



**Anne Brown Caucus Remarks**  
**Incumbent and Candidate for San Miguel County District 1 County Commissioner**  
**Wilkinson Public Library, Telluride, Colorado**  
**March 9, 2024**

My name is Anne Brown. I am the incumbent District 1 County Commissioner, and I am running to retain my seat. Thank you for coming.

The first thing I want to do is to nominate myself, Anne Brown, for District One San Miguel County Commissioner.

*Wait, am I allowed to nominate myself? Is this the right time? I still don't think I understand how the caucus works!*

And the second thing I'd like to do is to nominate Geneva Shaunette, my formidable opponent.

As charming as the caucus is, I don't think it's the time and place for an election to be decided.

- Not by the few dozen people who have the privilege of being here for hours and hours on a Saturday afternoon.
- This election should be decided by "we the people."
- And in order for "we the people" to choose the District 1 commissioner, we need to put both me and Geneva on the June 25 Democratic primary ballot.
- So let's do that today.

But enough of the collegiality. Back to me!

Here's why I think you should put me on the ballot:

1. **I'm a highly capable incumbent** - I have worked hard for San Miguel County for 3-½ years, first in the Public Health Department and now as commissioner, so I am up to speed.
  - Don't worry about the time I've invested in the job (that's not your concern).
  - What IS your concern is the hours spent by paid staff and elected officials who have invested in my education and training.
  - I think it would be a waste to squander this community investment when I am doing a solid job.
2. **I have county-wide perspective** - I have 35-years of deep relationships across San Miguel County (and now across the state).
  - I moved here when I was 26 years old and raised my family here.

- I have lived in all 3 commissioner districts (District 1, District 2 and District 3), including 10 years in the Town of Telluride.
- Since becoming commissioner, I have spent a ton of time on Wrights Mesa and some in the far West End.
- It's important for any commissioner to have county-wide relationships and a county-wide perspective.
  - While each of us lives in a different district, we are elected by the county at large.
  - It is my duty and my honor to represent the diverse interests within District 1 ... and all of SMC.

### 3. **I take a moderate, open-minded approach -**

- I have no fixed point of view; I approach every decision with an open mind and open heart.
- I bring my natural passion for deep questioning and clear understanding to every discussion.
- I actively seek opinions from all points of view in order to find common ground.
- I am a level-headed decision-maker.

Before I finish, I want to spend a minute talking about housing.

- I hear on the street that the District 1 race (at least on the East End) may be developing into a single issue referendum on housing.
- I'm sorry to hear that, because there are MANY issues facing the county.
- But if this is the direction the public is taking, I'll go with it.

And here's what I want to say about housing: Workforce housing has been my number one priority since I first volunteered to fill the District 1 vacancy.

- This issue is personal for me; like nearly everyone here, I have lived the housing struggle myself.
- I moved 9 times over my years in the county (12 if you count when we were caretakers and had to move out for the owners' Christmas and spring breaks).
- My own children who were born and raised in Telluride haven't figured out a way to afford to live here.
- When I was pregnant with our first child, Toby and I bought our first home at Fairway Four, the first deed restricted ownership project in the county.
- At the time it was a big stretch for us so it was hard and scary.
- We are well-established now, but when I was a young person I lived the housing struggle myself, so I do get it.

And as promised, I have leaned into the housing issue as commissioner.

- At my request, the Board of County Commissioners now receives twice-monthly housing reports from staff, ensuring timely decision-making, accountability, and continuous forward progress.
- Together with my fellow commissioners, I am driving forward four affordable housing projects.
- We are full steam ahead on housing at the county.

And I am not against Diamond Ridge. Let me repeat - I am not against Diamond Ridge.

- I spoke before the Board of County Commissioners on May 22, 2022 when they made the rezoning decision.

- As a private citizen at the time, I urged the Board of County Commissioners to wait for more information before spending \$7.21 million of public money.
  - Yes, \$5 million of that was supposed to be DOLA money.
  - But let's not forget that DOLA money comes from taxpayers across the state.
  - That is public money too, much of it from communities far less wealthy than ours.
- But I did not say NO to Diamond Ridge then, and I do not say NO to Diamond Ridge today.
- What I say is YES to an open public process to decide the future of Diamond Ridge.
- And as long as we have a deficit of workforce housing, I will say YES to projects . . .
  - That have gone through an open public process and proper due diligence;
  - That consider the surrounding environment;
  - And that make financial sense.
- There are many in the pipeline.

Speaking of an open public process, let's get on with the caucus. Thank you for being here, and thank you for supporting me, Anne 4 all of San Miguel County.

970-729-2491 • [anne4all.ofsmc@gmail.com](mailto:anne4all.ofsmc@gmail.com)



[@anne4allofsmc](https://www.instagram.com/anne4allofsmc) •



[Anne 4 All - of San Miguel County](https://www.facebook.com/Anne4All-of-San-Miguel-County)

[www.anne4allofsmc.com](http://www.anne4allofsmc.com)