

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

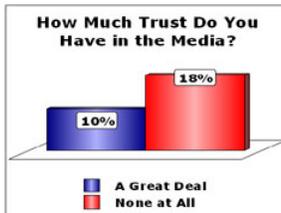
Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), Co-Chair

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

Poll Finds Americans Don't Trust Media

10/7/09



By overwhelming margins, Americans say they do not trust the national media and that the media are too liberal, according to a new Gallup poll.

Gallup found that just one in ten Americans have a “great deal of confidence in the media to report the news fully, accurately, and fairly.”

By a margin of three to one, Americans said the media are too liberal rather than too conservative. Even most Democrats described the media as “too liberal” rather than “too conservative.”

This is the third poll released in the last month that has found Americans don't trust the media. The national media should recognize Americans' distrust and report the facts, not tell them what to think.

Media Give Tale of Two Protests

In Pittsburgh and Washington, DC, the national media have given us a tale of two protests.

The media's coverage of the conservative September 12 protests intentionally tried to paint a negative picture of the protestors, even though there were no arrests or acts of violence. *The Washington Post* described the 9/12 protests as an outpouring of a “spectrum of conservative anger.” *The New York Times* used words like “angry” and “profane” to describe the protests.



Fast forward to the radical-left G-20 protests in Pittsburgh last week. **The New York Times headline called the protests a “Peaceful March.” CNN described the protests as “more peaceful, less confrontational,” even though there were dozens of arrests and businesses damaged.**

The national media should give fair coverage to protests on both sides.

New York Times Weighs Poll in Favor of Democrats

The New York Times reported last week that President Obama has “considerable political strength.” The Times' based this statement on its own poll, which found the President has an approval rating of 56% – a higher number than any other poll has found recently.

One reason for this might be that the Times weighted the poll in favor of Democrats. Among those who actually responded to the poll, there were more Democrats than Republicans by 6 percentage points – a reasonable gap. **When the Times finished weighing the results, they had increased the gap to 15 percentage points.** So it should come as no surprise that the President's approval rating is a higher than other polls have found.