

1st Judicial District

(Jefferson and Gilpin Counties)

District Attorney Candidate

2020 Voter Guide

Mark Your Calendars!

- ❖ **Early Voting: Jun 22, 2020 - Jun 29, 2020**
- ❖ **Request for Postal Ballot by Mon Jun 22, 2020**
- ❖ **In-Person Absentee Voting: Not available**
- ❖ **Tues June. 30th: Primary Election Day (Polls open 7am- 7pm)**
- ❖ **To register to vote on-line go to:**
www.sos.state.co.us
Click on *Elections & Voting*

And then

Click on *Voters*

On Election Day, you can register and vote on the same day at a Voter Service and Polling Center.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT



Be Sure To Vote



The District Attorney (DA) is one of the most powerful players in the criminal justice system and very politically influential! In Colorado, the District Attorney has a lot of decision-making authority and responsibility. They are also elected officials but oftentimes too little information is known about DA candidates or decisions s/he makes once elected.

In 2016, CCJRC launched its “**KNOW YOUR DISTRICT ATTORNEY (DA)**” campaign to help voters be more educated about DA candidates, promote more community engagement, and to improve transparency, accountability and relationship with elected District Attorneys. Go to www.ccjrc.org to learn more and get involved.

DID YOU KNOW

DA’s have decision-making power to determine:

- Whether or not to file criminal charges
- Plea-bargaining
- Whether or not a diversion program is implemented
- Services, compensation and funding for victims of crime

DA’s have power and influence beyond the courtroom!

- Public policy at the state and local level
- State and local budgets
- Public opinion on safety, equity, and justice issues
- Influence other government and elected officials

The power of the state to punish for crimes is profound, and the prosecutor directs this awesome power. How might ‘We the People’ control the choices of such a pivotal public servant?

Ronald F. Wright –Professor at Wake Forest University

In 2020, there are three candidates running for District Attorney in the 1st Judicial District (JD1): Matthew Durkin, a current Deputy District Attorney in JD1 is the only Republican candidate running and therefore does not have a challenger in the primary election. He will run against the winner of the Democratic primary which has two candidates, Mr. Jake Lilly, a Sex Assault Prosecutor in the 5th Judicial District and Ms. Alexis King, a former Deputy District Attorney in JD 1. The **Primary Election** will be held on **June 30, 2020**.

The winner of the November general election will replace the current elected DA, Pete Weir, who is term limited.

CCJRC submitted a written candidate questionnaire to all three candidates. Mr. Matthew Durkin did not respond to our request for participation. This Voter Guide includes submitted responses which are reprinted verbatim, in their entirety, and candidate profiles. They are presented in alphabetical order by the candidate’s last name. We greatly thank the candidates for their participation.

Ms. Alexis King (D) page 3
Mr. Jake Lilly (D) page 10

CCJRC publishes this District Attorney Voter Guide for educational purposes only. The Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition is a nonpartisan 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. All voter engagement, voter education, get-out-the-vote and voter protection activities will be conducted in a nonpartisan manner in compliance with IRS rules and regulations and will not constitute prohibited political activity. CCJRC will not express support or opposition for any particular candidate or party and will not target potential voters by appealing to issues that divide the candidates.



Alexis King-*She, Her, Hers* (D)

The following biographical information was provided by Ms. King for additional information, you can go to <https://www.alexisforda.com/>

Alexis served for over a decade as a Jefferson and Gilpin County Deputy District Attorney. She's handled thousands of cases, including complex felony cases from homicide to sex assault to drug distribution, advocating for crime victims right here in this community. Alexis has made the tough decisions that prosecutors make many times over, prioritizing violent crime while embracing policies that safely divert people who can be best served in the community.

Alexis led the District Attorney's Juvenile and Human Trafficking Units and was appointed by Governor John Hickenlooper to the Colorado Human Trafficking Council in 2016. Throughout her prosecutorial career she taught constitutional and criminal law to community members, professionals and police cadets including the academy at Red Rocks Community College. She served as a magistrate and led bond reform efforts through evidence based practices.

Prosecutors should promote alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders while protecting our most vulnerable community members through an aggressive pursuit of justice based on fairness and transparent practices. Alexis established diversion programs and promoted treatment options that are effective, community-oriented, and forward-thinking with community partners, Jeffco Public Schools, Human Services, and law enforcement, to keep kids out of the system. Alexis' collaborative leadership style will enable her to improve outcomes and safety across a wide range of issues - from day one.

A Colorado native, her parents instilled in her a belief in community service, promoting public lands, and actively supporting public media, values which led Alexis to devote her career to serving others. She began her professional life working on behalf of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault at T.E.S.S.A. and currently serves as a Title IX attorney at Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center where she lifts the voices of crime victims and those faced with gender based violence at school.

She calls Jefferson county home, along with her husband, David, her children, and a Foothills Animal Shelter rescue dog named Kayla. Alexis enjoys yoga, chasing her kids on bike rides, and savoring freshly prepared Thai food made by her husband.

Alexis King

Name of DA Candidate: Alexis King (D)

Judicial District Number: 1st Judicial District (Jefferson, Gilpin Counties)

1. Why are you running for District Attorney including what qualifications do you bring to this elected position, and what will be the priorities of your administration, including any areas of improvement and measures of success?

When I was eight years old I asked my parents to adopt my best friend because I knew she didn't feel safe in her home. I have carried that experience throughout my life. After college, I came home to Colorado and worked at a domestic violence and sexual assault non-profit which revealed that DAs were often the key decision makers for survivors' safety. My commitment to working on behalf of vulnerable people is what led me to become a Deputy District Attorney in Jefferson and Gilpin Counties. After ten years as a Deputy DA, I became a magistrate judge in Denver, focused on bail bond reform, and left the bench to run for District Attorney. I am currently a Title IX attorney at RMvlc where I advocate for children in K-12 facing discrimination on the basis of sex.

As a Deputy DA, I led the daily operations of our Juvenile unit for four years, mentoring attorneys, managing staff, reviewing staff performance, developing prosecution alternatives, working with stakeholders, creating a forum for statewide cross-training, advancing legislation and responding to emergent situations while trying cases and leading the juvenile mental health court.

I then led the human trafficking prosecution team of law enforcement, Human Services, and non-profits. I represented the all of Colorado's DAs, by gubernatorial appointment, on Colorado's Human Trafficking Council to advance our response to trafficking through strategic planning. I testified on legislative issues and trained law enforcement and community organizations.

As a member of the Colorado Bar Association's Executive Council, I monitor the implementation of a five-year strategic plan, review the efficacy of our programming, bylaws and memoranda of understanding, and oversee a \$10 million budget.

Priorities:

1) Transparency. We will collect, analyze and utilize data regarding prosecutions and plea bargains to advance evidence-based practices and increase accountability. Transparency also includes a commitment to a Conviction Integrity Unit that considers both innocence and equity, and emphasizes giving past offenders the opportunity to meaningfully move on with their lives when they pose no threat to public safety.

2) A shift in perspective. We will recruit underrepresented identities and lived experiences through relationships within the bar. We will train on implicit bias, structural, economic oppression, and immigration consequences. Prosecutors will focus on outcomes for the survivor and the person accused.

3) Alternatives to Incarcerations: Having implemented bail bond reform in Denver, it is clear we do not use evidence based practices here. We need to only hold people in our jail who cannot be safely supervised in the community. For those who do not belong in our jails, we need to release them and have prosecution alternatives similar to those I have already helped develop for this community: focused on restorative justice, education, and stabilization. I am already working with stakeholders to develop alternatives for those dealing with mental illness and addiction who do not belong in our jails or justice system.

Alexis King

4) Vigorously and ethically prosecute dangerous people prey on our most vulnerable.

2. How would you describe your idea of justice, the purposes of sentencing, and whether you believe our current system is meeting those purposes in the Judicial District you would like to serve as the elected District Attorney?

Justice and sentencing, at their essence, should address the harm caused and minimize the chance it will happen again. Historically, prosecutors have said that their goal was to seek justice but sought it through unjust means. Prosecutors have failed to acknowledge the harm caused to communities of color and other vulnerable populations through intentional, systemic policies of those in positions of power. The system has favored punitive measures over interventions that truly protect safe and healthy futures for all in the community. The mission of my office will be transparent and accountable resolutions, with individualized, evidence-based approaches to each case.

Thus, substantial alternatives to incarceration, particularly for those facing mental illness and addiction must be provided and supported by key community partners like the Department of Human Services, Jefferson Center for Mental Health, and our Juvenile Assessment Center. These are partners I worked with during my leadership within the DA's Office and I look forward to joining with them again to find more new ways to stabilize people in our community. For those who cannot be diverted, we have to support probation to ensure people are safely supervised in the community without placing undue barriers on their success.

For those who enter the courts and are likely facing a sentence (where this question seems to imply incarceration) we must remember that sentences are set by the legislature. Sentencing reform is a critical issue - there are crimes now at the felony level that should be at the misdemeanor level, or perhaps not crimes at all. There are mandatory sentences that should be eliminated. My policy team will actively support those legislative efforts. At the judicial district level, where statutory sentence enhancements are at the discretion of the DA, the use of these enhancements will be substantially curtailed, completely tracked and transparent, and my leadership team will set the tone and a clear policy regarding what should be the rarity of their use.

There is a balance to bringing about culture change in a prosecutor's office (addressing implicit bias and data collection), developing new programs (reducing incarceration), and advocating for state or national initiatives (the voice of reform). I plan to lead by doing at both the state and local levels. Jeffco and Gilpin can and will be a model of responsible, transparent, and fiscally sound sentencing practices under my leadership.

3. How do you think that Colorado can reduce the Department of Corrections budget which is likely to be over \$1billion dollars in the upcoming fiscal year, for the first time in state history?

As a District Attorney, the number one way I can reduce spending on the Department of Corrections is to only send people to prisons who cannot safely be addressed in our community. As a state, we should end private prisons as it is immoral to profit from incarceration. My focus will be to implement policies and programs that reduce overall incarceration, and thereby lessen the need for prison facility spaces. As a leader in the law enforcement community, I will participate in and pursue policies that eliminate private prisons in Colorado.

I would further advocate that as we reduce the number of people incarcerated, we use funds to better the programming and support for those incarcerated and ensure that those paroling back into the community have a meaningful chance at getting back on their feet.

4. There is a narrative that tries to explain racial disparity in the criminal justice system as a consequence that people of color just commit more crime. Do you believe there is racial disparity in the criminal justice system? If so, please discuss what you believe to be root causes of that disparity and, if not, please share the basis for that opinion.

Who could possibly deny the clear data and lived experiences demonstrating racial inequity in the criminal justice system? From a macro level, systemic, intentional policies from slavery to Jim Crow, redlining to the “War on Drugs” and many others have created a system of oppression in education, housing, health care, food security and that necessarily increases criminal justice system involvement in those communities. From a micro level, the criminal justice system is a system of imperfect decision-makers – from people reporting “suspicious” activity, to police officers, to prosecutors, to judges, to probation and parole officers and others who are both overtly and implicitly biased, which leads to unjust and unequal experiences and outcomes. I am grateful to Michelle Alexander, to Dr. West, and to so many others building upon scholarship to inform our historical understanding of privilege - how exactly it is that we got here and where we can go in order to bend the arc of history towards justice more quickly. I plan to heed that scholarship, as well as the lived experiences of those in our community, in setting policy for the First Judicial District.

5. What formal policies would you be willing to adopt regarding the consideration of immigration consequences for noncitizen defendants in the plea negotiation and sentencing recommendations and U visa protections for immigrant victims of crime?

Unlike prior administrations, I would expeditiously process U Visas for victims and witnesses of crime to recognize the perilous position they put themselves in when they help law enforcement take dangerous people off the street by advocating for their own safety and the safety of their communities. We must support people coming forward when they have been harmed, regardless of status, to ensure a safe and healthy community for everyone. This same rationale supports keeping ICE out of court houses. As a prosecutor and then as a magistrate in Denver, I knew first hand that ICE’s presence detracted from access to the courts. That access must be protected, and I support legislation that would achieve that end.

Lastly, as the lead Human Trafficking prosecutor for the First Judicial District, working with community stakeholders and the FBI, and in my prior role as the representative for all of Colorado’s elected DA’s on the Governor’s Human Trafficking Council, I pushed for the prosecution of those who prey on vulnerable populations. These exploiters, whether sex or labor trafficking, have a profound amount of leverage and control over immigrants and we as a community must have a meaningful response. Labor trafficking is overlooked by many DA’s offices and I aim to make it part of Colorado’s conversation by building the type of lasting trust with immigrant communities that will support and protect them from this type of exploitation. Lastly, the attorneys serving in my office will have training regarding immigration law so they can account for immigration outcomes in their plea agreements when appropriate, a successful policy approach used in other Colorado communities.

6. People with a criminal conviction can face long-term barriers to housing, employment and other collateral consequences as a result of having a criminal record. What, if any, strategies would you support that could mitigate unnecessary collateral consequences?

The law is not flexible enough to plea bargain away collateral consequences in every situation in which that might be appropriate. Our legislature needs to actively examine de-coupling some of these consequences from the status of a conviction, and has made strides great recently with ban the box legislation, which I supported. These types of collateral consequences actively frustrate efforts to stabilize communities and stand folks up in a way that prevents future offense and creates safer communities. As District Attorney, I will actively support policy efforts at the Capitol to continue advancement on this front.

Additionally, my Conviction Integrity Unit will look at not only wrongful convictions, but also those convictions where the balance of the equities no longer leans of favor of leaving a conviction on someone's record, a consideration that will include collateral consequences. And, of course, my prosecutors will be trained to recognize and understand the collateral consequences that flow from their decisions and to consider that, together with all other considerations, in their plea bargains.

7. What is your perspective on the availability and adequacy of crime survivor services, in general, and specifically what steps would you take to better meet the needs of underserved crime survivors? (By underserved, we mean low-income, people of color, men, LGBTQ, and crime survivors who also have a criminal background.)

Crime survivor services are woefully underfunded. Crime victims are often targeted for their vulnerabilities, and some of these same vulnerabilities make it that much more difficult for them to access trauma and culturally informed services that would allow them to stabilize from the effects of their exploitation. I will actively support legislative efforts to increase resources for crime victim survivors and to enact other policies that would serve their needs and restoration. Most importantly, a training gap exists for law enforcement and prosecutors in recognizing and working with vulnerable communities and connecting them to services. My office will actively engage and partner with community leaders and agencies to build trust across communities and interact with sensitivity and respect for the lived experiences, economic circumstances, and cultural differences of those communities. Justice is not one size fits all.

8. Are there any things your administration would change with regard to the prosecution and sentencing recommendations related to women? If so, what changes would you make and why?

Above is a broader description of my perspective and policies around sentencing and the need to tailor intervention to the individual. Having worked in the human trafficking realm, where women were often the victims of horrid abuse and also perpetrated crime in the community, I am keenly aware of the different drivers that bring women into and lead them out of the justice system. With more women in the justice system, our community is more willing to acknowledge how trauma can destabilize people. Our courts may benefit from a treatment program specifically designed for women but in the meantime, we need to have broader conversations about how trauma has impacted most people in the justice system regardless of their gender identity.

9. There is very little information available to the public about the decision-making and outcomes of the District Attorney's Office. What would you do to improve the transparency of the District Attorney's Office, including what data would you make available to the public, what method would you use to inform the public, and what formal opportunities would you put in place to receive community input?

District Attorneys are pitiful data collectors and I intend to be transparent about what my office does and how it does it. We should not be afraid of our decisions and we should be willing to have conversations with the community we serve. Data collection is one of the key pieces of my platform and I plan to work directly with the public defender's office and other stakeholders to make this a primary focus in the first year of my administration, in partnership with researchers at our local universities. The goal is to allow those in the criminal justice system to self identify and then be forthright about who we are prosecuting and how people are being treated by the DA's Office. This is the only way we can be accountable and allow community members to dialogue about how the DA's Office is actually serving our community. This effort will be community-informed and transparent.

10. If elected DA, what would be your approach to defendant's whose criminal conduct is solely or largely related to an underlying addiction or mental illness?

The role of the District Attorney with respect to mental illness is to divert, wherever possible, those with mental illness from the criminal justice system. Our healthcare system is woefully under-equipped to adequately address this healthcare issue. I support the development and expansion of highly successful co-responder programs to place mental health professionals with police responders, so that folks who can safely be managed with a healthcare response are. For those who commit criminal offenses, I also support the expansion of adult pre-file diversion so that we keep folks for whom we can safely intervene with a healthcare response "off paper" and minimize the collateral consequences of involvement with the criminal justice system. Where community safety demands criminal justice system involvement, I support the expansion of our mental health diversion courts and increased resources for our probation departments and prisons to adequately respond to and treat and manage mental health issues with dignity and respect, thereby preventing re-offense.

Like mental health issues, the role of the District Attorney with respect to addiction and substance misuse is to divert, wherever possible, those with this healthcare issue from the criminal justice system. Our healthcare system is woefully under-equipped to adequately address this issue, and an evidence-based, data-informed response is essential. Our resources should be prioritized there, rather than the criminal justice system. Where community safety demands criminal justice system involvement, I support the expansion of our substance misuse courts and increased resources for our probation departments and prisons to adequately respond to and treat substance use issues with dignity and respect, thereby preventing re-offense.

11. If elected DA, would you support an effort to re-institute the death penalty in Colorado?

No. I am opposed to the death penalty.

12. Do you think the current system related to bail is adequate in determining pretrial detention that mitigates the chances that lower income people will be held pretrial simply because they cannot afford to make bond. If so, what are the strengths of the current bail system and what would you change?

Our District Attorney's Office does not use evidence-based bond practices and it is to the detriment of those who go into the jail, taxpayers, and our community. When I served as a Denver County Court Magistrate Judge, I helped roll out their bond reform efforts to ensure we

were not over incarcerating people facing poverty, mental illness and addiction. Every day, the DA and public defender agreed to set 30-60% of the people home on their own personal recognizance, meaning they did not have to post any money to be released. Only those who posed a significant level of risk and were charged with grave offenses were given bonds that they were unlikely to make. While I have concerns about risk tools, particularly in bias against communities of color and people dealing with poverty, this is the model I will launch in Jeffco as communities everywhere grapple with the harm of holding people in jail who do not belong there. I commit to continual, transparent review and reform of bond policies.

Alexis King-End



Jake Lilly (D)

The following biographical information was provided by Mr. Lilly for additional information, you can go to: <http://jakelilly.com/>

Jake is the Sex Assault Prosecutor for Colorado's 5th Judicial District, responsible for prosecuting sexual abuse and violence cases. Jake served as a Felony Prosecutor in the United States Army Judge Advocate General Corps, prosecuting cases of assault, sexual battery, child pornography, domestic violence, and desertion. Jake served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney prosecuting federal crimes in U.S. District Court, then as an Assistant District Attorney in Georgia and Texas prosecuting state and local criminal offenses. Jake has also served as a Military Magistrate Judge and a criminal defense attorney.

Jake met and married his wife Abby in 2006. They are raising their two sons in the mountain area of Evergreen in Jefferson County. Jake is heavily involved with community activities. Most recently he served as the finance director for the successful campaigns for ballot measures 5A/5B, providing badly needed funding for Jefferson County public schools. Jake is very active in the Democratic Party, serving as the First Vice Chair for the Jefferson County Party, and as a member of the Colorado State Party Central and Executive Committees. He has worked for the Democrats since 1994, including as a United States Senate Page and in the President William Clinton White House.

While serving in Iraq as a Judge Advocate General Prosecutor, Jake volunteered to lead a team charged with finding and stopping Iraqi torture and death camps. Jake led over 80 missions throughout Baghdad and the surrounding areas searching for Iraqi torture centers and monitoring and rescuing those inside. Jake learned leadership working with these small groups of men and women under the most trying conditions. Jake was awarded the Bronze Star, the Combat Action Badge, and the Army Commendation Medal.

Name of DA Candidate: Jake Lilly (D)

Judicial District Number: 1st Judicial District (Jefferson, Gilpin County(s))

1. Why are you running for District Attorney including what qualifications do you bring to this elected position, and what will be the priorities of your administration, including any areas of improvement and measures of success?

I am running for District Attorney to fundamentally change the criminal justice system. For too long, we have over incarcerated persons suffering from mental illness, addiction, and poverty. We have used the blunt fist of state power in place of functioning social and health systems and done so in a manner that disproportionately affects poor and minority communities. I am running to right these past wrongs, while continuing to ensure the safety of the citizens of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties. It is time that we incarcerated only those of whom we are truly afraid and not those of whom we are merely angry. My priorities are ensuring safer homes, stronger communities, and common-sense reform.

I have been a lawyer for 17 years, including as a Federal Prosecutor, a military prosecutor, a state prosecutor in Colorado, Georgia, and Texas and a Defense Attorney. I've prosecuted and defended some of the toughest cases around and even served as a Magistrate Judge. I also believe my experience as a defense attorney serves me well in seeing all sides of the criminal justice system.

2. How would you describe your idea of justice, the purposes of sentencing, and whether you believe our current system is meeting those purposes in the Judicial District you would like to serve as the elected District Attorney?

Justice means many things to many different people. It has been interpreted as revenge, victim satisfaction, punishment for breaking the law, rehabilitation, restitution, and restoration. Justice can be many of these. For me, Justice is the attempt to address past wrongs and prevent future harm. A DA's job (and the purpose of sentencing) above all must be the prevention of future crime. Our sentencing schemes for the last 40 years have attempted to do this with harsh, retributive sentences in the hope of deterring future crime. While some terrible crimes may require harsh sentences, the vast majority of crimes would be better served by rehabilitative sentences that attempt to restore victims a measure of dignity and restitution while preventing future crimes. If we do not use sentencing and the Justice System overall as an attempt to prevent crime rather than just punish it, we will never truly make progress on lowering crimes rates. We currently fail dramatically at sentencing as evidenced by our recidivism rate.

3. How do you think that Colorado can reduce the Department of Corrections budget which is likely to be over \$1billion dollars in the upcoming fiscal year, for the first time in state history?

The DOC budget is driven primarily by the number of incarcerated inmates which is driven by the sentences sought by District Attorney's and by parole revocations. Colorado must dramatically increase the rehabilitation services available to prisoners and continue the work done on lowering parole revocations on technicalities. Additionally, private prisons need to be completely and permanently eliminated. District Attorneys must do their parts in examining DOC sentence requests and the overuse of charging crimes with mandatory minimum sentences. Too often, mandatory minimums are used as a bargaining tool and, if that fails, then imposed in manners that can be disproportionate to the underlying crime or any true sense of

Jake Lilly

proportionality. District Attorneys should oppose mandatory minimums and encourage a trust in judges to deliver the appropriate sentence. Additionally, DOC sentences should be reserved for the truly violent criminals for whom there is little hope of rehabilitation and not merely as the next step when criminals fail to adjust from previous trips within the Justice System.

As District Attorney, I will make it a priority to set policies to limit incarceration to only the truly dangerous, and encourage the use of alternative programs such as diversion and deferred adjudication. Furthermore, I will implement a conviction integrity unit whose purpose is to reexamine past convictions, not only for actual innocents, but also for prison sentences that we would no longer consider just or appropriate. In particular, this unit will look for past sentences that no longer conform with our current understanding of drugs and marijuana.

4. There is a narrative that tries to explain racial disparity in the criminal justice system as a consequence that people of color just commit more crime. Do you believe there is racial disparity in the criminal justice system? If so, please discuss what you believe to be root causes of that disparity and, if not, please share the basis for that opinion.

The concept that racial minorities commit crimes at a higher rate is racism in and of itself. The Criminal Justice System is designed to focus on racial minorities in a manner that results in overincarceration and over involvement of racial minorities and those suffering economic disadvantages. This system has developed to the point where over-racism, while never completely non-existent, has been overshadowed by systemic inequality throughout the system that is much more difficult to stamp out than the occasional "bad apple." In short, the system over-polices, over penalizes, and over-incarcerates minorities under the narrative of merely enforcing the law without acknowledging that crime is similar across the races. The War on Drugs was designed to do this and has effectively created a sub-class of citizens that are unable to ever escape from the criminal justice system. In many ways, this was the intended effect of the War on Drugs and only a fundamental transformation of the entire system can address these issues.

5. What formal policies would you be willing to adopt regarding the consideration of immigration consequences for noncitizen defendants in the plea negotiation and sentencing recommendations and U visa protections for immigrant victims of crime?

My office will commit to considering immigration consequences in misdemeanor and low-level non-violent felony charges. The office will issue guidance as to avoiding immigration consequences in those cases, and my campaign is currently endorsed by the "dean" of immigration attorneys in Colorado, Hans Meyer. Obviously, violent crimes will not receive the same consideration. I will also work to expand the U-VISA to ensure that undocumented victims of crimes are able to report the crimes against them without suffering immigration consequences.

6. People with a criminal conviction can face long-term barriers to housing, employment and other collateral consequences as a result of having a criminal record. What, if any, strategies would you support that could mitigate unnecessary collateral consequences?

The most effective way to mitigate collateral consequences of criminal convictions is to address the vast number of people receiving criminal convictions in the first places. While I would support a vastly expanded sealing and expunction statute and I have repeatedly supported bills such as "ban the box" which limit collateral consequences, limiting convictions in the first place would be even more effective than band aid approaches. We have vastly expanded the number

of actions for which a person can be convicted, and the number of people convicted over the last 40 years. Incidents that used to be handled outside of the criminal justice system are now handled by the police and courts. We need to reverse this trend. We need not only the specialty courts that Jeffco currently has, but a new and wide capacity pre-trial diversion program. We need to start diverting people at the point of police contact into the public and mental health care systems they truly need, instead of arresting and convicting them. The police and courts have become the solution to all problems when a vastly expanded public health and mental health system (and housing system) is what we truly need.

7. What is your perspective on the availability and adequacy of crime survivor services, in general, and specifically what steps would you take to better meet the needs of underserved crime survivors? (By underserved, we mean low-income, people of color, men, LGBTQ, and crime survivors who also have a criminal background.)

Jeffco has recently added the Porchlight victim services and continues to expand victim services. These are great steps, but we can always work to increase more services and the functionality of those services for crime survivors. We continue to work on a “believing survivors” mentality in domestic violence and sexual assault circumstances. As always, more work can be done to assist those from disadvantaged background, regardless of their criminal background, in terms of addressing many of the underlying needs that placed them in a position that resulted in them becoming a survivor.

8. Are there any things your administration would change with regard to the prosecution and sentencing recommendations related to women? If so, what changes would you make and why?

Gender alone should not impact sentencing recommendations. However, chance of recidivism and likelihood of posing a danger to the community will play a great role in sentencing recommendations. In domestic violence situations, where a woman is charged with a crime, my office will be aware of and investigate any allegations of domestic violence against the female defendant that may have led to the crimes involved. In particular, the District Attorney’s Office will be aware that many victims of domestic violence end up being charged with crimes against their abusers due to the long-term abusive nature of the relationship and that those crimes are used as further control over the actual victim of domestic abuse.

9. There is very little information available to the public about the decision-making and outcomes of the District Attorney’s Office. What would you do to improve the transparency of the District Attorney’s Office, including what data would you make available to the public, what method would you use to inform the public, and what formal opportunities would you put in place to receive community input?

District Attorneys must strive for absolute transparency in their decision making. To that end, I will reestablish the citizens advisory board that was originally instituted by District Attorney Dave Thomas and ensure that it is staffed with representative from the true interested parties throughout the community. I will also ensure that District Attorneys emails are available in a public forum and will provide regular public contact by all members of my staff. We will collect data on charging, sentencing, race, gender, police activity (including stops), and complaints and make that data available to the general public on the internet. This will include regular statistical examinations intended to identify implicit bias throughout the system in the 1st J.D. I further pledge not to utilize the grand jury system as a means to hide critical decision making in highly contentious cases.

Jake Lilly

10. If elected DA, what would be your approach to defendant's whose criminal conduct is solely or largely related to an underlying addiction or mental illness?

Mental health and substance abuse disorders are mitigating factors in considering level of offense and sentencing. Furthermore, some disorders can practically negate the required intent. Our goal in the District Attorney's office is to reduce crime and if treatment of these disorders, coupled with avoiding the ancillary effects of convictions, is sufficient to prevent the recurrence of crimes by the individual, then justice has been served. Quite simply, my intent is to treat those that can be treated to prevent the future occurrence of crime and to only incarcerate those individuals whose contact is a threat to society. Mental illness and addiction are health related problems more than they are criminal problems and I intend to act according to the best practices of the health department.

11. If elected DA, would you support an effort to re-institute the death penalty in Colorado?

No, I testified to end the Death Penalty and was the only person currently running for DA to do so. I will never support the re-introduction of the death penalty.

12. Do you think the current system related to bail is adequate in determining pretrial detention that mitigates the chances that lower income people will be held pretrial simply because they cannot afford to make bond. If so, what are the strengths of the current bail system and what would you change?

It has been my public position throughout this campaign that I am fundamentally opposed to cash bail. In fact, I have written Op-Eds on behalf on the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) published across the country for the last several years opposing cash bail. As that will take legislative action, I will require my prosecutors to consider PR bonds as the default position for low level crimes, absent special circumstances. Money should not determine whether someone gets out of jail prior to their trial, risk should. I consider early bail hearings to be essential for those who need them.

Voting With Conviction

Many people believe that once you have a criminal record you can never vote in Colorado.

This is not true! Since 2006, CCJRC has run the only civic engagement campaign in Colorado that focuses exclusively on people with criminal records.

In addition to statewide voter education, CCJRC provides free trainings to election officials, GOTV efforts, Voter Registration Drives, community organizations, and our members on the nuances of voting eligibility for people with criminal histories.

Building political power together requires participation. We don't care if you like politics or politicians but we do care that you Use Your Voice—Register to Vote & Vote! We can provide free trainings and copies of our educational materials. Contact us at (303) 825-0122 or [email Juston Cooper, Deputy Director at juston@ccjrc.org](mailto:juston@ccjrc.org)
www.votingwithconviction.org

