



**THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PRESSES**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ILLUMINATE  
MECHANICS—AND MANIPULATION—OF DEMOCRACY***

*Books for Understanding Now* Features Published Expertise  
On Voting Behavior, Electoral Systems, Role of Money, and More

*NEW YORK (January 20, 2004)* – As the year began, headlines about voting originated everywhere from Iowa to Baghdad: The upcoming primaries and the road to the 2004 Presidential election. Investigations into flawed voting software. Steps toward democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Locally and internationally, observers of democracy are directing their attention to various aspects of voting. With this intensified scrutiny comes the accompanying increase in media coverage, commentary, debate, and – oftentimes – confusion.

To help navigate the myriad news reports and opinions, the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) has posted a new list on its Books for Understanding website. The list (<http://www.aaupnet.org/news/bfu/vote/list.html>) includes categorized books and experts illuminating voting theory and voter behavior, redistricting and the gerrymander, comparative electoral systems, the role of money and the media in elections, and many more.

Books for Understanding is the permanent, easy-to-use, free online resource for anyone looking for in-depth information, research, and expertise on the news of the day. Sponsored and managed by AAUP, Books for Understanding features subject-specific bibliographies on the critically important topics in the headlines. It is a dynamic resource, with new bibliographies compiled when a major news story breaks or heated public debate takes place.

While the site is designed for general use, there is also a section expressly for journalists with detailed contact information for authors available to talk with members of the press.

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For many of the books listed, the publishers have also indicated whether the titles are primarily directed to a general reader or to a special interest or scholarly audience. Every book listed is in print or soon to be published, available at bookstores, libraries, online booksellers, or directly from the presses.

Some of the more than 60 books on the new list include:

*You Call This an Election? America's Peculiar Democracy*

By Steven E. Schier (Georgetown University Press, 2003) – general audience

*Why Americans Still Don't Vote: And Why Politicians Want It That Way*

By Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward (Beacon Press, 2000) – general audience

*Decisions and Elections: Explaining the Unexpected*

Donald G. Saari (Cambridge University Press, October 2001) – general audience

*The U.S. Supreme Court and the Electoral Process*

David K. Ryden, Editor (Georgetown University Press, 2004)

*Bushmanders and Bullwinkles: How Politicians Manipulate Electronic Maps and Census Data to Win Elections*

By Mark Monmonier (University of Chicago Press, 2001) – general audience

*Voting with Dollars: A New Paradigm for Campaign Finance*

By Bruce Ackerman and Ian Ayres (Yale University Press, 2004) – general audience

The idea for “Books for Understanding” was sparked by Sanford Thatcher, Director of Pennsylvania State University Press. Immediately after September 11, he noticed a surge of requests for two backlist titles on terrorism and approached AAUP with a request to compile a field-wide listing for people looking for information and insight. The program has since expanded into a dynamic public service web resource. The Association of American University Presses is the world’s largest organization of not-for-profit scholarly publishers. Formally established in 1937, AAUP promotes the work and influence of its 125 university press members.