



Safer Water, North Texas

2019 Allen City Council Candidate Q&A

Chris Schulmeister

- 1) Are you satisfied with the current status of Allen's water quality, including the annual chlorine maintenance?**
 - 2) If not, what are your concerns about Allen's water?**
 - 3) What do you believe you could do as an Allen City Council member to change the Allen water quality?**
 - 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?**
 - 5) Will you take responsibility to ensure that all Allen water towers and water tanks are cleaned on the inside at least once every 3 years?**
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I do appreciate your email and the opportunity to respond to your questions. I will admit most of my knowledge of Allen's water quality is based primarily on what I read. I did reach out to some City officials last year to better understand the process they refer to as "free chlorine" treatments. At the time, there was heightened concern due to the dense chlorine odor resulting from the treatment.

Allen joined the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) a little over 20 years ago as a member city. Allen is one of what I believe includes 13 cities participating as a member of the district which serves an area of 2,200 square miles.

Through standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the NTMWD routinely performs a range of water tests during the year to make sure water quality meets or exceeds all safe drinking water standards. The annual "free chlorine" maintenance is conducted to remove disinfection byproducts (DBP's) along the entire 13 city area. While the dense chlorine odor is justifiably alarming to Allen residents, particularly when the treatment is not communicated in advance, the treatment is something that has proven necessary to remove the DBP's. The City of Allen did a far better job this year communicating to Allen residents the timing of the "free chlorine" treatment, so it was not near as controversial as last year.



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I am not sure of alternative methods to the “free chlorine” maintenance and the associated costs of any alternatives, but the City should always work with the NTMWD member cities to research alternatives and share in any additional costs. These costs are normally passed on to the residents, so it is incumbent upon the City to engage the citizens in decisions being made and also educate them to the added costs. As for cleaning the water towers/tanks every 3 years, I am not sure what is required, so I am not knowledgeable enough to comment. I would like to understand if there is a specific regulation that is currently in place that all cities are required to follow. Whatever that is, Allen should abide by those standards.

I will add that I believe it is important for all of our residents to practice water conservation. I have a Rachio irrigation system at my home. It is a smart-system set up to water my yard based on the level of moisture in my lawn. It saves water and saves money and essentially pays for itself within months. The City provides a \$150.00 rebate to residents that install these water saving systems. They also provide a free inspection of a resident’s irrigation system and offer suggestions for more efficiency and water conservation.