

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Public Tired of Biased Media

From [Congressman Lamar Smith's Floor Remarks...](#)

“From Investor’s Business Daily:

‘The mainstream media’s open hostility to President Trump may be starting to backfire, according to the latest IBD/TIPP poll. The poll found that **55 percent of the public says they have grown ‘weary from the media’s persistently negative coverage of President Trump.’** A roughly equal share, 54 percent, also believe that the news media ‘has assumed the role of the opposition party, constantly opposing the president and his policies at every turn.’ The results are understandable, given the unusually hostile relationship the press has with Trump. A study by the nonpartisan group Media Tenor found that only 3 percent of network news stories in the first month of the Trump administration could be described as positive.’”

Sessions 7X More Coverage than Holder Contempt

From [The Media Research Centers' NewsBusters...](#)

“If you ever doubted that the media see the news through a partisan prism, consider this: **in less than two days, ABC, CBS and NBC devoted nearly 7 times as much coverage to Jeff Sessions meeting with the Russian Ambassador in his role as a U.S. Senator than they did when then-Attorney General Eric Holder was held in contempt of Congress in June 2012.** . . . ABC, CBS and NBC devoted more than 1 hour and 12 minutes to [Attorney General Sessions], just on the morning and evening shows of March 2 and the morning shows of March 3. . . .

Back on June 28, 2012, then-Attorney General Eric Holder became the first Cabinet member to be held in contempt of Congress for withholding documents from the House investigation into the Obama administration’s Fast and Furious scandal. . . .**[T]he unprecedented contempt charge against Obama’s Attorney General earned only 10 minutes, 38 seconds of network airtime.**”

Obama ‘Replaces,’ Trump ‘Ousts’ U.S. Attorneys

From [Breitbart...](#)

“With news flooding the media that President Donald Trump has requested the resignations of 46 U.S. attorneys appointed by Barack Obama, *Politico’s* coverage slapped Trump with a headline screaming that the president was about to unceremoniously ‘oust’ Obama’s appointees. . . . **[Politico headlined], ‘Trump team ousts Obama-appointed U.S. attorneys.’ . . . Politico was not nearly as antagonistic . . . in 2009 when Barack Obama did the same thing Trump just did. . . . [In 2009, Politico headlined], ‘Obama to replace U.S. Attorneys.’**”

Nets Have Lost Over 1 Million Viewers in 1 Year

From [Accuracy in Media...](#)

“**[T]he latest ratings report shows that ABC, CBS and NBC have lost more than one million viewers on their morning shows and their evening news broadcasts in the last year. In February 2016, the morning shows on the big three networks averaged 13.9 million viewers. That dropped to 12.77 million for the same period this year. That’s a loss of 1.14 [million] viewers, or eight percent. The combined evening newscasts . . . dropped to 24.7 million this year for a loss of 1.15 million viewers, or 4.4 percent.**”

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