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Open Forum
Longmont Times-Call

Editor:

I am proud to endorse Marta Loachamin for Boulder County Commissioner representing District 2. Her excellent work for the City of Longmont, especially in the aftermath of the flood of 2013, is well known. It's also well known, and high time, that Marta will be the first woman of color to serve as a Boulder County Commissioner. But I don't want to tell you about Marta's accomplishments. I want to tell you about how she will use her experience to do the needful in Boulder County, because of what she knows.

Longmont is a city with a strong commitment to social equity. Many approaches to achieving equity can be taken. Marta knows that the highest and best service to disadvantaged persons is to *empower* them. Her work with the Hispanic Wealth Project is a good example of empowerment. It helps, of course, that Marta is bilingual, that she's had the experience of being a working single mother, that she knows what a woman faces making it alone. It helps that she's walked many miles in those shoes.

It helps, too, that she will serve as a model and an inspiration to those following in her footsteps.

But what matters most is the choices I know she will make, because of the understanding her experience has given her. Equity isn't standing in the way of progress: It's making sure everyone can progress. It means removing obstacles to participating fully in society, not patching or covering up structural inequities. It means fixing the problems facing Boulder County's bilingual and monolingual Spanish-speaking people for generations, not just for now. Build wealth, build confidence, build ladders. Remove obstacles, pave the roads. Marta has navigated a road full of potholes and cracks. She knows what needs to be done.

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Ms. Martin is expressing her own opinions and not the position of the Longmont City Council.