

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Americans Say Media Are Biased, Untrustworthy 10/4/11



Americans say the national media are biased, untrustworthy and too liberal, according to separate polls released recently by Gallup and the Pew Research Center.

Gallup found that only one in 10 Americans have a great deal of trust in the national media. A majority say the media are biased. And by a margin of more than three to one, Americans think the media are too liberal rather than too conservative.

Pew found that only one in four Americans think that news organizations in general get the facts straight. This marks a 14-point decrease compared to four years ago. And almost eight in 10 Americans say news organizations favor one side over the other.

Americans are right to distrust the media. The news is too often slanted to the left. **Liberal media bias gives Democratic candidates an extra 8 to 10 percentage points in a typical election, according to a study by UCLA political science professor Tim Groseclose.**

If the media want to restore the public's trust, they should give Americans the facts, not tell them what to think.

Journalism Group Shows Immigration Bias

From Accuracy in Media:

“The Society of Professional Journalists voted [last week] to impose even more political correctness when they passed a resolution to urge newsrooms to drop the terms ‘illegal alien’ and ‘illegal immigrant,’ saying that only courts can decide when a person has committed an illegal act ...

“The committee introduced the resolution at the Excellence in Journalism convention in New Orleans, and was boosted by an emotional plea by Rebecca Aguilar, a member of SPJ and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. Aguilar said that the terms insult Latinos who are or who had once been in the U.S. illegally, citing the case of her mother who became a citizen in 1980.

“That’s right. It’s insulting to be called illegal when you broke the law by entering the country illegally. Heaven forbid that we should insult criminals ...

“The only people offended are those in the SPJ who disagree with the efforts of those who are fighting the illegal immigration problem in this country. By passing this resolution they are clearly taking a political stand on the issue, which brings into question their desire for objectivity when reporting the news ... No wonder media bias still runs rampant today.”



*Distributed by Congressman Lamar Smith. For regular e-mail updates, please visit <http://lamarsmith.house.gov>
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