



# Safer Water, North Texas

## 2019 Plano City Council Candidate Q&A

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### LaShon Ross

My responses to your questions are attached. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

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

I rely on information from professionals and accredited laboratories to manage our water in a way that creates a safe water supply and keeps us informed of processes used to treat and maintain water that is safe for us to use in our daily lives. I think we have to put people and processes in place that we trust to make decisions in our best interests when we lack the expertise to do so. At all times, I believe citizens should stay involved, read information, ask questions, and stay engaged in a way that encourages accountability at all times. I am satisfied that Plano's water supply is being properly monitored and that information is readily available and shared.

My research of annual chlorine maintenance indicates it is necessary to maintain a safe water supply which includes protecting against changes that may result from temperature fluctuation. I am satisfied that proper guidelines are being followed. I find additional assurance in the fact that multiple levels of oversight are in place to ensure we can rely on end results. If I were presented with valid information that challenges my basis for believing Plano's water supply is safe, I would initiate discussions/processes to resolve points of disagreement.

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

I have not experienced any problems with Plano water, and I have no current concerns. As with any other issue, I do not allow myself to be lulled into thinking that "okay today" is "okay forever." Whether as a citizen or Council Member, I will do my best to be an informed consumer so that, if there is ever a reason to be concerned, I will address the issue sooner rather than later.

I am unaware of a specific issue(s) that is jeopardizing Plano's water supply. As a Council Member, I will always be open to hearing different perspectives regarding water quality. While I have no specific plans to change Plano's water quality, I will be committed to taking steps and making decisions that always promote a safe, affordable, accessible water supply.



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

I have no immediate plans to change the Plano water quality, because I have no basis for believing it is deficient. As a Council Member, I will access people and information to secure accurate findings regarding the quality of water in Plano. I will be diligent when listening to concerns and seeking answers. I will hold myself and others accountable for ensuring that goals for providing safe, affordable water are achieved. I will also take a strategic focus to be sure future concerns for access to an adequate, safe water supply are part of today's conversation.

### **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 Plano water towers and water tanks are cleaned on the inside at least once every 3 years?**

I will take responsibility for ensuring that city staff confirms to its citizens that Plano's water towers and water tanks are cleaned in accordance with accepted guidelines for maintenance and safety. While I have lightly researched this issue in order to respond to your question, I am unaware of the basis for cleaning towers and tanks every 3 years. However, this is a situation where we can discover the details of cleaning requirements and confirm compliance. If there is a defensible reason for cleaning tanks every 3 years, we will need to either comply or explain why cleaning less frequently is indicated.

According to City of Plano staff, all water tanks (ground storage and elevated tanks) are inspected annually. They provided dates showing when tanks were last cleaned. Photos and video are used to document conditions of these tanks. Sometimes, divers are used to capture these images. Results of inspections show no concerns for sediment problems that are problematic for Plano's water supply.

City staff acknowledged they are responsible for addressing any concerns for Plano's water supply and informing citizens of the problem and solution(s). I will ensure that this level of monitoring and accountability remain in place.