



# *Milwaukee County*

Supervisor Joseph A. Rice, 6<sup>th</sup> District

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For Immediate Release

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## **SUPERVISOR JOSEPH RICE TAKES A CLOSER LOOK AT MILWAUKEE COUNTY LOBBYING**

### *Report Provides Summary of Lobbyist Activity*

**August 14, 2008, Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Supervisor Joseph Rice today issued a report providing the public with access to a summary of information about lobbying organizations' efforts to influence Milwaukee County Government.

Under a revised ordinance authored by Supervisor Rice and adopted by the County Board in 2006, Milwaukee County requires all those who wish to lobby Milwaukee County government to register and report lobbying activities. In an effort to encourage transparency, principals are required to provide expense reports detailing the total cost and the value of time spent on lobbying.

Using data from these reports, Rice found that eighteen organizations authorized 37 lobbyists to attempt to influence county government, reporting expenditures of over \$39,000 for the period January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

“The lobbying reports are a source of information that promotes open government by providing county citizens with information about the businesses and organizations that have an interest in shaping county issues and policies,” Rice said. “This information is a valuable tool in maintaining citizen confidence in the integrity of governmental decision making.” “It is very important that we have clear disclosure when it comes to lobbying and that the existing lobbying regulation is sufficient and adequately enforced,” Rice added.

Please refer to the attached charts for additional data on Milwaukee County lobbying activity and reporting, including total lobbying expenditures by each lobbying principal.

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**Milwaukee County Lobbying Information**  
(01/2007 through 06/2008)

Total lobbying-related expenditures	\$39,069.28
Largest amount of lobbying expenditures reported by one principal	\$13,488.75
Principal reporting largest amount of lobbying expenditures	Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Total number of organizations registered to lobby	18
Total number of lobbyists registered	37
Average number of lobbyists registered per principal	2.1
Number of principals for whom more than 2 lobbyists were registered	7
Greatest number of lobbyists registered on behalf of one principal	6
Principal on whose behalf greatest number of lobbyists were registered	International Realty Group
Number of principals reporting lobbying expenditures <\$500	5
Number of principals reporting lobbying expenditures >\$500	9
Number of principals reporting lobbying expenditures >\$5,000	2
Total lobbying expenditures of principals reporting expenditures >\$500	\$38,541.07
Average lobbying expenditures of principals reporting expenditures >\$500	\$4,282.34

**Summary of Lobbying Expenditures of Principals Registered with  
Milwaukee County From 01/2007 Through 06/2008**

Principal Name	Lobbyists	Expenditures
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin	1	\$13,488.75
Omnicare Pharmacies of Wisconsin	3	\$9,866.25
SEIU	5	\$3,815.75
Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare	2	\$3,570.00
Sterling Aviation	2	\$2,728.00
Regional Transit Authority	1	\$2,725.00
American Cancer Society	1	\$919.32
Aurora Health Care	1	\$855.00
Disability Rights Wisconsin	4	\$573.00
Hunger Task Force	4	\$474.21
ATU Local 998	1	\$54.00
Medical College of Wisconsin	1	\$0.00
WE Energies	1	\$0.00
Milwaukee Public Museum	1	\$0.00
Midwest General Construction and Steel, Inc.*	1	N/A
International Realty Group*	6	N/A
Weas Development	1	N/A
OMNI Associates, Inc.	1	N/A

\* Milwaukee County Clerk sent letters advising Principal of delinquent statement.