

## **JOB LOSS & ECONOMIC MELTDOWN**

**In 2009 Milwaukee County lost over 30,000 jobs – the unemployment rate jumped from 5.5% to 9.2% in just one year.**

**[Bureau of Labor Statistics, [bls.gov](http://bls.gov)]**

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### **Hired inexperienced campaign staff to run economic development programs; Lowered profile of development efforts**

The state and municipalities play larger roles than the county in shaping development, Walker said. They have access to more incentives that developers want and, in the case of cities, control zoning decisions. Often, firms interested in a deal mistakenly assume the county has a grab-bag of incentives, he said.

County Supervisor Toni Clark said she would oppose Walker's move, calling economic development "probably the most important division of county government."

The county needs to redouble its efforts at marketing its Park East holdings and hire more experienced development staffers, not downplay its development role, said Clark, the chairwoman of the County Board's Economic and Community Development Committee.

Walker's last two choices to lead the county economic development office, Bob Dennik and Tim Russell, came from his campaign and lacked depth in the development business, Clark said. Dennik left the post this week to become an executive with a Pewaukee construction company. Russell is now Walker's community relations director.

"Walker chooses folks who don't have (the necessary) experience," she said.

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/3/2008]

