

Former U.S. Senate IT Insider Reveals Behind-the-Scenes Chaos in New Memoir

"Before the Wheels Came Off: A Fly on the Wall in the U.S. Senate" chronicles time spent fixing computers and witnessing history in the halls of American power

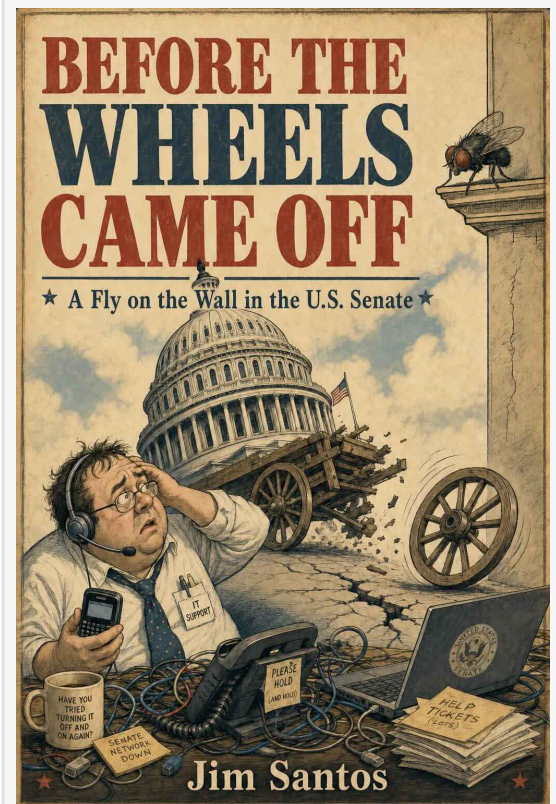
KNOXVILLE, TN, UNITED STATES, August 12, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Author Jim Santos today announced the release of his new memoir, "[Before the Wheels Came Off: A Fly on the Wall in the U.S. Senate](#)", now available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle editions, with an audiobook edition available on Amazon, Audible, and other major audiobook outlets.

From December 2003 to July 2015, Santos worked as a Senior Network Engineer supporting the United States Senate — fixing computers, wrangling BlackBerrys, and troubleshooting servers in the offices of some of the most powerful people in the country. As an anonymous IT contractor, he was granted a rare vantage point: invisible to staff, present in private offices, and privy to conversations, quirks, and dysfunction that never made the news.

Before the Wheels Came Off is Santos's firsthand account of the first six years of that time — encounters with Senators including Ted Kennedy, Joe Biden, John McCain, and others; the surprising state of cybersecurity inside Senate office servers; and a front-row seat to the early tremors of the political polarization that defines American life today.

"I spent six years as the fly on the wall in some of the most powerful offices in the country at a crucial crossroad in American politics," said Santos. "This book is my attempt to share what I saw — the absurd, the funny, and the genuinely alarming — from a time when the dysfunction in Washington was still almost charming, right before the wheels really came off."

Blending workplace comedy, insider history, and clear-eyed political reflection, the book offers readers a rare combination: laugh-out-loud stories from the basement of the Russell Senate



Before the Wheels Came Off: A Fly on the Wall in the U.S. Senate

Office Building, paired with a thoughtful look at how the nation arrived at its current political moment.

Book Details: Before the Wheels Came Off: A Fly on the Wall in the U.S. Senate By Jim Santos
Available now on Amazon in paperback and Kindle editions. The Audiobook format is available on Amazon Audiobook, Audible, and other major audiobook retailers.

About the Author

Jim Santos is a freelance writer and voiceover artist currently based in East Tennessee with his wife, Rita. Before turning to writing full-time, he spent over a decade supporting the U.S. Senate's IT infrastructure. He has written and published over 200 articles on expat life and international travel for outlets including the Wall Street Journal, Huffington Post, and International Living, and is the author of several books and short story collections, including [Wherever We May Roam: Finding Your Travel Style and Living Abroad: Challenging the Myths of Expat Life](#). He is co-host of the podcast Wherever We May Roam. More information is available at <https://www.jimsantosbooks.com>.

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