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## David R. Riemer

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**David Riemer**'s career defies stereotypes. He has worked closely with both Democrats and Republicans to create path-breaking public policy at the local and state level, and to influence national policy.

Riemer's work has ranged from preparing city and state budgets to formulating state employment, income, tax, welfare, health, and education policy. Over the course of four decades (1975-2015), he helped prepare city budgets that improved services and lowered taxes. He drafted state legislation—now supported by both Democrats and Republicans--that created a transitional jobs program and launched the nation's first refundable EITC to adjust for family size.

Riemer also prepared proposals that, after gaining support from former Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson and a bipartisan group of state legislators, expanded insurance coverage for working families under the name of BadgerCare. At the federal level, while working for Senator Edward Kennedy, he helped draft bipartisan legislation to improve the nation's mental health policy. He has also played important roles at the local and state level both in promoting equitable school funding, school integration and school choice.

Riemer is currently a Senior Fellow at the Community Advocates Public Policy Institute in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At Community Advocates from 2008, Riemer has lead the effort to design a policy package to reduce poverty, which an Urban Institute analysis estimates would have cut poverty in Wisconsin and the U.S. by over 50%. He played a major role in enacting Wisconsin's Transitional Jobs Demonstration Project, supplemental Earned Income Tax Credit, and W-2 welfare reform, in addition to the BadgerCare health insurance program for low-income workers. He also co-authored *amicus* briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act and Wisconsin's school choice program.

Riemer previously served, from 2004 through 2008, as Director of the Wisconsin Health Project. This initiative resulted in bipartisan legislation that, if enacted, would have insured all Wisconsinites and controlled costs by creating an incentive-driven statewide health insurance exchange.

Prior to launching this project in 2004, Riemer campaigned for Milwaukee County Executive. He received 101,000 votes, or 43% of the votes cast, in a race against County Executive—later Governor and candidate for President—Scott Walker.

During 2003, Riemer served as Budget Director for Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle. His primary responsibility was to tackle the State's projected \$3.2 billion deficit.

From 1988 to 2001, Riemer held several high-level jobs for the City of Milwaukee, including Budget Director, Administration Director, and Chief of Staff for Mayor John O. Norquist. For most of this period, he oversaw the central fiscal, purchasing, IT, and intergovernmental functions of the City.

From 1975 to 1988, Riemer was legal advisor to Wisconsin Governor Patrick Lucey, worked for Sen. Edward Kennedy's Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research, developed health policy options for the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau, prepared a report on Wisconsin's uninsured for the state Department of Health and Social Services, and worked on health care cost containment for Time Insurance Company. He is the author of The Prisoners of Welfare and numerous articles on reducing poverty, improving health insurance, and public administration.

Riemer is one of the co-founders of The New Hope Project. He worked as an Atlantic Fellow in Public Policy in London and Oxford, England, in 2002; his research focused on supplementing low-income workers' earnings through the tax system. Riemer was an Eisenhower Fellow in Hungary in 1999. As a Rockefeller Foundation resident in Bellagio, Italy, in 2012, he began work on "Putting Government In Its Place."

Riemer received an AB degree from Harvard College in History and Literature (1970) and a law degree from Harvard Law School (1975). He and his wife Ellie Graan in Milwaukee. They have two children, Daniel and Joseph.