

The Watchdog

THE MRC'S MONTHLY MEMBERS' REPORT



CREATING A MEDIA CULTURE IN AMERICA WHERE TRUTH AND LIBERTY FLOURISH

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More Americans Now Aware of Liberal Media Bias, Pro-Obama Coverage, Latest Polls Show

The vicious attacks against Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin by the left-wing media prove that they are doing all they can to help Obama-Biden and the Democrats win in November.

That blatant liberal media bias is something the Media Research Center has been documenting and exposing for years. It is also the mission of the MRC to neutralize that bias.

Well, the good news is that despite the liberal media's outrageous water-carrying for the left, the American people, more and more, are aware of the slanted coverage and less trustful of the dominant media, as the latest polls confirm.

When the MRC started back in 1987, most Americans believed the media were objective. Only 22 percent agreed with you and me about the media's leftist tilt. That's all changed now, in no small measure because of the efforts of the MRC.

Check this out: In August, the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press issued a lengthy report on the media, noting that "over the last 10 years, virtually every news organization or program has seen its credibility marks decline."

The Pew Research Center, which is no bastion of conservatism, specifically noted that CNN calls itself "the most

trusted name in news." That's a nice jingle, but there's something they're not telling the public.

According to the Pew survey, only 30 percent believe "all or most" of what CNN reports.

For NBC, the believability rating is even worse — 24 percent. CBS's believability has gone from 28 percent to 22 percent over the past 10 years.

Pew also found that the audiences of CNN and MSNBC are — no surprise! — largely comprised of Democrats. For CNN's "regular viewers," 51 percent are Democrats and only 18 percent are Republicans.

At MSNBC, 45 percent of viewers are Democrats, 18 percent Republicans. For the networks — ABC, CBS, and NBC — the evening news viewers are 45 percent Democrat vs. 22 percent Republican.

All of this dovetails with what the MRC has been saying and

documenting for years.

The liberal media can object all they want and deny, deny, deny the obvious, but the facts and the numbers are there for everyone to see: The media are liberally biased and their credibility is in the trash can.

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Bad news for Gibson and Couric
A Pew Research Center survey shows that ABC's "believability" rating is 24 percent while CBS's "believability" is at 22 percent.





"There is no doubt that NBC News continues to be in the tank for Barack Obama. According to a Media Research Center study, NBC is the most lopsided network in favor of Barack. Pro-Obama reports outnumber negative Barack Obama reports by 10-to-1 on NBC News according to the study." - Bill O'Reilly, August 26, 2008



MRC President Brent Bozell details liberal media coverage of VP candidate Sarah Palin on the Sept. 4 Fox & Friends.



Both Rush Limbaugh and Matt Drudge linked to an MRC NewsBusters news post about CNN's Lou Dobbs denouncing the media for being "totally biased" in favor of Barack Obama.



Rasmussen Reports found that 49 percent of Americans think "most reporters will try to help Obama with their coverage." Only 14 percent of Americans think the media "will try to help John McCain win." Further, less than 25 percent of voters think the media will try to present unbiased coverage.

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In another survey from July, Rasmussen Reports found that 49 percent of Americans think "most reporters will try to help Obama with their coverage." Only 14 percent of Americans think the media "will try to help John McCain win." Further, less than 25 percent of voters think the media will try to present unbiased coverage.

In other words, at least 75 percent of Americans think the coverage of the election campaign is biased, and that the bulk of the bias leans left. The networks, alas, did not report on these findings either.

But there was Fox News. In fact, in its own Fox News/Opinion Dynamics poll in July, the cable news station found that 67 percent of American voters "think most media members want Obama to win," while only 11 percent think most of the media want McCain to win.

After John McCain named Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his vice presidential running mate, the liberal media came out swinging, and it showed. Another Rasmussen Reports survey on Sept. 4 revealed that more than half of voters - 51 percent - think reporters are trying to hurt Palin with their news coverage. And 24 percent of those voters said the slanted coverage was making it more likely they would vote for McCain in November.

The liberal media's appetite for destruction is hurting itself. Meanwhile, the MRC's hard work is paying rich dividends.

The new media, such as the Internet, blogs, talk radio, and cable news, consistently turn to the MRC for data and documentation on liberal media bias. And the MRC's own divisions - the News Analysis Division, the Business & Media Institute, the Culture and Media Institute, as well as our own news service, CNSNews.com - feed information to and compete with the new media 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The numbers, the surveys, show that we have the liberal media on the run. There is obviously much work to be done: the liberal media have, after all, billions of dollars and tens of thousands of reporters, editors, and producers. But we're clearly having an impact - just ask CNN, "the most trusted name in news."

Until next time,

Brent Bozell
Founder and President

CNN, ABC and CBS Network News Blackout on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's False Statements on Abortion and Catholicism

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a liberal Democrat who supports abortion and gay marriage and is Catholic, went on NBC's *Meet the Press* on Aug. 24 and made false statements about the Catholic church's teaching on when life begins and on abortion. She was quickly admonished publicly by numerous Catholic bishops, including her own archbishop in San Francisco.

On *Meet the Press*, Pelosi was asked about when life begins — the same question asked of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama in August and to which he said the answer was “above my pay grade.” Pelosi answered: “I would say that as an ardent, practicing Catholic, this is an issue I have studied for a long time. And what I know is, over the centuries, the Doctors of the Church have not been able to make that definition. ... We don't know. The point is that it shouldn't have an impact on the woman's right to choose.”

There's the rub. Pelosi, a pro-abortion Democrat, doesn't want the Catholic church's moral teaching getting in the way of a special interest constituency. It also provides cover for Biden, who has been instructed by his own bishop that it is against church teaching for him to receive communion because of his support of abortion and gay “marriage.”

Going into the Democratic National Convention the week of Pelosi's comments, the archbishop of Denver refuted Pelosi's nonsense and said, “Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is a gifted public servant of strong convictions and many professional skills. Regrettably, knowledge of Catholic history and teaching does not seem to be one of them.”

The archbishop said more, clarifying the church's teaching on the issue, as did numerous

other bishops. Pelosi was publicly chastised by the leaders of her own faith, an institution with more than 1 billion members worldwide. But some of the top liberal media didn't say a word. Nothing.

Typical was CNN, the second most popular cable news channel behind Fox News. *Fox's Special Report with Brit Hume* did a story. But CNN, as documented by the Media Research Center, went mum. The *NBC Nightly News*, the same network that aired Pelosi's false comments on *Meet the Press* ran no story — nothing. The same held for ABC's *World News with Charles Gibson* and the CBS *Evening News*, anchored by Katie Couric. The Web sites at CBS and ABC ran stories, but that's not the same as network TV news.

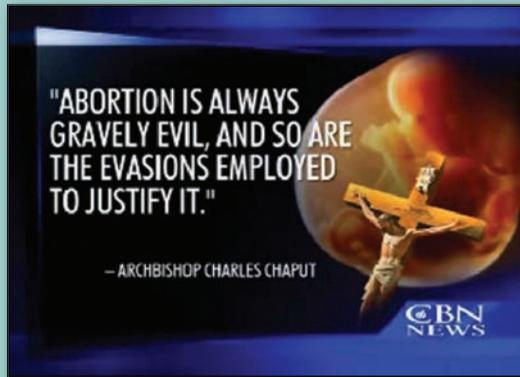
Some newspapers and the AP ran stories. But other than that, the top networks aired zip, nothing, na da.

When conservative lawmakers talk about their faith, it usually prompts the liberal news media to squawk about separation of church and state. But when liberal leaders like Pelosi make blatantly false comments about abortion and the Catholic Church, the top liberal media often play along, as this case shows.

The silence by the major liberal media says a lot. If you're a liberal Democrat in high office and pro-abortion, you can expect the liberal media to be your best friend.



U.S. Catholic bishops publicly rebuked House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), a Catholic, for making false statements about Catholic teaching on abortion on national TV, but CNN totally ignored the story, as did other major news outlets.



To view a portion of the Pelosi interview on *Meet the Press*, visit the MRC's Eyeblast and search for “Pelosi Meet the Press” at www.eyeblast.tv

Bits & Pieces

Mighty Michelle

NBC anchor Brian Williams got doe-eyed over Michelle Obama on the first day of the Democratic National Convention. In a special segment on MSNBC on Aug. 25 hosted by Williams, he threw cotton balls to PBS's Gwen Ifill to explain to America who Obama really is. "What does Michelle Obama have to do tonight in this hall?" asked Williams. Ifill cheerfully answered: Michelle Obama "has to deal with preconceptions about who she is. A lot of people have never seen anything that looks like a Michelle Obama before. She's educated, she's beautiful, she's tall, she tells you what she thinks and they hope that she can tell a story about Barack Obama and about herself."



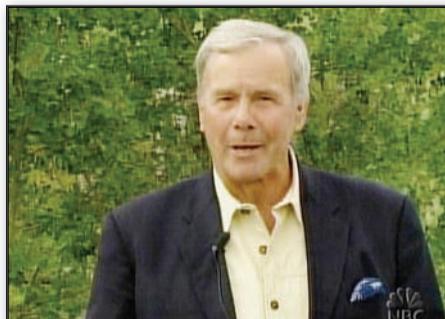
NBC's Brian Williams pitched softball questions to PBS's Gwen Ifill, who remarked that Michelle Obama is "educated," "beautiful," "tall" and "can tell a story."

After that fluff, Williams described Obama as "a mother of two girls, and the head of a family that has to sustain itself while Dad is otherwise occupied for the last couple of months. No easy feat." ... Wow!

What GDP?

The U.S. Gross Domestic Product grew by 3.3 percent in the second quarter of this fiscal year — much

higher than the initially estimated 1.9 percent in growth — but neither the CBS *Evening News* nor the NBC *Nightly News* saw fit to report it on Aug. 28 — not one word — when



Despite 3.3 percent growth in GDP, NBC's Tom Brokaw lectured at the Democratic Convention that America is in "financial crisis, greatest since the Depression."

the numbers were released by the Commerce Department. Over at ABC's *World News*, anchor Charles Gibson, while covering the Democratic National Convention, gave the good news a total of 13 seconds airtime, saying the "strong reading on the economy" was due to "those government stimulus checks and a jump in exports because the dollar is so weak."

That same day, NBC's Tom Brokaw, at the convention, was lecturing that Americans were "facing some of the greatest problems that they have faced, certainly in our lifetimes. Financial crisis, greatest since the Depression."

Palin-ated

MSNBC's Keith Olbermann, whose ratings are almost near room temperature, let loose with *Newsweek's* Howard Fineman about GOP vice presidential pick Sarah Palin. On the Aug. 29 *Countdown* — the day Palin was publicly picked by Sen. John Mc-

Cain — Olbermann railed that she is "the least experienced vice presidential candidate probably in American history." And given her conservative views and tough rhetoric, Palin "makes Barack Obama look like John Adams."

Fineman joked that there weren't many "pro-drilling, anti-polar bear, and anti-abortion women" who would vote for Palin. Olbermann then ranted that Palin's real appeal likely is because she's a "red meat conservative" who wants to "imprison abortionists" and "run up the debt" and "purge the lefties." For balance, Olbermann also noted that Palin is "fanatically anti-abortion and pro-gun."

'Old, White Guys'

In an instance of perhaps channeling DNC Chairman Howard Dean, CNN's Jeffrey Toobin whined on the second night of the Republican National Convention that the GOP lacked "diversity." Toobin rified: "I'd just like to make an observation about sort of the night as a whole: Fred Thompson, George Bush, Joe Lieberman — the Republican Party — are they the party of old, white guys? I mean, this is who the Republican Party put forward first, and the only other people there were wives.... It is not a diverse party. It is not a party where women have had great success."

Back on Aug. 15, the DNC's Dean had said: "If you look at folks of color, even women, they're more successful in the Democratic Party than they are in the white, uh, excuse me, in the Republican Party." Three years earlier in 2005, Dean called the GOP a "white Christian party."

Barack Obama Hayek

The New York Times, in all seriousness, argued in an Aug. 20 "analysis" by reporter David Leonhardt that Barack Obama, who wants to socialize health care in America and

put everyone on some sort of federal program, is actually a “fiscal conservative.” When it comes to economics, Obama is a maverick argued Leonhardt. Concerning the federal deficit, for example, “Obama’s aides optimistically insist he will reduce it, thanks to his tax increases on the affluent and his plan to wind down the Iraq war. Relative to McCain, whose promised spending cuts are extremely vague, Obama does indeed look like a fiscal conservative.”

Leonhardt, apparently unaware of the latest GDP numbers, went on to lecture: “Laissez-faire capitalism hasn’t delivered nearly what its proponents promised. It has created big budget deficits, the most pronounced income inequality since the 1920s and the current financial crisis.”

Chris’s Crush

MSNBC’s Chris Matthews, who once said that Barack Obama’s speeches send “a thrill” up his leg, clearly has a crush on the Democrat. One of his more intense affection-outbursts took place on Aug. 23, after Obama accused Sen. John



MSNBC’s Chris Matthews swoons over Barack Obama on Aug. 23, comparing him to actor Denzel Washington fighting “the bad guys.”

McCain of bluster concerning Russia and Georgia. “When I was watching Barack, I said, ‘There’s the fire I’ve been waiting for,’” swooned Matthews.

“Maybe it was the camera angle, but I was looking up – if you look at some of the stronger performances, and they’re almost always strong by the actor Denzel Washington, when he’s really sticking it to the bad guys at the end of the movies – there’s something about the face, there’s something about that statement of strength and even anger where you really make your point with dignity and indignation, and I thought he was doing it today for the first time as a candidate: Barack Obama taking the fight to the bluster of the opponent.”

Minibits

■ Bloomberg TV’s **Fred Kempe** spins Obama: “He’s shown people he’s not a left-wing ideologue. If anything, he’s center, even center-right, on foreign policy issues.” ■ ABC’s **Chris Cuomo** pouts to McCain’s campaign manager about an ad mocking Obama’s celebrity: “It’s frivolous, childish. ... Do you want to put out a pledge: ‘No more ads like this; let’s leave the personal alone; let’s talk about what we’ll do for America?’” ■ ABC *The View*’s **Joy Behar** lets her hair down with House Speaker Pelosi: “You’ve ruled against impeaching George Bush and Dick Cheney. Why do you, why do you insist on not impeaching these people so that the world and America can really see the crimes that they’ve committed?” ■ CNN’s **Melissa Long** wonders about the adulterer John Edwards, the “much loved, worked for the poor, a man who was self-made, and all about integrity and honesty.” ■ NBC *Today*’s **Matt Lauer** gushes that comic Jon Stewart is “one of the most respected and listened to political voices in this country.” ■ NBC’s **Brian Williams** frets about no female president this election cycle: “If not Senator Clinton, who? And if not now, when?” ■ As for Hillary’s convention speech, ABC’s **Diane Sawyer** exploded, “If her candidacy put those 18 million cracks in the glass ceiling, her speech probably punched a hole in it.” ■ MSNBC gives actor-leftist **Richard Dreyfuss** a national platform to say this: “I think the Republican Party is corrupt through and through ... I think that they’re too adept at thievery.” ■ CNN’s **Roland Martin** complains that only “crazy folks on the right” question Michelle Obama’s patriotism. ■ MSNBC’s **Chris Matthews** explains the Georgia-Russia conflict in his typically asinine way: “There are a lot of neo-conservatives out there that just love the old black and white Manichaeian cold war feeling again. They’d like to get rid of color television, in fact. Let’s go back to the ‘50s and let’s fight with the Russians again.” ■ Some fresh air from actor **Robert Duvall** on John McCain: “He’s an American hero. He’s got character. He’s been around. The other guy? I just don’t know.” ... As for leftist Gore Vidal’s questioning McCain’s POW experience, Duvall snapped: “My 96 year-old mother could beat the crap out of Gore Vidal with her shoe, and you can quote me on that.”



NBC *Today*’s Matt Lauer claims that Daily Show comic Jon Stewart “is one of the most respected and listened to political voices” in America.

L. Brent Bozell III's • September 2, 2008 • Nationally Syndicated Column

Savaging Sarah Palin

When MSNBC's Chris Matthews suggested in Denver that Barack Obama earned his present elevation in American politics, unlike "showcase appointments" like Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice, he reminded the world of the peculiarity of liberalism. John McCain's selection of Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate underlined it. Liberals find no joy when Republicans select women or minorities for top positions. They are all fraudulent traitors to their own apparent group interests. Conservative blacks aren't really black. Conservative Latinos aren't really Latino. Now, conservative women are somehow not really women.

Newsweek's Eleanor Clift spoke for her colleagues on the Palin selection: "If the media reaction is anything, it's been literally laughter in many places... In very, very many newsrooms."

This principle — that Hell hath no fury like a liberal who's been insulted by a conservative not sticking to white male appointments — explains why President Bush successfully placed two white men on the Supreme Court. Only picking Harriet Miers was outrageous (although her capacity for the job was clearly an issue). Bush saw how upset the Left became when Clarence Thomas was nominated. John McCain could have played safe. He chose to mix things up and pick a woman who matched his tendency to mix things up.

That decision led inexorably to a big, fat Exhibit A of media bias. The media's treatment of Palin was nothing like their approval for Joe Biden, Obama's running mate, the week before. *The Washington Post* called the Biden selection an "infusion of experience and aggressiveness," and he was "a sharp-witted and energetic foreign policy expert." There was no mention that Biden was a liberal, or that while *National Journal* found Obama to be the most liberal Senator in 2007, Biden came in close behind in third place.

When Palin was picked, the *Post* couldn't stop pounding away on her conservatism. The lead story underlined: "The self-described 'hockey mom' brings a blue-collar conservatism and strong antiabortion views to the ticket." Another story on the front-page called her "the pro-gun, antiabortion governor of Alaska." The caption under her picture noted Palin was "a conservative with strong antiabortion views."

Next came Exhibit B. The media didn't simply slam Gov. Palin as a conservative, they went intensely

ugly and personal. CNN's John Roberts quickly suggested she might be a crummy mother: "There's also this issue that on April 18th, she gave birth to a baby with Down's syndrome...."

Children with Down's syndrome require an awful lot of attention. The role of Vice President, it seems to me, would take up an awful lot of her time, and it raises the issue of how much time will she have to dedicate to her newborn child?"

On the next day, ABC's *Good Morning America* weekend co-anchor Bill Weir piled on with the disabled-child-neglect attack in an interview with McCain spokesman Mike DuHaime. "Adding to the brutality of a national campaign, the Palin family also has an infant with special needs. What leads you, the Senator, and the Governor to believe that one won't affect the other in the next couple of months?" When DuHaime tried to answer, Weir repeated himself: "She has an infant with special needs. Will that affect her campaigning?" Weir was accurately describing himself when he mentioned "adding to the brutality of a national campaign."

Then came the media's heavy rush to cover the news that Palin's 17-year-old daughter Bristol was pregnant, and would keep the baby and marry the father. Once again, ABC led the media insult machine. They called the baby a "skeleton in the closet," a strange term for an unborn child, a "bombshell" cynically timed to explode on the day Hurricane Gustav swept ashore. The story emerged in reaction to the left-wing blogsite Daily Kos circulating the incredibly disgusting and wholly inaccurate smear that Gov. Palin somehow faked her latest pregnancy to cover for her daughter's supposed motherhood of her disabled son.

ABC and CNN also used the Bristol news to lecture the Republicans about their hypocrisy on sex education in high schools, wildly presuming Gov. Palin's daughter didn't know how babies were made. The agenda seemed clear: keep Palin constantly under attack, and suggest perhaps McCain should just dump her and go find someone else....for the media to brutalize.

John McCain made a bold choice in not merely picking a woman, but picking a pro-life woman courageous enough to put her motherhood where her mouth is. Now the media want him to pay dearly for it. The idea that they would lecture anyone else about rumor-mongering or "Swift-boating" ought to be laughed off the public stage.



MRC in the News

The experts at the Media Research Center are interviewed almost every day on stories of national importance, often reaching millions of Americans daily. They provide analysis and commentary on radio, TV, the Internet, in magazines, books and in newspapers, always striving to help restore political balance to the major media. Some of the MRC's latest media appearances include the following:

Television

- CNN:** *The Situation Room*, Aug. 4
CBN: *NewsWatch*, Aug. 27
FNC: *America's Newsroom*, Aug. 13, Sept. 2
Fox & Friends, Sept. 4, 5, 11
Special Report with Brit Hume, Aug. 8, 19, Sept. 5, 11
The O'Reilly Factor, Aug. 26
Fox News Live, Aug. 29, Sept. 2, 4
Happening Now, Aug. 13
Your World w/Neil Cavuto, Aug. 1

Radio

- Rush Limbaugh Show, Aug. 4, 24, 25, 29, Sept. 5
 Sean Hannity Show, Aug. 26
 Lars Larson Show, Sept. 5
 Faith2Action, Aug. 29
 Point of View, Aug. 29
 George Putnam Show, Aug. 26
 American Family News, Aug. 25
 American Family Radio, Aug. 14
 Coral Ridge Network, Aug. 15
 Right Balance, Aug. 13
 Five Minute Report, Aug. 8
 Lee and Terry Show, Aug. 15
 NRA News, Aug. 15, 26, 29
 WBAL, Baltimore, MD, Aug. 15, 25
 1700 San Diego, CA, Aug. 27
 KKKK, Longmont, CO, Aug. 28
 WIBA, Madison, WI, Aug. 12, 27, 28
 WIBC, Indianapolis, IN, Aug. 28
 KKTU, Corpus Christi, TX, Aug. 25
 KUIK, Portland, OR, Aug. 13, 25, 26
 KCAA, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 27
 KBAR, Burley, ID, Aug. 18, 25
 WSAU, Wausau, WI, Aug. 29



MRC President Brent Bozell details liberal media coverage of VP candidate Sarah Palin on the *Fox & Friends*.



On CNN's *The Situation Room*, CNSNews.com Editor Terry Jeffrey discusses why VP Candidate Sarah Palin appeals to conservatives.



Kristen Fyfe, Senior Writer for the MRC's Culture & Media Institute, appeared on FNC's *America's Election HQ* to discuss the media's coverage of Sarah Palin.



Business & Media Institute Vice President Dan Gainor appeared on CBN to discuss poor media coverage of the Fannie Mae/ Freddie Mac collapse.

WCHS, Charleston, WV, Aug. 12
 WLQV, Ferndale, MI, Aug. 12
 WKYL, Knoxville, TN, Aug. 19
 KAAY, Little Rock, AR, Aug. 11, 25
 WBOB, Jacksonville, FL, Aug. 15
 KFAB, Omaha, NE, Aug. 13
 WTKF, Greenville, SC, Aug. 15
 WBT, Charlotte, NC, Aug. 16
 KFKA, Ft. Collins, CO, Aug. 15
 KZIM, Cape Girardeau, MO, Aug. 20
 WOR, New York, NY, Aug. 14
 WMAL, Washington, D.C., Aug. 14

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Print

Canada Free Press, Aug. 6, 21, 26
Washington Times, Aug. 11, 12, 22, 25, 29
Times-Picayune, Aug. 25
International Herald Tribune, Aug. 1
New York Times, Aug. 1
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, Aug. 11, 18, 25, Sept. 1
Florida Sun-Sentinel, Aug. 24
 Reuters, Aug. 22
 Catholic News Agency, Aug. 21
Newsday, Aug. 15
The Hill, Aug. 27
Lowell Sun, Aug. 10
Dakota Voice, Aug. 10
Investor's Business Daily, Aug. 20
The Record, Aug. 4
World magazine, Aug. 9

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Internet

On the Right, Aug. 26
 New York Times blog, Aug. 29
 Random Thoughts, Aug. 26
 Washingtonpost.com, Aug. 20
 World Net Daily, Aug. 20
 AnnCoulter.com, Aug. 28
 YouTube.com, Aug. 8, 14
 Catholic Exchange, Aug. 27
 Creators.com, Aug. 1, 27
 Newsmax.com, Aug. 20, 29
 TVNewser, Aug. 15, 19
 The Hill.com, Aug. 27
 Townhall.com, Aug. 27
 FoxNews.com, Aug. 8, 19
 Newsbull, Aug. 28
 Politickers, Aug. 28
 New Statesman, Aug. 28
 Radio Equalizer, Aug. 26
 Kid Nation Blog, Aug. 25
 Political Parlor, Aug. 25
 Obama Watch, Aug. 24
 Human Events Online, Aug. 11, 22
 National Ledger, Aug. 20
 LifeNews.com, Aug. 13
 Broadcasting & Cable, Aug. 13
 GOPUSA, Aug. 13
 OneNewsNow.com, Aug. 28
 National Review Online, Aug. 12

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70	6.5%	70	75	6.1%
75	7.1%	75	80	6.6%
80	8.0%	80	85	7.3%
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