

**MIKE POWERS**  
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Dear Committeeperson:

I am Councilperson Mike Powers and I am seeking your support at the County Democratic Convention for the open Mercer County Freeholder seat. I have served two terms as the Mayor of Lawrence Township and was selected as "Mayor of the Year" by the New Jersey Regional Coalition in recognition of my efforts to promote community diversity. I have championed redevelopment efforts at the municipal level through smart planning and have showcased Lawrence as a place of destination for high paying jobs that all communities seek. With your support, I will be able to continue these efforts county wide as your next Freeholder.

As a lawyer in private practice, I have successfully represented working women and men throughout Mercer County for over a decade while working for law firms in Hamilton and West Windsor. Today I work for a not-for-profit company (Gynecologic Oncology Group) seeking to find a cure for cancers exclusively affecting women.

It is great that we have such a large group of diverse people seeking this Freeholder seat. However, the candidate you select will need to successfully fundraise and repeatedly win in November. I am that candidate. After receiving the most Council votes of all candidates in my 2007 and 2011 elections, the Republican Party chose for the first time in 45 years NOT to run a slate of candidates against me when I led our local ticket to victory in 2015 and was again the top vote getter. When other Mercer County Democrats have asked for help, I have always been there to volunteer and financially support their campaigns. I raised \$5000 for Bonnie Watson Coleman's initial campaign for Congress. Through my "Powers Backyard Barbeque", I have helped to raise thousands of dollars for both county and municipal Democrats over the years including myself. Over my career as an elected official I have raised an average of over \$20,000 for each of my municipal campaigns.

I look forward to speaking with you over the coming days before and during the Democratic Convention to discuss my qualifications for this position.

Very truly yours,



Councilperson Mike Powers

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**REASON I AM RUNNING FOR FREEHOLDER:**

Simply stated, I care about people. That is why I have been an active Democrat my entire life. My first political experience was working after law school with Rich McClellan on Shirley Turner and her running mates campaign for the State Legislature. I still have that same energy and idealism today.

I have managed political campaigns and have now run successfully as the highest recipient of Council votes for my last three elections (2007, 2011 & 2015) because residents know they have an advocate looking out for the best interest of our community. Residents always know where I stand on an issue.

I have been working on community building efforts, preserving our environment and redevelopment efforts in Lawrence for over a decade. With your support, I will be able to bring these skills to the county level and serve as your next Freeholder.

**MIKE POWERS BIO:**

I was born and raised in Trenton for the early years of my life. I lived in an apartment on Beatty Street in South Trenton until my family bought a home on the 400 block of Ardmore Avenue just off of Hamilton Avenue in Trenton. When my grandfather died, my family moved to an eight-acre farm on Bear Brook Road in West Windsor to spend time with my grandmother Frances (named after St. Francis of Assisi). My grandmother was known for her love of animals and people would often drop stray dogs and cats to her for care. This meant I grew up with 9 dogs and 30 cats! I must have inherited the St. Francis gene from my grandmother as my wife Nancy and I now have four dogs and two cats living with us in our house in Lawrence.

After graduating from Lawrence Township public schools, I received my college degree in Political Science from Emory University and my law degree from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

As an attorney, I have worked for law firms in Hamilton Township (Destribats, Campbell, DeSantis & Magee) and in West Windsor (Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney). I am now general counsel of the not-for-profit Gynecologic Oncology Group ("GOG") in Lawrence where I support doctors looking for a cure for cancers affecting women.

## **MIKE POWERS POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:**

- **Two term Mayor of Lawrence Township (2006, 2010).**
  - \* Launched annual Diversity Day (now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year) to bring greater inclusiveness among the various religious and ethnic groups within the township.
  - \* Route One Mayor's Coalition to find regional solutions to traffic congestion along Route One corridor.
  - \* "Ask the Mayor" monthly meetings to promote local businesses
  - \* Took Council meetings "on the road" to bring government to the people rather than people to the government.
  - \* New Jersey Regional Coalition "Mayor of the Year" 2010 in recognition of my efforts to promote community diversity.
  
- **Lawrence Councilperson for 14 years.**
  - \* Introduced "Welcoming Resolution" in 2018 to reassure township immigrant communities
  - \* First elected to Council at the age of 36
  - \* Introduced Lawrence's first "Pay to Play" Ordinance to limit the influence of professionals doing business with township
  - \* Council Liaison to Human Relations Committee
  - \* Council Liaison to Shade Tree Committee
  - \* Created Green Advisory Committee and updated Community Forestry Plan that led to Lawrence achieving Silver certification by Sustainable Jersey
  
- **Former Chair, Township Redevelopment Committee.**
  - \* Held the first public meetings to discuss the Brunswick Avenue boulevard concept that is now transforming South Lawrence.
  - \* Initiated Township Business Awards program that is now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year partnering with the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce.
  
- **Former Vice-Chair and member, Lawrence Township Planning Board.**
  - \* Served on Subcommittee to review and make recommendations to Council on Land Use Ordinance changes.
  - \* Review and updated various elements of the Township Master Plan.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- **Eggerts Crossing Civic League member**
- **Knights of Columbus, Council #7000**
  - \* Past Grand Knight
  - \* Police Shield Award Program Chair
- **Board Member, Juggling Life, Inc.**
  - \* Not-for-profit helping seriously ill and disadvantaged children
- **Former Trustee, Mercer County Legal Aid Society**
- **Former Board Member, Building One New Jersey**