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Leading Colorado Community Safety Group Releases Voter Guide to the Denver Mayoral Candidates, Endorses Dr. Lisa Calderón

DENVER — CCJRC4Action released a voter guide on the Denver mayoral candidates Wednesday and announced its endorsement of Dr. Lisa Calderón. A statement regarding the endorsement is below, and the full voter guide is available at <https://bit.ly/ccjrc4a-2023-voter-guide>.

The voter guide is based on a questionnaire that probed the candidates' views on crime, drug use, and the strategies they would utilize to improve community safety. It features full written responses from each of the nine candidates who completed it: Kelly Brough, Lisa Calderón, Chris Hansen, Leslie Herod, Mike Johnston, Debbie Ortega, Jesse Lashawn Parris, Ean Tafoya, and Jim Walsh.

Most of the candidates attributed crime and drug use to deeper systemic issues, including poverty and a shortage of affordable housing, insufficient mental health and treatment resources, and inequalities in education, income, and wealth. All of the candidates acknowledged the Covid-19 pandemic's significant contribution to increases in crime over the past few years.

Those views are generally in line with most voters, according to a recent [Public Policy Polling survey](#). It found most Denverites think increasing mental health resources or boosting job training and economic opportunity would be the most effective method of reducing crime, rather than hiring more police officers or increasing criminal penalties.

CCJRC4Action's endorsement of Dr. Calderón is based on her survey responses and decades of community service and advocacy, as well as the vision and positions she articulated during public forums and debates. CCJRC4Action attended and reviewed at least a dozen mayoral candidate forums hosted by its community partners, news outlets, and others.

Statement from CCJRC4Action in support of Dr. Lisa Calderón for Denver mayor:

“This year’s mayoral race features a particularly wide field of candidates who span the ideological spectrum. Crime and public safety were frequent debate topics, and the candidates had ample opportunity to express their visions and proposed strategies. Several candidates expressed views shared by CCJRC4Action, but Dr. Lisa Calderón was the one who most definitively aligned with our vision and values.

“Dr. Calderón has a fundamental understanding of the social determinants of crime, which is critical to developing a successful public safety strategy that emphasizes prevention, early intervention, and community restoration rather than perpetuating mass incarceration that has disproportionately impacted Black and Brown communities. She recognizes the systemic issues that contribute to crime, as well as the systemic changes that are necessary to prevent it.

“Through over twenty years of advocacy, Dr. Calderón has demonstrated her unwavering commitment to advancing the health and safety of the Denver community, particularly those most vulnerable and marginalized. Her vision, values, and insight are drawn from her diverse experience and responsibilities, as an academic, a nonprofit executive, a direct service provider both to victims of crime and people released from jail, a crime survivor, a mother, and as a former chief of staff to a sitting Denver City Council member. Her commitment coupled with her deep understanding of the challenges facing Denver and her vision for solutions positions her to be the mayor Denver needs and deserves.”

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CCJRC4Action is the 501(c)(4) affiliate of the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition. For more information, visit <https://ccjrc4action.org>.