

# MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

## A Look at Media Bias

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

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### Obamacare Falls in an Ohio Forest

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From the *Investor's Business Daily* Editorial page:

“The media are celebrating Ohio voters’ rejection of GOP initiatives. Predictably, though, **they are downplaying the fact that Ohio emphatically renounced ObamaCare. Why? It goes against the media’s agenda.**”

Casual consumers of the news would think that Ohio voters thoroughly vanquished Republicans and their ideas. ‘Voters defeat many GOP-sponsored measures,’ says the New York Times. Reuters took things a bit further: ‘Ohio union victory boosts Obama’s hopes for 2012.’.... The voters disagreed with Kasich and Ohio’s GOP lawmakers, a development the media are taking great joy in.

But there’s more to Tuesday’s vote in Ohio than what was placed on the ballot as Issue 2. There was Issue 3, a measure to “preserve the freedom of Ohioans to choose their health care.” **It is a state constitutional amendment that allows Ohio to opt out of the ObamaCare individual insurance mandate.....**

**The nearly two-thirds approval is a strong repudiation of the president’s signature legislation and it deserves more attention.....**Columnist Michael Barone reports that ‘about half the folks that the unions turned out voted against ObamaCare.’....Despite the public’s dislike for the Democrats’ Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act — our IBD/TIPP poll shows that 44% want it repealed while only 25% wish to expand it — **the media are still in thrall to it.”**

### New Poll Shows Occupy Wall Street Protests Waning In Popularity

From *Mediate...*

“Now well into its third month, the Occupy Wall Street movement has achieved a worldwide cultural significance unseen since the Vietnam War, but according to a **new survey by Public Policy Polling, the appeal of the protests seems to be wearing thin with Americans.**”

Their favorability has only decreased slightly in the poll, from 35% in October to 33% now, but **those opposed to OWS have increased from 36% to 45% in that time.”**

### MSNBC’s Wagner: Referring to ‘Illegal’ Immigrants Is ‘Coded’ and ‘Derogatory’ Language

From NewsBusters...

“**Referring to immigrants who are in the United States illegally as ‘illegals’ is ‘derogatory’ and ‘coded’ language, even if it is true,** MSNBC’s new host complained in a panel discussion on her noon Eastern program Now with Alex Wagner. The remark came in the middle of a discussion about the upcoming Presidential election and electoral support.

‘Well, they are illegal though,’ Newsmax’s Jedediah Bila interjected. ‘**Can I just say that? They’re breaking the law,**’ **the lone conservative on the panel reminded viewers.** ‘But if we’re talking about semiotics, and you’re also looking to win the Hispanic population, you go out there, and, **the term illegals, I think, is coded,**’ Wagner insisted. ‘It’s in a way derogatory, **it may be factual,** but I think he’s going to have to pivot off of that kind of rhetoric and then say to Hispanic Americans I will represent you too.’ **In other words, yes, illegal immigration may be a real issue, but Wagner and the liberal media are going to do their darned best to conflate that concern with outright xenophobia...”**

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