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# Republican National Lawyers Association

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## **ACORN'S Leaders & Allies Continue Voter Registration Fraud Legacy**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – After engaging in voter fraud and other illegal activity, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) temporarily lost its funding and disbanded from large-scale operations. Yet, with the 2010 elections just a week away, it's now clear that ACORN has effectively reconstituted itself under new names, with key personnel running old allied organizations and a key affiliate. The organization's history of engaging in voter fraud requires that authorities closely monitor these groups in the final days before the election.

“Due to ACORN's history of voter fraud, it's critical that authorities take a close look at these new groups and affiliates' activities. ACORN's fraud shocked authorities and Congress, we cannot be surprised again,” said David Norcross, Chair of the Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA).

“ACORN is playing hide and seek with the American public. The name ACORN is synonymous with fraud. But no matter what you call them, ACORN is still active in states across America,” continued Norcross.

“Americans should not be fooled: These new organizations are the same old ACORN. With so many close contests on the ballot, there can be no tolerance for ACORN-like voter fraud,” concluded Norcross.

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **Newly Released Organization Trends Study:**

“Project Vote, ACORN's scandal-plagued voter mobilization division, remains open for business ... Project Vote says it is working with at least eight groups on voter mobilization drives in battleground states.

“Amy Busefink is an ACORN employee who is currently under indictment in Nevada for violating election laws. Guess what? She is leading Project Vote's 2010 get out the vote (GOTV) drive. Her official Project Vote biography says: ‘As Project Vote's Field Director, Amy Busefink is responsible for the development and execution of field activities across Project Vote's many program areas. Working with the Election Administration program, she works to develop field strategies for moving issues in several states.’

“She also ‘ran field operations for Project Votes [sic] 2008 voter registration program, *which collected 1.1 million applications.*’ [emphasis added] Well, yes, ACORN and Project Vote did collect more than one million voter registration applications in 2008, but one detail is missing: 400,000 applications ‘were rejected by election officials for a variety of reasons, including duplicate registrations, incomplete forms and fraudulent submissions.’” (*The New York Times*, 10/24/08)

(“ACORN Lives!” Matthew Vadum, Capital Research Center, Organization Trends, 11/10)

#### **Working Families Party (WFP) & ACORN:**

Busefink is typical of how ACORN works. Just move the pieces around to try to stay one step ahead of authorities. Take another ACORN front group, the Working Families Party (WFP) in New York whose actions are also under investigation for voter fraud.

First, Its relationship to ACORN:

“Longtime relationships with unions, liberal elected officials and a 7,000-member base have allowed New York Communities for Change to pick up where Acorn’s operation here left off – with some of the same staffers in the same downtown Brooklyn office ... It’s not affiliated with the WFP, though Mr. Kest sits on its board and a formal partnership is likely ... The placards no longer read ‘Acorn,’ but otherwise it was as if the events of the past year never happened.” (*Crain’s New York Business*, 10/17/10)

WFP Continuing ACORN’s Legacy:

“A special prosecutor investigating allegations of voter fraud, Trey Smith, is collecting DNA from the majority of the [Troy, New York] city council ... all Democrats. Five city councilmen, including the council president, as well as four other city and county public officials and political operatives, have been ordered to or have had their saliva swabbed for DNA samples to compare to absentee ballots and absentee ballot applications that were allegedly forged.

“The investigation centers on what has been called ‘a massive voter fraud scheme,’ that involved absentee ballots for the Working Families Party, in September 2009. It has been alleged that Democrats tried to steal the primary election for city council and county legislature, by forging absentee ballots and ballot applications to ensure that their candidates also won the Working Families Party primary line.

...

“One of the others who allegedly gathered absentee ballot applications, former Troy Housing worker and Democratic Committeeman Anthony DeFiglio, told the state police about the unsuspecting voters. He said that ‘it was common knowledge that these people were never going to receive an absentee ballot. This is a political strategy to get control of a third party line.’” (*Fox News*, 10/21/10)

**RNLA Research:**

RNLA believes, that this is just the tip of the iceberg. It is very difficult – if not nearly impossible – to track ACORN’s personnel and its allies. According to RNLA research culled from sources including *Politico*, local newspapers, Big Journalism, Big Government, and others, we have found that in close to one dozen states ACORN groups have rebranded themselves since the national scandals last year. These newly-renamed groups include, Minnesota Neighborhoods Organizing for Change, Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment and Organizing for United Reform Washington. Other states with confirmed rebranded organizations include Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas.

But don’t take our word for it, John Atlas, author of the pro-ACORN book titled, “Seeds of Change” stated at a recent America’s Future Now conference that, “The good news is that a lot of people who were involved in ACORN, members and leaders as well as their allies, are organizing in over a dozen states to resurrect ACORN using its model.” (“ACORN Lives!” Matthew Vadum, Capital Research Center, Organization Trends, 11/10)

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