



Building Industry Association of Washington

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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It's About Time ACORN Workers Are Prosecuted

OLYMPIA—The King County Prosecutor's announcement today that it will prosecute 7 ACORN employees who submitted thousands of fraudulent voter registrations last year is a positive step in the County's efforts to clean up its elections system and hold criminals accountable.

BIAW accused ACORN of vote fraud one month after the group submitted the false voter registration cards in October 2006. In a press release on November 8, 2006, BIAW urged investigation of the registrations based on ACORN's history of submitting fraudulent voter registration cards in other states. ACORN workers have been indicted and prosecuted for submitting false voter registrations in Missouri, Wisconsin and Colorado, and investigations are ongoing in Tennessee, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

BIAW postulated that given ACORN's history of submitting piles of fraudulent registrations at the eleventh hour in other states, the 2,000 registration cards they submitted in King County at the last minute were likely loaded with fraudulent and forged registrations. ACORN's last minute withdrawal of a legal challenge to force King County to accept the registration forms further sparked BIAW's suspicions.

King County had refused to accept the ACORN registration forms because they were delivered after the October 7 registration deadline by a private package carrier. State law allows registration cards to be received after the deadline only if post-marked by the U.S. Postal Service before the deadline.

Initially ACORN demanded the registrations be accepted, threatening to sue King County if the registration cards were tossed out. But just days after four ACORN registration recruiters were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of voter fraud in Kansas City, Missouri, the group suddenly reversed course, announcing King County was correct in rejecting the registrations.

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In the November press release, BIAW Executive Vice President Tom McCabe was quoted as saying that, “the timing of ACORN’s sudden about-face on the disputed registrations they submitted at the eleventh hour in King County is curious, coming on the heels of the much publicized indictment of ACORN workers for voter registration fraud in Missouri...BIAW wants to know why ACORN suddenly backpedaled—are they worried King County election officials might now look too closely at the registrations and discover many are fraudulent?”

BIAW’s suspicions were clearly right on the mark.

“After extensive research on this issue, I’m happy that BIAW’s claims have finally been validated and the law-breaking ACORN criminals will be prosecuted,” said McCabe. “But one can’t help but wonder if the ACORN workers who forged registration cards last year were part of the cadre of Democrat foot soldiers allowed by Judge Lum in 2004 to ‘find’ Gregoire voters who had problematic signatures and help them ‘revise’ their registrations to make their vote valid,” he added. “We may never know whether ACORN workers forged signatures in 2004, but we know they did in 2006.

Known as the “voice of the housing industry,” the Building Industry Association of Washington is the largest trade association in Washington State, representing over 350,000 families and 12,700 member companies involved in the homebuilding business.