

## FACT SHEET

The County Executive office had **no** involvement in the matter of ballots until the Mayor's Office contacted them at the end of last week. They asked for assistance to push the Milwaukee County Election Commission staff to provide them with more ballots. Here are the facts:

- The City of Milwaukee asked for 938,300 ballots for the November 2004 election
- The Milwaukee County Election Commission proposed giving the city 574,105, but then increased that amount to a total of 679,500.
  
- The total population in Milwaukee: 596,974 in 2000 and 593,920 in 2004
- The total legal voting age population in Milwaukee in 2004: 423,811
  
- Total votes cast in 2000 fall election: 245,670
- Total votes cast in 2002 fall election: 141,351 (pre-registration of 335,889)
  
- Total votes case in 2004 September election: 94,643 (total ballots requested by City of Milwaukee: 841,357)
- Total number of pre-registered voters as of the September 2004 election: 382,737

**The total number of ballots per ward printed for the City of Milwaukee for the 2004 election is 2,100.** That represents 1,600 official ballots per ward plus 500 absentee ballots per ward. The unvoted absentee ballots are delivered to the polling place and can be used as a ballot on election day (if the other ballots run out).

In addition, the Milwaukee County Election Commission staff approved 1,000 extra official ballots in 22 different wards (as requested by the City of Milwaukee). Plus, 7 wards received 100 extra ballots, 4 wards received 200 extra ballots and 2 wards received an additional 400 ballots.

**For the November 7, 2000 election, the City of Milwaukee had a total of 1,900 ballots per ward.** That represents 1,700 official ballots and 200 absentee ballots.

In the City of Milwaukee for the 2000 election, 11 wards received another 150 ballots, 1 ward received another 200 ballots and 1 ward received another 400 ballots.

I am not denying the request from the city - as I don't directly control the county election commission. We are raising concerns over their request and inviting all of the election officials in the county to attend a meeting on Thursday to talk about this and several issues. In addition, I want to make it clear that I am not against voter registration drives.

In fact, I co-chaired a Legislative Council with Sen. Gwen Moore several years ago (when I was in the State Assembly) that made it easier for people to vote.

My concern is simple, how does the number of ballots provided to the City of Milwaukee not cover them and why do they need so many more ballots? The county gave the city more than twice as many ballots as were cast in the city in the 2000 election and more than 200,000 more ballots than the total number of voting age people living in the city.