



# Safer Water, North Texas

## 2019 Allen City Council Candidate Q&A

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### Melanie Hughes

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to discuss my thoughts on water quality in Allen. With regards to your questionnaire, my answers are listed below.

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

Generally, I am satisfied with the current status of Allen's water quality, but I am not a fan of the annual chlorine maintenance. We do use a water filter at our kitchen tap and another in our refrigerator so the effects are mainly felt when showering and brushing teeth. We have stopped giving baths to our children during the annual chlorine flush as their skin does appear to be sensitive to it. After speaking with the North Texas Municipal Water District at length with regards to the chlorine flush, I am hopeful the smell and effects of chlorine without ammonia mixed in will be greatly reduced by their shift to using a biologically active filtration system over the coming year.

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

As stated above, our children's skin appears to be more sensitive to the water during the chlorine flush and they also complain about the smell. I avoid brushing my teeth until after the water has been running, which frustratingly wastes water and only causes the smell to dissipate mildly. Friends have reported hair and skin issues since moving to Allen but I am unsure if it is water quality related or just due to the climate of this area. I would like to be able to afford a water filter for our bathrooms; even better would be a reverse osmosis water filter for my whole home.

**3) What do you believe you could do as an Allen City Council member to change the Allen water quality?**

During my campaign I had a friend reach out to ask about the chlorine flush and the reasons behind it. She has three young children and is currently pregnant. Obviously, water safety is paramount to her. I first researched material online, watched the April 2018 Allen Water Quality Town Hall and spoke with the North Texas Municipal Water District twice. If elected, I would endeavor to continue to seek out information, clarify communications between the city and citizens while pushing for continued testing, perhaps more often than is currently being done. In addition, I would seek out an actual date for the release of the "concise evaluation document" by experts of the NTMWD water treatment process as described by Billy George, Assistant Deputy of Water for NTMWD, at 1:30:13 in the Town Hall recording as being available in months following. When I requested this document, Mr. George was out of the office. However, I was told by both company employees I spoke with that they were not



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aware of such a document being completed even after the NTMWD had over a year to finish it.

**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?**

I am not an incumbent.

**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?**

If elected, I would advocate for cleaning the inside of all Allen water towers and tanks in order to prevent bacteria, protozoa or possible waterborne contamination on a routine basis. The city of Allen currently only lists painting the inside of the tanks under the Storage Tank Maintenance tab on their website so I am curious what cleaning protocols are actually in place and why they are not clearly displayed. I would need to enlist another councilmember to help me place this item on the city council agenda. One councilmember alone is not allowed to place items onto the agenda under current city council rules.