



Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) Records

Collection Number: S0040

Collection Title: Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) Records

Dates: 1972-1980

Creator: Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)

Abstract: The Association of Community Organizations for Reform NOW (ACORN) contains bylaws, correspondence, newsletters, issue statements, and press releases relating to the group's mission to fight for social and economic justice for low and moderate-income families in Missouri.

Collection Size: 1 cubic foot
(52 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center-st-louis). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)* (S0040); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Kathy Peterson on June 2, 1980 (Accession No. SA2298).

Processed by: Processed by Jean Streeter, February 1981; revised by AJ Medlock, August 2022.

Historical Note:

ACORN, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, was founded in 1970 in Arkansas and became a nationwide network of community organizations committed to fighting for social and economic justice for low and moderate-income families. In May 1976, Missouri ACORN became affiliated with the Missouri Tax Reform Group, the organization responsible for coordinating the state-wide initiative petition drive to end sales tax on food and medicine. Missouri ACORN succeeded the Missouri Tax Reform Group.

Missouri ACORN began its first neighborhood organizing effort in St. Louis in the Spring of 1976. Nineteen neighborhood organizations formed under the banner of Missouri ACORN by 1980, and dues-paying membership grew to fifteen hundred families. Their goal was to build a broadly based constituency of low and moderate-income citizens who, by learning to exercise their collective power on local issues, could attempt larger, more long-term issues on city, county, or state-wide levels.

The groups worked on a wide range of neighborhood problems as well as tax reforms, health care, insurance redlining, mortgage redlining, utility rate increases, and the allocation of Community Block Grant funds. In July 1980, Missouri ACORN hosted the Second National ACORN convention at Washington University. Two thousand ACORN members from nineteen states ratified the ACORN People's Platform which contained nine issues ACORN members have addressed nationally. The Political Action Committee was the political wing of Missouri ACORN.

The National ACORN filed for bankruptcy on November 2, 2010. The bankruptcy stemmed from video footage released by BigGovernment.com, which appeared to show two ACORN employees advising two undercover Conservative activists on how to evade criminal prosecution for tax evasion and sex trafficking, among other illegal offenses.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following four series:

Missouri Tax Reform Group
Issues
Neighborhood ACORN Groups
Administrative Files

Scope and Content Note:

Missouri Tax Reform Group

This series contains correspondence, press releases, brochures, and a tax study pertaining to the sales tax repeal and tax reform campaigns. The materials in this series are arranged by type and subject and date from 1972 to 1976.

Issues

This series consists of correspondence, press releases, newspaper clippings, reports, issue statements, memos, and fliers pertaining to redlining, tax reform, utility rate increases, and health care. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically by subject

Neighborhood ACORN Groups

This series contains correspondence, press releases, newspaper clippings, fliers, and agendas relating to neighborhood ACORN groups, including the Manchester-Tower Grove Community Organization, Fairgrounds Community Action, and the Cherokee Community Action Group. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically and date from 1977 to 1979.

Administrative Files

This series consists of bylaws, correspondence, newsletters, issue status reports, and newspaper clippings pertaining to the group's administrative functions. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically and date from 1976 to 1980.

Container List:

f. 1-5		Missouri Tax Reform Group
Box 001	f. 1-3	Correspondence, 1972-1976
	f. 4	Newsletters, 1972-1976
	f. 5	Sales tax repeal and tax reform campaign, 1975-1976
f. 6-30		Issues
	f. 6	Allocation of community development block grant funds, 1976-1980
	f. 7	Campaign Against Inflation, 1978-1979
	f. 8	Condominium conversion, 1979-1980
	f. 9	Hazardous Waste Campaign, 1979
	f. 10	Health care, 1977-1978
	f. 11	Land Reutilization Authority, 1976-1979
	f. 12	North St. Louis General Hospital, 1977-1978
	f. 13	Property reassessment, 1977
	f. 14-17	Redlining insurance, 1976-1979
	f. 18-21	Redlining mortgage, 1976-1979
	f. 22	Right to Work, 1978-1979
	f. 23	Sales Tax Repeal and Tax Reform Campaign, 1977
	f. 24	Sales Tax Repeal on Medicine, 1978
	f. 25	Albert Slavin's appointment to Public Service Commission, 1977-1979
	f. 26	Small loan interest rates, 1977-1978
	f. 27	Southwestern Bell rate increase, 1979
	f. 28	Utility issues, Laclede Gas, 1977-1979
	f. 29	Utility issues, Union Electric Company, 1977-1979
	f. 30	Water rate increase, 1978
f. 31-41		Neighborhood ACORN Groups
Box 002	f. 31	Central and East Richmond Heights, 1977-1978
	f. 32	Cherokee Community Action Group, 1977
	f. 33	East Richmond Heights, St. Louis Eye Hospital, 1978
	f. 34	Fairgrounds Community Action, FAMUS, Association Ferguson Community Association, 1977-1979
	f. 35	Goodfellow-Page-Delmar Community Organization, 1978-1979
	f. 36	King-Goodfellow Community Organization, Kinloch

	Neighborhood Organization, no date
f. 37	Manchester-Tower Grove Community Organization, 1976-1978
f. 38	Mill Creek Valley Tenants Coalition, New Sarah Low Community Organization, 1977-1979
f. 39	North Hampton Community Organization, River Des Peres Community Organization, 1976-1977
f. 40	Rose Hill Community Organization, 1976-1977
f. 41	University City Associated Neighborhood, Wellston Community Organization, 1978-1979
f. 42-52	Administrative Files
f. 42	Bylaws, no date
f. 43	Campaign for Human Development, application for funding, 1980
f. 44-46	Correspondence, 1976-1979
f. 47	Issue status report, 1980
f. 48	Newsletter, 1977-1980
f. 49	Newspaper clippings, brochures, and staff memos, no date
f. 50	Peoples' Platform Committee and 80 ACORN campaign, 1980
f. 51	Peoples' Platform Conference, 1979
f. 52	Peoples' Action Committee, 1977-1978

Index:

Index Terms	Folders
ACORN (Organization)	1-52
Ameren Corporation	29, 48
Clay, William L.	2-3
Condominiums--Conversion	8
Community organization--Missouri--Saint Louis	1-52
Eagleton, Thomas F., 1929-2007	1-3
Discrimination in mortgage loans--Missouri--Saint Louis	14-17
Hungate, William L.	2
Laclede Gas Company	28, 48
Missouri Public Service Commission	25, 27-29, 48
Right to labor--Missouri	22
Saint Louis (Mo.). Land Reutilization Authority	11
Sales tax	5, 23-24
Slavin, Alberta, 1930-2008	25, 48
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company	27
Sullivan, Leonor K.	1-3
Symington, James W. (James Wadsworth), 1927-	2-3
Symington, Stuart, 1901-1988	2-3