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ACORN Political Action Committee Endorses Obama

By *Sam Graham-Felsen* - Feb 21st, 2008 at 6:36 pm EST

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NEW ORLEANS, LA -- ACORN's Political Action Committee today announced that it has endorsed Sen. Barack Obama for President.

ACORN PAC's representatives went through an extensive process of interviewing each of the major Democratic candidates. ACORN is a national anti-poverty organization which has hundreds of thousands of members in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods in 104 cities.

"Last night, Sen. Obama received the more than necessary two-thirds of the majority needed from our elected national leadership to secure the endorsement," said Maude Hurd, ACORN's National President. "Over the past months, we have worked with the leading candidates; ACORN's members have deep appreciation and respect for Senators Clinton and Edwards and their work on behalf of our communities. What it came down to was that Senator Obama is the candidate who best understands and can affect change on the issues ACORN cares about like stopping foreclosures, enacting fair and comprehensive immigration reform, and building stronger and safer communities across America."

Alicia Russell of Arizona, ACORN's western regional representative, said Obama relates to the issues facing low- and moderate-income people. "I think he will commit himself to providing us the necessary path for the low-income and moderate-income families to improve their lives," Russell said. "He's on the same level as we are, and sees our issues as we do."

In the past three weeks, Sen. Obama has met with ACORN leaders regarding foreclosure prevention solutions, including a roundtable discussion on Tuesday in San Antonio.

"Texas ACORN members are proud to stand with Senator Obama in calling for fundamental change in our economy to protect homeowners and neighborhoods from the scourge of foreclosures that is sweeping communities across Texas," said Texas ACORN president Toni McElroy.

When Obama met with ACORN leaders in November, he reminded them of his history with ACORN and his beginnings in Illinois as a Project Vote organizer, a nonprofit focused on voter rights and education. Senator Obama said, "I come out of a grassroots organizing background. That's what I did for three and half years before I went to law school. That's the reason I moved to Chicago was to organize. So this is something that I know personally, the work you do, the importance of it. I've been fighting alongside ACORN on issues you care about my entire career. Even before I was an elected official, when I ran Project Vote voter registration drive in Illinois, ACORN was smack dab in the middle of it, and we appreciate your work."

ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) is the nation's largest community organization of low- and moderate-income families, with over 350,000 member families organized into 800 neighborhood chapters in 104 cities across the country. Since 1970 ACORN has taken action and won victories on issues of concern to its members, including better housing for first time homebuyers and tenants, living wages for low-wage workers, more investment in our communities from banks and governments, and better public schools.

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