

# THE PROBLEM BEZOS CAN'T SEE

The whimpering op-ed by WaPo owner Jeff Bezos, which Marcy shredded here, starts with a true statement: trust in the media is lower than trust in Congress and has been falling steadily since 1972, according to this from Gallup. Here's the question Gallup asks:

In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the mass media – such as newspapers, TV and radio – when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately and fairly – a great deal, a fair amount, not very much or none at all?

How would any thinking person answer that question? Do I average across all the media I consume or all the media I hear about? Do I average across all the reporters I read or all reporters? Do I allow for size of audience? Does it matter if I'm talking science or SCOTUS rulings or political campaigns? Are we talking about the language of the reporters, the headlines, the way they handle anonymity or something else? I know some of them are deliberately lying. How do I factor that in? I don't know what this question is measuring, but I'm pretty sure it isn't very useful for the purposes Bezos uses it.

The interesting fact shows up in the tabs. The huge change comes from Republicans, where the total of "great deal" and "fair amount" went from 68 in 1972 to 12 in 2024; and Independents, from 60 to 27. The drop in Democrats is far less, from 74 to 54, and most of that is in the last two years.

I'd guess that no one distrusts the media they follow. If the question to Republicans was "do you trust Fox News", the answer would be either

“a great deal” or “a fair amount”.

I don't “trust” the media. I have more confidence in some than others, and I start with an inclination to trust reporting in those. Trust comes from checking the sources cited, documents linked, and the input of other people whose opinions I've come to value. Like Marcy.

The actual problem

Ever since early 2016, Democrats in the general population have been complaining about the tilt of major media against Democrats and in favor of Trump and his cronies. Even before that, activists were pointing out that the Sunday shows feature Republicans, and rarely Democrats. It was a running joke that either John McCain or Lindsay Graham or both were on every Sunday. The complaints became angry as the media swarmed over the ridiculous Her Emails and Coney Says pieces, because most of us think that coverage made the difference in Hillary Clinton's loss.

The complaints grew louder after Trump took office and reached a crescendo after the 2020 election when the idiot media failed to recognize that Trump was planning a coup. Then the media told us that the second impeachment would never succeed, even before it was initiated, and treated it as a game. The facts didn't matter, and they didn't care.

Then Biden took office, and instead of attacking Trump as a proven danger, the media treated him as a candidate in waiting. They failed to report the utter failure of Trump's policies. Tax cuts for the rich raised the national debt without creating any value for the nation. Appointing a SCOTUS so corrupt it would throw out any precedent Republicans don't like had horrendous consequences for millions and no gain to anyone. *Roe vs Wade* is replaced by a reign of terror in Red States? Not news. Student loan forgiveness thrown out on spurious grounds? Perfectly normal, and forgotten immediately.

They treated the effective team of Biden and the Democrats as equivalent to the obstructionist

Trump and his lickspittle Republicans. They refused to report the successes of the Biden Administration on the economy and on the lives of us normal people. Instead they spewed a steady stream of lies and distractions pumped out by Trump and his billionaire backers.

The media assaulted Biden over his age, but refused to apply the same standard to Trump's degenerating brain. Instead we got constant sane-washing of Trump's weird rants. We only knew about them because of assiduous clipping and posting to social media and the amplification given by those not-journalists Bezos derides.

The spiked endorsement was just too much. People exploded.

And Bezos thinks this problem is affected by endorsements? His newspaper treats fantastical Republican talking points as equivalent to reality for years, and he condescends to explain that he has principles so we should suck it up and give him more money? He can't figure out why his most likely readers and those with the highest trust in media, are furious?

Admit it Jeff: you're afraid of Trump, and you kissed his ring.