

## **For Immediate Release**

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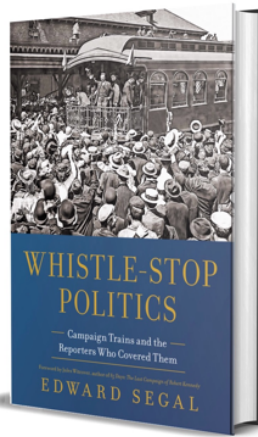
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## **Fact Sheet**

### ***Whistle-Stop Politics: Campaign Trains and the Reporters Who Covered Them***



## **Overview**

*Whistle-Stop Politics: Campaign Trains and the Reporters Who Covered Them* published on February 13, 2024, in hardcover and ebook editions. Author Edward Segal is the nation's top expert on the history of campaign trains, and their impact on elections, politics, journalism, and culture.

## **About the Book**

Filled with engaging anecdotes and striking images, *Whistle-Stop Politics* is an exciting journey back into America's political past, opening new windows into the personalities and political campaigns that shaped our history.

Memories of the pivotal role campaign trains played in American elections fade with the passing of each generation. *Whistle-Stop Politics* explores the pivotal role of the trains in American elections and the riveting stories documented by the reporters who traveled with hundreds of whistle-stopping politicians, including Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, and Ronald Reagan.

The book features:

- A foreword by Jules Witcover, a veteran Washington correspondent, award-winning reporter, former political columnist for the *Baltimore Sun*, and author of *85 Days: The Last Campaign of Robert Kennedy*.
- Dozens of campaign train-related photos and images, including editorial cartoons by Herb Block, the former editorial cartoonist for the *Washington Post* who won three Pulitzer Prizes and shared a fourth.
- A chronology of the hundreds of political candidates and their surrogates who campaigned by train between 1836 and 2022.

Learn more about *Whistle-Stop Politics* at [WhistleStopPolitics.com](http://WhistleStopPolitics.com).

## About the Author

Edward Segal is the nation's top expert on the history of campaign trains, and their impact of elections, politics, journalism, and culture. He is one of the few people who has planned a modern-day whistle-stop campaign train tour and served as a campaign manager, press secretary, and aide to Democratic and Republican presidential and congressional candidates.

## About Campaign Trains

For more than 185 years, campaign trains were the backdrop of political drama, intrigue, humor, and triumph, an American invention that enabled politicians to connect with as many voters as possible in the country's largest cities and smallest towns.

Campaign trains are still important to politicians as backdrops for photo ops that attract the attention of the media. In their expanded role as "eye candy," the trains fulfill their original purpose: helping politicians reach and communicate with as many people as possible. The tactic was so effective that it's been copied in Australia, Canada, Egypt, Germany, and Great Britain.

## Reviews

"In fifty-two years of journalism, I never knew what it was like to travel on a campaign train or bus—until *Whistle-Stop Politics*. Reading it, I now feel as if I had had those experiences—the history, the drama, the proximity, the uncertainty, the photos, even the old cartoons. A great job by Edward Segal." —**Bob Woodward, associate editor of the *Washington Post* and author of fifteen No. 1 *New York Times* bestselling books**

"*Whistle-Stop Politics* is a great read! Especially for anyone who loves history and old-fashioned politics. Author Edward Segal takes us back to what pure politics and campaigning used to be." —**Jeff Pegues, chief national affairs and justice correspondent for CBS News and host of the *America: Changed Forever* podcast**

"*Whistle-Stop Politics* is a one-of-a-kind book about politicians and train travel. It reflects the author's love for a mostly bygone era, and it succeeds because of the many anecdotes he has collected from the politicians themselves and the journalists who covered them. *Whistle-Stop Politics* is a refreshing look at politics as it once was and a trip down memory lane, when trains stopped in small towns and time seemed to move more slowly." —**Eleanor Clift, political reporter at the *Daily Beast* and coauthor of *Selecting a President***

"*Whistle-Stop Politics* is a great collection of stories and anecdotes that show why presidents and candidates love to campaign by train. Edward Segal gives us plenty of reasons for the popularity of whistle-stop campaign trains with the public, politicians, and their staff. There is really no better or more effective way for candidates and office holders to see America and connect with voters. Whistle-stop trains are fun, but more importantly, they provide those who want to lead us with a view of the country they can't get any other way. That's another reason why it would be better if politicians campaigned more by train than by plane." —**Mike McCurry, press secretary to President Bill Clinton, 1995-1998**

"For all my adult life, I have had a love of trains, politics, and history. With *Whistle-Stop Politics*, Edward Segal has combined all three into a must-read for every politician, political pundit, and political science major in the country." —**Douglas MacKinnon, former White House and Pentagon official, national columnist, and bestselling author**

"*Whistle-Stop Politics* rolls through two centuries of campaigning from the back of trains. In his entertaining account, Edward Segal presents a wealth of information about the candidates who benefited from whistle-stop trips and the reporters who endured them." —**Donald A. Ritchie, historian emeritus of the US Senate and author of *Electing FDR: The New Deal Campaign of 1932***

## **Interviews**

Author Edward Segal is available to discuss these and other campaign train-related topics:

- The pivotal role campaign trains played in American elections and how politicians and voters benefitted from campaign train tours.
- The myths and realities about campaign trains in U.S. politics
- Why and how politicians including Franklin Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, and Harry Truman allowed others to impersonate them on their campaign trains trips.
- The role campaign trains could play in the 2024 election and beyond.
- How campaign trains have been the backdrop of political drama, intrigue, humor, and triumph for more than 185 years.
- What life was like for the reporters who covered whistle-stopping politicians.

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