

## **Dennis Dinge's answers to the Duke City Ledger**

*Emailed to the Ledger on Oct. 18, 2026, by Dennis C. Dinge, Forward Party candidate for the Public Education Commission, District 3, in reply to questions the Ledger sent him on Oct. 15. The Ledger's questions are in bold; his answers follow exactly as sent, typos included. The Ledger removed one name: his largest donor's, a private person. Updated Oct. 20, 2026: at Dinge's request by email that day, his last sentence now reads "a financial interest" where it first read "an interest."*

Here you go

### **1. In this office, what would you do about Native American and English-learner students?**

Like all public schools, charter schools must satisfy the requirements of the Martinez/Yazzie court ruling, which found that the state failed to meet its constitutional obligation to provide uniform and sufficient education for all students. This failure was found to be particularly dire amongst students experiencing poverty, Native American students, English learners, and those with disabilities. Charter schools should implement policies that address the spirit — not just satisfy the letter — of this ruling.

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

The Public Education Commission regulate and approves public Charter Schools with no direct effect on other public schools in general. I'm surprised by how many voters don't know that. Public charter schools are the research and development branch of the public school system. I will emphasize making sure best practices from from public charter schools are transferred to all public schools and work to make sure transfer mechanisms are available.

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

My largest donor by far is [name removed by the Ledger] he's a bank vice president from South Carolina. He's also my bother in law. We were friends in college when he was the president of the State Young Democrats. I was very active in Young Democrats in college. I introduced him to my step sister at a Democratic breakfast. I was surprised when I learned they were dating. They've been together over 30 years. He has no interest in anything the New Mexico PEC would be involved in but he is a smart and trusted advisor. My other donors so far are all at the \$500 or less, mostly less level. They are Democrats,

Independents and likely some Republicans I'm unaware of. No one who has a financial interest in the rulings of the PEC has donated to me to my knowledge.