



## **LESLIE KOPPEL**

### **HOME**

10 Andrew Drive  
Monroe Township, NJ 08831  
P: (908) 415-5988      E: Runmom08831@gmail.com

### **WORK**

Rise: A Community Service Partnership  
116 N Main St, Hightstown, NJ 08520  
P: (609) 443-4464  
Occupation: Executive Director

Freeholder Leslie Koppel is a lifelong resident of Monroe Township. She earned her Master's Degree in Politics and Public Policy at the Bloustein School at Rutgers University and her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology at Hunter College. Middlesex County Freeholder Leslie Koppel's accomplishments reflect her mission to provide affordable programs and services to improve the quality of life for all residents.

Freeholder Koppel was appointed to the Board of Chosen Freeholders on February 16, 2017 and was subsequently elected the following year. She chairs the County's Finance Committee which is responsible for the financial affairs pertaining to all County programs and services.

Freeholder Koppel oversees the development of the County's annual Operating and Capital Budgets. Under her leadership, Middlesex County has maintained its AAA bond rating, while continuing to draw down debt, and in 2019, cut the discretionary operating expenses by 7%. As Finance Committee Chair, Koppel has worked to invest more than \$50 million a year across our municipalities for critical projects to improve county roads, bridges, parks, and educational facilities. She has been successful in advocating for county residents with helpful programs and services at a cost they can afford.

Prior to joining the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Koppel served in her hometown from 2006 - 2017 on the Monroe Township Council as Council President and Councilwoman At-Large. During her service, Freeholder Koppel stewarded the creation of the Monroe Township Community Garden. Koppel also helped to preserve and protect thousands of acres of open space in the Township. In addition, Koppel was a member of the Cultural Arts Commission which helps promote and organize the display of local art and theatre. As a member of the Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee, Koppel assisted in the approval of local highway, bridge, intersection, and transit improvement projects.

Freeholder Koppel is currently Chair of the Mercer County Government and Policy Committee, and Chaired the Mercer County Human Service Advisory Committee from 2012 - 2016. A busy mother of three, Koppel served as President of the Barclay Brook and Brookside School's Parent Teacher Association and as a member of the Monroe Township Board of Education Ad Hoc and Strategic Planning Committees.

As the Executive Director of Rise for the past decade, Leslie Koppel leads this locally based non-profit organization which brings people together to build stronger communities and improve lives. She is a collaborating partner, working together with many non-profit, for-profit, governmental, and faith-based organizations, to locally address the most critical human service needs in eastern Mercer County. Koppel has also served as a panelist at the New Jersey Agricultural Society's, "Farmers Against Hunger Summit" which brought together community leaders to discuss and encourage the use of gleaning to reduce food waste and food insecurity in New Jersey.

For her achievements, Freeholder Koppel has received the Vision and Leadership Award from the Hispanic American Medical Association of Central New Jersey, the Diamond Award from the New Jersey Conference Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Community Champion Award for Leadership - working to uplift our neighbors and youth, and honored for Support and Contribution to the League of Women Voters of Monroe Township.