

# MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

## A Look at Media Bias

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## National Media is Not Mainstream

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Today's so-called "mainstream" media is not mainstream. The modern encyclopedia, Wikipedia, says, "the term 'mainstream' media denotes those media generally reflective of the prevailing currents of thought, influence, or activity." But the opinions expressed by the media are neither widespread nor accepted by the majority of Americans. To call today's national media "mainstream" is inaccurate. The national media is better described as the "liberal" national media. Regardless, the term "mainstream" should be dropped.

For example, journalists and the public have different views regarding illegal immigration. According to a Pew Research Center Poll, **less than one in five journalists said they thought "reducing illegal immigration" was a "top priority." Yet over half the public rated illegal immigration reduction as a "top priority."**

Gun control is another issue where the national media is not "mainstream." According to a study by the University of Connecticut's Department of Public Policy, **only 25 percent of journalists listed the Second Amendment "right to own firearms" as being "essential." A Gallup poll conducted last year shows public support for the right to bear arms to be at an all-time high of 73 percent.**

The 2008 election is another example where the national media was not "mainstream." A Pew Research Center Poll found that voters overwhelmingly believed that the media wanted Barack Obama to win the 2008 Presidential election against John McCain. **By a margin of 70 percent to 9 percent voters believed the media favored Obama. The actual election results were much closer with 53 percent in favor of Obama and 46 percent in support of McCain.**

The national media should not be considered "mainstream" until the majority of Americans and journalists are on the same page. The bias of the national media's journalists has caused them not only to be on a different page, but also to be in an entirely different publication than the typical American. Journalists owe it to the American public to remove their preconceived opinions and provide objective coverage of today's current events. **Until then, they should be called the liberal national media.**

From Investor's Business Daily...

## AP Chairman Adores Obama

**"The charade ended long ago in regard to the dominant media's 'objectivity.'** The love letter to President Obama from the chairman of the Associated Press just confirms the obvious. The only thing separating AP Chairman and newspaper mogul Dean Singleton's gushing introduction of President Obama to an AP luncheon from an Obama 2012 campaign rally was the absence of the line, "and now the next president of the United States."

You would never imagine Singleton was describing a president who in just over three years has **added nearly \$5 trillion to the national debt — more than twice that of the Bush administration's eight years.** Obama "inherited the head winds of the worst economic recession since the Great Depression," according to Singleton. Translation: **Blame Bush for Obama's 8.3% unemployment and debt nearing \$16 trillion.**

....**Hard to imagine a Republican president with Obama's record getting such a warm, uncritical reception.** As we face national bankruptcy and big government infringing on our liberties, the **major media have again proved that what they do is distort, not report."**

From Newsbusters...

## Media Spins Coverage on Gas Prices

"The Business and Media Institute (BMI) analyzed broadcast network news stories discussing \$4 gas.... **BMI found there were nearly 3 times as many stories about \$4 gas in 2008 than in 2012.**

Not only is there less coverage about \$4 gas now, the **tone is less hyperbolic.** In some cases, such as the March 15 Good Morning America, network reporters found **'encouraging news on gas prices.'** George Stephanopoulos was psyched to report 'new indications' that gas prices 'may have peaked.' Prices have climbed nearly 10 cents per gallon since that day's average (\$3.82). In that same broadcast, **Stephanopoulos claimed 'so far, high gas prices haven't hurt the consumers.'**

It's abundantly clear that in 2008 the media were glomming on to any and every piece of negative economic news, particularly high gas prices, to amplify and encourage outrage with outgoing President Bush and the Republican Party in general, particularly the Republican presidential nominee. Now that it's Obama facing reelection, the **media are doing their level best to defend the president's energy record, making excuses and engaging in labored spin to ensure that the issue of rising gas prices is not a liability at the polls in November."**