to the dismay of the Washington establishment.

Bill: There was real fear he actually some sort of New York moderate.

Jenny Beth M.: Well, there was.

Sara Walton: The Washington establishment never supported the Tea Party in the beginning.

Jenny Beth M.: That's true.

Sara Walton: That's what was so shocking to me. [00:23:00] I thought, "How great for them?" Career politicians they have this army now working for them. Neither side really wanted them. It was amazing. It was amazing.

Jenny Beth M.: Right. Well, certainly Speaker Pelosi did not want us when she was speaker of the house. Then the Republicans gained control, and we saw that even when the Republicans gained control, Speaker Boehner wasn't real-

Bill: Neither Boehner nor Paul Ryan.

Sara Walton: They've had their thing fixed. They don't need your help. Thank you. They're elected.

Jenny Beth M.: [00:23:30] Right, and they know how to do it. To their credit, they definitely are politicians who are able to become the speaker of the House. You have to be very politically savvy to be able to do that, and they just didn't understand the tone.

Bill: That's the thing that's easy to overlook. You get elected senator, and you have to raise all this money, and you got to go through an incredible ordeal to get elected usually. You've got to make all sorts of personal sacrifices. [00:24:00] You get elected on what you told people more or less you're going to do. Then you're in office. Then we come in and explain, "No, you got it all wrong. You got it all wrong."

Sara Walton: Right, do it our way.

Bill: You got to stand on this principle and very often they're saying, "Well if I stand on that principle, I'm not going to get reelected." That's sort of the dynamic between the activist and the politician.

Jenny Beth M.: Well, from the moment that they become elected as incoming freshman, they wind [00:24:30] up going through orientation and training, and they're brought to D.C. very, very quickly. They get staff. The staff is usually people who have been in Washington for a long time. Those people start whispering in their ears about the way they need to do things.

Bill: Well, and people talk about term limits, we need term limits for the staff.

Sara Walton: Oh yeah.

Jenny Beth M.: I think that that's one thing that Trump presidency has shown us is that we need term limits for bureaucracy, for the congressional staff and for the people who work [00:25:00] within the executive branches.

Bill: Well, I asked [McGovney 00:25:03] about the changes they were making in the regulatory state, and they are doing some good things with the orders and changing some of that, but he said, "This is unbelievable hard to do because we don't have any ability to fire anybody." The civil service laws are such that they're protected, and they can do anything they want pretty much. They can resist you and they're going to wait till you go back to New York.

Jenny Beth M.: Right. The [00:25:30] amazing thing about what you just said civil service, they're supposed to be public servants but they're not. They're employees. They're government employees. They have the attitude of being an employee who knows more than anyone else about whatever it is that they're doing. They don't have the attitude of we're here to serve the public.

Bill: When we had first started out, and I was right there with you on this that congress was the problem, the elected officials were the problem. I was involved in something called the [00:26:00] 2010 commitment to America. It was a really stirring list of 10 things we wanted congresses to do that once elected they would do, something very unusual like have the same healthcare we do. Well, that didn't happen.

Jenny Beth M.: No, not at all.

Bill: 10 years later, none of that has happened, but increasingly thinking the problem is not necessarily just the elected people because there's no budget. They're not passing bills. Nothing has happened. I think it's in the administrative state [00:26:30] the bureaucracy. Has the Tea Party shifted its guns towards the permanent ruling class or is it still focused on congress?

Jenny Beth M.: I think that the Tea Party realizes that there is a very real issue on the permanent ruling class. We have been exposed to that over the years but it's been highlighted so much in the Trump presidency, but the fact is we were [00:27:00] exposed to it because the IRS targeted Tea Party groups. Groups with Tea Party and patriots in their name were held up when they were applying for tax exempt status for their 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4)s.

Bill: Oh yes, lowest earner, who can forget?

Jenny Beth M.: Lowest earner. That was for us, a lot of people in the Tea Party movement the beginnings of realizing there's a real problem with people who work for the-

Bill: It confirmed what we believe-

Jenny Beth M.: It didn't.

Bill: ... but couldn't prove.

Jenny Beth M.: And she went to Congress and gave an [00:27:30] opening statement. So, she opened herself up to testimony and then she said, "I'm taking the fifth," and-

Sara Walton: And that with just fine with everybody. Not everybody, but everybody in Congress.

Jenny Beth M.: They allowed that to happen. The Democrats, they were calling for lowest earner to get back in there and testify. Then they were so shocked that President Trump is exercising his executive privilege, authority and they're shocked by that. I just sit there and think President Obama did not even exercise [00:28:00] executive privilege authority over lowest earner and you guys rattle off. Hypocrisy is startling.

Bill: Where is the IRS now? Have they gotten out of the business of-

Jenny Beth M.: I never quite know with the IRS, so you always worry about the IRS, but we were involved in a class action suit.

Bill: We all worry about the IRS.

Jenny Beth M.: Right. Everyone does. We were involved in a class action suit [00:28:30] with them. The NorCal Tea Party group launched. They eventually settled while Attorney General Jeff Sessions was the attorney general. Each group got a very small amount of money from the settlement. None of us really wanted money from the government. We weren't in it to get money from the government.

Bill: You didn't want the government to take sides.

Jenny Beth M.: Right. We just wanted... What we got, the biggest thing that we got out of the settlement [00:29:00] is that they admitted they did something wrong, and they had to pay for it. That was the biggest thing.

Sara Walton: And they're changing the rules for you.

Jenny Beth M.: Yeah, they did. They changed the rules for us. They didn't write the rules down. It's hard to obey the rules when they're not written down and they change from group to group or person to person.

Bill: Has that stabilized? Has the new administrator done anything about that or just kind of there?

Jenny Beth M.: It just sort of settled, [00:29:30] and we did get our status approved, but it's just one of those things where it will never go away. It's always in the back of your mind.

Bill: But there's the fear that if there's a change in administration that whole monster is going to come back to haunt us?

Jenny Beth M.: Yes, that is there. I think that the bigger thing is that then we've watched everything that's happened with President Trump as president and what's happened with bureaucrats towards him and his administration. [00:30:00] Too many of us in the Tea Party we just go, "We're not surprised by this. If the IRS got away with it, then of course these other people are going to get away with it."

Bill: One of the things that you have that most of us in Washington circuit don't have is you're talking directly with America every day. Thousands of people. We're hearing it's October 2019 and we're going through a Trump impeachment, which I want to get to. How are people feeling? [00:30:30] I ask you whether the Tea Party people become the Trump people. I think they have. How are people feeling?

Jenny Beth M.: I think that they feel very betrayed by the radical leftist in power. They watch what's happened with President Trump, with people who the abused the FISA from before he even became president. [00:31:00] It has continued. The Mueller report came back and showed that he was not actually colluding with Russia. So, that whole entire narrative for two years fell apart. Now we're

dealing with a phone call where he released is a whole transcript of the phone call. We know it happened and they've got this whole charade behind closed doors. They're changing the rules-

Sara Walton: The idea-

Jenny Beth M.: ... for impeachment. They're not written down very much like the IRS.

Sara Walton: The idea they're going to have an impeachment [00:31:30] behind closed doors is so shocking in America. How can they get away with that?

Bill: I forgot. I wanted you to tell this story about AEI, and you're explaining too. We've kind of jumped ahead of it, but you have a very good story about-

Sara Walton: Right after the Tea Party, Bill was a trustee of the American Enterprise Institute. We were up at this amazing place, Camp Topridge, which was Marjorie Merriweather Post old camp in the Adirondack, which in itself was amazing. [00:32:00] The trustees were doing something and the wives had another meeting. So, I was with [Lynn Janie 00:32:07] and James Q. Wilson's wife, the great intellectual scholar. I think her name was Jane. They thought the Tea Party people were all wingnuts. I explained to them, "No, I was just there at the Tea Party. It was amazing." They were stunned. Then Mrs. Wilson got her husband and he had his ear. This [00:32:30] is the top intellectual in America and I'm telling him. He was so fascinated because he thought the Tea Party were crazy people because that's what you'd get from the media.

Jenny Beth M.: From the mainstream news.

Sara Walton: Yeah.

Jenny Beth M.: And that's what mainstream media now is doing to President Trump. They're trying to paint him as a wingnut crazy person. We just sit there watching it and going yeah, it's SOP. It's standard operating procedure. The [00:33:00] things that are happening to him so much of it happened to us that it makes us want to defend him because we wanted people do defend us when these things were happening to us. At least, he's not backing down. He's trying to defend himself.

Sara Walton: We had a friend, an acquaintance come out and stay with us in the country. He heard that Bill had worked on the transition. He never saw Trump but-

Bill: The Trump transition.

Sara Walton: Trump transition. He said, "Are you racist?" [00:33:30] Here in my house. We have 62 million races, white supremacists.

Bill: 63.

Sara Walton: 63, but it was incredible.

Jenny Beth M.: I was on a plane with somebody and this man he found out what I did. I don't normally get into that on airplanes because of this very experience, but I told him and he started yelling. He actually raised his voice. He told me I was racist, homophobic, and that he had talked to a psychologist about women like [00:34:00] me and she told him that I was a woman who hated women. I'm like, "You don't even know me." In fact, I just said, "You are the most prejudicial sexist person that I have come into contact with in the past year." He said, "What?" I said, "You're prejudging me. You've never met before today. You have all of these preconceived notions about me. That's prejudice. You're talking about me because I am a woman. You're talking about me judging me simply because I'm a woman. That's sexist."

Jenny Beth M.: [00:34:30] He sat back and he just said, "I think you might be right." "Yeah, I am. I am. Why don't you even look us up and see what we exactly do? Read our mission statement on our website." He wound up sending an email to me later, which I did not respond to, but he did send an email and he said, "I read your website and you're right. I didn't know what you do." But it's the same kind of attitude.

Bill: So, you're watching [00:35:00] The Bill Walton Show. I'm here with Jenny Beth Martin and Sara Walton. We're learning about the passion of Jenny Beth Martin and the advocacy for the truth and how fantastic you are.

Sara Walton: And fairness.

Jenny Beth M.: Thank you.

Bill: And fairness.

Sara Walton: The basic thing about the Tea Party is fairness for all.

Bill: Yeah.

Jenny Beth M.: Right.

Bill: The core principle is personal freedom, economic freedom. We don't want 23 trillion dollars of debt. I mean, these are pretty mom and apple pie things, but I guess mom and apple pie are under attack.

Jenny Beth M.: It is, and we still have a problem with [00:35:30] the debt. I don't think you can attack the debt until you attack the fact that we're not living within... The government is just too big. It is out of control. It is so large and until you bring those government programs back closer to being in line with the constitution,

and you reduce that regulatory state, if you cannot do that, you're not going to be able to reduce the debt because the spending is there to crop up those-

Bill: And we're not going to grow our way out of it.

Jenny Beth M.: ... problems.

Sara Walton: And [00:36:00] it's the only business where no none can be fired or ever be let go. So, it's just-

Bill: And no program ever disappears.

Jenny Beth M.: No, and we do have to grow, but the economy is growing. There are more revenues coming in today than before and before the tax cut. So, we have a tax cut. The economy is growing. There are more revenues coming to the government, but we're still spending too much because we haven't cut spending.

Bill: It's the spending.

Jenny Beth M.: It is the spending.

Bill: But the spending [00:36:30] is mostly entitlement spending, and it's very hard to get into that wicket, that thicket.

Jenny Beth M.: And if we don't get into it and people don't acknowledge that we've got a problem with it, then it will be a midnight deal right before we go completely bankrupt. That's when very bad deals happen, and that's what happened in the next eight to 10 years.

Bill: I have a hope. You can't touch it as a politician if you want to be reelected. But when Trump wins, he can actually do something about entitlements.

Jenny Beth M.: [00:37:00] He could, and I would love for him to make a campaign promise that in his second term he will address the deficit because he likes to keep his promises.

Sara Walton: He does keep the promises.

Jenny Beth M.: I want him to-

Bill: If you can get him to do that.

Jenny Beth M.: Yeah, that's something that I want him to do.

Sara Walton: That would be interesting.

Jenny Beth M.: Because-

Sara Walton: That would be fun.

Jenny Beth M.: ... you're right, you can't do it if you're up for reelection. It's something that has to happen really once your past worrying about being reelected.

Sara Walton: Well, that's [00:37:30] what I think the impeachment is about. They're really afraid he's going to win. So, let's just get him out of there before these crazy 63 million people vote for him.

Bill: And I want to get into impeachment as our sort of final big topic, but before we do that, we talked about racism. Let's talk about immigration and how this is not about race. This is about something else altogether.

Jenny Beth M.: Yeah. Honestly, it really just goes right back to this whole concept of the rule of law in our country. We have [00:38:00] laws where we have borders and for so long, the border laws were not enforced. We wound up with people who were coming to this country illegally, and they were actually being given special privileges because they were here illegally, which isn't fair or right to the people who went through the legal process. They were getting to break in line in front of people who went through the legal process and had [00:38:30] to spend thousands of dollars on attorneys and wait years before they could move through the process. So, we just think that we have to get our border security under control. President Trump has been working on that. We've got judges who have made that very, very difficult to do, but he's working on it.

Bill: So, what would your dream immigration reform look like? What are the elements?

Jenny Beth M.: [00:39:00] First, it's securing the border. First and foremost, it is securing the border. That would be a wall along the southern boarder where a wall is needed. There are some areas where you don't actually have to have a wall. You can have electronic surveillance because the topography and geography of the land is land that you cannot survive on. You can't walk through it because there's no water. You can't drive through it.

Bill: Well, you've done there.

Jenny Beth M.: I've been down there.

Bill: How many times have you been to the [00:39:30] border?

Jenny Beth M.: Gosh, I don't even know. Probably over 12 times at this point since 2014.

Bill: So, what's that like?

Jenny Beth M.: The first that I went down, I realized that in some parts of it, it almost seems like you're... it's images that you see almost of a war zone in other countries. Then other parts that just looks like a very busy area. So, it sort of just depends, but the drug cartels [00:40:00] they've manipulated our border patrols. So, they'll have a surge of people coming in in one area and border patrol has to deal with that. And because they're dealing with that, the cartels can run drugs through another area.

Bill: Ken Cuccinelli was talking about the cartels have got spotters sitting on mountain tops guiding people to this opening or that opening.

Jenny Beth M.: Right, and even on top of buildings in Mexico and some places. It just sort of depends on what [00:40:30] it's like in the area of the border. When I first went down and we've talked to sheriffs, we've talked to border patrol, we've talked to ICE officers, I've learned so much. The very first time that I went down, some of the things that I learned I realized we couldn't even come back and talk about to our fellow Americans because we would seem crazy. And yet because President Trump has made-

Bill: For example.

Jenny Beth M.: Well, the human trafficking and the sex trafficking. Americans [00:41:00] don't want to know that because we have not enforced our border the way that we're supposed to, it's created lawlessness. So, these people who run cartels they found ways to smuggles humans through or to get money for sending the people through or in some cases, there's sex trafficking going on. We think we live in a free society, so we don't want to think that that [00:41:30] is actually happening in America today.

Jenny Beth M.: One of the things that I respect so much about Donald Trump as candidate and President Trump as president is that he made this the number issue from the moment he walked down that escalator. When he came down, he talked about he wanted to secure the border. Because he's done that, we've been able to shine light and to see that there really are very real problems going on on our border.

Bill: So, step one, the borders.

Jenny Beth M.: [00:42:00] Secure the border.

Bill: Step two.

Jenny Beth M.: Step two would be to change the immigration process for allowing people to come into the country legally. I like some of the things that I've heard from the administration. The president had a speech in the Rose Garden. Part of what he said is he wants to reward people based on merit and not just have chain

migration. So, you can come. You have the ability to come to this country if you are smart and able to work [00:42:30] and are able to learn the language.

Bill: So, he's thinking of things like education, financial situation, job skills, kind of people who will be pretty good Americans.

Jenny Beth M.: Right, exactly and people who want to become Americans, to be part of our culture and our society. I think that's very important.

Bill: The point needs to be made that the conservative, we're not against immigration.

Jenny Beth M.: No.

Bill: It's not like we're shutting the country down, and we're just going to keep it to ourselves. It's we're for legal immigration.

Jenny Beth M.: Yes, exactly.

Bill: [00:43:00] Yes.

Sara Walton: We live in the most beautiful country. There are only 7,000 people. There's gorgeous scenery, and they've been here, and they come here. The people who were here when they were building the national parks were thrown out of their houses, they were settled in the valley. The government went back and burned down their houses so they couldn't return. Those people say, "What about me?" I don't have good education here. I don't have good healthcare. [00:43:30] They all can go to a doctor and get disability and never work again, but people don't want to do that. They're wondering why am I worrying about housing people at the border and healthcare for these people when my family has been here for 200 years and we've been treated badly?

Jenny Beth M.: Yeah, it's a real problem when you've got people who are coming here illegally and lying to try to get asylum status. I'm not saying [00:44:00] every single person is lying, but there are people who are. Then you look at there are Americans who are here going, "Wait, I'm a citizen. I've been paying taxes."

Sara Walton: What about me?

Jenny Beth M.: "What about me?"

Bill: Yeah. There are certainly two separate standards.

Jenny Beth M.: There are. At some point, as a country, we'll have to figure out what are we going to do with the people who are already in the country who have entered illegally.

Bill: So, that's step three?

Jenny Beth M.: I think it's step three. I think that you're not going to be able to deal [00:44:30] with that problem until you prove that you can secure the border and enforce the current laws because there's no trust between the citizens and the elected officials.

Sara Walton: And it's simple to know you can't let everybody in the world in and give them good healthcare. You don't have to be very bright to figure. How do you do that? How do you even build enough hospitals?

Bill: You're watching The Bill Walton Show. I'm here with Jenny Beth Martin and Sara Walton and we're talking about sensible immigration reform. [00:45:00] Jenny Beth, what would... Step three. Borders with step one. Step two get things set about who we want to bring. Three, we have an illegal population here.

Jenny Beth M.: I think at that point, we will have to have a conversation as a country. I don't know what the exact answer is for that. I am very much against granting amnesty to people who entered the country illegally, yet there are people in America [00:45:30] who think amnesty is okay. So, I think that we're not a point where we can solve that problem because we can't even secure the border. That has to be done first. After that happens, as a country, we're going to have to make that decision. If the very first action that you took upon entering our country was one that was breaking our laws, I don't think that should be rewarded or just you get [00:46:00] a free pass for breaking that law.

Sara Walton: What about the other laws then?

Jenny Beth M.: Well yeah, and if you do that, then why don't I get a pass when I speed? Should I be given a speeding ticket? I mean, at some point, that's what happens in a lawless-

Bill: Well, you talk about constitutional limited government. We're all subject to same laws and should obey. That's the deal.

Jenny Beth M.: Right, and these people are leaving lawless societies, and they want to come here for a better future. But if we become lawless, then we're no better. [00:46:30] Our country will be no better than what they try to escape. Then we can't be the beacon for the world for freedom.

Bill: Sara, you pointed out that if we're going to have universal healthcare for all, and we have no borders, this is not sustainable.

Jenny Beth M.: Right, and at what point does it sit in if there are no borders then?

Bill: It doesn't end well.

Jenny Beth M.: Are we supposed to be responsible for the entire [00:47:00] world?

Sara Walton: And who's going to want to be a doctor?

Bill: Well, there's that. Your bottoms-up. How are people feeling about that that you talk to the people? You're very sensible, pragmatic. You understand how the policy works in Washington. How are people feeling about immigration?

Jenny Beth M.: Well, I think that what they are feeling is well two different things. The grassroots people are involved and understand there's an issue with the border. They're [00:47:30] very frustrated that the courts keep issuing these injunctions. A court in Hawaii or San Francisco can issue an injunction and basically nullify a law for the whole entire country. Then you have to wait until it goes before the Supreme Court for a final decision to come in. So, there's a lot of frustration with that.

Jenny Beth M.: There are some people who are looking at the propaganda from the media, the fake news, and they're going, "Look at what's happening to these children?" [00:48:00] They're not paying attention to the fact that these are people coming into our country. They're not trying to escape. They could walk right out the door and leave and go back to their countries. It's not like we're holding them there forever, which is what AOC and amnesty-

Bill: We're not East Berlin.

Jenny Beth M.: We're not East Berlin. They can leave if they want to. It's a matter a processing them. If you walk through an airport, if I were talking to say another suburban mom and they were complaining about that, I'd say, "Have you been in a cruise because so [00:48:30] many people will go on," especially in Atlanta, a lot of people go on cruises at some point with their kids, "have you been on a cruise? Did you have to have a passport? Did your kids have to have a passport? When you came back in, did you have to go through customs? Why should people coming in through the southern border be any different than the people coming in through airports and docks? Why is it any different?"

Bill: So, the unfairness issue. We're playing by the rules, and they're not.

Jenny Beth M.: Yes.

Bill: They're [00:49:00] giving special preference.

Jenny Beth M.: And then the other thing I would point out is is there a drug problem in your area? Is there a drug problem in your children's high school, which the answer is almost always yes.

Bill: Well, that gets into sanctuary cities.

Jenny Beth M.: It does.

Bill: And the problems in Montgomery County, Maryland. I mean, it's egregious. They won't cooperate with, what is it, IS, ISIS or?

Jenny Beth M.: With ICE.

Bill: ICE.

Jenny Beth M.: ICE. Not ISIS, but ICE.

Bill: There's no so many acronyms in this world of policy. Okay. [00:49:30] So ICE.

Jenny Beth M.: Yeah. They won't cooperate. They won't report people who need to be-

Bill: They are cooperating with ISIS.

Jenny Beth M.: Right. They won't report people who need to be deported and then you wind up with people who... They're not deporting people who actually are... Some of them they're not reporting and they're violent criminals who are going back and later, I believe in Oklahoma in recent weeks, the local law reinforcement did not report someone who needed to be deported. The man went back [00:50:00] to a person who he was accused of raping. He immediately went back to her house and was harming her. This is not kind. It's why laws, the rule of law matters. This works really well going into a discussion about impeachment because-

Bill: Let's go to impeachment.

Jenny Beth M.: The rule of law matters. What we're seeing right now with the Democrats, [00:50:30] they don't respect the fact that President Trump won the election. They don't respect the electoral college, and they've said from pretty much the moment that they realized he was going to become president that they were going to resist him at all cost. Hillary Clinton could not admit that she was defeated on election night. Within a week of him being elected, there are protests against his election. Within a week of him being elected, there are were people who were already calling for his impeachment. [00:51:00] So, they thought they were going to be able to do something with Russia collusion. They could not. They thought they would be able to do something when Mueller testified. They could not because the testimony was just awful.

Bill: Well, here's a headline from January 2017 Washington Post, "The campaign to impeach President Trump has begun." Inauguration day.

Jenny Beth M.: Right. I was going to say I think that is on January 20th.

Bill: Yeah.

Jenny Beth M.: Yes, inauguration day. The moment he is being sworn in, [00:51:30] even before that, they were resisting him and [inaudible 00:51:34] was involved.

Bill: So, this is what the old Soviet stasis did where they said, maybe that's east German, "You find the man, I'll find the crime." So, we've got the man identified, Trump, and they're going to find the crime.

Jenny Beth M.: Right.

Bill: So, you filed a complaint with the Congressional Ethics office about Schiff.

Jenny Beth M.: Yes.

Sara Walton: Oh, good for you.

Jenny Beth M.: What we are seeing from congressman Adam Schiff is just [00:52:00] wrong. We decided we had to take a stand. At the very least, we are documenting that there are American citizens who think what he had done is wrong. You've got congressman Andy Biggs who has called for a censure. The reason for it are there are three different reasons. One is that he lied about he and his staff having been in contact with the whistleblower. They actually were in contact before the whistleblower [00:52:30] began filling whistleblower complaints. It appears that they guided the whistleblower. It wasn't something that they just heard about from the whistleblower complaint being filed. They helped to make that happen.

Bill: He's been engineering this from the get go.

Jenny Beth M.: He's been engineering, or his staff has been engineering it and he's-

Bill: It's a little bit like the carbon ordeal.

Sara Walton: Is he from Hollywood? Isn't he the representative from Hollywood?

Jenny Beth M.: Yes. Yes.

Bill: He represents Hollywood. He represents the movie industry.

Jenny Beth M.: [00:53:00] Then you have the... I'm missing one of the three things. It's okay.

Bill: I've got it right here. I can tell you what you took. Let's see. He also saw damaging information from Ukraine.

Jenny Beth M.: Yes.

Bill: So, he has been dealing with the Ukrainians.

Jenny Beth M.: Right, he has but he lied [00:53:30] in his testimony in the opening statement. Remember that Pelosi kept out.

Bill: Oh, he made it up at a whole floor.

Jenny Beth M.: She says this is very serious. It's a sad time. This is serious. This Congress can be when you're dealing with impeachment. So, he has an opening statement before his committee, and he lies about what the president said on the phone call with the Ukrainian president.

Bill: And that we're supposed to believe what he tells us that's a parity.

Jenny Beth M.: Yes, later, a few minutes later after-

Bill: Very often people do parities in the hall of Congress.

Jenny Beth M.: ... he was called out, he says it was a parity.

Bill: Yeah.

Jenny Beth M.: Now, it's either [00:54:00] sad and it's serious as Congress can be or he is lying. He can't be that and then you have a person who is the head of the committee who is doing the investigating who is lying and then saying it's a parity. A parity isn't sad. A parity isn't serious and lying is serious, but it's not taking the process seriously. He's abusing his power.

Bill: 51% according to Gallup Poll say they favor impeachment. Do you believe polls?

Jenny Beth M.: I [00:54:30] think that polls sometimes they show trends. I don't know right now many people who would hear a poll and would actually be very truthful considering the fact that-

Bill: I don't think-

Sara Walton: who would answer a poll? I wouldn't.

Jenny Beth M.: Look at what happened to you when you said when you were part of a Tea Party person. I was yelled at by a stranger in a plane. If someone called my house or online, I would be a little concerned. So, I don't know that they're completely accurate.

Sara Walton: [00:55:00] Well, teenage boys were a megahertz and look what happened to him. Who's going to answer?

Jenny Beth M.: Exactly.

Bill: Does this backfire though? I mean, you've got an entirely secret process ran only by Democrats. Nobody gets to see any of the material that they're looking at, and nobody gets to see the testimony. Nobody gets to see. Then they're going to come up with this thing. Does this hurt them in 2020?

Jenny Beth M.: It hurts them in 2020 and it hurts our country going forward in the future. The constitution says that the House [00:55:30] of Representative shall have the sole authority for impeachment. It does not say that the speaker of the house shall have the sole authority for impeachment. It also doesn't say that the rules of the house can override the constitution. That is what they're trying to say right now, "Oh, we can set our own rules so it doesn't matter."

Jenny Beth M.: In every impeachment that we've had before this, there's been a vote on the floor of the house to begin the proceeding. I think that Speaker Pelosi hasn't had a vote for one of two reasons. [00:56:00] I'll say it very quickly. It's either she doesn't have the votes or she doesn't want it to be on record how purely partisan this effort is. She knows that there are some members of Congress how if they voted for impeachment, they're in districts that President Trump carried and they likely would not be reelected.

Bill: Well, the third reason, I think the other two are true, but is that she's lost control of [00:56:30] her party, her caucus and she's got to play to the AOC wing. So, she announces before she knew anything, and now she's out there with no real effective lines of action. The only way to get it done was just to do it the way she's doing it.

Jenny Beth M.: Well and to try to change public opinion.

Bill: Yeah.

Jenny Beth M.: But we're in a very dangerous situation right now because very well the way that they're going right now, members of Congress may not even see the evidence, and then have a vote on the [00:57:00] floor of the House without even seeing the evidence. It's wrong to happen to President Trump, but it's even more wrong for it to happen to any president and it cannot the president going forward.

Sara Walton: Or anybody accused of any crime in America.

Jenny Beth M.: Right.

Sara Walton: We're not going to have secret tribunals.

Jenny Beth M.: And if you're actually a criminal who is under investigation, there are rules that the people who are investigating have to follow. We don't even know what the rules are right now. It's [00:57:30] like what happened with the IRS. It's not

written down. They're just winging it to make it work to whatever advantage the people who are investigating want it to work towards.

Bill: Okay. I have an idea. We're out of time, but we're going to leave the chapter hanging here. Well, we don't know what's going to happen next. Why don't you come back sometime in the next whatever when we get a little more clarity about this, and we'll continue the conversation?

Sara Walton: And just for your Tea Party, people who are interested in the Tea Party, from a distance, it's about fairness [00:58:00] and same rules for everyone. Same laws for everyone. That's the basis of it.

Bill: I knew I married a radical. Well anyway, that's it for now. Thanks for joining us on The Bill Walton Show. We'll see you on our next episode, and we're looking forward to having Jenny Beth Martin back in the future as well.

Jenny Beth M.: Thank you. I'd love that.

Speaker 1: Thanks for listening. Want more? Be sure to subscribe at [thebillwaltonshow.com](http://thebillwaltonshow.com) or on iTunes.