

17th Judicial District

(Adams & Broomfield Counties)

District Attorney Candidate 2016 Voter Guide

Mark Your Calendars!



- ❖ **Primary Election Day - Tues June 28th**
(Polls open 7am-7pm)
- ❖ **General Election Day- Tues Nov 8th**
(Polls open 7am- 7pm)
- ❖ Deadline to register to vote by mail or online and receive a ballot by mail:
For Primary Election: Mon. June 20th
For General Election: Mon. Oct 31st
- ❖ 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.

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 DA campaign to help voters be more educated about DA candidates around the state. This campaign will continue beyond the election cycle to promote more community engagement 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
- Whether or not the death penalty is sought
- 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
- Other government and elected officials

In 2016, there are three candidates running for District Attorney in the 17th Judicial District which includes Adams and Broomfield counties. Two candidates are Democrats, namely Caryn Datz and Dave Young. These two will be running against each other in the Primary Election to be held on June 28, 2016. The winner of the Primary Election will face Republican candidate Molly Jansen in the General Election which will be held on November 8, 2016.

CCJRC submitted a written candidate questionnaire to all three of the candidates running for DA in the 17th Judicial District. Molly Jansen (R) declined to participate. The responses from Ms. Datz and Mr. Young are reprinted verbatim and in their entirety. They are presented in alphabetical order. We greatly thank the candidates for their participation.

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Dave Young (D)	page 10

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

CCJRC publishes this Denver District Attorney Voter Guide for educational purposes only. The views expressed by the candidates do not necessarily reflect the perspective of CCJRC nor does CCJRC endorse any candidate.

Caryn Datz (D)

The following biographical information was provided by Ms. Datz. For additional information, you can go to: <http://datz4da.com/>



Caryn Datz earned her B.A. in Spanish and English from the University of Wisconsin in 1998. She then attended the University of Miami School of Law as part of a public service scholarship program.

Caryn's career began in Miami-Dade, Florida, where she served the indigent population of a large metropolitan area as a public defender. She tried over 50 cases, mostly serving Spanish-speaking clients.

Caryn worked at the 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office for almost 8 years. Caryn started in Adams County court in an entry-level attorney position, eventually working her way up to the position of Chief Trial Deputy. In that position, she was entrusted with the training and mentorship of every new attorney starting at the 17th DA's Office. Caryn has prosecuted thousands of cases, from misdemeanors to serious felonies, including homicides.

Caryn's inspiration for becoming a prosecutor comes from her personal experience as a victim of violent crime. Caryn currently serves as a Deputy District Attorney in the 20th Judicial District serving Boulder County, practicing in the elite and nationally recognized Sexual Assault Unit under District Attorney Stanley Garnett.

Name of DA Candidate: Caryn Datz (D)

Name of DA Candidate: Caryn Datz

Judicial District Number: 17th

Date: May 30, 2016

1. If elected DA, what will be the priorities for your administration and identify what areas for improvement will you focus on, if any?

When I am elected, my first priority will be to re-establish relationships within the community through active community engagement and partnership. I will listen to community members, leaders, law enforcement, and other stakeholders to understand concerns, and ensure transparency and responsiveness.

Transparency is critical to the functioning of a District Attorney's Office. It is the obligation of the District Attorney to not only engage with her community and promote the good work of the office, but also listen and respond to concerns and criticism. I will welcome questions and requests for information regarding how decisions are made.

I will prioritize diversity at the District Attorney's Office. Currently, there is only one woman in the upper level management of attorneys, and only a handful of attorneys of color. As DA, I would make a concerted effort to partner with local law schools to develop a robust internship program. We need to attract, mentor, and retain attorneys of color, women, and other minority populations to increase diversity within the office. I will ensure all attorneys and staff have a fair shake at positions of leadership.

I am determined to implement a true, modern community protection team to protect our most vulnerable – the disabled, the elderly, immigrants, and juveniles. We must engage in active community outreach (as I have repeatedly done with the Muslim and Sikh communities in presenting on hate crimes) to fully understand the diverse needs of our large and diverse district. We must foster and strengthen our relationships with the community. This will be accomplished through consistent community engagement, involvement in community organizations, and the promotion of therapeutic intervention and diversion programs.

Sexual assault is one of the most serious crimes affecting our society. Sex assault prosecution is extremely complex and requires expert training and attention. Currently, the 17th JD DA's Office has no such specialization for adult survivors. As DA, I will implement an Adult Sexual Assault Unit to work collaboratively with law enforcement, mental health and medical professionals, case workers and victim advocates to make sure survivors are best served, offenders are held fully accountable for their actions, and our community is kept safe.

I will restore the tradition of collegiality within the DA's Office. Since Mr. Young's unopposed election in November 2012, the office has hired nearly 40 new attorneys. Eleven out of 19 managers, spanning various departments, have been replaced. This great flight of talent and experience has had a compounding effect on our community safety,

victim services, and the relationship of the DA's office with law enforcement and community members. The office has fallen behind in training and staffing, and violations of the Victims' Rights Act have been investigated by the Department of Justice. The ripple effect of these losses has been lack of communication with law enforcement, the disappearance of community relationships, the deterioration of victim services, and the inconsistent handing of cases. These losses have caused incredible frustration in the community that must be immediately addressed for the safety of our community.

2. What is your perspective on racial disparity in the criminal justice system, in general and specifically, what tracking measure would you put in place to monitor prosecutorial practices, and what mitigation and accountability measures would you put in place to address racial disparity?

It is indisputable that people of color have been more likely to be incarcerated than whites. Blacks and Latinos are over-represented in the criminal justice system. This unfortunate reality is the result of both unrecognized bias, and acts of discrimination within the system. I am the only candidate that has represented clients as a Public Defender, and I am therefore uniquely qualified to bring a more informed and well-rounded perspective to the DA's Office. I am also the only candidate that has made a commitment to increasing diversity at the DA's Office to better represent the community we serve. I would also implement trainings on recognizing implicit bias to help internally monitor the prosecutorial practices of the office.

As DA, I would support committee work comprised of defense attorneys, prosecutors, mental health workers, sociologists and others specifically tasked with finding solutions to racial disparity in the criminal justice system. I would also collaborate with community elected leaders to track data and monitor the demographics of those stopped, arrested, charged and convicted.

I would also support community police measures and active community partnerships, such as youth mentorship and youth task force programs to provide outreach to the school districts and work towards a proactive rehabilitative response to crime and end the pipeline to prison.

I also support bail bond reform to avoid low-level offenders from being incarcerated solely due to their financial status, resulting in disproportionate consequences upon release.

3. What is your perspective on the delivery system 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.)

Every crime victim deserves the best survivor services possible. This can only occur through active collaboration with our police departments, Department of Health and Human Services, community victim advocates, and law enforcement advocates.

I intend to set an example that our office will go farther than ever to serve low-income, people of color, men, LGBTQ and crime survivors with a criminal background. One clear example is my dedication to bringing back a safe-house for victims of domestic violence in Adams and Broomfield Counties. The fact that there is currently no safe shelter for domestic violence victims in the 17th Judicial District is an enormous gap in victim services that must be immediately addressed. It is inexcusable that this district currently farms out its victim services to other counties for victims of domestic abuse.

I will establish a specialized unit dedicated to the prosecution of adult crimes of sexual violence. Currently, the DA's Office of the 17th JD only has such specialization for child victims, leaving adult victims terribly under-served. I intend to address this enormous gap in victim services with a unit comprised of full-time attorneys, investigators and staff dedicated to the prosecution of sex crimes against adults.

Additionally, I will engage in active community outreach to ensure that we best meet the needs of the underserved. Community partnership and engagement is the cornerstone of why I am running for DA, and I am committed to finding as many resources as possible to best serve the needs of the victims of our community.

4. Crime survivors who are undocumented immigrants are often afraid to report the crime out of fear of being deported. What policies and procedures, if any, would you implement to protect undocumented crime survivors from deportation should they cooperate with police and prosecutors?

I have dedicated several years working with victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in a specialized unit. Many of these victims have been undocumented immigrants. It is critical that we collaborate with our community partners – police departments, department of health and human services, safe-houses and other community organizations to deliver the message that the District Attorney's Office exists to protect all members of our community, especially our most vulnerable.

I will implement a clear policy of signing I-918 certifications for the pursuit of U-Visas for undocumented crime survivors who cooperate with police and prosecutors.

I will also implement a Community Protection Team specifically dedicated to crimes against immigrants, as well as other vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and disabled. This unit would engage with the immigrant and refugee populations to specifically deliver the message that they will be protected when they report crime, and their offenders will be held accountable.

I will also actively work to increase the understanding of prosecutors about the U-Visa process through collaboration with attorneys who specialize in immigration law as such collaboration would also encourage the reporting of crime against the undocumented.

5. What is your perspective on guided decision-making for prosecutors, in general, and specifically would you develop written guidelines regarding plea bargain practices and, if so, would you permit those guidelines to be available to the public?

I strongly believe in affording prosecutors discretion. Prosecutorial discretion needs to be honored and used appropriately to protect the community, bring justice to victims, and treat all defendants fairly. I believe in active mentorship in the District Attorney's Office. Less experienced prosecutors must find their own way and not be afraid to make difficult or creative decisions to reach the right result, but they must also have access to resources that could guide their decision-making.

When I was a Chief Trial Deputy at the 17th JD Office, I established a weekly roundtable meeting for all 16 deputy district attorneys that I supervised to meet and discuss their cases. I encouraged the deputies to share their input with each other. Ultimately, the final plea offer was left to each deputy's individual decision. Our roundtable discussions ensured consistency in plea offers and led to many different perspectives contributing to the ultimate decision for particular case. The guiding principles were collegiality and collaboration. Deputy district attorneys should not need to consult a chart, or seek approval before doing the right thing.

I also implemented "vertical prosecution." Vertical prosecution means a case stays with the same prosecutor for its duration, rather than being passed around from deputy to deputy. I believe that vertical prosecution is the best practice, and should be used whenever possible. As Chief Trial Deputy in charge of county court, vertical prosecution contributed to a marked improvement in docket management. The charging prosecutor would handle the case from filing to resolution – which led to fairer offers with a more universal understanding of the case.

6. Recently, Colorado has seen both a dramatic increase in felony drug filings and opiate overdose deaths. What do you attribute these dynamics to and what strategies would you support, both inside and outside the criminal justice system, to address them?

Colorado is experiencing the same problem that has exists nationally, which is an increase in the use of painkillers, graduating to the use of harsher and cheaper opiates, such as heroin. This is often the result of the over-subscription of opiates by doctors and the under-funding of desperately needed rehabilitative programs.

I support the availability of naloxone (Narcan), which will undoubtedly save lives, as well as "good Samaritan" laws.

I support drug intervention and prevention programs, especially those aimed at helping our youth.

I support community policing measures that would avoid arrest and promote therapeutic intervention and diversion.

I also support the established rehabilitative courts of the 17th JD. Very often individuals attempt to self-medicate other mental health or physical health issues through drug use. This behavior should not be criminalized, but rather, treated therapeutically so that as many people as possible can lead a productive life.

7. Many immigrants, including legal residents, young "dreamers" with DACA status, and those who fled persecution abroad, often face devastating immigration consequences for minor criminal convictions. Given the Supreme Court's recognition that consideration of immigration consequences should be a part of the plea bargaining process, what policies and procedures, if any, would you implement to promote the consideration of immigration consequences on a case-by-case basis?

In determining an appropriate disposition, prosecutors must exercise their prosecutorial discretion. That discretion includes not only consistency, but also considering the unique circumstances of an individual and an evaluation of the potential immigration consequences. Dispensing justice may require offering a plea that may be different for someone without potential immigration consequences. Prosecutors in the office should feel empowered and safe to use their discretion. I will actively collaborate with immigration attorneys so that the prosecutors in the office receive current information about immigration consequences so that all decisions in this area are informed decisions.

8. In general, what is your perspective on whether Colorado has too many people that are incarcerated and/or under some form of criminal justice supervision and specifically, what, if any, efforts would you lead or join regarding specific reforms regarding incarceration in jail or state prison and pretrial detention?

Far too many people are incarcerated on lower-level, non-violent offenses that do not threaten public safety. Offenders that commit violent offenses, continue to break the law, and threaten our public safety should, and must, be incarcerated. However, many currently imprisoned do not meet this criteria. I support adult and juvenile diversion measures that would end the pipeline to prison, keep juveniles actively engaged with their schools and communities, and prevent crime before it occurs. I also support bond reform measures that identify those most likely to appear for court, and afford them the ability to bond on a low amount or to bond on their own personal recognizance so that we do not perpetuate a "debtor's jail."

9. 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 and do you think elected District Attorneys should be concerned about collateral consequences?

Prosecutors should always work to minimize collateral consequences as much as possible. This consideration will reduce the likelihood of recidivism. The productivity of our society depends on prior offenders being afforded the opportunity to contribute and succeed in the

future. As a former Public Defender, I saw first-hand how a criminal record could prevent an individual from receiving housing, school loans, and other opportunities. I will engage the community through active partnerships. I recently received the endorsement of the Denver Area Labor Federation, and through their partnership, I will implement approaches that would facilitate those with criminal convictions to receive training in a skill and trade so that they could earn a good living and provide for their families.

I support record sealing and expungement where the community public safety interest is not outweighed by the individual's interest in restoring their record.

I also support the use of deferred judgment and sentences and diversion programs where appropriate to avoid such collateral consequences and keep a felony conviction off of an individual's record.

10. Many local jurisdictions have some form of criminal justice planning committee and the state created the Colorado Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice. What is your perspective on the role, efficacy and both strengths and weaknesses of these type of multi-stakeholder planning groups?

Multi-stakeholder planning groups provide greater perspective to the criminal justice system. These groups provide important data and focus on specific issues over an extended period of time, as well as provide important recommendations on legislation. However, as important as the diversity and relationship-building aspects of the groups are, we must remain cognizant to not become bogged down in differences, thus hindering progress and change. It is critical that there is a healthy "give-and-take," and that all participants engage in active listening. For these groups to be most effective, and make a true difference, their work must not only be known, but their work must also be implemented in specific and focused ways.

As an example, I directly participated in writing many of the guidelines later implemented in the formation of the 17th JD Sexual Assault Review Team. As proud as I was of the guidelines, I have been disillusioned by the implementation of this stakeholder group. Over the past 3 ½ years under the current administration, this group has become disenfranchised and stakeholders are no longer participating and communicating in a productive manner. I would implement change so that the meetings occur prior to the filing of criminal charges so that the stakeholders can learn from each other on the front-end of a case, rather than dissecting successes or failures after the resolution of a case.

Dave Young (D)

The following biographical information was provided by Mr. Young. For additional information, you can go to www.daveyoungda.com/



Raised in Colorado by a single mother, Dave Young was elected District Attorney by the citizens of Adams and Broomfield counties in November 2012. He was sworn into office on January 8, 2013. District Attorney Don Quick recruited Dave to join the 17th Judicial District Attorney's as a Chief Trial Deputy when Don took office in 2005 and later Don promoted him to Assistant District Attorney.

Dave is responsible for the prosecution of more than 3,700 felony and 34,000 misdemeanor and traffic criminal cases each year.

As District Attorney for the 17th Judicial District, Dave is an aggressive prosecutor who is committed to working with local law enforcement agencies to guarantee the fair administration of justice for victims, defendants and the community. He is a passionate advocate for victims of crime who also respects the rights of the accused.

Dave began his career as a prosecutor approximately 25 years ago as a prosecutor with the 4th Judicial District where he prosecuted high profile murder cases and oversaw major drug investigations in the jurisdiction. He has gone to jury trial on over 30 homicides with well over 100 total jury trials in his career.

Name of DA Candidate: Dave Young (D)

Name of DA Candidate: Dave Young

Judicial District Number: 17th Judicial District

Date: May 26, 2016

1. If elected DA, what will be the priorities for your administration and identify what areas for improvement will you focus on, if any?

If re-elected as District Attorney, public safety will continue to be my highest priority. I believe this includes seeking justice not only for victims of crimes and the community, but also delivering justice to the offender. Victims of crime have a right to be informed and involved in the criminal justice system in determining the appropriate resolution to the criminal case that impacts their lives. Community standards and expectations for crime prevention can often play a relevant consideration in both the filing and resolution of criminal cases. The individual characteristics of an offender as well as the nature and circumstances of the crime should be scrutinized in each case to ensure fair and consistent treatment to other similarly-situated offenders. If re-elected, I will continue to seek additional resources to establish specialized units in the DA's Office as well as enhance our public outreach and crime prevention programs. In particular, I am committed to programs that will increase the high school graduation rates in the 17th Judicial District and help keep minors out of the criminal justice system.

2. What is your perspective on racial disparity in the criminal justice system, in general and specifically, what tracking measure would you put in place to monitor prosecutorial practices, and what mitigation and accountability measures would you put in place to address racial disparity?

Generally speaking, I am committed to a standard of practice of filing and prosecuting a criminal case based solely upon whether there is sufficient evidence to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt at trial. Unless identification of the offender is an issue in the investigation, the offender's race has no bearing on the decision to prosecute. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, I recognize that studies continue to demonstrate racial disparity in the criminal justice system. I believe that is not a product of our filing standards, but rather a result of a failure to allocate resources available within our community to help those most susceptible to becoming involved in criminal activity.

I currently serve on the Colorado Commission for Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ), where we often discuss the intersection of race and crime. Currently, law enforcement agencies enter ethnicity data at the time of arrest. However, one of the difficulties with any tracking measure is to implement a consistent definition of "race" or "ethnicity" to eliminate the broad categories that may not accurately encompass the cultural makeup of our community. Further specifying these categories and making them uniform across all

agencies will help ensure accurate tracking measures. In addition, we must continue our training of law enforcement to reduce the potential for racial disparity in the criminal justice system. Cultural competency training as well as openly discussing unconscious biases that are present in all of us is a big step in reducing or eliminating racial profiling.

If resources allow for it, community policing is a huge step in alleviating this issue. If the citizens in a neighborhood know their police officers and the officers know them, we can instill a great deal of trust between the two groups. I am also a member of the Key Community Response Team (KCRT) in Aurora that addresses this issue with the involvement of community leaders, law enforcement, pastors and several non-profit groups in the city of Aurora.

3. What is your perspective on the delivery system 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.)

For nearly 25 years, it has been my mission as a prosecutor to serve all victims of crime, regardless of their status. I take pride in being the leader of an office that treats every victim with fairness, dignity, and respect. Continued training and dialogue for everyone involved in the criminal justice system is essential to help identify those who may be victims of crime but are not yet strong enough to come forward and report their involvement due to shame or embarrassment. I support the work performed by the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), a collection of individuals from various agencies in the 17th Judicial District, committed to discussing best practices and protocols for working with victims of sexual assault and assisting them through a traumatizing and embarrassing event in their lives. I supported the Brighton Police Department's implementation of the "You Have Options Program," designed to encourage reporting of sexual assault amongst members in the community who were reluctant to come forward. In our own office, I developed a Human Trafficking Unit that engages in a collaborative effort with various governmental agencies to help identify victims of crime who fail to report.

In addition, we encourage cross-training with other agencies to assist one another in supporting these individuals who may lack the confidence to come forward on their own. Community outreach programs also help educate people about the importance of reporting crime, as well as help educate the public of the many resources that are available to help them manage their trauma.

4. Crime survivors who are undocumented immigrants are often afraid to report the crime out of fear of being deported. What policies and procedures, if any, would you implement to protect undocumented crime survivors from deportation should they cooperate with police and prosecutors?

I have recently committed a great deal of time on this particular topic. We are out in the community to educate the public on the U-Visa process. I am one of the only elected District Attorneys in Colorado to routinely sign every qualified U-Visa that comes across my desk. There is also a cultural barrier that may interfere with a victim reporting a crime that

we as community leaders need to educate potential undocumented individuals on the importance of reporting. I speak Spanish, and am in the process of getting on Spanish radio and TV stations to discuss these issues on the air.

5. What is your perspective on guided decision-making for prosecutors, in general, and specifically would you develop written guidelines regarding plea bargain practices and, if so, would you permit those guidelines to be available to the public?

Our profession is not a cookie cutter process. In my 25 years of experience I have yet to see an identical defendant and fact pattern. Each case must be resolved on its own facts. Our office has written guidelines for our first year prosecutors that are in County Court. However, these guidelines do not dictate what offer to make, but merely give an idea of what the parameters are for a plea based on the nature of the charges and after consultation with the victim. For example, DUI pleas may be based on the blood alcohol level of the individual or whether there was an accident involved. Guidelines may be important to assure that all defendants are treated fairly in the criminal justice system. Once a prosecutor has gained the experience necessary to analyze a case properly, that prosecutor should be able to exercise their discretion to resolve the case appropriately.

6. Recently, Colorado has seen both a dramatic increase in felony drug filings and opiate overdose deaths. What do you attribute these dynamics to and what strategies would you support, both inside and outside the criminal justice system, to address them?

Heroin is a major problem in the 17th Judicial District, as well as the entire State. In most instances, heroin is cheaper to buy than prescription pain pills and we have seen a significant increase in the number of heroin overdoses in Adams and Broomfield counties. Public awareness programs and information on treatment options are necessary to help educate our community on the risks associated with this dangerous drug. We have a very successful Drug Court Program where we have seen several high risk individuals successfully complete the program and not reoffend or use. We also have a very successful Diversion program in our office where we direct our criminal filings for first time drug offenders. This program has proven a 90% success rate in that the individuals who complete the program do not re-enter the justice system. In 2013, I established a drug prosecutor position that works very closely with the North Metro Task Force, the Attorney General's Office, and the D.E.A. to prosecute the suppliers and the major drug dealers in our community.

7. Many immigrants, including legal residents, young "dreamers" with DACA status, and those who fled persecution abroad, often face devastating immigration consequences for minor criminal convictions. Given the Supreme Court's recognition that consideration of immigration consequences should be a part of the plea bargaining process, what policies and procedures, if any; would you implement to promote the consideration of immigration consequences on a case-by-case basis?

We do not have policies and procedures for the treatment of undocumented defendants in the 17th Judicial District. Our attorneys treat every defendant fairly and keep an open

mind when it comes to plea offers based on circumstances unique to that particular defendant.

8. In general, what is your perspective on whether Colorado has too many people that are incarcerated and/or under some form of criminal justice supervision and specifically, what, if any, efforts would you lead or join regarding specific reforms regarding incarceration in jail or state prison and pretrial detention?

In the 17th Judicial District, an individual tends to earn his or her incarceration by either committing a violent act or having a substantial criminal history. I know that our specialty courts and diversion program have made significant strides in finding sentencing alternatives to incarceration. As the chair of the CJCC (Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee) in the 17th Judicial District, I was instrumental in implementing a new form that Judges and magistrates use in determining pretrial assessment for incarcerated defendants utilizing the combination of the CPAT, along with other factors that bear upon public safety. Since, this form has been implemented we have seen a reduction in the number of pre-trial in custody defendants in our jail. We are consistently monitoring the population in the jail to assure that the appropriate defendants are being incarcerated. I strongly believe that a defendant should not be incarcerated due to limited resources.

9. 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 and do you think elected District Attorneys should be concerned about collateral consequences?

Every prosecutor should be concerned with the collateral consequences associated with the disposition of a criminal case. I support reasonable measures to assure certain convictions do not turn into a life sentence as it relates to collateral consequences. We have broadened the criteria for acceptance into our diversion program to help individuals avoid the consequences of a permanent conviction on their criminal record. Outside of the office, I support drug reform measures that give offenders an opportunity to maintain employment, a family, and a sober life.

10. Many local jurisdictions have some form of criminal justice planning committee and the state created the Colorado Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice. What is your perspective on the role, efficacy and both strengths and weaknesses of these type of multi-stakeholder planning groups?

As indicated above, I am a member of the CCJJ and chair our local CJCC. The 17th Judicial District CJCC is a model for the state and the entire country. We have all the appropriate stakeholders in place and have received substantial national and state grant funding to accomplish our goals of enhancing the work we do within the justice system. We have three CJCC subcommittees working on evidence based ways to improve the criminal justice system. The Alternative Sanctions subcommittee works on ways to limit incarceration to those who need it as well as look at alternative ways to keep individuals out of the criminal justice system. The Behavioral Health subcommittee works on issues surrounding the

mentally ill who enter the criminal justice system. We are currently creating a dashboard for the jail population to monitor incarcerated defendants who have been diagnosed with a mental illness to gather the necessary data to assure the mentally ill are not housed in our jail. The Information Sharing subcommittee is developing an offender-based application to meet two primary objectives: 1) provide a comprehensive view of an offender's criminal information in a single web-based application; 2) provide the capability to aggregate and analyze the data for the purpose of supporting informed decision-making. This is essential in combining what our municipal courts are doing with our state courts, especially when it comes to juveniles in our jurisdiction.

**USE YOUR
VOICE**

**REGISTER
TO VOTE**

&

VOTE!