



# Safer Water, North Texas

## 2019 Plano City Council Candidate Q&A

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### Ron Kelley

#### **1) Are you satisfied with the current status of Plano's water quality, including the annual chlorine maintenance?**

The challenge we have from the start with the water we're provided by the NTMD is all of our water sources (e.g. reservoirs) are man-made; there's no natural pure water source that we draw from. Although some do not trust our water, the fact is it does meet the current standards set forth by the EPA and TCEQ. Under the current set-up, the chlorine maintenance is a necessary step to assure the biofilm is removed in the pipes before the hot summer months. I certainly understand there are those who oppose this process but for such a large water district this process is an accepted industry standard and it accomplishes the objective. Does this mean we should stay committed to the current processes the NTMWD deploys forever? No, we should always be looking for better procedures and processes to improve the quality of our water and be more efficient in doing so.

#### **2) If not, what are your concerns about Plano's water?**

At my home we experience lime-like build-up and I personally don't like the taste unless it is filtered. I also believe Plano residents pay too much for their water.

#### **3) What do you believe you could do as a Plano City Council member to change the Plano water quality?**

We're dealing with an organization (NTMWD) where Plano does not have the final say in what happens since we're one of 13 member cities and all member cities must agree to make certain changes. First of all, it is imperative Plano have representatives on the NTMWD Board who will represent the wishes of our city and citizens. I personally have tremendous faith in our current board members as they are a former Plano mayor and former city employee and they understand the history and issues.

Secondly, the direction is to move to bacteria filters at the NTMWD and we need to keep the pressure on to implement this technology. The NTMWD has had significant large dollar infrastructure projects the past five years (e.g. increased piping capacity, modernization of their physical water plant, new headquarters and operations centers, and a new reservoir which cost over \$1.2 billion just to name a few of the projects) so it will take several years to roll out this bacteria filter solution. The alternative is to take out more long term debt, deploy now and everyone would experience a significant increase to their water bill immediately. The technology and plan are there; we just need to fund this project.



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**4) If you are an incumbent, what have you done in the past 2 years that provides voters with insight regarding your possible future actions if re-elected?**

The city is in the midst of a rate case with the Water District at the PUC in an attempt to lower the price our citizens pay for water. That's all I can comment on this subject since there is an on-going case and I'm on the Council that pursued this course of action.

As for the increased testing Plano conducted during this most recent chlorine maintenance, this was a direct result of a meeting we had last year where you requested such testing. If the tests warrant taking action, we will do so.

I have passed annual budgets that allowed us to hire more water technicians and improve our physical plant. Note: it's impossible to make investments in water if you desire to slash the city budget. As I mentioned in the previous question, during my first term we had to put new board members on the NTMWD who would do a better job representing the city of Plano.

The city of Plano is committed to clean safe drinking water. If there is a documented issue, we want to do the right thing.

**5) Will you take responsibility to ensure that all Plano water towers and water tanks are cleaned on the inside at least once every 3 years?**

Still looking into this issue; but yes, I am open to insuring such.