

Rep. Kathleen Cates's answers to the Duke City Ledger

Emailed to the Ledger on Oct. 19, 2026, as an attached document, by Rep. Kathleen M. Cates, Democratic candidate for the New Mexico House, District 44, in reply to questions the Ledger sent her on Oct. 15. The Ledger's questions are in bold; her answers follow exactly as sent. Nothing was removed.

Thank you very much for your questions. I believe that the more information voters have, the better they are able to make an informed decision. Attached are my answers to your questions. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Representative Kathleen M. Cates

1. In this office, what would you do about data centers' electricity and water use and who pays for it?

I, along with other legislators, are working on legislation that would prohibit data centers from creating any net loss of water and that would require them to pay for and provide their own electricity.

2. In this office, what would you do about the proposed sale of PNM and your electric bill?

The New Mexico PRC makes the decision as to whether to approve or not approve. If they were to approve the sale; I would want to extract guarantees that ratepayers would be protected and that significant investments in infrastructure were made at the buyer's cost.

3. In this office, what would you do about license plate cameras such as Flock and who can see their data?

While I believe in ensuring that drivers are not speeding, I do believe that a nongovernmental entity should not have access to drivers' personal information. We are looking at legislation to accomplish that.

4. In this office, what would you do about crime and homelessness?

Violent crime statistics show a decline which I will attribute to excellent police work by the public entities in District 44. I believe that we need more officers and we will work on increasing funding to accomplish that.

5. What's one thing about this office most voters don't know, but should?

A good legislator should put in the time to attend interim committee meetings; meet with constituents that have issues; attend learning opportunity events; attend public meetings and events in the district; and, put in the time to understand the issues and the legislation that is proposed. One can make it a part-time job, but for me, it is more than a part-time job. I think many voters are not aware of the time a legislator spends, in addition to the yearly sessions.

6. Who are your largest donors, and is there any decision this office makes where you'd step aside because of them?

No donation to my campaign ever influences my vote and it should not do so for any elected official. My largest category of contributors is from individuals (37%). Other contributors include companies, professionals, labor unions, and many others. If I saw a clear conflict, I would recuse myself from voting on legislation that would benefit me personally.