



Lamorinda shows resiliency at CMWS

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Leaders approve 'right to work'

Ordinance passes county commission on 4-1 vote

Hannah Grover
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AZTEC — San Juan County needs jobs and, if a "right to work" ordinance can increase the number of local employment opportunities, the county should have it as a tool, county commissioners said by voting 4-1 in favor of the ordinance Tuesday evening. The measure gives private-sector employers in unincorporated areas of San

Juan County the right to choose whether to pay union dues or agency fees.

Charley casts lone dissenting vote

Commissioner Wallace Charley, the lone Democrat on the commission, cast the sole dissenting vote. He said the advocacy group the New Mexico Business Coalition, which supported the ordinance, presented facts and handouts to support its cause, while union members only offered verbal information. However, Charley said he voted against of the ordinance because he believed that was the way his constituents would want him to vote.

Republican commissioners Margaret McDaniel, Jack Fortner, Jim Crowley and

John Beckstead all voted in favor of the ordinance.

"I always listen to the people," Charley said. "So my decision tonight will be, 'Where would my constituents be if it weren't for unions.'"

Charley represents the western portion of the county, which is predominantly Navajo.

"Listen to your constituents," he said prior to the vote. "Listen to your voters. What's in the best interest of your voters? And that's how I'm going to vote."

Fanny Atcitty said the ordinance would hurt Navajo people.

"We deal on a daily basis with discrim-

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Carla Sonntag, president of the New Mexico Business Coalition, speaks in favor of the "right to work" ordinance Tuesday during a San Juan County Commission meeting in Aztec.

JON AUSTRIA/THE DAILY TIMES