

Jacob Trujillo's answers to the Duke City Ledger

Emailed to the Ledger on Oct. 20, 2026, by Jacob A. Trujillo, Democratic 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. The Ledger removed one line: his phone number.

Hi! Thanks for reaching out. Here are my answers:

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

New Mexico charters use random lotteries, so I cannot set enrollment quotas. I will require real plans for outreach, access, and service before approval, and hold schools accountable for outcomes at renewal. Schools that treat these students as an afterthought should not operate.

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

This is a partisan seat, and the commission is currently split 5 Democrats and 5 Republicans. The next majority elects the chair, who sets the agenda for the next two years. That agenda determines which issues the commission prioritizes—application reviews, renewals, performance concerns, and policy questions that affect charter schools across the state. Voters should know that the outcome of this race helps decide who controls the agenda and, by extension, the direction of the commission.

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

My largest individual donors are Vanessa Alarid, Brandon Padilla, and Sen. Mimi Stewart—long-time mentors and supporters. I'm grateful for their help. Like most New Mexicans, and unlike my opponent, I cannot afford to loan myself \$7,000 to campaign. If any of them led an application before the PEC and I could not decide the case fairly because of those ties, I would recuse myself.

My largest organizational contribution is from the New Mexico Federation of Labor. I'm proud to be the union-supported candidate in this race. I will support schools that open pathways to the trades for students. On equity: Some coverage has suggested I have no plan on equity. That is not accurate. When I was sworn in, I took my oath on a copy of the Yazzie/Martinez decision. My standard is clear: if an applicant school is not supporting the Yazzie/Martinez student populations—Native students, English learners, students with disabilities, and students from low-income families—I will vote against their application.

They have no business operating as a school in New Mexico if they will not serve the students the court has said we have failed. Thanks, Jacob Trujillo Public Education Commissioner, District 3 Democratic nominee

Jacob A. Trujillo

[Phone number removed by the Ledger.]

New Mexican

Chair of the Democratic Party of Bernalillo County (Send all party inquiries to Chair@BernalilloDems.org)

Field Representative for Office of Congresswoman Stansbury (Send all official inquiries to Jacob.Trujillo@mail.house.gov)