

Know your DA and hold them accountable!

District attorneys (DAs) are some of the most powerful players in the criminal justice system. Their primary responsibility is prosecuting violations of state criminal laws that occur in their districts. They are also very politically influential.

In Colorado, DAs are elected every four years in each of the state's 22 judicial districts, and all 22 districts will be holding DA elections in 2020. It is critical that you know who the candidates are so they can be held accountable.

What do DAs impact?

Your DA's courtroom decisions and policy positions can have a significant effect on:

Communities

A "tough on crime" approach can contribute to overcriminalization and mass incarceration, which disproportionately impact communities of color and can foster distrust of law enforcement in neighborhoods with higher crime rates.

Individuals & Families

Decisions regarding charges, plea bargains, and diversion can dramatically affect the lives of people accused of crimes, including their freedom, family stability, and future opportunities, such as their ability find employment and housing.

Financial

Overcriminalization is fueling the state's growing prison budget without making the public any safer, using up funds that could be directed to addiction treatment and mental health services.



Did you know?

Inside the courtroom, DAs get to decide:

- Whether to file or dismiss charges
- What charges are filed
- Whether to offer plea bargains
- Whether to use diversion programs

Outside the courtroom, DAs strongly influence:

- Law enforcement priorities
- Lawmaking and policy decisions
- State and local budgets
- Public opinion on safety issues

We are facing a justice crisis:

About 125,000 people in Colorado are either incarcerated or living under some other form of criminal justice supervision, costing the state well over \$1 billion per year. Far too many of these individuals are:

- People of color
- Convicted of nonviolent offenses
- Struggling with addiction or mental illness
- Parents to young children

This injustice must stop. Many DAs like to be "tough on crime," but Colorado needs DAs who will be *smart* on crime.



Download our voter guide to the 2020 DA candidates and find out how you can help us hold them accountable at:

ccjrc4action.org/know-your-da