

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Americans Don't Trust National Media

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It's hard to find any organization that is less-trusted than the national media.

Just 8 percent of Americans trust the media, according to a new Zogby public opinion poll. Eighty-eight percent of respondents said they had little or no trust in the media – by far the worst rating of any organization mentioned in the poll.

In comparison, the poll found that Americans trust major tech companies and even the social networking website Facebook more. This is the latest of many recent polls showing the public has lost faith in the national media.

If the media want to restore Americans' trust, they should stop the liberal spin and report the facts.

Media Show Double Standard on Supreme Court Nominees

The national media have shown a clear double standard in their coverage of Supreme Court nominees, according to recent studies by the Media Research Center (MRC).

MRC found that when President Bush nominated John Roberts and Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court in 2005, the national media repeatedly described both men as "very conservative." **In contrast, when President Obama nominated Sonia Sotomayor in 2009 and Elena Kagan this year, the media rarely described them as "very liberal."**

MRC also found that the television networks gave far more coverage to opponents of Roberts and Alito compared to opponents of Sotomayor and Kagan.

The national media should report the facts, not practice a double standard.



National Media At Odds with Americans on Key Issues

Over the weekend, the syndicated *Chris Matthews Show* featured *HDNet*'s Dan Rather, the *BBC*'s Katty Kay, *CNN*'s Gloria Borger and the *Politico*'s John Harris.

Matthews asked the panelists whether President Obama's legislative agenda will help or hurt Democrats in the November election. **Every one of the guests said the President's agenda will help Democrats.**

Public opinion polls tell a different story. Most Americans say President Obama lacks a clear plan to deal with key policy issues such as the oil spill in the gulf, energy issues, and job creation, according to a recent CBS News-New York Times poll. And the President's overall job approval rating has hit new lows in several recent polls, including the latest NBC/Wall Street Journal survey.

The *Chris Matthews Show* provides another example of members of the national media being out of touch with the opinions of the American people.

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