

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. *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, 2000. Sociologist Anderson examines how crime in the streets of Philadelphia is really an expression of various social codes.

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.

Anyon, Jean & William Wilson. *Ghetto Schooling: A Political Economy of Urban Educational Reform*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press, 1997. Argues that the problems of inner city schools are rooted in the economic and political problems of the cities themselves.

Boston, Thomas & Catherine Ross, eds. *The Inner City: Urban Poverty and Economic Development in the Next Century*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 1997.

An analysis of economic development in the inner city, which argues that sustainable growth, must begin with profitable, outside investments.

Fullilove, Mindy. *Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America, and What We Can Do about It*. New York, NY: One World/Ballantine, 2004.

Discusses how African-American communities are affected by urban renewal.

Goldsmith, Stephen et al. *The Twenty-first Century City: Resurrecting Urban America*. Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing, 1997.

A book by the mayor of Indianapolis advocating a strategy of urban governance, which operates like business.

Hilfiker, Dr. David. *Urban Injustice: How Ghettos Happen*. New York, NY: Seven Stories Press, 2003. Hilfiker sets out to explain why urban poverty persists, why poverty programs have failed and what solutions he envisions.

Klitgaard, Robert et al. *Corrupt Cities: A Practical Guide to Cure and Prevention*. Ithaca, NY: ICS Press, 1999. A guide for curing corruption in city governments.

Lynn, Laurence & Michael McGeary. *Inner-City Poverty in the United States*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 1990. Documents the rise of inner-city poverty and gives a statistical

picture of poor populations and neighborhoods over 10 years.

Massey, Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1994.

Explores the effect of segregation on African Americans and their socioeconomic potential.

Silin, Jonathan & Carol Lippman. *Putting the Children First: The Changing Face of Newark's Public Schools*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press, 2003.

Looks at public school reform in Newark from the perspective of professionals who work in the system.

Von Hoffman, Alexander. *House by House, Block by Block: The Rebirth of America's Urban Neighborhoods*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2003.

A systematic look at how America's urban communities are being revitalized.

POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND RACES

Aron, Michael. *Governor's Race: A TV Reporter's Chronicle of the 1993 Florio/Whitman Campaign*. Piscataway, NY: Rutgers University Press, 1994.

An account of the New Jersey race between Jim Florio and Republican challenger Christine Todd Whitman which analyzes campaign strategies and their effect on the outcome.

Asher, Herbert. *Polling and the Public: What Every Citizen Should Know*. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2004. A primer on how public opinion polls work and their influence, use and abuse in public life.

Green, Donald and Alan S. Gerber. *Get Out the Vote: How to Increase Voter Turnout*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2004. A guide for mobilizing voters at the grassroots level.

Hart, Roderick. *Campaign Talk: Why Elections are Good for Us*.

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Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2002. Analyses the different kinds of language used in political campaigns.

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.

Sullivan, Joan. *An American Voter: My Love Affair with Presidential Politics.* London, UK: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2002. Sullivan's account of life on the presidential campaign trail of Bill Bradley, and the challenges it placed on her political idealism.

Thomas, Robert & Doug Gowen. *How to Run for Local Office: A Complete Step-By-Step Guide.* Bridgeport, WV: R & T Enterprises, 1999. A practical guide to running for local office.

Thurber, James A. and Candice J. Nelson, Eds. *Campaigns and Elections American Style.* Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1995. Discusses how American political campaigns function.

Weber, Ronald E. and Paul Brace. *American State and Local Politics.* New York, NY: Seven Bridges Press, LLC, 1999. Suggestions for how to get involved in State and local politics.

POLITICAL BIOGRAPHIES

Buckley, William F. *The Unmaking of a Mayor.* New York, NY: Viking Press, 1966. Journalist Buckley's account of his own 1965 run for Mayor of New York under the Conservative Party against Democrat John Lindsey and Republican Abe Beame.

Obama, Barack. *Dreams From My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance.* New York, NY: Three Rivers Press, 2004. Autobiography of Illinois Senator Obama, who is the son of a white

American mother and a black African father.

Stanton, Mike. *The Prince of Providence: The True Story of Buddy Cianci, America's Most Notorious Mayor, Some Wise Guys and the Feds.* New York, NY: Random House, 2003. The story of Providence Mayor Buddy Cianci, a popular and charismatic man who was also corrupt.

POLITICAL HISTORY

Colburn, David & Jeffrey Adler. *African-American Mayors: Race, Politics, and the American City.* Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2001. Discusses the rise of African-American mayors and the challenges they face.

Grossman, Mark. *Political Corruption in America: An Encyclopedia of Scandals, Power and Greed.* Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio Inc, 2003. A chronicle of infamous, political scandals throughout US History.

Holli, Melvin. *The American Mayor: The Best and the Worst Big-City Leaders.* University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1999. A compilation of the 10 best and 10 worst mayors since 1820 based on expert polls.

Judis, John B. *The Emerging Democratic Majority.* New York, NY: Scribner, 2004. Argues that current trends could be leading towards a new era of Democratic power.

Kleppner, Paul. *Chicago Divided: The Making of a Black Mayor.* DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press, 1985. A look at the changing political and social turmoil of Chicago ending with the election of Mayor Harold Washington.

Salmore, Barbara G. and Stephen A. Salmore. *New Jersey Politics and Government: Suburban Politics Comes of Age.* Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press; 2nd edition,

1998. An overview of politics and government in New Jersey.

Stonecash, Jeffrey M. and Mary P. McGuire. *The Emergence Government: Parties and New Jersey Politics, 1950-2000.* Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2002. Looks at the changes in New Jersey's state government in the last half century.

Turner, Jean-Rae & Richard T. Coles. *Newark, NJ.* Chicago, IL: Arcadia Publishing, 1997. A local history of Newark, NJ with photographs.

Walter, Nicole. *Go, Matt, Go: Stories from the People of the Matt Gonzalez for Mayor Campaign.* Riverdale, NY: Hats Off Books, 2004. A compilation of essays on Gonzalez's historic run for Mayor of San Francisco.

ADULT FICTION

Gavin, William F. *One Hell of a Candidate: A Novel of Politics.* New York, NY: Thomas Dunne Books, 2003. A bipartisan lampooning of American political candidates by a former speechwriter for presidents Nixon and Reagan.

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

Bonner, Mike. *How to Become an Elected Official.* New York, NY: Chelsea House Publishing, 2000. A tool for students to learn

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about the steps involved in becoming an elected official.

Boyers, Sarah Jane. *Teen Power Politics*. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 2000. A guide for teens who want to get involved in politics which includes real success stories.

Christelow, Eileen. *Vote! Boston, MA*: Clarion Books, 2003. Describes all the steps in the campaigning and election process by using a mayoral election as a model.

Cunningham, Kevin. *Power to the People: How We Elect the President and Other Officials*. Chanhassen, MN: Child's World, 2004. A primer on how democracy works and an overview of the election process.

De Capua, Sarah E. *Running for Public Office*. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2002. A guide for children ages 9-12 on what is involved in running for public office.

Degezelle, Terri. *The City Mayor (Our Government Series)*. London, UK: First Facts Book, 2005. A text about city mayors for readers ages 9-12.

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.

Klee, Sheila. *Volunteering for a Political Campaign*. New York, NY: Children's Press, 2000. A guide for grades 5 and up on how to become a political volunteer or activist.

Kowalski, Kathiann M. *Campaign Politics: What's Fair? What's Foul?* Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2001. Examines many facets and issues of contemporary American campaign politics.

Maestro, Betsy C. and Giulio Maestro. *The Voice of the People*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1996. Discusses the ways that our government responds to the will of the people, covering topics like the three branches of government and the function of political parties.

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.

Roleff, Tamara. *Inner-City Poverty*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2002. A look at the complex problem of inner-city poverty for grades 8 and up.

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.

Cronin, Doreen. *Duck for President*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 2004. The story of a duck who runs for farmer, governor and eventually President.

Ellerbee, Linda. *Get Real #6: Girl Reporter Rocks Polls*. New York, NY: Avon, 2000. Casey Smith is a girl reporter covering the madness of student government elections at her Middle school.

Gutman, Dan. *The Kid Who Ran for President*. New York, NY: Scholastic, Inc, 1996. The story of a 12 year old who runs for President.

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.

Mitchell, Margaree King. *Granddaddy's Gift*. Mahwah, NJ: Bridgewater Books, 1996. A young girl grows up on a farm in segregated Mississippi and learns the importance of education and democracy.

Krosoczka, Jarrett. J. *Max for President*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004. An overview of how elections and campaigns work for pre-school-grade 2 which focuses on a class president election.

Chocolate, Deborah Newton and Wade Hudson. *NEATE to the Rescue! East Orange, NJ: Just Us Books, 1992.* The story of a young girl's mother's re-election to the City Council in an urban, African-American community.

Parish, Herman. *Amelia Bedelia 4 Mayor*. New York, NY: Harper Trophy, 2001. A fun discussion of the political process of running for mayor.

Park, Barbara. *Rosie Swanson: Fourth-Grade Geek for President*. New York, NY: Random House Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition, 1992. Rosie Swanson is an unpopular girl who runs for class president.

Sommer, Carl & Dick Westbrook. *Mayor for a Day*. Houston, TX: Advance Publishing, 2000. Story about a boy who gets the chance to be Mayor.

Tashjian, Janet. *Vote for Larry*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 2004. Story about an 18 year old who decides to run for President.

VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES

"A Perfect Candidate." A film by David Van Taylor and R.J. Cutler. First Run Features. 1996.

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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 Kassebaum. Front Porch Films. 2004. (53 min.)

Filmmaker Kassebaum follows his brother Bill, who is running for the Kansas House of Representatives, on the campaign trail.

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2004/billsrun/>

"Journeys With George." A film by Alexandra Pelosi. 2002. (79 min.)

Documentary account of George W. Bush's presidential campaign.

<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.goldhil.com/catalog/just-the-facts--the-election-process-in-america.htm>

"Last Man Standing: Politics Texas Style." A film by Paul Stekler. Midnight Films. 2004. (56 min.)

This film examines the politics that launched George W. Bush to national office; in a lively look at a pair of 2002 Texas elections.

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2004/astmanstanding/>

"Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election." A Film by Richard Ray Perez and Joan Sekler. 2002. (50 min.)

The battle for the Presidency in Florida and what it did to undermine democracy in America.

<http://www.unprecedented.org/>

"The War Room." A film by D.A. Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus. 1993. (96 min.) Follows the 1992

Clinton presidential campaign and the organization that ran it.

<http://phfilms.com/index.php/phf/film/thewarroom1/>

FEATURE FILMS

"Bob Roberts." A film by Tim Robbins. 1992. (102 min.) A political satire about a corrupt, right wing folksinger who runs for Senator.

"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.bulworth.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.

"Election." A film by Alexander Payne. 1999. (103 min.) The story of a contentious high school election involving an overachiever, a popular jock and a teacher who meddles in the race.

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

WEB SITES

www.politicsnj.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.njn.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.nileg.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.

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