

The Riley campaign's answers to the Duke City Ledger

Emailed to the Ledger on Oct. 15, 2026, by Thomas Wayne Riley, Republican candidate for Bernalillo County Commission District 5, in reply to questions the Ledger sent him that day. The Ledger's questions are in bold; his answers follow exactly as sent.

1. In this office, what would you do about data centers, including tax breaks, bonds and water and power rules?

Data Centers may be necessary for some industries but I do not believe New Mexico, specifically Bernalillo County, should welcome any data centers. They do not bring the promised jobs and they use too much of our precious water. I am against data centers in Bernalillo County.

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

I want Flock and "license plate cameras" abolished. They have no place in our society. Laws, both local and federal, are not even being enforced by the police and sheriff's office as it is. They do not need this very powerful tool added to their arsenal so that it can be abused.

We didn't want to ask you something you've already answered, so here's what we found from your public statements. We plan to use these unless you'd like to update them. On crime and the jail (the Metropolitan Detention Center): "Are we worried about improving the inmates conditions? I am not. Employees should be paid accordingly and their safety should be the number one priority."

This is a good statement.

On homelessness and housing: "Fine and imprison homeless who are abusing a substance. Enforce a ban on panhandling. Stop allowing tents and makeshift structures."

This is good.

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

The County Commissioner controls how money is spent in the county and especially the district they represent. It's important for us to hear our constituents and act on what they desire. Controlling the purse gives us great influence on what happens in the county, including the Sheriff's department.

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

My largest donor is the Republican Party of Bernalillo County. I have not raised very much money at all. I have also not been campaigning to raise money. No one owns me because of donations.