

Acknowledging the Struggle:

A Conversation about  
Black Political Efficacy & Voter Engagement



June 8, 2021

# 2nd Tuesday Showcase

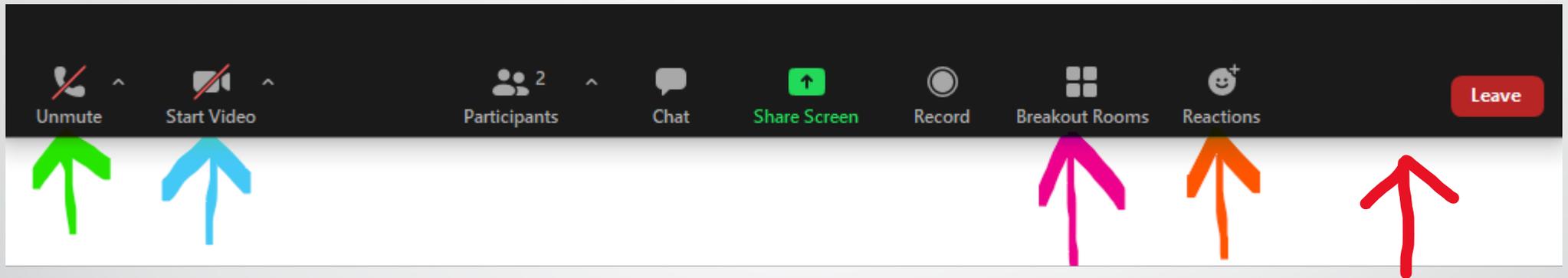




Tonight's Showcase will cover a variety of topics

Please use your personal judgement when viewing/ participating

# Tech INFO



Please make sure you are **MUTED** & **without Video**

We will be pushing you into **Breakout Rooms** Later

Feel free to use Chat/ **Reactions** – we will not have VERBAL questions in this section, but you can discuss more with the presenters later in the evening

If you need to leave the Event, use the **LEAVE button** on the Right Corner.

# Welcome To 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Showcase



**Welcome!**

**Tonight's Topic:** Acknowledging the Struggle:

A Conversation about Black Political Efficacy and Voter Engagement

**Format:** Themed Discussion, Multiple Presenters, Small Group Chats

**Post-Event Survey Link:** <https://forms.office.com/r/FLtntkbbkDv>

# Asia Zanders, MODERATOR



Asia Zanders is a passionate and ambitious wife, mother of 3, and Army Veteran. She previously ran for the Colorado State Legislature to represent House District 19 in 2018. While she did not win, it provided her with insight and increased her interest in education equity and access. Her most notable achievement was having the opportunity to speak on multiple occasions about access to full day kindergarten with STAND for Children.

Asia knows there are many problems in society holding us back. Her mission is to build bridges necessary to achieve solutions that provide an equitable life for all. Asia earned Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Philosophy from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and is currently working on her Master's degree in Transitional Learning Communities.

# What Is Political Efficacy?



Political efficacy is the concept of having trust in the government and believing that our political involvement is worthy and can have an impact in political affairs.

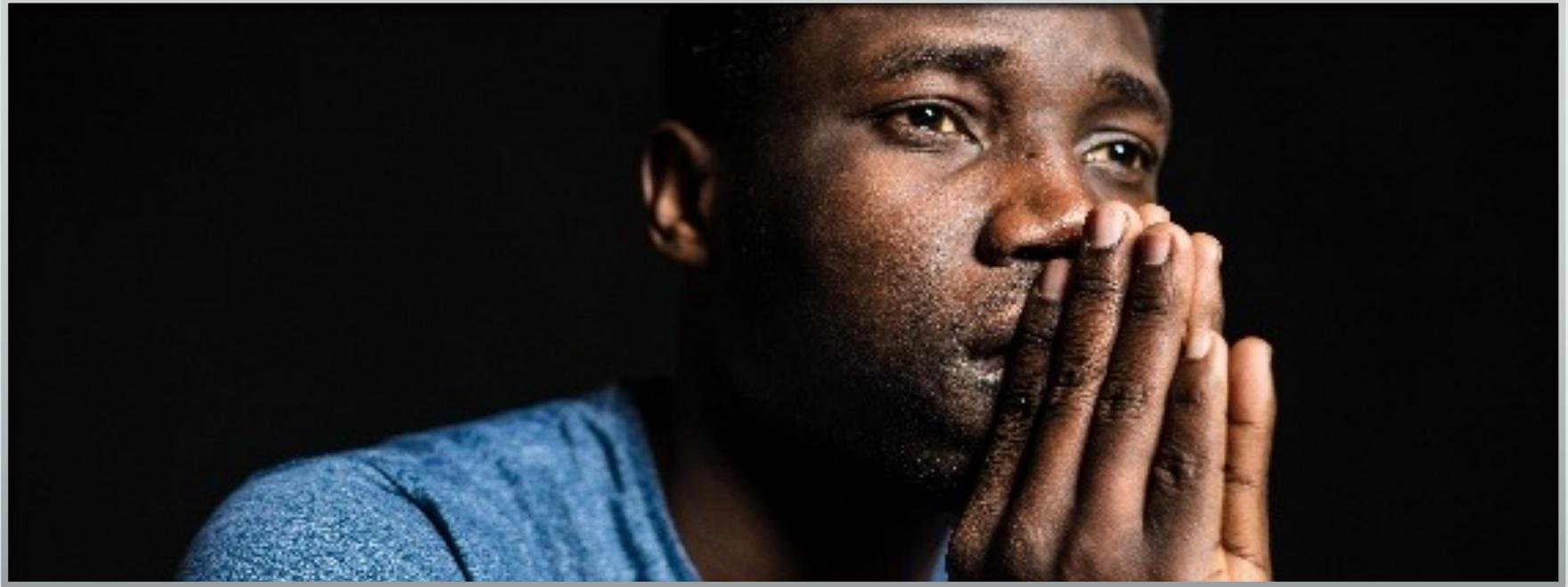
- Advocacy
- Community involvement
- Engaging in action before there is a problem

# Why People Don't Get Involved In Politics



- No trust in the government
- Lack of candidates who support their view (even if no work was put into researching candidates)
- Disinterest in politics.
- “No one took the time to consider poverty being a legitimate issue. Unbelievable. Sad.”

# Issues of Most Concern



- Livable wages and unequal pay
- Inequitable healthcare access
- Education access and discipline
- Housing access and affordability
- Police reform
- Accessible locations to healthy and affordable food options
- Many other social and systemic issues

# What We Can Do About This



- Volunteering for EPC Dems and respective local organizations.
- Voting – in ALL elections (city, state & national races)
- Completing census- when it comes around
- Researching candidates and Ballot issues
- Volunteering on campaigns
- Follow bills at the capitol and TESTIFY FOR OR AGAINST THEM
- Run for office and have a plan when doing so



“When I liberate myself, I liberate others. If you don't speak out ain't nobody going to speak out for you.” Fannie Lou Hamer



What issue do you see as most important to address within the Black Community?

# Janice Frazier, MBA, Chair - Law Enforcement Transparency & Accountability Commission (LETAC)



Janice “JJ” Frazier has been active in the Colorado Springs community for many, many years. A graduate of Widefield High School, a former business owner, a former vocalist at Fannie Mae Duncan’s *Cotton Club*, and an active volunteer for several civic organizations.

Ms. Frazier holds an MBA in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Operations. She has had a distinguished 40-year career in public education. As Chair of the Board of Directors, she has led the Urbanites Leading the Pikes Peak Region, since 2012. In July 2018, she retired from District 11, but returned as the Equity Specialist in the Office of Human Resources until she officially retired in July 2020. Currently, Ms. Frazier serves as Chair of the Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission (LETAC) in Colorado Springs.

Ms. Frazier is a recipient of many awards: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.’s *Hats Off Award*; *Woman of Distinction* by the Girl Scouts of Colorado; and *Woman of Influence* by the Colorado Springs Business Journal.

Ms. Frazier is the proud mother of 2, and grandmother to several grandchildren.



What issue do you see as most important to address within the Black Community?

# Angela Stevens, LPC & President Colorado Springs NAACP



Angela is Licensed Professional Counselor with over 18 years of experience in Mental Health and Counseling. She was born in Lakewood, NJ and went on to obtain her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Georgian Court College. She served in the United States Army from 1996 to 2002, and decided to make Colorado Springs, CO her home. Angela also holds an Educational Counseling MA Ed. from the University of Phoenix. Since then, she has worked in school systems, community health centers, acute treatment units and department of corrections working with people who suffer from chronic mental illness.

Angela is currently the Mental Health Supervisor at La Vista Correctional Facility a part of the Colorado Department of Corrections. Her community support and civic engagement in the Colorado Springs includes Colorado Springs Branch NAACP Secretary (2007 – 2011), Colorado, Montana, Wyoming NAACP State Conference Secretary (2008 – 2011), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated – Iota Beta Omega Chapter where she served 12 years with the organization. Colorado Prince Hall Foundation Secretary (2009 – Present), Association of Black Psychologists, Denver – Rocky Mountain Chapter.



What issue do you see as most important to address within the Black Community?

# Elisabeth Epps, Colorado Freedom Fund, Activist & Abolitionist



As an activist and organizer in the prison abolitionist movement, Elisabeth is committed to working with and for vulnerable people, particularly those, like her, with justice-involved backgrounds. She earned her JD from University of Virginia School of Law in 2011 and began her career as a Deputy State Public Defender in Colorado the same year.

In 2018 Elisabeth founded the Colorado Freedom Fund (CFF)—a revolving community bond fund that buys freedom for people who are caged only because they cannot afford to pay money bail. CFF works to end wealth-based detention through legislation, litigation, and direct action organizing.

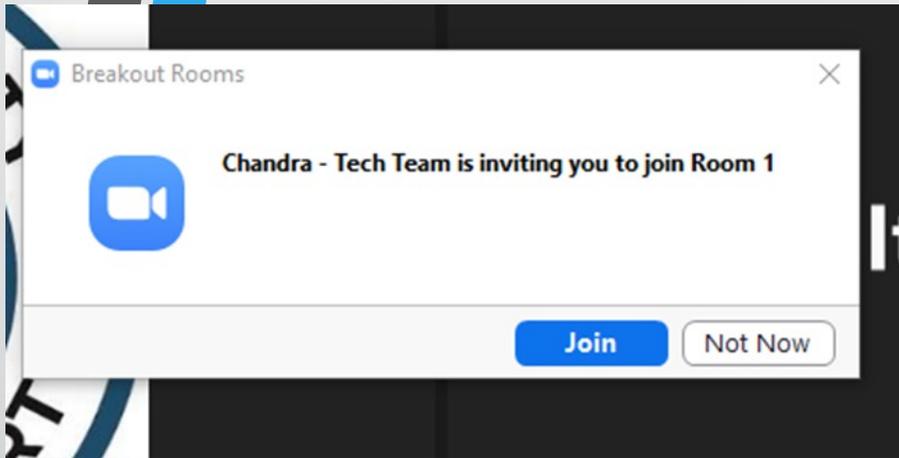
In 2019 after losing her appeal at the Colorado Supreme Court of a 2015 conviction for interfering with police, a charge commonly referred to as “contempt of cop” Elisabeth served 16 nights of a 90 days jail sentence while simultaneously using her time on work release to buy others’ freedom from Colorado cages. While in jail, she helped draft HB19-1225 a bill that abolished cash bail in Colorado for most low-level offenses, and SB19-191 to increase prompt pretrial liberty and fairness across the state; both laws are already having an impact in decarcerating Colorado cages.

Elisabeth also works as the Smart Justice Organizer with ACLU of Colorado. In 2019, Colorado Freedom Fund and ACLU in conjunction with community partners launched Bring Our Neighbors Home. In 2020 Elisabeth was instrumental in championing Colorado’s SB20-217 and seeing it signed into law on a historic date—Juneteenth 2020. This bill was one of the first to respond to the protests and takes such necessary measures as ending qualified immunity for peace officers in Colorado, outlawing chokeholds, and requiring bystander officers to intervene to stop excessive force.

Elisabeth’s legislative efforts continue in 2021, and she is working hard to end the 2021 legislative session by helping to pass SB21-273 and HB21-1980 two bills that will increase pretrial liberty and community safety throughout Colorado.



What issue do you see as most important to address within the Black Community?



You will see a Room Invite pop-up, Click JOIN

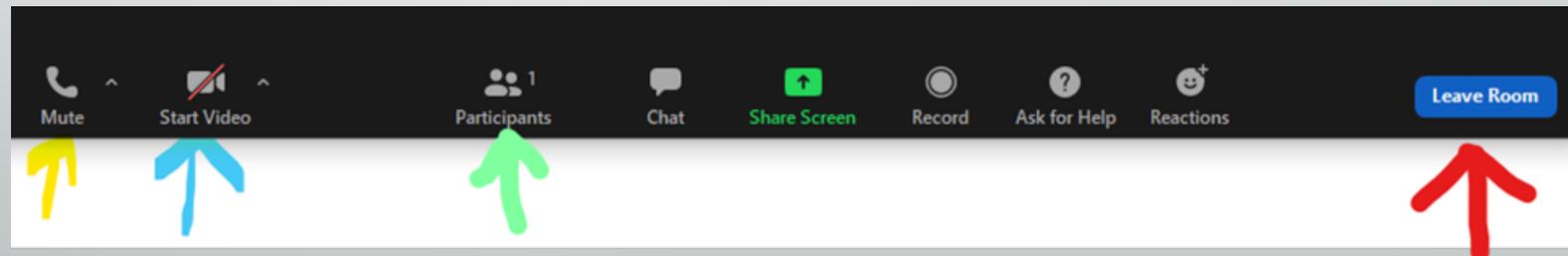
Once you've "entered" the room, Feel free to UNMUTE & Share VIDEO.

Say HELLO! To your fellow participants

We will be MOVING PRESENTERS – please DO NOT LEAVE ROOM until the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> discussion

Our intention is to give everyone a chance to learn more, have open, friendly discussions and engage with others

Participate at your comfort level, we hope you Enjoy this format!





# 2nd Tuesday Showcase



# Tonight's Presenters

Janice Frazier: Chair - LETAC

Angela Stevens: President NAACP, CS  
Chapter

Elisabeth Epps: CO Freedom Fund

Juneteenth & Voter Registration Drive  
[www.csjuneteenthfestival.com](http://www.csjuneteenthfestival.com)

[POST-Event Survey https://forms.office.com/r/FLtntkbbkDv](https://forms.office.com/r/FLtntkbbkDv)

# Party Activism Opportunities

## Candidate Development Programs

School Districts - June 10<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm (hybrid)

County Commissioners

City Council

CO House of Rep

CO Senate

Boards & Commissions

Election/ Poll Judges

Voter Registration Training June 15<sup>th</sup>, 630-730pm (hybrid)

## El Paso County Initiatives

If you are interested in leading, joining or learning more about our LOCAL initiatives, please email [EPCDems@Gmail.com](mailto:EPCDems@Gmail.com) so we can get you involved!

# EPC Dems Updates



Local Party Updates & Information <https://www.epcodemparty.org/>

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Showcase

July 13<sup>th</sup> – Get Out & Vote! The History & Future of Voting in America

## SAVE THE DATE

August 21, 2021 – El Paso County Democrats Central Committee Meeting & Election Season Kickoff!

October 23, 2021 – El Paso County Democrats Gala & Fundraiser \*\* DETAILS COMING SOON \*\*

## Donations & Contributions

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/epcdonorclub> Monthly Donations & 1-time Gifts

<https://www.epcodemparty.org/volunteer-questionnaire> VOLUNTEER – time & talent always needed

Precinct Organizers – We have over 100 unfilled positions, please help us recruit or “Adopt a Precinct”

Post-Event Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/uv4WRyJc0h>



# Open House Conversations

Thank you for coming!

Feel free to stick around and continue the conversation!

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