

# MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

## *A Look at Media Bias*

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## **Americans Don't Believe Media's Reporting**

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Most Americans don't believe the national media's reporting, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center.

**Only about 2 in 10 say they "believe all or most information" from news outlets such as ABC News, CBS News, NBC News, and The New York Times, according to Pew.** For the television networks, this marks about a 10-point drop from a decade ago.

Furthermore, consumers of news outlets such as NPR, CNN, and The New York Times tend to be more liberal than the average American. **For example, while President Obama's approval rating is stuck in the 40s among the general public, about 80 percent of New York Times readers approve of the job he is doing, according to Pew.**

## **Networks Spin Economic News**



Unemployment increased to 9.6 percent last month -- marking 16 consecutive months above 9 percent -- and the economy lost 54,000 jobs.

**Despite the grim jobs report, network news programs did their best to spin the news in a positive way. NBC's Brian Williams described the report as a "mixed picture." CBS's Erica Hill called it a "mixed bag." And ABC's David Muir said economists saw a "silver lining" in the economic data and asked whether Republicans were "standing in the way"**

**of progress.**

During President Bush's administration, the national media were quick to give gloomy portrayals -- not silver linings -- about the economy.

## **ABC Exec Becomes Latest to Join Liberal Group**

An ABC News executive has taken a job with a liberal communications firm that worked for President Obama's presidential campaign, according to news reports. Also, the AP's chief White House correspondent took a job with a liberal consulting firm.

**A total of 17 journalists have left a national media outlet to join either the Obama Administration or a liberal group, according to a tally by the Media Research Center.**

These journalists have come from ABC News, The Washington Post, CNN, The Chicago Tribune, The Los Angeles Times, Newsweek and Time magazine.

It's no wonder that, by a margin of 3 to 1, Americans describe the average reporter as more liberal than they are rather than more conservative, according to a public opinion poll.

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