Here is some information on the plan that was announced today about ballots in the City of Milwaukee:

The Milwaukee County Election Commission will print and provide 938,300 ballots to the City of Milwaukee Election Commission for the November 2, 2004 election. As part of the agreement, the following will take place:

- All of the unused ballots from each ward in the City of Milwaukee will be returned to the Milwaukee County Election Commission after the election. This will insure that the county can account for all of the ballots provided to the city.

- The Milwaukee County Election Commission will pay for 2,000 ballots per ward. The City of Milwaukee Election Commission will pay for an additional 500 per ward if the total amount used per ward does not exceed the original 2,000 (if more are used, the county will pay).

This solution guarantees that all votes are counted and all ballots are accounted for after the election.

It should also be clear that – under state law – the next step for those who object to the county election commission not granting the City of Milwaukee the full amount of ballots is to appeal the decision to the State Election Board.

<u>That group meets on Wednesday of next week and members of the staff already made it clear that they would approve the appeal</u>. Assuming that appeal was successful, the City of Milwaukee Election Commission would get the 937,300 ballots without a requirement to sent the unused ballots back to the county for verification after the election.