S0040 Association Of Community Organizations For Reform Now (ACORN) Records, 1972-1980
52 Folders

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Kathy Pererson, Head Organizer of Missouri ACORN, donated the papers of Missouri ACORN to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection in June, 1980.

ACORN, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, was founded in 1970 in Arkansas and is now a nation-wide 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 Spring of 1976. In the three and a half years since then, nineteen (19) neighborhood chapters have been established, and dues paying membership has grown to fifteen hundred families. Their goal is to build a broadly based constituency of low and moderate income citizens who, by learning to exercise their collective power on local issues, can then attempt larger, more long term issues on city, county or state-wide levels.

The groups have 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 was host to 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 is the political wing of Missouri ACORN.

SERIES DESCRIPTION
The collection is arranged in four series with the bulk of the material relating to issues around which ACORN was organized.

SERIES 1: Missouri Tax Reform Group, Folders 1-5

Arranged by subject including redlining, tax reform, utility rate increases, and health care. Correspondence, news clippings, press releases, reports, issue statements, memos, and flyers.
SERIES 3: Neighborhood ACORN groups, 1976-1979, Folders 31-41
Arranged alphabetically by name. Correspondence, press releases, news clippings, reports, flyers and agendas.

Arranged alphabetically. By-laws, campaign for Human Development's application for 1980 funding, newspaper clippings, correspondence, newsletters, issue status reports.

FOLDER LIST

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1. Correspondence, 1972
2. Correspondence, 1973
3. Correspondence, 1974-1976
5. Sales Tax Repeal and Tax Reform Campaign, 1975-1976

SERIES 2: Issues
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7. Campaign Against Inflation, 1978-1979
11. Land Reutilization Authority, 1976-1979
12. North St. Louis General Hospital, 1977-1978
13. Property Reassessment, 1977
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23. Sales Tax Repeal and Tax Reform Campaign, 1977
24. Sales Tax Repeal on Medicine, 1978
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27. Southwestern Bell Rate Increase, 1979
30. Water Rate Increase, 1978

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33. East Richmond Heights, St. Louis Eye Hospital, 1978
34. Fairgrounds Community Action, FAMUS Association Ferguson Community Association, 1977-1979

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37. Manchester-Tower Grove Community Organization, 1976-1978
38. Mill Creek Valley Tenants Coalition, New Sarah Low Community Organization, 1977-1979

40. Rose Hill Community Organization, 1976-1977
41. University City Associated Neighborhood, Wellston Community Organization, 1978-1979

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