

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Media Get Poor Grades as Administration Watchdog ^{2/3/10}



Most Americans say the media are not doing a good job serving as watchdogs of the Obama Administration, according to a new Gallup poll.

More than six out of 10 (64 percent) say the media have done a “fair” or “poor” job as watchdog, while only about one-third (34 percent) say the media have done a “good” or “excellent” job – a difference of 30 percentage points. And by a margin of 10 percent, more Americans say the media has done a worse job as watchdog under the Obama Administration compared to previous Administrations.

Just three out of 10 Independents and Republicans say the media have done a “good” or “excellent” job as watchdog.

Polls: Fox News is Most Trusted Network

The White House has said Fox News is “not a news organization,” but two recent polls have found that Fox is the most trusted television news network in the country.

A Public Policy Polling survey found that half of Americans trust Fox, 10 percentage points more than any other network. Fox also had the lowest level of distrust among the networks. On the contrary, CNN and the network news channels each have a higher percentage of people who distrust them rather than trust them.



A separate poll by McLaughlin & Associates also found that Fox News was the most trusted source of news about politics and government. Thirty-six percent of respondents chose Fox. The next highest network was CNN with 20 percent. MSNBC, ABC, NBC, and CBS all received less than seven percent.

Impartial Reporters or Administration Boosters?

“It was extraordinary. And it was a command performance by the President. In fact, some Republicans are wondering if they made a mistake by allowing TV cameras in the room.” -- CBS’ Chip Reid, Jan. 29.

“... [President Obama] needs one or two votes in the Senate to get anything passed. That’s the political reality. But **he needs to, perhaps, bully Republicans into doing that**, rather than doing this careful walk around them.” -- Newsweek’s Katie Connolly, Jan. 31

“There were at least three moments [during the State of the Union] where [President Obama] **expressed explicit humility.**” -- ABC’s George Stephanopoulos

“Throughout what was essentially a policy debate, **the President demonstrated intimate knowledge of the issues.**” -- CBS’ Chip Reid, Jan. 29.

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