

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN), Co-Chair

Americans See Media as Biased, Liberal

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**RASMUSSEN
REPORTS**

Americans see the media as biased, liberal and too powerful, according to a new Rasmussen survey.

Just 2 in 10 Americans say reporters try to offer unbiased coverage of political campaigns. More than 7 in 10 say reporters try to help the candidate they want to win.

Furthermore, a majority of voters believe “the average reporter is more liberal than they are.” And two-thirds think the media have “too much power and influence over government decisions.”

This is the fourth public opinion poll in recent months that has found Americans don’t trust the media. If the national media want to restore Americans’ confidence, they should report the facts and not tell the people what to think.

Media Practice Double Standard on Presidents’ Approval

Half of Americans would vote against President Obama if the presidential election were held today, while only 39 percent would vote to re-elect him, according to a recent Allstate/National Journal poll.

However, in the days after the poll was released, most major newspapers such as the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and USA Today ignored the poll’s results, according to the Media Research Center.

In contrast, the media gave extensive coverage to declines in former President Bush’s approval rating in 2003. Both CNN and the Associated Press highlighted a poll showing his approval rating dropping below 50 percent. And NBC News reported “bad news for the president [Bush],” citing a Newsweek poll that showed a similar drop in support for President Bush.

AP Gives Fair Assessment of President’s First Year

A recent Associated Press article with the headline “**After year, hope turns into disappointment,**” gave a fair assessment of President Obama’s first year in office:

“Forget ‘can,’ ‘change’ and, above all, ‘hope.’ The new word echoing in the blogosphere and beyond as Obama enters Year Two: disappointment.

“The polls have shown a wide decline in Americans’ approval of Obama since he first took office last Jan. 20. In fact, according to the latest Gallup Poll, he entered his second year with one of the lowest approval ratings of any president in the last half-century ...”

