

## **ELECTION 2008**

Although the state's general election for all municipalities and a state Supreme Court seat have taken place, and the voters have spoken, the parliamentary maneuvering has only just begun. At the city and county government levels, the general election also signals the prelude to a host of other significant legislative activities. One such example of post-election legislative activity is the reconfiguration of the standing committees of both the City of Milwaukee Common Council and the Milwaukee County Board. If your business depends upon approvals for development or other activities at the city or county level, you would be well advised to pay attention how committees are restructured and who gains leadership roles within each respective entity.

Immediately following an election cycle, the leadership of the standing committees is often shuffled to reflect new or established political alliances within the respective branches of government. The makeup of the standing committees may also forecast the political inclinations of each branch of government.

Given the fact that most ongoing public policy making and public testimony occurs at the standing committee level, the leadership and make-up of these committees are noteworthy. Regarding Menomonee Valley Business Association members, the Common Council's Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee and the County Board's Economic & Community Development, and Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committees are of particular interest. These two committees entertain the majority of proposed development, business expansion and public financing requests on behalf of the Common Council and County Board. Following a hearing on a specific item, these committees then recommend approval or denial to the full Council or Board. This pattern of public hearing, recommendation and full Council/Board approval/denial is the same for all standing committees.

Mueller Communications is pleased to serve as the government affairs liaison to the Menomonee Valley Business Association and to lend our expertise to the continued overall growth of the Valley.