

The Rundown: The race is on for legislative control

By Stacy Forster

July 9, 2008 Wednesday

Jul. 9, 2008 (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel delivered by Newstex) -- *The Rundown is a weekday synopsis of news involving politics and government from the pages of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, as well as headlines of note from elsewhere.* The campaigns for control of the state Legislature officially kicked off at 5 p.m. Tuesday, when nomination papers were due for those running for state office this fall. Democrats are shooting to take over the state Assembly, where Republicans now have a 52-47 majority, and Republicans hope they can take the Senate, where Democrats lead 18-15. The potential math changer?

State Rep. Jeff Wood's decision Tuesday to run as an independent instead of a Republican. One of the most competitive races will be in the 91st Assembly District -- the seat now held by Rep. Barbara Gronemus (D-Whitehall), which has attracted eight competitors, the La Crosse Tribune reports. In the battle for Wisconsin's seats in Congress, U.S. Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr. has drawn a GOP primary opponent. Keeping an eye toward Nov. 4, presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama named his Wisconsin campaign staff Tuesday; the Badger State effort will be run by Dan Kanninen, a longtime aide to state Sen. Bob Jauch, the AP reports. Also Tuesday, the Wisconsin Supreme Court threw out a common method of assessing property taxes involving the Walgreen Co. which could have a far-reaching impact on assessments. [Growing older in Wisconsin costs more than many low-income senior citizens can afford, according to the first Elder Economic Security Standard Index for Wisconsin, a county-by-county breakdown of necessary expenses for those 65 and older.](#) And the Great Lakes compact took another step forward, with Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell last week signing the compact to protect the lakes from large-scale diversions, the Erie Times-News reports. Newstex ID: MW-2506-26542755