

Recall Committee list the following talking points for why Commissioner Scott Mijares should be recalled.

Here are the facts:

Lack of transparency and Secret Meetings. This is false.

Mijares and Pond did not engage in “secret meetings” or violate state law.

C.R.S. § 30-11-107(14) grants the BOCC the authority to create positions such as county manager, by resolution. It states explicitly that:

“Any persons appointed to such offices shall serve at the pleasure of the board of county commissioners”.

It is not unusual for a new board to build a team that shares their vision. It has happened in many of the previous boards. What is unusual is an outgoing board to hire a new manager less than 30 days before an election without the consultation and consent of the incoming board.

Poor fiscal responsibility. This is also a false accusation.

Recall committee has claimed that Commissioner Mijares has wasted tax dollars on severance packages and outside legal fees to the tune of **\$500,000.00**

This is not true.

Montrose County paid out a total of **\$177,000** in severance packages to former County Manager and County Attorney. Those positions remained unfilled for over three months. The County Manager compensation cost taxpayers **\$18,613.00** per month when including taxes and benefits. The County Attorney was **\$19,306** per month. The savings for 3 months was in excess of **\$113,760**. The assistant County Manager quit on her own with no severance. Her monthly salary and benefits cost taxpayers **\$15,553**. The assistant County Manager position has not been filled for six months for a total of **\$93,318**.

The total SAVINGS for all three positions totals \$207,078.00. The savings continues to accumulate this day.

The petitioners also claim that Mijares spent money on unnecessary legal fees.

This also untrue.

The board voted to authorize up to **\$10,000** to retain specialized outside council to review employment contracts of County Manager and County Attorney. The board spent **\$1,500.00** with an employment attorney who's recommendation was to not to pay more than 3 months severance based on **Colorado Statute CRS § 24-19-103**. Unfortunately Commissioner Mijares's co-workers did not take this advise and Montrose County paid out full severance to both citing “bad optics”.

North Campus Project - On December 18th, 2024 the outgoing board committed the County to a **\$24,000,000.00** North Campus building. This decision was of **grave concern to our Finance Department**. As a result Mijares made a motion to pause the construction to review the implications of the project on the County Budget. This was a hasty decision made just 27 days prior the old board leaving office. His motion was not seconded - there was no impact on the project.

The North Campus building will be **100% full on day one** leaving no room for future growth.

In 2023 the BOCC granted a **first right of refusal** to an out-of-state developer for the South Campus Property. This first right of refusal was granted without an financial consideration and keeps legitimate buyers at bay thus reducing the value. This is a highly unusual transaction given the construction contract for the North Campus was not signed until a year later. Commissioner Sue Hansen was the Board Chair at the time and was the driving force behind the North Campus Project.

Public Health Flip Flop - The petitioners claim that the Public Health Director, Mirza Ahmed, was fired by Commissioner Mijares. **This is not true**. Mr. Ahmed was never technically hired.

Colorado Revised Statue 25-1-508 states, “The Public Health Director **SHALL** be **selected** by the County Board of Health”. This did not occur. The BOCC voted to follow Colorado law and a new Public Health Director was appointed by the Board of Health according to Colorado Law. There was no loss of essential services to citizens.

Violation of Public Trust - This is a salacious claim that cannot be verified or trusted. Many people believe that Chair Mijares has gone out of his way to be the most transparent Commissioner Montrose has ever seen. He asks questions of his Directors at BOCC meetings in an effort to help taxpayers understand how their tax dollars are being spent. He makes sure directors know that thorough explanations will be expected in BOCC meetings.

County Commissioners do not have the authority to hire and fire employees. That is the responsibility of the County Manager. Commissioner Mijares has never fired anyone of our staff members or asked a director to fire anyone. The prior board has gotten the county sued by former employees that lead to large settlements by medaling in employment issues.

The fearful workplace claim is false. Nothing more than the result of a small group of employees that have been convinced that Commissioner Mijares was somehow a threat to them. This is not true and not how our organization is structured. Commissioner Mijares has been and always will be 100% supportive of all of the staff and stands ready to help them be the best they can be in the service to our citizens.