Delve Deeper into "Street Fight"
A film by Marshall Curry

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Susan Conlon of the Princeton Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary “Street Fight” that premieres on July 5th, 2005 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings)

"Street Fight" covers the turbulent campaign of Cory Booker, a 32-year-old Rhodes Scholar/Yale Law graduate running for mayor of Newark, N.J. against Sharpe James, the four-term incumbent twice his age. An urban David and Goliath story, the film chronicles the young man’s struggle against the city’s entrenched political machine, which routinely uses strong-arm tactics to hold onto power. The battle sheds light on important questions about democracy, power, poverty and race. When the mayor accuses the Ivy League-educated challenger of not being "really black," the campaign forces voters to examine how we define race in America. A co-presentation with the Independent Television Service (ITVS).

ADULT NONFICTION

URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE INNER CITY


Anderson, Elijah. Streetwise: Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community. Chicago, IL: University Of Chicago Press, 1992. This ethnographic study of an anonymous city explores the struggle of both blacks and whites of different classes for common ground and viable communities.


POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND RACES


Hart, Roderick. Campaign Talk: Why Elections are Good for Us.
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Scheele, Paul E. "We Get What We Vote For...Or Do We?": The Impact of Elections on Governing. New York, NY: Praeger Publications, 1999. Examines the changing focus of our elections from political parties to individual candidates.


American mother and a black African father.


POLITICAL HISTORY


ADULT FICTION


Hayek, Jack. The Universal Candidate. Bloomington, IN: 1st Books Library, 2000. A story about a man who decided at the age of six that it was his destiny to become President of the United States.

Warren, Robert Penn. All the King’s Men. New York, NY: Harvest Books, 1996. The story of a southern politician who builds support by appealing to common folks while playing dirty politics behind the scenes.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

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about the steps involved in becoming an elected official.


Halpin, Mikki. It’s Your World – If You Don’t Like It, Change It: Activism for Teenagers. New York, NY: Simon Pulse, 2004. Discusses issues teenagers can get involved in, such as the environment, war, civil liberties, racism, gay rights, birth control, and women’s rights.


Murphy, Patricia. Voting and Elections. Mankato, MN: Compass Point Books, 2002. A brief history of elections and voting in the United States and a look at how these procedures work today.


FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Sisulu, Elinor Batezat and Sharon Wilson. The Day Gogo Went to Vote. New York, NY: Megan Tingley Books, 1999. A young girl accompanies her great-grandmother as she votes in the first election in which black South Africans are allowed to vote.


Hurwitz, Johanna. Class President. New York, NY: Scholastic, Inc., 1991. The story of Julio, who is a charismatic class leader despite his lack of confidence to be class President.


VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES

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(105 min.) Documentary account of Oliver North's unsuccessful 1994 bid for a Virginia Senate seat, focusing on North's campaign strategist, Mark Goodin, and a Washington Post reporter.
http://firstrunfeatures.com/perfectcandidate.html

"Bill's Run." A film by Richard Kassem. Front Porch Films. 2004. (53 min.) Filmmaker Kassem follows his brother Bill, who is running for the Kansas House of Representatives, on the campaign trail.
http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2004/billrun

http://www.journeyswithgeorge.com

"Just the Facts: The Election Process in America." Goldhil Home Media. 2002. (50 min.) A film, which shows how the President and other elected officials get votes and the importance of this civic duty.

http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2004/lastmanstanding

http://www.unprecedented.org

http://phfilms.com/index.php/phfilm/thewarroom1

FEATURE FILMS


"Bullworth." A film by Warren Beatty. 1998. (108 min.) A disillusioned, liberal politician puts a contract out on his own life and takes the opportunity to finally speak honestly with voters.
www.bullworth.com

"The Candidate." A film by Michael Ritchie. 1972. (109 min.) Bill McKay is a candidate for the U.S. Senate from California. He has no hope of winning, so he is willing to tweak the establishment.

http://www.alexanderpayne.net/films/election/index.html

WEB SITES

www.politicosnj.com
The website for those who are NJ political insiders—or aspiring to be.

www.eagleton.rutgers.edu/
Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice.

www.njvoterinfo.org/
Eagleton Institute of Politics’ NJ Voter Info site

www.state.nj.us/lps/elections
NJ Division of Elections, a board that works with the Federal Election Commission and Election Assistance Commission to certify voting machines, ensure polling place accessibility and compliance on general voting standards.

www.njcn.net
New Jersey Public Television and Radio

www.ci.newark.nj.us
City of Newark, NJ home page. Has useful links to municipal government, commerce, health and tourism information.

www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/james.asp
NJ Legislature, home page of Assistant Majority Leader Senator Sharpe James (D)

www.corybooker.com
Cory Booker’s Mayoral campaign site

www.fairvote.org
Center for Voting and Democracy. FairVote seeks elections that promote voter turnout, fair representation, inclusive policy and meaningful choices by building on our nation's history of improving upon the American experiment.