

Name	Elaina Shively (She/Her) - Click here for Video - https://youtu.be/0ZOOnDks5TE	Ashley Stolzmann - https://youtu.be/lahkKJAFnpY
Current Employer	Boulder County DA Office Overseeing equity, mental health, restorative justice and diversion programs and initiatives.	City of Louisville
Position you are Seeking	Boulder County Commissioner, District 3	Boulder County Commissioner, District 3
What are your professional qualifications for the office you seek?	<p>I am an attorney who has worked in public service my entire career. Boulder County is my lifelong home, and I care deeply about this community. I started college at Front Range Community College and have an undergraduate degree in sociology from CU Boulder. My passion for social justice inspired me to go to law school at CU Law School where I was recognized for over 500 hours of public service during my last year. I interned with and then became a public defender where I represented thousands of individuals who could not afford their own attorney. This strengthened my compassion and empathy for everyone involved and developed my fierce advocacy skills. Many of my clients were undocumented or LPRs for which any criminal justice involvement can have dire consequences including deportation or inability to ever be able to seek status adjustment or citizenship, even for minor offenses. I saw firsthand the generational impacts of a criminal justice system that was full of inequities and ineffective in many ways in serving everyone it impacts: the community, crime victims, and those who are accused of crimes.</p> <p>I left the public defender's Office to work for the Boulder County DA's office in late 2014 to implement criminal justice reform programs. Since then, I have overseen Boulder County's dramatic increase of diversion, restorative, and other alternative resolution programs. We now divert more juveniles than we prosecute. I co-launched a juvenile racial and ethnic disparity (RED) working group. I developed the first Mental Health Diversion Program in the state, worked to implement the county's co-responder program, implemented our robust restorative justice program, and have trained and taught nationally on criminal justice reform. I oversee the DA's Office equity work, including applying to the Vera Institute of Justice for an external data review and implementation of more policies that will directly reduce inequities where they exist in our data. I am a leader in the county, and am privileged to work collaboratively with other county agencies, human services providers, and non-profits to enact real systemic change.</p>	<p>I have been serving the community as an elected official since 2013. Prior to that, I worked as a chemical engineer in product and process engineering. My engineering background has been very useful in public service; skills like managing, budgeting, and problem solving are very useful as a public servant.</p>
What charities, causes or civic organizations do you belong to or have contributed over the past year?	<p>Until just recently I was on the Board of Directors for the YWCA whose mission is to eliminate racism and empower women. On the Board of Directors, I chaired the Advocacy Committee and served on the executive committee as committee chair and as secretary. I am also involved with TGTHR (formerly known as Attention Homes) in a personal and professional capacity and believe we can end youth homelessness. Like so many system failures, youth homelessness disproportionately impact BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth and individuals. I am active in many local and state boards such as the IMPACT Youth Services Continuum for Boulder County, Juvenile Justice Reform Committee, and the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Coalition Probation and Alternative Sentence Committee. I was selected in 2020 for the inaugural Prosecutors Leaders of Now inaugural cohort as a leader in progressive community safety initiatives and continue to serve on the PLN committee to further this work. I was selected for the Colorado Bar Associations Leadership Training (COBALT) in January and am participating in the program now. I started and oversee the DA's Office Employee Well-Being Program and am active with state efforts to support attorneys in high stress, trauma-exposed fields.</p> <p>Additionally, it is my honor to work with and support many other non-profits including Safe Shelter of St Vrain, Blue Sky Bridge, Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Non Violence (SPAN), Movement to End Sexual Assault (MESA), Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Out Boulder County (OBC), Zonta, and RMAIN. Through the project with the VERA institute, I have worked directly with additional contacts and organizations supporting social justice work and supporting immigrant rights.</p>	<p>Regarding financial contributions: Freedom from Hunger, Doctor's Without Borders, and Foodbank of the Rockies.</p> <p>With Regard to non-profits that I volunteer for and donate to: Girl Scouts</p> <p>I serve the community on the Louisville City Council, on the Denver Regional Council of Governments, and on the Mile High Flood District. In each of those organizations, I serve on several committees. I am a member of Local Progress.</p>
Have you and/or any close family members served in Public Office? If yes, for whom and when?	Besides my service in the District Attorney's office, nobody else in my family has served in any kind of public/governmental office. My mother is a volunteer victim's advocate for the Boulder County Sheriff's Office for decades.	I am currently the Mayor of Louisville and have been on the Louisville City Council since 2013. I also just finished my term as Chair of the Denver Regional Council of Governments.
Do you have experience in elected office? If yes or no, describe?	No	Yes. I am currently the Mayor of Louisville and have been on the Louisville City Council since 2013. I also just finished my term as Chair of the Denver Regional Council of Governments.
Please disclose any potential conflicts of interest, such as lobbying or applying for a Federal Grant, etc.	N/A. I have written and managed many grants for the DA's and Boulder County, but none that create a conflict of interest.	I am unclear on this question, so please let me know if you would like me to clarify further or if I have answered incorrectly: I am not a lobbyist or applying for any grants. If you would like me to list my income: I am currently paid for my service by two groups: the City of Louisville and the Mile High Flood District. I own property in Louisville at 228 S Jefferson Ave.

<p>How have you been active in serving disenfranchised communities including Latinx and LGBTQ issues? Give specific examples.</p>	<p>Through both my volunteer work with agencies like the YWCA and TGTHR (formerly Attention Homes) and my work experience partnering with additional agencies, I am always working to make sure that the programs we develop for criminal justice reform seek to explicitly ensure that they are accessible and equitable for all participants. We have ensured that all of our forms, information, and paperwork is available in Spanish and English and uses inclusive language for participants to self-identify race/ethnicity, gender identity, etc. I applied for and was funded for a grant to purchase art and other inclusive representation signals to help establish that our diversion space is a safe space protective and supportive of immigrants and LGBTQ and/or BIPOC individuals. When using Restorative Practices, we work with community members from the community where the event occurred and leverage a diverse volunteer pool. Most importantly, we listen to feedback. We survey every participant, including offenders, to gauge satisfaction with the program. We offer anonymous electronic (accessible via smart phones) or mailed surveys that ask questions tied directly to a sense of procedural justice such as whether participants were treated with respect and whether they think the program treated them fairly. We are honored to report a 99% victim satisfaction and community member satisfaction rate, and a 95% satisfaction rate of the offenders we work with on diversion.</p> <p>While we are continuing to expand programs like diversion and restorative justice, we are also working to support co-responder programs, understanding that many people need services and no justice system involvement and lifting community organizations as an alternative to 911 or law enforcement. All of these efforts help us to best use resources for the most serious and scariest offenders while helping those we can get back on their feet and out of the justice system. Public safety can only be achieved with community trust. We work with our community partners to communicate that we do not report to Immigration and work to encourage victims to report victimization without fear of personal recourse. We have worked to have LGBTQ+ liaison officers in our local police departments. I regularly attend community events such as Pride and Cinco de Mayo to build connections and to learn and appreciate our vibrant and diverse community.</p> <p>Much of my experience is within the justice system, however the challenges of the justice system and public safety are deeply intertwined with behavioral health access, housing affordability, and other basic needs and supportive community supports. Too often, governmental "systems" are designed only at a system level and fail to incorporate the real needs of the people who will access the systems. Cultural competency and accessibility should be at the front of every governmental program or contract.</p>	<p>Every action we take has impacts on many members of our community. Below are a few examples of serving disenfranchised communities since I have been an elected official:</p> <p>EDI Task Force: As Mayor, I promoted the formation of an Equity Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) task force. In forming the task force, we determined that we would not be successful in recruiting disenfranchised members of the community if we used our typical processes. We worked with cultural brokers to help us reach a much wider variety of communities than we would have reached otherwise.</p> <p>Pride Month: As Mayor, I was able to persuade the Council to approve a proclamation for Pride Month for the first time in City History (in 2020). This small gesture of inclusion brought in an overwhelming number of joyful e-mails and calls that I got from people that were so happy to see that Louisville was including them. I believe that this overt show of support and inclusion is one factor in enfranchising the disenfranchised. Since then we have added city recognition for many disenfranchised communities (this month April 2022 it the first time we have celebrated Arab Heritage Month).</p> <p>Flock Cameras: Just a few weeks ago, we were presented with a contract for Flock cameras that were intended to monitor every license plate that came into the city of Louisville, and the contract was put on consent agenda for approval. This type of community surveillance reduces privacy and disproportionately harms historically disadvantaged communities and community members with complicated or unclear immigration status. You can see more about this issue in the ACLU paper: https://www.aclu.org/report/fast-growing-company-flock-building-new-ai-driven-mass-surveillance-system</p> <p>When I realized all the potential issues around the topic, I convinced council to remove the item from consent agenda and add it to a future meeting. This enables me more time to ensure more people in the community have a chance to hear what is planned and weigh in and ensure their voice is heard.</p> <p>A few years ago there was a land use application that came before city council which was a proposal from a church to add a columbarium. AAPI members of the neighborhood came to council and explained that there were cultural issues for them locating a columbarium in the neighborhood. They proposed that the columbarium would be a better fit next to the existing cemetery, and not in the neighborhood next to homes. The members of the church that proposed the columbarium were steadfast that the columbarium needed to be in the church. It was a very emotional and controversial decision in the community, but ultimately I determined that I needed to listen to the AAPI neighbors who live in the directly impacted area who explained that according to their culture and customs it was not "consistent and compatible with the surrounding area" (which is one of the required criteria for approval).</p> <p>Members of our mobile home park in town were concerned about potential sale. City staff met with the owner and brought a report to council to talk about what we could do, but no one met with neighbors. This created more distrust and concern. A fellow councilmember and I went door to door to talk with people at their homes and arranged a community meeting at Nancy's house (one of the neighbors who was nice enough to host). Not everyone was comfortable meeting with us, but those that did had a really great conversation. Months later, there was a serious threat of weapons manufacturing in one of the homes: because Susan (the other councilmember) and I had established some relationships, we were able to reconnect to the residents we had met and help spread the word on how our staff were addressing the weapons issue and what steps were being taken to restore safety.</p>
<p>From this experience serving disenfranchised communities, what challenges have you identified, and what do you see as key solutions? How has this experience influenced your role and responsibility in your community?</p>	<p>I grew up in Boulder County. Most of my first cousins are mixed-race and continue to experience a very different Boulder County than my sister and I did and do. It was instilled in me that I should use my privilege and voice to lift the voices of others and to call out injustice. We continue to face challenges with housing and behavioral health access. These challenges, as well as bias, continue to disproportionately impact our BIPOC and LGBTQ+ community members. Recognizing that opportunity creates public safety and investing in social infrastructure builds more connected, safer, and equitable communities drives my daily decisions. Sometimes change feels very slow and incremental and challenging but we must keep at it. I want my children to have a safe world. I also want every other child in our community to have an equally safe and supportive community. Together we can create a Boulder County that allows every community member to thrive.</p>	<p>The biggest challenges that I have seen with working with various disenfranchised members of the community are building trust and communication. It has greatly influenced how I have approached my role in the community. Better communication is an ongoing and evolving job, we continually have to think about how to reach various cultures, ages, and abilities. Better communication, and then following through to deliver outcomes leads to building trust.</p>
<p>How have you been active in serving different age groups in the Latinx community? Give specific examples.</p>	<p>Diversion is another example of serving Latinos of different ages. We serve anyone over the age of 10 and work to identify underlying needs to connect to community-based services so that the community service access and involvement is established and will outlast the period of diversion. I have worked with both school districts on different trainings and supports and am a member of the IMPACT Operations Board. We also serve young adults in our Transition-Aged Youth program and adults of any age in our other adult programs. We serve victims of all ages as well. We take into account each person's individual input into case planning, understanding that no program or service can be one-size fits all. We seek out supportive adults and compensated cultural brokers to connect young people with elders for support, reintegration, and mentorship, as well as in the design and redesign of our programs.</p> <p>I also worked with my colleagues to ensure that we had a designated victim advocate to support elderly victims. I collaborated on the grant application that secured the funding for that position, recognizing that the needs of different ages and generations require specialized support.</p>	<p>Many of the early outcomes from the DEI task force have impacted Latinx community members across the age spectrum, however, young Latinx and senior Latinx community members have particularly benefited from our work on transportation and housing affordability. In Transportation, we have specifically changed the language and hired outside agencies to ensure that our local anti-speeding and safe route to school campaign was inclusive in the artwork and accessible. In housing, we added several hundred units of housing after the flood of 2013 and reserved space in our senior housing specifically targeted at displaced families. This really made a big difference for several local families from the latinx community. Last, we have added multilingual communications on many outward facing community wide communications.</p>

<p>What is your vision for the role of the Latinx Community in building a strong future for the U. S.?</p>	<p>In recent years, we've had so many historic moments, such as the first Latina to join the Supreme Court, 9.8% of the current Congress identifying as Latinx, and the first Latina to be elected to serve for Countywide office in Boulder County. Securing positions of power isn't the only indicator, but an important one.</p> <p>As we look to the future, we must continue to uplift the stories and histories of our Latinx communities. Through this, we uplift and center the experiences of the Latinx community leaders, business owners, and neighbors.</p>	<p>Latinx community member inclusion and equity is vital to a successful future for our country. At a fundamental level, we have to end systematic racism that divides the country and prevents equitable outcomes including but not limited to intergenerational wealth building.</p>
<p>Have you been involved in anything that would cause reason for concern or mistrust?</p>	<p>I know there is an understandable distrust of anybody working within the criminal justice system. I have spent my career working to identify and root out inequities, spearheading broad systems-change work specifically to address such issues while working to advance a public safety system that fosters trust and improves a sense of safety for everyone. I am also new to politics and my endorsements come from people I have worked with or who share my values as I am not an "insider".</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>What do you believe is the purpose of the government?</p>	<p>In its best form, I believe that government is there to coordinate resources and support the residents of the community in an equitable way. This support is in all forms; from emergency response to open space, from human services funding to cultural celebrations. In order to do this, our government, especially at the County level, must listen to its residents, hear their needs (and not just the needs of the loudest few), and craft solutions.</p>	<p>The government needs to provide essential services to the community that protect health and safety and ensure fundamental freedom.</p> <p>At the local level the government also serves to provide services that the people desire to have at a cost lower than the private sector can/will provide (an example of this type of function is a recreation center).</p>
<p>What is your approach to economic development, specifically as it applies to Latinx and disenfranchised (including immigrant) communities?</p>	<p>I fully agree with the County's recent statement that, "Everyone in Boulder County government shares a responsibility to actively contribute to the liberation of all people, especially those who have been historically and structurally marginalized and oppressed." For economic development, this means taking a truly equitable approach to all we do. When we are looking to award contracts, we must prioritize companies owned and operated by members of the Latinx and immigrant communities. When we are looking to allocate ARPA funds, we must uplift the businesses that have been most impacted by the pandemic; those owned by and serving the Latinx community. Economic development must learn from our history and work to correct wrongs. I would look to the Latino Chamber of Commerce as a trusted ally in informing policy as a County Commissioner.</p>	<p>Economic development often historically has focused on big tax cuts for large corporations, which ends up leaving the rest of the community to foot the bill. Rather than take that approach: I am in favor of supporting local and sustainable businesses, with a focus on circular economy creation and promotion. During the pandemic, our council tried to create a program that really focused on the businesses in town that were hardest hit. And, what we learned from talking with local small business owners was that many of the hardest hit were in fact immigrant owned businesses. I am proud to have been part of the program to provide over a million dollars of direct local funding to the local businesses to help them during COVID 19.</p>
<p>If you have staff (temporary or long term), do you have any members of the Latinx Community and if so how many hold positions of leadership within your staff organization? If you do not have staff, how do you advocate for more Latinx inclusive leadership in local government and community organizations?</p>	<p>Yes, I directly supervise 7 Diversion and Restorative Justice Employees. Three of the 7 are bilingual and bicultural Latinas. An additional fourth employee is bilingual in Spanish. I actively sought to recruit Latinx staff to our office and diversion program and am proud of the progress we have made. We know we have an overrepresentation of latino youth and adults in the justice system. We are working to address those disparities. Offering Diversion and Restorative Justice as alternatives to prosecution or conviction in appropriate cases is an important step and it's invaluable for our latinx youth to have diversion counselors who reflect the diversity of our community. We have a lot of work to do to increase Latinx representation in leadership and across governmental and community agencies. I have a proven track record of disrupting systems and improving outcomes for those impacted by or entwined in the system, building accessible community supports, and advancing community safety that bears in mind that true justice and safety mean that it is just and safe for ALL.</p>	<p>I do not currently have any staff that work directly for me. I think one way to improve inclusivity in local government leadership positions is to be sure that the qualifications listed for a job are actually required when they listed. The county removed un-necessary requirements several years ago, and it improved the diversity of our candidate pools and in the end, more diverse candidates have been hired.</p>
<p>What is your take on the current state of immigration policy and what do you see as comprehensive solutions?</p>	<p>The current state of Immigration policy is dehumanizing, ethnocentric, and has led to the appalling level of discourse on the subject. Even the small "wins" such as DACA being upheld by the Supreme Court in 2020, were hard-fought and already a compromised solution.</p> <p>If I had the ability to impact federal policy and actions, I would immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End border detention, not just of children but also of any asylum seekers and end "caps" on refugees. Resource the immigration courts to end the horrific backlog of cases. Work to implement policies that support immigrants in integrating into the US (instead of so many that work to ensure they stay excluded from much of society) and to increase opportunities to seek residency or citizenship. Address the ethnocentric policies that determine who is considered a "refugee" and who is ineligible to seek deferrals of removal or status adjustments. <p>As Boulder County Commissioner, I would seek to ensure that our local immigrant community had opportunities to provide input on projects and policies we are implementing, are able to serve within the County as staff and on Boards and Commissions, and to constantly be listening to their needs. Our Immigrant community is diverse and active and should be valued and included in government and decision-making. Together, we can create a Boulder County that is safe and supportive of immigrants.</p>	<p>As a nation, we urgently need action to address our immigration system. This is a very big question, but here are high-level points that I am happy to expand on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand and simplify legal immigration that expands family reunification Make naturalization easy and free Provide an easy and fair pathway to citizenship Raise the refugee cap Affirm asylum process protection Address the disparities that force people to seek asylum (climate, conflict, and so on)