

# MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

## *A Look at Media Bias*

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### **Americans Say Media Bias Worse than Big Contributions** 4/14/10

Americans continue to see the national media as too biased, too liberal and too powerful.

**By almost a 2-to-1 margin, Americans say that media bias is a bigger problem in politics today than big campaign contributions, according to a new Rasmussen public opinion poll. By a 3-to-1 margin, Americans describe the average reporter as “more liberal” than they are, rather than “more conservative.” And almost 7 out of 10 believe the news media have too much power and influence over government decisions. Other recent polls have shown similar results.**

If the national media want to restore Americans’ trust, they should report the facts, not tell people what to think.

### **Media Fail to Hold President Accountable**



Recently, a woman named Doris asked President Obama why his health care legislation includes more taxes when, as she put it, “we are overtaxed as it is.” Here’s what *The Wall Street Journal* had to say about the President’s 17-minute, 2,500-word answer, and the media’s failure to hold him accountable:

**“[The President’s] filibuster had only served to avoid addressing her concern. He never explained why his health care bill ended up raising taxes on those making under \$200,000 a year -- a violation of his explicit 2008 campaign pledge.”**

**“President Obama is clearly avoiding any forum where he can be pinned down with tough questions.”**

**“So far, Washington journalists have been quite passive in letting the White House choose the terms of its interaction with the public.” “Would a conservative president get such an obliging ride from the normally aggressive Washington press corps? Probably not.”**

The national media should hold the President accountable, not give him a free pass.

### **Networks Dismiss Tea Party Movement**

ABC, CBS and NBC first ignored and then criticized the Tea Party movement, according to a new analysis by the Media Research Center (MRC). MRC examined 12 months of coverage of the Tea Parties, which launched in response to the unprecedented expansion of government and increase in government spending under the Obama Administration and Democratic leadership in Congress.

**MRC found that the networks featured just 61 stories or segments about Tea Parties over the 12-month period -- a small amount compared to the coverage devoted to liberal protests. Furthermore, almost half of the stories suggested that the movement reflected a fringe or dangerous quality.**