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July 22, 2021

Office of the General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
1050 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20463

**MUR 7919**

Complaint regarding: MSNBC and NBCUniversal News Group violation of 11 C.F.R. §100.73

Dear General Counsel:

During the 2020 general election cycle, the cable “news” network MSNBC and several of its news anchors clearly and unmistakably engaged in express advocacy on behalf of the Democratic nominee for the office of the Presidency, Joe Biden, and in their flattering reports failed to meet the Federal Election Commission’s standard of a “bona fide news organization”. Under law, specifically 11 C.F.R. §100.73, a bona fide news organization is entitled to exemption from federal campaign spending restrictions. It is a rather important exemption! As this Complaint will detail, MSNBC news anchors routinely advocated on behalf of then-candidate Joe Biden, in a manner that clearly transgresses “bona fide new media” exemption and instead as to clear content meets the “express advocacy” standard set forth in 11 C.F.R. §100.22(b) and 52. U.S.C. 30101(17)). Accordingly, I am requesting that the commission conduct an investigation to determine the extent of the violations and take appropriate enforcement action to protect the public interest and the integrity of our electoral and campaign finance system.

The First Amendment “Free Press” clause is a recognition of the importance that the press plays in the political affairs of our country. And the vital role that the press plays in our democracy is affirmed by the press exemption that excludes from the Act’s definition of expenditure “any news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting station... “ (11 C.F.R.

§100.73). However, this press exemption only extends so long as the news is presented as part of “a general pattern of campaign-related news accounts *that give reasonably equal coverage to all opposing candidates* in the circulation or listening area” (*Id* at (b)). In its coverage of the 2020 presidential election, MSNBC fails to meet the Commission’s definition of a bona fide news organization due to its express advocacy on behalf of candidate Joe Biden and open hostility to the incumbent, Donald Trump; therefore the commentary, analysis, and editorializing by the network’s anchors should not be subject to the Act’s press exemption, rather, a fair assessment of its coverage should be treated as an ongoing violation of federal election campaign contribution and expenditure restrictions, because the MSNBC reports as a whole amount to a colossal illegal, undisclosed corporate contribution to the Biden for President campaign.

Under 11.C.F.R. 100.22(b)(1-2), express advocacy occurs “when taken as a whole and with limited reference to external events, such as the proximity to the election, could only be interpreted by a reasonable person as containing advocacy of the election or defeat of one or more clearly identified candidate(s) because – 1) The electoral portion of the communication is unmistakable, unambiguous and suggestive of only one meaning; and 2) Reasonable minds could not differ as to whether it encourages actions to elect or defeat one or more clearly identified candidate(s) or encourages some other kind of action.”

It has been apparent in the last several months, both before and after the 2020 presidential election, that MSNBC as a broadcast news network, and several of its anchors, were without any factual doubt expressly advocating for the election and policies of Joe Biden. On January 15, 2021, MSNBC host Stephanie Ruhle was thanked on-air by an economic advisor of President-Elect Biden for her “advocacy” and “help”. Speaking to Ruhle about a proposed stimulus package, Jared Bernstein, now a member of President Biden’s Council of Economic

Advisors, said: “Your help has been extremely important because not only have you continued to amplify some of the things that we’re trying to do here, but you’ve been in the weeds and you’ve talked about the very policies that have been knocking around for a long time and that we finally have been able to get together and put into a plan. So I want to thank you for your advocacy as well.”<sup>1</sup>

Beyond the express advocacy for one clearly identified candidate, fair and independent analysis of media coverage shows that MSNBC did not give “reasonably equal coverage to all opposing candidates” (11 C.F.R. §100.73). During the critical months of Democratic primary for the 2020 presidential nomination, 64% of MSNBC’s coverage focused on Biden, and any time the coverage was critical, such critiques of Biden were subsumed by positive coverage, presenting him as the safest, strongest choice to take on Trump—or, as Matthews put it, the Democrats’ “designated driver.”<sup>2</sup>

MSNBC, through its editorial decisions, continuously made clear that it was advocating for Biden to be elected President. The network held a townhall a month before the presidential election consisting of, according to the network, undecided Florida voters. What was not disclosed to the viewing public was that the audience of “undecided voters” included two Cuban-American voters “who told MSNBC in August they were voting for the former vice president.”<sup>3</sup> Earlier in the presidential election cycle, MSNBC featured a free airing of a full-length pro-Biden advertisement “without including a rebuttal or equal time to the Trump

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/media/msnbc-anchor-thanked-biden-adviser-advocacy>

<sup>2</sup> <https://inthesetimes.com/features/msnbc-bernie-sanders-coverage-democratic-primary-media-analysis.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://thehill.com/homenews/media/519955-undecided-voters-at-nbc-biden-town-hall-once-told-msnbc-they-were-voting-for>

campaign.” MSNBC host Nicolle Wallace called the ad “one of the best ads I’ve ever seen.”<sup>4</sup>

It is abundantly clear that MSNBC, through its editorial decisions and the presentation of the news by its anchors and hosts, were unabashedly expressly advocating for the election of Joe Biden, the network also demonstrated its failure to meet the Act’s free press exemption for campaign expenditure restrictions through its express advocacy against the incumbent, Donald Trump. MSNBC host Lawrence O’Donnell was joined on-air by a network contributor for a segment of legal analysis. No disclosure was made on-air that the network contributor was also a Biden campaign contributor and fundraiser for the Democratic party.<sup>5</sup> The segment largely centered around the contributor’s contention that President Trump was “a more existential threat to democracy than Nixon”<sup>6</sup>. No rebuttal from the Trump campaign or from a Republican party official was provided for equal coverage.

Through the free airing of campaign ads on behalf of one candidate, the failure to disclose the partisan affiliation of contributors and guests, the unequal coverage for opposing candidates, the “advocacy” and “help” of MSNBC hosts openly lauded by one candidate’s advisors, it is clear that, per 11 C.F.R. §100.22(b)(2), “reasonable minds could not differ as to whether... MSNBC... encourages actions to elect or defeat one or more clearly identified candidate”; in the case of the 2020 presidential election, the election of Joe Biden and the defeat of Donald Trump. By engaging in express advocacy to such a clear and obvious extent, it is this

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/watch/nicolle-wallace-calls-pro-biden-ad-one-of-the-best-i-ve-seen-in-my-career-85103685748>

<sup>5</sup> <https://tenthdemocrats.org/2021/02/lake-county-democrats-presidents-day-conversation-with-watergate-prosecutor-jill-wine-banks/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/watergate-prosecutor-donald-trump-nixon-comparison\\_n\\_5e54cf55c5b65e0f11c5feec](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/watergate-prosecutor-donald-trump-nixon-comparison_n_5e54cf55c5b65e0f11c5feec)



complainant's assertion that MSNBC clearly and unmistakably does not operate as bona fide news organization, giving "reasonably equal coverage to all opposing candidates" (11 C.F.R. §100.73). Because MSNBC does not operate as a bona fide news organization, its coverage of the news, commentary, and editorials should not fall under the press exemption of 11 C.F.R. §100.73, governing federal campaign finance restrictions, and they amount to illegal and undisclosed corporate contributions to Biden.

In considering the scope of the press exemption, the Commission has relied on a two-part framework presented in *Reader's Digest Association v. FEC*, 509 F. Supp. 1210, 1215 (S.D.N.Y. 1981): 1) Whether the press entity is owned or controlled by a political party, political committee, or candidate; and (2) Whether the press entity is acting as a press entity in conducting the activity at issue (i.e., whether the entity is acting in its "legitimate press function").<sup>7</sup> It is our contention, provided through the evidence above and more thoroughly covered in the attached report (MSNBC's Systemic Bias and Express Advocacy – a report by the United States Justice Foundation)<sup>8</sup> that MSNBC has failed the second part of the framework, namely that it continuously did not ***act as a press entity*** in how it covered the candidates for President in the 2020 election cycle.

By giving air time to only one candidate's surrogates, in some instances not disclosing the surrogate's affiliation with one candidate's campaign, and by airing (for free) only one candidate's campaign ads, by expressly advocating for the proposed policies of only one candidate, MSNBC contravenes the Commission's finding in Advisory Opinion 1998-17 that "air-time would be provided to the candidates on an equal basis", a finding that allowed a cable television provider to

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<sup>7</sup> FEC Advisory Opinion 2004-07

<sup>8</sup> <https://usjf.net/2021/02/09/msnbcs-systemic-bias-express-advocacy/>

provide free air time to Federal candidates under the press exemption. When hosting a candidate town-hall, MSNBC falsely presented Biden supporters as undecided voters, so rather than presenting a forum for a candidate to be asked questions and for the audience and viewers to consider the candidate's responses, as a press entity would do, the network fell afoul of the Commission's findings in MUR 6952, where another cable television provider conducted a presidential primary debate and the Commission found that the provider's "sponsorship of the debate was protected from Commission regulation by the press exemption".<sup>9</sup> In the present case, MSNBC gave one candidate a forum to speak with and answer questions with his supporters – more akin to the free airing of a campaign rally. Such a forum was not extended by MSNBC to the opposing candidate, Donald Trump.

For added context of the conduct of MSNBC as a cable news network, and its anchors, hosts, contributors, and analysts, we ask for your consideration of Judge Silberman's recent partial dissent in *Tah v. Global Witness*, where he correctly pointed to the corrosive effects of having the major media organizations acting as "virtually Democratic Party broadsheets" and his observations that "one-party control of the press and media is a threat to a viable democracy" and "the overwhelming uniformity of news bias in the United States has an enormous political impact."<sup>10</sup> It is the contention of this complaint that MSNBC is not operating as a bona fide news organization, and instead essentially conducts itself as a public relations branch of the Democratic Party, actively advocating for the election of clearly identified Federal candidates and expressly advocating for the defeat of opposing Federal candidates. We believe discovery of documents, such

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<sup>9</sup> <https://eqs.fec.gov/eqsdocsMUR/16044395395.pdf>

<sup>10</sup>

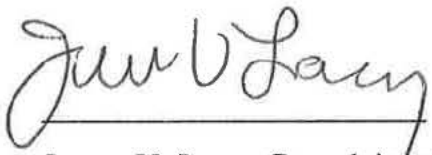
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as emails, texts and written documents, between MSNBC and the Democratic National Committee personnel, and Democratic campaigns such as Biden for President, regarding MSNBC's planned broadcasts, would offer proof of this assertion.

We respectfully ask the Commission to consider not only beginning an investigation into whether MSNBC should still be considered a bona fide news organization, protected by the press exemption, due to its coverage of then-candidate Joe Biden acting as in-kind contributions and expenditures on the candidate's behalf. We also ask that the Commission freshly consider the broad scope of the press exemption as currently understood, as the conduct of the press, we contend, has had deleterious effects on the level of civil discourse in our country. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

The foregoing information contained in this complaint is true to the best of my knowledge.

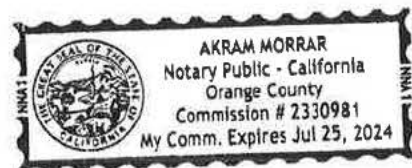
James V. Lacy

  
James V. Lacy, Complainant

Dana Point, CA 92629

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State of California, County of Orange  
Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this 22nd day  
of July, 2021 by James V. Lacy  
proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the  
person(s) who appeared before me.  
Signature Akram Morrar (seal)



A Report by the United States Justice Foundation

# MSNBC's Systemic Bias & Express Advocacy

MSNBC Fails to Meet FEC Standard of "Bona Fide News  
Organization"



United States Justice Foundation  
February 2021



## A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

### Table of Contents

<b>Direct Ties Between MSNBC &amp; Joe Biden.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Undisclosed Biden Advisor: MSNBC Medical Analyst Dr. Vin Gupta .....	5
3 Paid MSNBC Analysts Immediately Joined Biden Administration: Barbara McQuade, Richard Stengel & Ezekiel Emanuel.....	5
MSNBC Medical Expert Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel Joined Biden Administration.....	6
Undisclosed Biden Advisor: Biden Speechwriter & MSNBC Contributor Jon Meacham .....	6
MSNBC Contributor Praised Biden Speech – He Helped Write .....	6
MSNBC Historian Endorsed Biden at DNC Convention .....	7
<b>MSNBC Express Advocacy for Biden Campaign.....</b>	<b>8</b>
MSNBC Host Thanked for Biden Advocacy During Campaign.....	8
MSNBC Host Helps Joe Biden During Interview.....	8
MSNBC Inflated Biden's Poll Numbers by 3 Points .....	9
Columbia Journalism Review: "Biden has received lion's share of coverage" on MSNBC.....	10
Analysis: 64 Percent of MSNBC Coverage Included Biden .....	10
MSNBC Parent Company Comcast Donations: 94 Percent to Biden.....	12
Rigged Townhall: 'Undecided voters' at NBC-Biden town hall once told MSNBC they were voting for Biden .....	12
Featured Pro-Biden Ad, Ran Full Length for Free, Praised as "Best I've Seen in My Career," No Trump Rebuttal.....	13
<b>MSNBC Attacked Biden Opponents .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Andrew Yang: MSNBC's Systematic Bias in Democrat Primary 2020 .....	15
June 2019: Yang Excluded from Democrat Candidate Graphics .....	15
June 2019: Yang Removed from List of 2020 Democrat Candidates .....	15
Nov. 2019: Yang Excluded from MSNBC Debate Graphic .....	16
Bernie Sanders: Biased & Unfair Coverage in 2020 Democratic Primary .....	16
Fact Check: Bernie Sanders Excluded from Graphics .....	16
MSNBC Graphic Errors Routinely Hurt Sanders Campaign .....	16
MSNBC Host Calls Sanders "Turtle" .....	17
MSNBC Host Compared Sanders Victory to Nazi Takeover of France .....	17
Bernie Sanders calls out MSNBC over campaign coverage .....	17





## A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

Sanders to MSNBC President: Your Network Has Not Been Playing A Fair Role in This Campaign.....	18
Sanders Campaign Criticized Coverage as Biased .....	18
Sanders Confronted MSNBC Executive .....	18
MSNBC Guest: Bernie Sanders Makes My Skin Crawl .....	19
Sanders Campaign Manager: MSNBC Has Not Been Fair .....	19
MSNBC Host: Sanders Would Not Help Dying Person on Side of Road .....	19
MSNBC Host Called Sanders Supporters Brownshirts (Nazi Reference) .....	20
Coordinated Campaign by MSNBC Hosts to Shut Down Sanders Campaign.....	20
Analysis: MSNBC Most Anti-Sanders.....	21
Tulsi Gabbard: Biased & Unfair Coverage in 2020 Democratic Primary .....	21
On Day of Gabbard Launch, MSNBC Falsely Claimed Her Campaign Aided by Russia .....	21
Donald Trump: Biased & Unfair Coverage in 2020 General Election .....	21
Fact Check Pants on Fire: MSNBC Host Falsely Claimed Trump Talked About Exterminating Latinos.....	21
MSNBC Host Trolled Trump with Intentionally Incorrect Footage.....	22
MSNBC Hosts Cutoff Trump from Speaking in Interview .....	22
MSNBC Cut Away from Trump Speech.....	22
Election Night Coverage .....	23
<b>MSNBC Debate Bias.....</b>	<b>24</b>
MSNBC Managing Editor's Unethical Advocacy for Democratic National Committee .....	24
Gabbard Accused MSNBC of Debate Bias .....	24
Biden Double Speaking Time of Yang.....	25
MSNBC Legal Analyst Max-Out Donor to Biden, Never Disclosed On-Air, Repeatedly Attacked Trump.....	26
Jill Wine Banks Made \$2,800 Donation to Biden in 2020 .....	26
MSNBC Published Pro-Biden Article Attacking Victim of Biden Sexual Assault & Failed to Disclose Campaign Contributions by Author .....	27
Actively Fundraising for Democrat Political Campaign Committee .....	27
Repeated On-Air Attack on Biden Opponent w/o Disclosure of Conflict .....	28
“Trump More Dangerous than Nixon” .....	28
Attacked Trump Administration, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution.....	29
Attacked Trump Handling of COVID-19, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution.....	30



## A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

Attacked Trump on U.S. Attorney Firing, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution .....	30
Attacked Trump Border Wall, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution.....	31
Attacked Trump Roger Stone Sentence, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution .....	31
Attacked Trump on Foreign Influence, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution.....	32
Attacked Trump for Politicization, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution .....	32
Attacked Trump, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution .....	33
MSNBC Contributor Made 35 Donations to Biden, Democrat Congressional Candidates & ActBlue in 19-20 Cycle, Total \$ 5,717.50 .....	33
Admission from Producer: Not Providing "Equal Coverage" .....	35
<b>Analysis by Independent &amp; Reputable Journalism Foundations.....</b>	<b>37</b>
AllSides Media Bias Survey: MSNBC Bias Rating Left .....	37
Gallup/Knight Study: MSNBC Considered Biased and Inaccurate.....	37
Pew Studies Show Overwhelming Bias in Favor of Democrat Candidates .....	38
2013: Pew Analysis Found MSNBC "Outlier in Coverage", "Striking" Gap.....	38
2013: MSNBC Most Opinionated Cable News Channel.....	39
2008: MSNBC Biased 73 Percent Negative of GOP McCain.....	39
<b>History of Express Advocacy for Candidates .....</b>	<b>41</b>
2008: Pro-Obama Campaigning.....	41
Democrat Governor: "MSNBC was official network of Obama campaign" .....	41
New York Times: MSNBC Tagline Mirrored Obama Slogan .....	41
2009: Publicized Fake Photos of Sarah Palin .....	41
2010: Olberman Direct Contributions to Democrats.....	42
MSNBC Host Suspended for Contributions to Democrats.....	42
MSNBC Host Chris Hayes Donated to Democratic Candidates.....	42
2012: Anti-Romney Campaign .....	43
Pew: MSNBC More Overwhelmingly Negative about Romney.....	43
Anti-Tea Party Framing .....	43
Study: MSNBC More Likely to Marginalize Tea Party as "Idiots" .....	43
Study: MSNBC Referred to Tea Party as "Teabaggers" "whack jobs" .....	43
2016: MSNBC Host Says Network in the tank for Hillary Clinton.....	44
MSNBC Host Fired for Supporting Bernie Sanders .....	45
<b>Media Content Analysis.....</b>	<b>46</b>



## A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

85 Percent of MSNBC Programming Dedicated to Opinion .....	46
2018: Democrats & GOP Agree MSNBC Biased in Favor of Democrats .....	46
MSNBC The Democratic Channel Selling Conspiratorial Fantasy .....	46
2012 Election Coverage Favored Obama by 23-to-1 Margin Over Mitt Romney .....	47
<b>Inciting Violence, Dehumanizing &amp; Hateful Rhetoric on Political Opponents .....</b>	<b>48</b>
MSNBC Host Martin Bashir Calls for Someone to Defecate in Sarah Palin's Mouth .....	48
MSNBC Host Martin Bashir Dehumanizes Palin as "Long-Deceased Mind" .....	48
2013: MSNBC Host Calls GOP Senator Cult Killer .....	48
2013: MSNBC Host Refers to GOP Senators as Terrorists .....	49
MSNBC Host Conspiracy: Wealthy White Men Created Obamacare Term to Put Themselves Above Black Man" .....	49
MSNBC Host Joy Reid Falsely Accused Trump Supporter of Making Racist Remark .....	50
<b>Extreme Favorable Coverage for Democrats .....</b>	<b>51</b>
MSNBC Prominent Stage for Democratic Elites .....	51
After Caught Spying on Journalists, Obama AG Eric Holder Praised by MSNBC as "Moses of Our Time" .....	51
2013: MSNBC Host Congratulates Democrat Chair for Uniting The Party .....	51
MSNBC Host Fired for Failing to Stick to Pro-Democrat Script.....	52
Embraced Progressive Ideology in Tagline & Branding .....	52



A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

## Direct Ties Between MSNBC & Joe Biden

### Undisclosed Biden Advisor: MSNBC Medical Analyst Dr. Vin Gupta

**Excerpt:** MSNBC is being criticized for not disclosing links between the Joe Biden presidential campaign and one of the channel's medical contributors, who has made dozens of on-air appearances during the coronavirus pandemic.

According to NewsBusters, Dr. Vin Gupta has appeared on NBC News ten times and on MSNBC a whopping 31 times between July 15 and Sept. 15. However, neither station has disclosed Gupta's ties to the Democratic candidate on their air.

CNBC reported in January that Gupta had "worked as a volunteer advisor for Joe Biden's 'Biden for President' group." Last month, the medical news outlet MedPage Today reported that Gupta would be under consideration for the post of Surgeon General in a Biden administration.

Despite this, viewers likely only know Gupta as a "global health policy expert" and an "MSNBC medical contributor."

**Source:** Fox News, "[MSNBC called out for failing to disclose medical analyst's ties to Biden campaign on the air](#)" 9/22/2020

### 3 Paid MSNBC Analysts Immediately Joined Biden Administration: Barbara McQuade, Richard Stengel & Ezekiel Emanuel

**Excerpt:** "Three paid analysts on MSNBC have left the network to join President-elect Joe Biden's administration and a fourth lost his role as a paid contributor after it was revealed he had a hand in writing Biden's victory speech.

Network sources confirmed to The Hill on Wednesday that legal analyst Barbara McQuade, political analyst Richard Stengel and health expert Ezekiel Emanuel would no longer be paid contributors at the network.

McQuade has joined Biden's legal agency review team. Stengel will be on the agency for global media. Emanuel has joined Biden's coronavirus task force."

**Source:** The Hill, Easley, Jonathan. "[MSNBC cuts ties with three contributors joining Team Biden.](#)"

**Date:** 11/11/2020



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### MSNBC Medical Expert Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel Joined Biden Administration

**Excerpt:** Following a New York Times report that historian Jon Meacham had assisted the president-elect's team with speechwriting—a fact he did not disclose on-air even while commenting on Biden's victory speech—the network ended paid-contributor deals with him and Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, an MSNBC medical expert who was appointed to Biden's coronavirus task force this week.

According to a network insider, both Meacham and Emanuel are still permitted to appear on the network as guests with proper disclosures of their Biden ties, but could no longer be paid contributors while working with the president-elect's team.

**Source:** Daily Beast, "[MSNBC Cuts Loose Two More Contributors With Biden Transition Ties](#)" 11/20/2020

### Undisclosed: Biden Speechwriter & MSNBC Contributor Jon Meacham

**Excerpt:** MSNBC is no longer paying historian Jon Meacham as a contributor. Meacham helped craft Biden's victory speech and appeared on the airwaves before and after without revealing his work for the campaign.

**Source:** The Hill, Easley, Jonathan. "[MSNBC cuts ties with three contributors joining Team Biden.](#)"

**Date:** 11/11/2020

### MSNBC Contributor Praised Biden Speech – He Helped Write

**Excerpt:** Meacham had been a regular on MSNBC's reliably anti-Trump programming, a voice of historical authority who could contextualize just how far Trump had veered from governing standards in the United States — a full detour, as Meacham explained over and over.

... Meacham had been working with the Biden team on speeches, including the president-elect's Saturday night address.

In a swampy moment, Meacham appeared on MSNBC following the speech. Asked if Biden's presentation aligned with U.S. presidential traditions, Meacham responded, "Absolutely." Showing perhaps a greater command of U.S. history than of journalism ethics, Meacham didn't disclose that the wonderful speech came, at least in part, from his own thoughts. Instead, he plowed ahead with his analysis. "Tonight marks — the entire election results mark — a renewal of an American conversation where we're struggling imperfectly to realize the full implications of the Jeffersonian promise of





## A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

equality,” said Meacham. “It’s taken us too long, our work has been bloody and tragic and painful and difficult and, Lord knows, it is unfinished, but at our best we try.”

Meacham also credited Biden for a moment in his speech when he cited all the firsts in Kamala Harris’s ascent — first woman, African American woman and South Asian woman to be elected vice president. “It’s long overdue, and we’re reminded tonight of all those who fought so hard for so many years to make this happen. But once again, America has bent the arc of the moral universe toward justice,” said Biden.

### MSNBC Historian Endorsed Biden at DNC Convention

Excerpt: It’s no surprise that Meacham cited Biden’s invocation of that theme: He used it in his own speech back on Aug. 20, when he endorsed the Biden-Harris team during the virtual Democratic National Convention. “Bending that arc requires all of us, it requires we the people and it requires a president of the United States with empathy, grace, a big heart and an open mind. Joe Biden will be such a president,” said Meacham, who has a bipartisan presidential voting history.

In introducing himself to the virtual convention audience, Meacham said that he was a historian. There was no mention of his affiliation with MSNBC. The address was broadcast on MSNBC’s very own air, where, you might suppose, it would have raised a red flag. After all, just a couple of weeks earlier, MSNBC told The Post’s Jeremy Barr that the “network’s contributors cannot endorse candidates — or get into a race.” But a source close to Meacham says MSNBC was informed of and approved Meacham’s DNC appearance. The network did not return a request for comment.

Indeed, it appeared that the network was proud of the moment. Days after the speech, Meacham appeared on the afternoon show “Deadline: White House.” Host Nicolle Wallace played a clip from the historian’s speech and said, “That was Jon Meacham during last week’s Democratic National Convention making the case for Joe Biden. It was a rare appearance from a presidential historian, supporting a candidate for a president. But, of course, these are not normal times, not even close, and Donald Trump constantly reminds us of that as he obliterates the lines between campaigning for a second term and governing.”

Source: Washington Post, [“MSNBC’s Jon Meacham problem”](#) 11/11/2020



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## MSNBC Express Advocacy for Biden Campaign

### MSNBC Host Thanked for Biden Advocacy During Campaign

Excerpt: MSNBC's Stephanie Ruhle thanked by Biden adviser for 'advocacy' and 'help'

MSNBC anchor Stephanie Ruhle is being slammed as a "Democratic Party hack" after a softball interview with one of President-elect Joe Biden's advisers, who thanked her for pushing his agenda.

Jared Bernstein, whom Biden tapped to serve as a member of the Council on Economic Advisers, thanked Ruhle for her "advocacy" and "help" Friday morning when discussing the massive \$1.9 trillion stimulus package proposal aimed at combating the pandemic and bolstering the sagging economy.

Rather than pressing Bernstein on any of the controversial portions of the package -- such as a federally mandated \$15 minimum wage -- the NBC News senior business correspondent puffed it up as a bipartisan effort.

"This isn't about D or R, it's about A -- America," Ruhle said. "There's not a lot of programs that get support from the Chamber of Commerce and [Sen.] Bernie Sanders, but that's actually what we've heard in the last 14 hours."

Closing out the segment Friday morning, the Biden adviser lauded Ruhle.

"There's been a lot of people pulling for this," he said. "Your help has been extremely important because not only have you continued to amplify some of the things that we're trying to do here, but you've been in the weeds and you've talked about the very policies that have been knocking around for a long time and that we finally have been able to get together and put into a plan. So I want to thank you for your advocacy as well."

Ruhle responded: "Well, Jared, if you're going to compliment me, there's always more time for that in our show. We're going to continue to cover this. Do you know why? Because policy matters. That's how people's lives change."

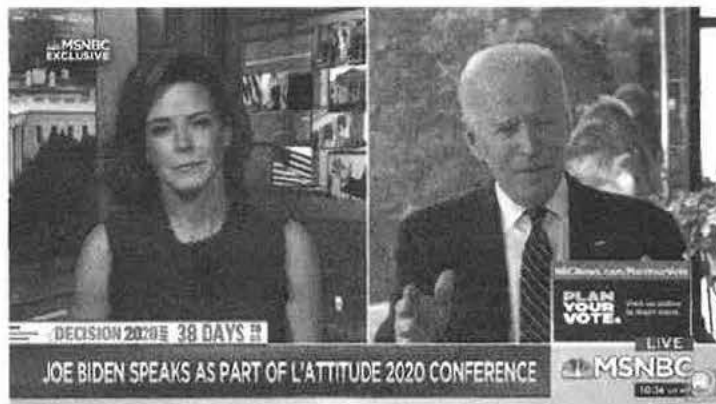
Source: Fox News, "[MSNBC's Stephanie Ruhle thanked by Biden adviser for 'advocacy' and 'help'](#)" 1/16/2021

### MSNBC Host Helps Joe Biden During Interview

Excerpt: MSNBC host Stephanie Ruhle has to help 2020 Democrat presidential candidate Joe Biden remember what he is talking about on the topic of coronavirus relief. From an interview with Ruhle on MSNBC on 9/26/2020



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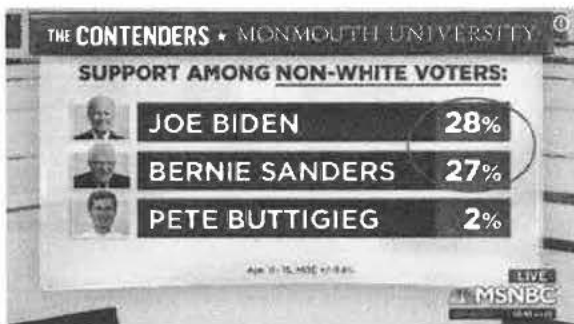


Source: MSNBC Interview, "[MSNBC Host Has To Help Joe Biden Remember What He's Talking About](#)" 9/26/2020

### MSNBC Inflated Biden's Poll Numbers by 3 Points

Excerpt: Earlier this year, MSNBC conveniently inflated Biden's poll numbers by 3 points in a live television segment... As you expected, MSNBC did not issue a correction for this misleading graphic.

Source: Medium, Ryan Sullivan, "[Manufacturing Dissent: The Media's Bias Against Bernie Sanders](#)" 8/11/2019



Monmouth University Poll - NATIONAL -- 6/23/19

	RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
	White	Non-White	Yes	No
DEMOCRATS: 14 choose the 2020 election is far away, but we should now support one of the Democratic nominees for president if the candidates were the following (PACED ranked):				
Joe Biden	20%	28%	28%	
Bernie Sanders	21%	27%	15%	
Pete Buttigieg	1%	2%	9%	
Elise O'Hara	5%	4%	2%	
Kamala Harris	11%	7%	11%	
Amy Klobuchar	8%	0%	7%	
Pete Buttigieg	2%	0%	13%	
Cory Booker	3%	2%	3%	
Kristen Gribble	0%	0%	1%	

(Poll conducted April 11-15)



Hey @MSNBC @SRuhls @AlVelshi @VeishiRuhls - what's going on with this graphic? Did you just decide to give @JoeBiden an extra 3 points in the poll? #ManufacturingConsent #Bernie2020 #BernieBlackout

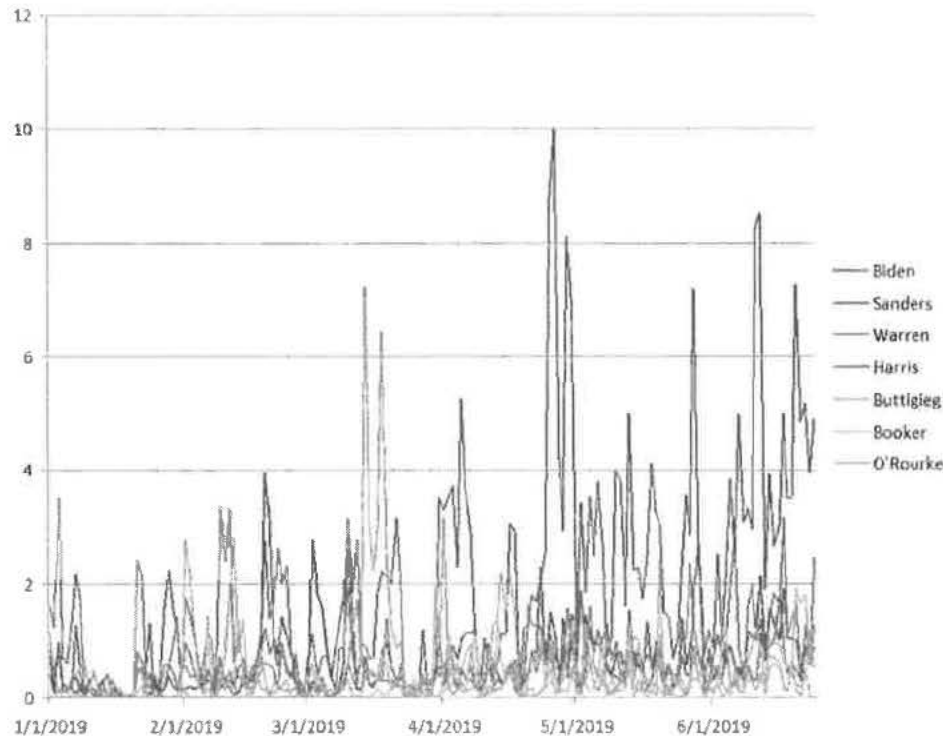
♡ 825 5:10 PM · Apr 29, 2019



## A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

### Columbia Journalism Review: “Biden has received lion’s share of coverage” on MSNBC

**Excerpt:** I charted mentions of Biden on MSNBC in 2019 in comparison with his rivals using data from GDELT (the Global Database of Events, Language, and Tone), and the contrast is startling: Biden has received the lion’s share of coverage on the network since the announcement of his candidacy, on April 25. While it’s understandable that Biden’s higher public profile would warrant some added consideration, he hasn’t actually pulled ahead of the pack if you consider things like fundraising numbers and rally sizes; by those criteria, it makes no sense to describe him as the frontrunner.



**Source:** Columbia Journalism Review, [“MSNBC Public Editor: In \(and Out\) of the Tank for Joe Biden”](#) 6/25/2019

### Analysis: 64 Percent of MSNBC Coverage Included Biden

**Excerpt:** To understand how MSNBC may be shaping the 2020 election, In These Times analyzed the network’s August and September coverage of the Democratic presidential contest’s leading candidates—Sen. Bernie Sanders, former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren. We focused on the network’s flagship primetime shows: The 11th Hour with Brian Williams,



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All In with Chris Hayes, The Beat with Ari Melber, Hardball with Chris Matthews, The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell and The Rachel Maddow Show.

In These Times tallied how often the three candidates were discussed and logged whether the coverage was positive, negative or neutral. For example, while poll results by themselves (whether favorable or unfavorable to a candidate) were simply logged as neutral, commentary about a candidate “surging” was logged as positive and “stagnant” as negative. Clips and previews for upcoming segments were not included.

The coverage quickly revealed a pattern. Over the two months, these six programs focused on Biden, often to the exclusion of Warren and Sanders. Sanders received not only the least total coverage (less than one-third of Biden's), but the most negative. As to the substance, MSNBC's reporting revolved around poll results and so-called electability.

In its August and September coverage, by total mentions, MSNBC talked about Biden twice as often as Warren and three times as often as Sanders. By number of episodes, 64% of the 240 episodes discussed Biden, 43% discussed Warren and 36% discussed Sanders. A quarter of the episodes only discussed Biden, compared to 5% and 1% that mentioned only Warren or Sanders, respectively.

Biden was also the only one of the three candidates to see his on-air mentions increase, rather than decline, in September, even as his polling numbers steadily went south. Part of the reason was the Ukraine scandal that erupted in September: News broke that President Trump had conditioned the release of aid to Ukraine upon an investigation of Biden's son, who had accepted a well compensated position with a Ukrainian oil company in 2014. MSNBC gave the story wall-to-wall coverage, pushing up Biden's mentions. Almost all of this coverage was neutral—stating that Trump was trying to dig up dirt on Biden—but was occasionally positive, as when Washington Post columnist Eugene Robinson speculated that the “impeachment dynamic sort of confirm[s] Biden's aura of electability because he's the one Trump is most afraid of, so maybe he's one we ought to go with.”

By and large, however, such critiques of Biden were subsumed by positive coverage, presenting him as the safest, strongest choice to take on Trump—or, as Matthews put it, the Democrats' “designated driver.”





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**Source:** In These Times, "MSNBC Is the Most Influential Network Among Liberals—And It's Ignoring Bernie Sanders" 11/13/2019

### MSNBC Parent Company Comcast Donations: 94 Percent to Biden

**Excerpt:** 94% of Comcast executives' and vice presidents' contributions to Democratic presidential candidates have gone to Joe Biden, a Sludge review of FEC records finds.

A Sludge review of Federal Election Commission records shows Biden is the preferred candidate of the station's owners, the behemoth Comcast Corporation.

Biden has received 17 large campaign contributions from executives and vice presidents at Comcast, including eight for the legal maximum of \$2,800. Of all the other candidates still in the race, only South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg has received any Comcast executive contributions—Buttigieg received a single contribution from Comcast Managing Director Amy Banse.

Comcast's support for Biden is not new. The company's executives and other employees have given Biden's campaigns \$153,566 since 1989, making it the ex-senator's seventh largest career contributor, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

In addition, Comcast's top lobbyist, David Cohen, co-hosted Biden's kick-off fundraiser in April and he is listed as a bundler for the campaign, meaning that he has collected at least \$25,000 in contributions from others for Biden.

**Source:** Sludge, "MSNBC's Owners Shower Biden With Campaign Cash" 1/29/2020

### Rigged Townhall: 'Undecided voters' at NBC-Biden town hall once told MSNBC they were voting for Biden

**Excerpt:** An NBC town hall with Joe Biden billed as consisting only of "an audience of undecided Florida voters" included two Cuban American voters who told MSNBC in August they were voting for the former vice president, according to a Tuesday report in the Washington Free Beacon.

"Welcome to tonight's town hall, where we are surrounded by dozens of undecided voters and where Democratic candidate Joe Biden will answer our questions and make his case tonight," moderator Lester Holt told viewers at the top of the broadcast on Monday night.



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One question at the event came from attorney Peter Gonzalez. Six weeks ago, Gonzalez told MSNBC on Aug. 23 that "if we get four more years of Trump, good luck, and good luck with the future attracting younger voters."

An MSNBC on-screen graphic read "Voting for Biden" underneath Gonzalez as he spoke.

The network promoted Gonzalez's comments on its official Twitter and Facebook pages at the time.

"If we get four more years of Trump, good luck. And good luck with the future attracting younger voters," a Cuban-American voter tells @ellisonbarber. <https://t.co/nrrf4iNPMr> — MSNBC (@MSNBC) August 23, 2020

Another question came from Ismael Llano, who voted for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton in 2016.

"Something that Joe Biden said during his speech that resonated with me was what defines America is a possibility," Llano told MSNBC's Ellison Barber in August.

A third "undecided voter," Michelle Cruz Marrero, did not appear on MSNBC earlier, but has featured several pro-Biden posts on her Facebook page in recent weeks, per the Free Beacon.

Source: The Hill, "Undecided voters' at NBC-Biden town hall once told MSNBC they were voting for Biden" 10/7/2020

### **Featured Pro-Biden Ad, Ran Full Length for Free, Praised as "Best I've Seen in My Career," No Trump Rebuttal**

Description: On June 15, 2020, MSNBC featured a full and complete free airing of a pro-Biden advertisement without including a rebuttal or equal time to the Trump campaign. MSNBC host Nicolle Wallace called the pro-Biden ad 'one of the best I've seen in my career.'

Excerpt: Nicolle Wallace calls an ad recently released by Republican Voters against Trump that uses Senator Lindsey Graham's words 'one of the best ads I've seen in my career.'



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Source: MSNBC, "[Nicolle Wallace calls pro-Biden ad 'one of the best I've seen in my career'](#)" 6/15/2020



A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

## MSNBC Attacked Biden Opponents

### Andrew Yang: MSNBC's Systematic Bias in Democrat Primary 2020

#### June 2019: Yang Excluded from Democrat Candidate Graphics



Excerpt:

Source: [Twitter, Ryan Saavedra, 6/10/2019](#)

#### June 2019: Yang Removed from List of 2020 Democrat Candidates

Excerpt: "Presidential hopeful Andrew Yang has (again) been removed from a list of 2020 Democratic presidential candidates provided by MSNBC. The chart appeared on the network Sunday morning and has received backlash from Yang's supporters on social media."

The omission is notable because Politico reports that Yang has met both the polling and fundraising thresholds for the first 2020 presidential debate on June 26, while others included in MSNBC's list — such as Bill de Blasio, Tim Ryan, and Eric Swalwell — have only met the polling threshold."



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Source: [Inquisitr.com, "Andrew Yang Blackballed From MSNBC's 2020 Democratic Presidential Candidate Chart," 6/9/2019](#)

### Nov. 2019: Yang Excluded from MSNBC Debate Graphic

Excerpt: MSNBC on Sunday apologized after the network left Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang off a presidential poll result graphic, with the network calling the error inadvertent.

Yang has qualified for the fifth Democratic debate that will be held in Atlanta on Wednesday and will air on MSNBC.

He is currently in sixth place among 2020 Democrats in RealClearPolitics average of polls with 2.8 percent of the vote.

Source: [The Hill, "MSNBC apologizes after leaving Yang out of presidential poll graphic," 11/18/2019](#)

### Bernie Sanders: Biased & Unfair Coverage in 2020 Democratic Primary

#### Fact Check: Bernie Sanders Excluded from Graphics

Excerpt: Claim: An infographic of 2020 Democratic presidential candidates that aired on MSNBC excluded U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Rating Mostly True

What's True: An infographic that aired on the liberal cable news channel MSNBC depicted 10 Democratic presidential candidates but excluded Bernie Sanders.

What's False: However, Sanders wasn't the only candidate not shown in the graphic; Andrew Yang and Beto O'Rourke also were excluded, among others.

Source: [Snopes, "Did MSNBC Exclude Bernie Sanders from a Graphic About a Campaign Event?" 9/24/2019](#)

### MSNBC Graphic Errors Routinely Hurt Sanders Campaign

Excerpt: MSNBC is widely considered to be the the most left-leaning cable news outlet in the United States. One Washington Post writer referred to MSNBC as the "face of the Resistance."

However, it'll be challenging for MSNBC to resist Donald Trump's declarations of "fake news" if the network doesn't figure out how to make accurate graphics. I've been attempting to keep track of MSNBC's frequent errors, and I've listed some of them in this article.





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As you look at the graphics below, notice that every error related to Bernie Sanders is to his detriment. Isn't it odd that an MSNBC error never benefits Bernie Sanders? Similarly, Kamala Harris has been portrayed negatively on more than one occasion due to these errors.

Errors:

- Bernie Sanders raised \$18 million in Q2. MSNBC was off by \$6.2 million.
- Kamala Harris raised nearly \$12 million in Q2. MSNBC was off by about \$7.5 million. MSNBC also used a comma instead of a decimal point for some reason.
- Cory Booker raised \$4.5 million in Q2. MSNBC was off by \$600,000.
- Minor nitpick: There's absolutely no consistency in the alignment of the numbers. Some are centered, some are aligned to the left, and many aren't horizontally centered.

Source: Front Page Politics, "[MSNBC's War On Accurate Graphics](#)" 10/13/2019

### MSNBC Host Calls Sanders "Turtle"

Excerpt: Joy Reid on MSNBC's AM Joy show had on a "body language expert" named Janine Driver to declare Sanders a liar, because his posture reminds her of a turtle.

Source: Rolling Stone, "[Media Stupidity Is Uniting Left and Right](#)" 1/20/2020

### MSNBC Host Compared Sanders Victory to Nazi Takeover of France

Excerpt: When Sanders took an early lead in Saturday's NV caucuses, Matthews likened it "to the shock of France falling to Germany during WWII," as The Daily Beast wrote here. This analogy placed Sanders in the shoes of Nazi soldiers. Sanders comms director Mike Casca tweeted this in response: "Never thought part of my job would be pleading with a national news network to stop likening the campaign of a Jewish presidential candidate whose family was wiped out by the Nazis to the Third Reich."

Source: CNN, "[What is MSNBC's problem with Bernie Sanders?](#)" 2/24/2020

### Bernie Sanders calls out MSNBC over campaign coverage

Excerpt: Bernie Sanders went ballistic at NBC and MSNBC execs ahead of the Democratic debate this week — jabbing one top TV exec repeatedly in the face with his finger and accusing the networks of offensive negative coverage.



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Surging Sanders stormed through the walk-through for the Las Vegas debate, singling out one top producer at the end and aggressively sticking his finger in his face. One shocked witness said, "Bernie marched right up to NBC and MSNBC's head of creative production and began jabbing his finger right in his face, yelling, 'Your coverage of my campaign is not fair . . . Your questions tonight are not going to be fair to me.'" Sanders did not hold back as he continued to rant about MSNBC coverage.

Source: Page Six, "[Bernie Sanders calls out MSNBC over campaign coverage](#)" 2/21/2020

### Sanders to MSNBC President: Your Network Has Not Been Playing A Fair Role in This Campaign

Excerpt: Page Six reported Friday night that Sanders loudly criticized NBC and MSNBC officials before last week's Dem debate. According to the story, Sanders approached MSNBC president Phil Griffin and said "Phil, your network has not been playing a fair role in this campaign. I am upset. Is anything going to change?"

Source: CNN, "[What is MSNBC's problem with Bernie Sanders?](#)" 2/24/2020

### Sanders Campaign Criticized Coverage as Biased

Excerpt: Bernie Sanders' big win in Nevada over the weekend highlighted the hostility between his campaign and MSNBC, the network with a progressive brand but an establishment bent.

The campaign continued to criticize the network over the weekend — in response to highly controversial remarks by Chris Matthews and others.

Source: CNN, "[What is MSNBC's problem with Bernie Sanders?](#)" 2/24/2020

### Sanders Confronted MSNBC Executive

Excerpt: A separate insider confirmed the confrontation, saying Sanders was so steamed he also sparred with MSNBC boss Phil Griffin outside the green room moments before the debate began. "Sen. Sanders stated, 'Phil, your network has not been playing a fair role in this campaign. I am upset. Is anything going to change? . . . I hope you will do better.'"

Source: Page Six, "[Bernie Sanders calls out MSNBC over campaign coverage](#)" 2/21/2020



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### MSNBC Guest: Bernie Sanders Makes My Skin Crawl

Excerpt: Former assistant U.S. attorney Mimi Rocah said on MSNBC Sunday morning that Bernie Sanders “makes my skin crawl” and suggested he’s not really a “pro-woman candidate.”

The panel on Up with David Gura was previewing the upcoming Democratic debates and a likely face-off between Sanders and Elizabeth Warren.

As they got into the differences between the two candidates, Zerlina Maxwell said their approaches clearly differ and in Warren’s case “I actually know in detail how she wants to get there,” while when it comes to Sanders, “there are certain policies like Medicare for All that he put out a lot more detail than some of his other ideas, I don’t have as much of the detail of how we’re going to transform the health care industry.”

Source: Mediaite, [“MSNBC Panelist: Bernie Sanders ‘Makes My Skin Crawl,’ I Don’t See Him as ‘Pro-Woman Candidate’”](#) 7/21/2019

### Sanders Campaign Manager: MSNBC Has Not Been Fair

Excerpt: Sanders’ campaign manager Faiz Shakir has said that even Fox News has been “more fair than MSNBC . . . which . . . is constantly undermining the Bernie Sanders campaign.” He told Page Six on Friday, “MSNBC has not been fair to our campaign. Their coverage is condescending on a daily basis. No other campaign gets such negative coverage. Enough is enough.”

Source: Page Six, [“Bernie Sanders calls out MSNBC over campaign coverage”](#) 2/21/2020

### MSNBC Host: Sanders Would Not Help Dying Person on Side of Road

Excerpt: MSNBC’s Chris Matthews was mocked on Monday for suggesting during an appearance on “Morning Joe” that Bernie Sanders wouldn’t stop his car to help someone injured on the side of the road.

“Suppose you’re lying on a road hurt, maybe you’ve had something happen to you, you fainted, whatever happened. Which of the candidates would stop their car and get out and help you? Which of them? Ask yourself that question and you’ve got your candidate, I think. Because I’m not sure about all of them,” Matthews said. “I think Biden wins that one pretty easily.”

Source: Fox News, [“MSNBC’s Chris Matthews suggests Bernie Sanders wouldn’t stop his car to help an injured person”](#) 1/27/2020



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### MSNBC Host Called Sanders Supporters Brownshirts (Nazi Reference)

Excerpt: Chuck Todd — a moderator of Wednesday's debate — even quoted a story that described Sanders supporters as a "digital brownshirt brigade." Todd was also tackled by seething Sanders onstage after the debate: "I do not appreciate your comment about my supporters," adding the Holocaust reference was "offensive."

Source: Page Six, "[Bernie Sanders calls out MSNBC over campaign coverage](#)" 2/21/2020

### Coordinated Campaign by MSNBC Hosts to Shut Down Sanders Campaign

Excerpt: MSNBC, has become a serious obstacle, pumping out Republican anti-Sanders talking points with increasing frequency.

After last Friday's Democratic debate, Chris Matthews waxed apoplectic about what electing a socialist could mean for America. "I have an attitude towards [Fidel] Castro," he said. "I believe if Castro and the Reds had won the Cold War there would have been executions in Central Park, and I might have been one of the ones getting executed. And certain other people would be there cheering, OK?" Matthews's colleagues pointed out that Sanders was more of a Danish type of socialist than a Castro type of socialist, but to little avail.

Two days later, James Carville, Bill Clinton's former campaign guru, went on Morning Joe to rant about how a Sanders nomination would bring about the apocalypse. Literally. "The only thing between the United States and the abyss is the Democratic Party," he said. "That's it. If we go the way of the British Labour Party, if we nominate Jeremy Corbyn, it's going to be the end of days." The same day, Chuck Todd, who also hosts NBC's Meet the Press, read from an article from the right-wing website The Bulwark comparing supporters of Sanders, who is Jewish, to "brownshirts."

And in the lead-up to Tuesday's New Hampshire primary, Lawrence O'Donnell argued that the real story was that Bernie was losing momentum because his poll numbers were down from the last Democratic primary—even though he is now facing more than a half-dozen opponents, compared to 2016, when he faced one. "The story of the Sanders campaign so far this year is how much ground he's lost from four years ago," O'Donnell said. He also ignored the fact that Sanders is leading nationally, which wasn't the case in 2016.

Source: The New Republic, "[Bernie Sanders Has an MSNBC Problem](#)" 2/12/2020





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### Analysis: MSNBC Most Anti-Sanders

Excerpt: An analysis by In These Times found that Sanders “received not only the least total coverage (less than one-third of Biden’s), but the most negative” coverage on MSNBC’s prime-time programming.

Source: The New Republic, “[Bernie Sanders Has an MSNBC Problem](#)” 2/12/2020

### Tulsi Gabbard: Biased & Unfair Coverage in 2020 Democratic Primary

#### On Day of Gabbard Launch, MSNBC Falsely Claimed Her Campaign Aided by Russia

Excerpt: On the day Gabbard announced her run for the presidency, MSNBC ran a story claiming Russian-linked social media accounts were pushing a “possible campaign of support” for the Hawaii Democrat. The story was sourced to the firm New Knowledge, which had been caught by the Times faking an almost identical story about Russian trolls and Alabama Republican Roy Moore.

Source: Rolling Stone, “[Bernie Sanders and the Science of Smears](#)” 4/16/2019

### Donald Trump: Biased & Unfair Coverage in 2020 General Election

#### Fact Check Pants on Fire: MSNBC Host Falsely Claimed Trump Talked About Exterminating Latinos

Excerpt: Nicolle Wallace stated on August 5, 2019 in on MSNBC: Says President Donald Trump is “talking about exterminating Latinos.”

Several Democratic presidential candidates have declared a link between President Donald Trump’s rhetoric on immigrants and the recent mass shooting in El Paso, Texas.

But while Trump has spoken often of an “invasion” at the border, he has not been “talking about exterminating Latinos,” as MSNBC anchor Nicolle Wallace falsely claimed Aug. 5.

Wallace was responding to a remark from guest and columnist Raul Reyes, who said Trump’s use of the words “invasion” and “infestation” could make some people wish for an extermination. “With an infestation, the natural conclusion is to attempt an extermination,” Reyes said.

“You now have a president, as you said, talking about exterminating Latinos,” she continued.





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Source: PolitiFact, "[Donald Trump didn't talk about exterminating Latinos](#)" 8/8/2019

### MSNBC Host Trolled Trump with Intentionally Incorrect Footage

Excerpt: On Thursday night's edition of MSNBC's *The 11th Hour*, Brian Williams began a segment on the meeting telling viewers "we are all about to see something for the first time, we have what I'm told is the first video of, exclusive video out of this meeting today between McCarthy and Trump," Williams said. "We'll watch it and react on the other side."

What viewers saw wasn't video from the Trump-McCarthy meeting, but a clip from the 1996 film *Jerry Maguire*, in which star Tom Cruise tells his co-star, Renée Zellweger "I love you... you complete me." He continues, but she interrupts to say "shut up. Just shut up.....You had me at hello. You had me at hello."

The result—played off as oops, how did that video get in there—was quickly hailed on Twitter as a form of military-grade trolling of both McCarthy and Trump:

After airing the clip, Williams said dryly "that is obviously, we have rolled the wrong clip, and we were sold a bill of goods here, I thought this was going to be of the McCarthy and Trump meeting, and someone is going to be, of course, in big trouble."

Source: Forbes, "[MSNBC's Brian Williams Targets Trump's Meeting With McCarthy: 'You Complete Me'](#)" 1-29-2021

### MSNBC Hosts Cutoff Trump from Speaking in Interview

Excerpt: The hosts of MSNBC's *"Morning Joe"* cut off Donald Trump and went to commercial after the Republican presidential hopeful repeatedly refused to answer their questions during Tuesday morning's broadcast.

The rare act of media defiance came after Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski warned Trump, who had called into the show by phone, that he needed to provide direct answers to their questions and not use his airtime to talk at length about whatever he wanted.

Source: CNN, "[Donald Trump gets cut off on 'Morning Joe'](#)" 12/8/2015

### MSNBC Cut Away from Trump Speech

Excerpt: MSNBC cut away from President Donald Trump's Rose Garden remarks on Tuesday after he veered from an announcement about the situation in Hong



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Kong to a lengthy campaign attack on Joe Biden and his economic and energy proposals.

Source: Deadline, ["CNN, MSNBC Cut Away From Donald Trump's Rose Garden Remarks As He Launches Into Campaign Attack On Joe Biden"](#) 7/14/2020

### Election Night Coverage

**Excerpt:** Playing to a largely liberal viewing audience, MSNBC tried to minimize Florida's importance to Mr. Biden's chances at reaching 270 electoral votes. Nicolle Wallace stressed that Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin were more important to the Democratic nominee. She described North Carolina as "just insurance" and a "side show."

On MSNBC, guests such as James Carville, Michael Steele and Claire McCaskill urged viewers to have patience and resist "despondency" until after the vote count was complete. Mr. Carville and Mr. Steele pointed to bottles of alcohol that they said they planned to consume when Mr. Biden emerged victorious.

The presidential historian Jon Meacham, who spoke in support of Mr. Biden at the Democratic National Convention in August, told Mr. Williams that the vote is "the collective expression of the national will."

"Isn't that worth a couple of days?" he probed.

Mr. Williams responded: "I'll let that point simmer and percolate and get picked up by our viewers fortunate enough to hear from a Pulitzer-Prize winner at 1:46 a.m."

After praising an early-morning speech by Mr. Biden, MSNBC hosts laughed uproariously at a (quickly removed) tweet from Mr. Trump that misspelled the word "polls" as "Poles."

Mr. Williams cut off MSNBC's coverage of the speech, saying that the network was "duty-bound to point out that when he says 'we did win this election, we've already won,' that is not based in the facts at all."

Source: New York Times, ["How the Major Cable Networks Covered Election Night"](#) 11/4/2020



A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

## MSNBC Debate Bias

### MSNBC Managing Editor's Unethical Advocacy for Democratic National Committee

Excerpt: HuffPost Contributor Accuses NBC News Managing Editor of 'Unethical' Call About DNC Debates

Yashar Ali says NBC/MSNBC's Dafna Linzer called to bully him to nix a scoop "on behalf of the DNC"

Yashar Ali, a prominent freelance journalist for New York Magazine and HuffPost, accused a senior NBC news editor of advocating for the Democratic National Committee by trying to delay Ali's scoop about when and where the party's first 2020 presidential primary debates will be held.

"Yesterday, I received a call from [Dafna Linzer] who serves as managing editor of NBC/MSNBC politics. Dafna's conduct during the call was highly inappropriate and unethical. So what was the purpose of her call? She called me to bully me on behalf of the DNC," Ali said in a tweet Friday.

"Dafna, who oversees the political coverage for NBC and MSNBC, was calling to bully me into delaying the publication of an innocuous scoop and at no point did she advocate for her network, it was only about the DNC," he wrote.

"I said I couldn't. She was agitated, 'why not?' I said I'm not going to lose a scoop. Then she got angrier and said 'Why not? It's not a big deal, let them make a few phone calls. My jaw dropped,'" he added. "I realized that @DafnaLinzer, the head of all political coverage for NBC News and MSNBC wasn't calling to advocate for her network, she was calling to advocate the DNC's position. She wanted me to wait so they could call state party leaders."

Source: The Wrap, "[HuffPost Contributor Accuses NBC News Managing Editor of 'Unethical' Call About DNC Debates](#)" 3/29/2019

### Gabbard Accused MSNBC of Debate Bias

Excerpt: The hosts of the fifth Democratic primary debate were accused of suppressing candidates Andrew Yang and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard after the two received less speaking time than their rivals.



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The hashtags #LetYangSpeak and #LetTulsiSpeak began to trend on Twitter as the debate in Atlanta, Georgia, prompted complaints from a number of people who felt the two had not received sufficient time.

A number of other Twitter users joined in the criticism of The Washington Post and MSNBC who hosted the debate.

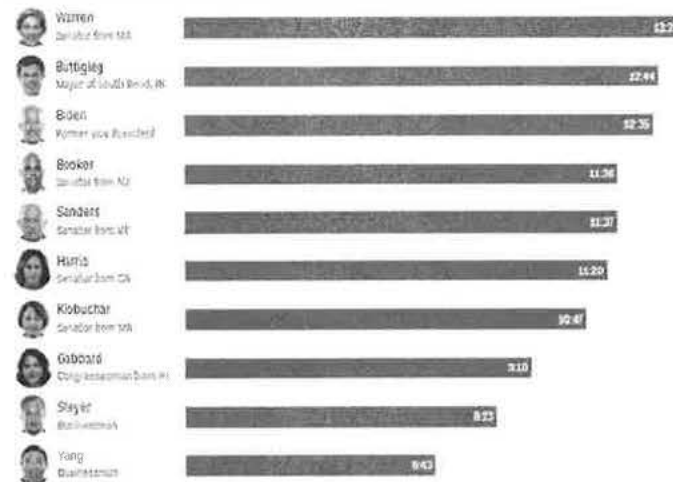
Source: Newsweek, "[Tulsi Gabbard Accuses Democratic Debate Hosts of Suppressing Her and Andrew Yang After Speaking Times Revealed](#)"  
11/21/2019

### Biden Double Speaking Time of Yang

Excerpt: The MSNBC/Washington Post debate provided Joe Biden a nearly 2-to-1 edge in speaking time compared to Andrew Yang.

#### Speaking times by candidate

We tracked candidates' approximate speaking times during the Nov. 20 Democratic debate.



Source: CNN  
Graphic: Andrew Yang (@Yang), Elizabeth Warren (@SenWarren), and Joseph R. Biden (@JoeBiden)

Source: CNN News, "[Democratic debate speaking time: By the numbers](#)"  
11/20/2019



A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

## MSNBC Legal Analyst Max-Out Donor to Biden, Never Disclosed On-Air, Repeatedly Attacked Trump

MSNBC Claims to Ban Contributors from Supporting Campaigns

Excerpt: In contrast, an MSNBC spokesperson said that the network's contributors cannot endorse candidates — or get into a race."

Source: Washington Post, ["There's been a big gray area when it comes to cable news contributors dabbling in political campaigns"](#) 8/8/2020

### Jill Wine Banks Made \$2,800 Donation to Biden in 2020

Contributor: WINEBANKS, JILL  
 EVANSTON, IL, 602013502  
 Occupation LEGAL ANALYST/AUTHOR  
 Employer SELF-EMPLOYED/MSNBC  
 Year to date \$2,800.00  
 Receipt date March 10, 2020  
 Report year 2020  
 Election type PRIMARY  
 Recipient information  
 Committee BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT  
 Political party DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
 Type Presidential  
 State Pennsylvania

Image# 202004209224233077

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NAME OF COMMITTEE (In Full) Biden for President				
A. Full Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) Winebanks, Jill, J.			Transaction ID : 3166990	
Mailing Address 1724 Asbury Ave			Date of Receipt 03 10 2020	
City Evanston	State IL	Zip Code 60201-3502		
FEC ID number of contributing federal political committee. C			Amount of Each Receipt this Period 2800.00	
Name of Employer Self-Employed/MSNBC			Occupation Legal Analyst/Author	
Receipt For: 2020 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) ▼			Election Cycle-to-Date ▼ 2800.00	
B. Full Name (Last, First, Middle Initial)			Transaction ID : 2878008	

Source: Federal Elections Commission, [Biden for President Disclosure](#), 3/10/2020





## A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

### **MSNBC Published Pro-Biden Article Attacking Victim of Biden Sexual Assault & Failed to Disclose Campaign Contributions by Author**

**Description:** On May 9, 2020, MSNBC published an article defending candidate Joe Biden against claims he sexually assaulted Tara Reade. The piece engaged in victim-blaming and offered pro-Biden talking points. It was authored by Biden campaign contributor Jill Wine-Banks, who had donated \$2,800 to Biden's campaign two months prior.

**Excerpt:** "Reade has also changed her story about the reason she left her job at Biden's office, first claiming that she was fired for complaining about being asked to serve drinks, and then saying that she resigned when she was assaulted."

"To help voters make their decision, Biden has already been more transparent about these allegations than President Donald Trump has about any of the multiple allegations of sexual assault made against him."

In addition to the unlikelihood of any personnel files being there, now that Reade said her complaint did not mention sexual assault, there is no reason to believe a search of those papers would advance the investigation of Reade's claim... Under these myriad facts, an expedition into personal papers decades old would set the tone for an investigation akin to that of Hillary Clinton's emails. The search that should take place is the one that Biden has already called for within the records maintained by the secretary of the Senate.

**Source:** MSNBC, "[Joe Biden, Tara Reade and the steps that can provide a full accounting in the #MeToo era](#)," By Barbara McQuade, Jill Wine-Banks, Joyce Vance and Maya Wiley, 5/9/2020

### **Actively Fundraising for Democrat Political Campaign Committee**

**Excerpt:** Lake County Democrats Presidents' Day Conversation with Watergate Prosecutor Jill Wine-Banks

Join Lake County Democrats for their Presidents' Day event on Monday, February 15th, at 6 PM. The Keynote Speaker will be MSNBC contributor Jill Wine-Banks, a former Watergate prosecutor. Jill was the Keynote Speaker for our Tenth Dems Annual Awards Dinner in 2017, the first year of the disastrous Trump presidency. ..




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Tickets are \$25 per person. For tickets and sponsorships, go to:  
[secure.actblue.com/donate/presidentsdaywinebanks](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/presidentsdaywinebanks).

**Lake County Democrats invite you to our  
 Presidents' Day Fundraiser  
 with  
 Watergate Prosecutor Jill Wine-Banks**

In the midst of Trump's second impeachment trial, join us for a virtual Presidents' Day fundraiser with Keynote Speaker Jill Wine-Banks, a frequent MSNBC contributor and the only female Watergate prosecutor.




**Monday, February 15, 2021 at 6:00 PM**  
 RSVP: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/presidentsdaywinebanks>  
 Zoom link provided to confirmed attendees prior to the event.

**Tickets and Sponsorship Levels**

Individual	\$25
Baby Blue	\$100
Corolla	\$250
Azure	\$500
Sapphire	\$1000
Navy Blue	\$2500
Presidential Blue	\$5000

Checks made out to Lake County Democrats can be mailed to:  
 P.O. Box 671, Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

Email [info@lakedems.org](mailto:info@lakedems.org) with any questions.



Paid for by Lake County Democrats. Created in-house. Labor donated.

Source: Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Blog, "[Lake County Democrats Presidents' Day Conversation with Watergate Prosecutor Jill Wine-Banks](#)" 2/3/2021

### Repeated On-Air Attack on Biden Opponent w/o Disclosure of Conflict

#### "Trump More Dangerous than Nixon"

**Excerpt:** Jill Wine-Banks: 'Trump is more dangerous than Nixon'

Jill Wine-Banks joins Lawrence O'Donnell to discuss her new book recounting her experience as the only woman prosecutor during Watergate. She says Trump is the "more existential threat to democracy than Nixon" because Trump is installing allies after purging those he sees as disloyal to



## A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

him and Republicans are standing by him even though many found his actions wrong. She also reacts to Weinstein's conviction.



Source: MSNBC, "[Jill Wine-Banks: 'Trump is more dangerous than Nixon'](#)" 2/25/2020

### Attacked Trump Administration, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution



Video:

Source: MSNBC, Jill Wine-Banks on AM Joy 5/10/2020 "[DOJ Moves To Dismiss Case Against Michael Flynn](#)"



A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

### Attacked Trump Handling of COVID-19, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution



Video:

Source: MSNBC, "[Trump Continues To Create Confusion Regarding COVID-19 Response](#)," 3-29-2020

### Attacked Trump on U.S. Attorney Firing, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution



Video:

Source: MSNBC, "[U.S. Atty Accepts Firing After Deputy Allowed To Step In](#)," 6/22/2020



A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

### Attacked Trump Border Wall, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution



Video:

Source: MSNBC, "[Jill Wine-Banks on MSNBC Live with Ali Velshi 6/27/2020](#)"

### Attacked Trump Roger Stone Sentence, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution



Video:

Source: MSNBC, "[NBC News: Members Of Trump's Administration Fought His Decision To Grant Clemency To Roger Stone](#)" 7-12-2020





A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

### Attacked Trump on Foreign Influence, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution



Video:

Source: MSNBC, "[Jill Wine-Banks on AM Joy 9/12/2020](#)"

### Attacked Trump for Politicization, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution



Video:

Source: MSNBC, "[Jill Wine-Banks on MSNBC Live with Richard Lui 9/13/2020](#)"



A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

### Attacked Trump, No Disclosure of Biden Contribution



Video:

Source: MSNBC, "[Jill Wine-Banks on AM Joy on MSNBC 10/10/2020](#)"

### MSNBC Contributor Made 35 Donations to Biden, Democrat Congressional Candidates & ActBlue in 19-20 Cycle, Total \$ 5,717.50

Contributor: WINEBANKS, JILL  
EVANSTON, IL, 602013502



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Recipient	Contributor	Employer	Occupation	Date	Amount
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	1/8/2020	\$ 10.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	1/30/2020	\$ 25.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	1/20/2020	\$ 25.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	1/30/2020	\$ 25.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	1/8/2020	\$ 50.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	4/30/2020	\$ 25.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	5/30/2020	\$ 100.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	9/10/2020	\$ 100.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	10/7/2020	\$ 25.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	10/7/2020	\$ 25.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	10/25/2020	\$ 25.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	10/25/2020	\$ 25.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	11/5/2020	\$ 55.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	10/25/2020	\$ 25.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	10/25/2020	\$ 25.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	10/25/2020	\$ 50.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	11/20/2020	\$ 2.50
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	11/20/2020	\$ 25.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	11/5/2020	\$ 50.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	10/29/2020	\$ 12.50
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	10/29/2020	\$ 12.50
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	10/29/2020	\$ 50.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	9/25/2020	\$ 100.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	9/25/2020	\$ 25.00



## A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	9/25/2020	\$ 25.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	9/29/2020	\$ 150.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	9/29/2020	\$ 150.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	9/29/2020	\$ 150.00
ACTBLUE	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	8/7/2020	\$ 25.00
BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT	WINEBANKS, JILL	SELF-EMPLOYED/ MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST/AUTHOR	3/10/2020	\$ 2,800.00
DAVID BUCHWALD FOR CONGRESS	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	12/17/2019	\$ 500.00
DAVID BUCHWALD FOR CONGRESS	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	5/30/2020	\$ 100.00
FINKENAUER FOR CONGRESS	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	6/29/2020	\$ 250.00
LAUREN UNDERWOOD FOR CONGRESS	BANKS, JILL WINE	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	5/13/2019	\$ 500.00
SCHAKOWSKY FOR CONGRESS	WINE-BANKS, JILL	MSNBC	LEGAL ANALYST	7/9/2020	\$ 175.00

\$ 5,717.50

### Admission from Producer: Not Providing "Equal Coverage"

Excerpt: "We are a cancer and there is no cure," a successful and insightful TV veteran said to me. "But if you could find a cure, it would change the world."

As it is, this cancer stokes national division, even in the middle of a civil rights crisis. The model blocks diversity of thought and content because the networks have incentive to amplify fringe voices and events, at the expense of others... all because it pumps up the ratings.

This cancer risks human lives, even in the middle of a pandemic. The primary focus quickly became what Donald Trump was doing (poorly) to address the crisis, rather than the science itself. As new details have become available about antibodies, a vaccine, or how COVID actually spreads, producers still want to focus on the politics. Important facts or studies get buried.

This cancer risks our democracy, even in the middle of a presidential election. Any discussion about the election usually focuses on Donald



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Trump, not Joe Biden, a repeat offense from 2016 (Trump smothers out all other coverage).

Context and factual data are often considered too cumbersome for the audience.

I've even heard producers deny their role as journalists. A very capable senior producer once said: "Our viewers don't really consider us the news. They come to us for comfort."

Source: Ariana Noel Pekary, "[Personal news: why I'm now leaving MSNBC](#)" 8/3/2020





## A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

### Analysis by Independent & Reputable Journalism Foundations

#### AllSides Media Bias Survey: MSNBC Bias Rating Left

Excerpt: AllSides Media Bias Ratings are based on multi-partisan, scientific analysis. Based on 22,757 ratings, MSNBC is biased left

#### MSNBC

News Media



AllSides Media Bias Rating: **Left**

Share this rating:

226  
Shares



How we determined this rating

☒ Editorial Review

☒ Community Feedback: 22,757 ratings

☒ Blind Survey

☒ Third-Party Analysis:

2014 Pew Research Center Study - Where News Audiences Fit on the Political Spectrum

☒ Independent Research

☒ AllSides has medium confidence in this bias rating

AllSides Media Bias Ratings™ are based on multi-partisan, scientific analysis. Unless otherwise noted, this bias rating refers only to online news coverage, not TV, print, or radio content.

Source: AllSides, [MSNBC Review](#)

#### Gallup/Knight Study: MSNBC Considered Biased and Inaccurate

Excerpt: A Feb. 5-March 11, 2018, Gallup/Knight Foundation survey of 1,440 Gallup Panel members assessed how pervasive U.S. adults believe bias in news reporting is, and whether they make distinctions between bias and inaccuracy. The survey also probed for Americans' reactions when they see biased or inaccurate reporting and sought to determine if the reactions depend on whether that reporting is about groups or individuals they support or oppose. Among the key findings in the survey:

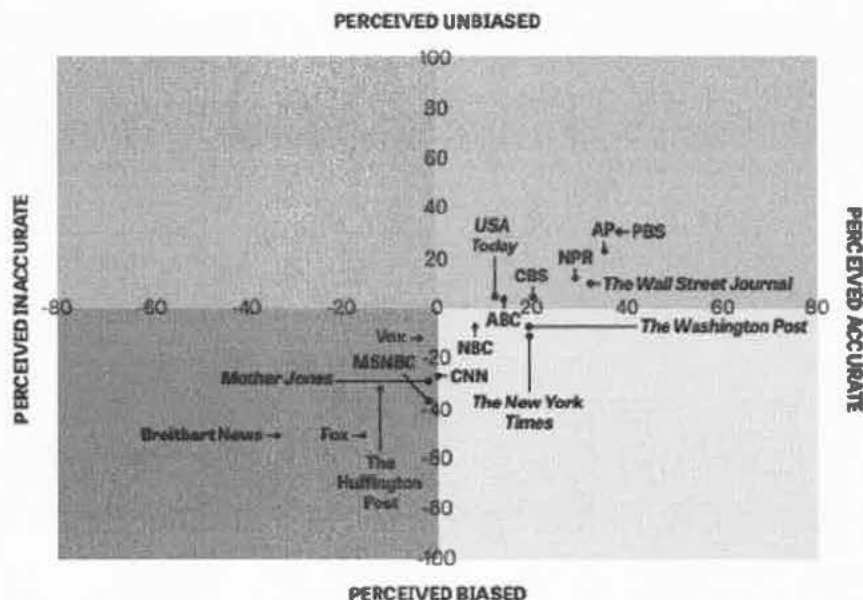
Organizations in the lower-left quadrant are regarded as inaccurate and biased, and include Breitbart News, Fox News, the Huffington Post, MSNBC,



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Mother Jones and Vox.

### Bias and Accuracy Scores of News Sources, U.S. Adults



Source: Knight Foundation, [Perceived Accuracy and Bias in News Media](#), 2018

### Pew Studies Show Overwhelming Bias in Favor of Democrat Candidates

#### 2013: Pew Analysis Found MSNBC "Outlier in Coverage", "Striking" Gap

Excerpt: A Pew Research analysis of news content on the three major cable channels conducted late last year found that the highly competitive world of cable news is a mix of reporting and opinion, with a good deal of the latter, particularly in prime time. But the analysis of 108 hours of cable programming over three days in November and December 2012 showed that MSNBC was an outlier compared with its rivals.

In the Pew Research sample, two of the three major cable news channels had a fairly even distribution of airtime devoted to opinion and to newsgathering. CNN was the only one to feature more reporting (54%) than opinion (46%) overall. At the Fox News Channel, the split leaned toward moderately more opinion (55%) than reporting (45%).

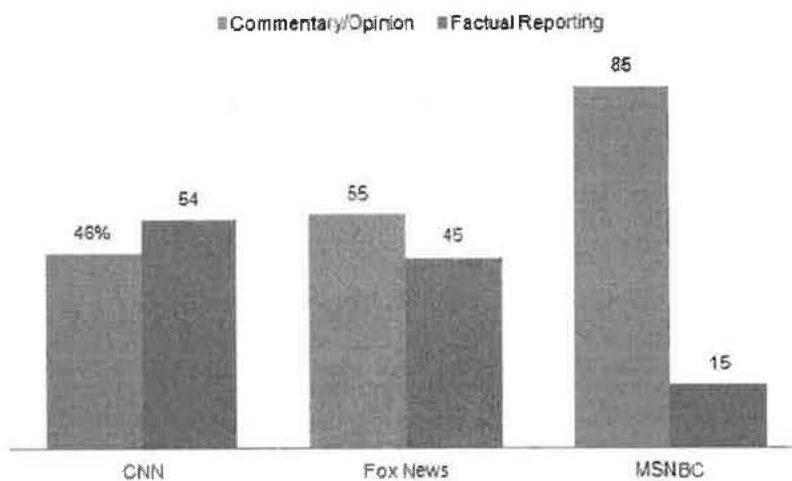


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On MSNBC, however, the mix of news and commentary skewed heavily in one direction. Fully 85% of the channel's airtime in the period studied was devoted to opinion. Only 15% of its programming was filled with reporting. And the time of day really didn't matter. The percentage of MSNBC airtime devoted to opinion was more than 80% in the morning (6-10 a.m.), mid-day (12-3 p.m.) and evening (6-10 p.m.) The Pew Research analysis offers a snapshot of cable content, but the reporting/opinion gap between MSNBC and its two top competitors is striking.

### On MSNBC, Opinion Dominates Reporting

Percentage of Newshole



Source: Pew Research's News Coverage Index

Source: Pew Research Center, "[Is MSNBC the place for opinion?](#)" 6/5/2013

### 2013: MSNBC Most Opinionated Cable News Channel

Excerpt: In fact, which cable network is the most opinionated is not a matter of opinion. It's MSNBC.

A full 85% of the Comcast-owned network's coverage can be classified as opinion or commentary rather than straight news, according to the authors of the Pew Research Center's annual State of the News Media report.

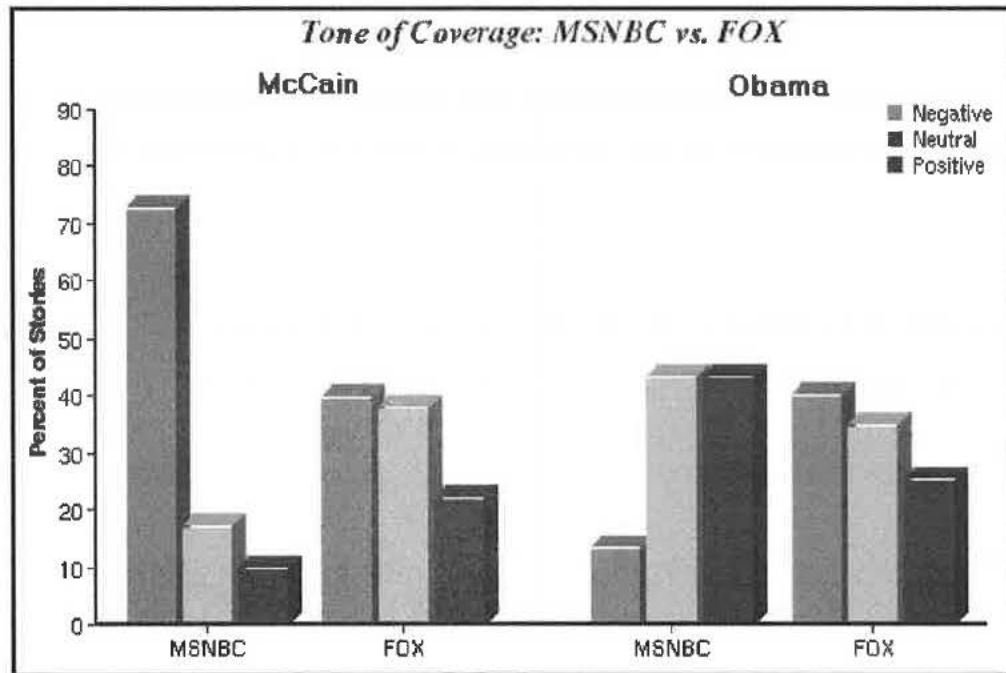
Source: Forbes, "[Pew Study Finds MSNBC the Most Opinionated Cable News Channel By Far](#)" 3/18/2013

### 2008: MSNBC Biased 73 Percent Negative of GOP McCain

Excerpt: MSNBC stood out for having less negative coverage of Obama than the press generally (14% of stories vs. 29% in the press overall) and for having more negative stories about McCain (73% of its coverage vs. 57% in the press overall).



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Source: Pew Research Center, ["The Color of News"](#) 10/29/2008



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### History of Express Advocacy for Candidates

#### 2008: Pro-Obama Campaigning

##### Democrat Governor: "MSNBC was official network of Obama campaign"

**Excerpt:** Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell was supposed to give "closing remarks" during this afternoon's Shorenstein Center-sponsored panel discussion with all three Sunday show moderators — NBC's Tom Brokaw, ABC's George Stephanopoulos and CBS's Bob Schieffer — but instead, he opened up a can of worms about bias in 2008 election coverage

"Ladies and gentleman, the coverage of Barack Obama was embarrassing," said Rendell, in the ballroom at Denver's Brown Palace Hotel. "It was embarrassing."

Rendell, an ardent Hillary Rodham Clinton supporter during the primaries, now backs Obama in the general election. Brokaw and Rendell began debating campaign coverage, including the on-air comments by Lee Cowan, and when MSNBC came up, Rendell went after the cable network.

"MSNBC was the official network of the Obama campaign," Rendell said, who called their coverage "absolutely embarrassing."

Source: Politico, "[Rendell: Obama coverage was embarrassing](#)" 8/24/2008

##### New York Times: MSNBC Tagline Mirrored Obama Slogan

**Excerpt:** Watch MSNBC, a new commercial for the cable channel intones, and "experience the power of change."

Is the channel, a subsidiary of NBC Universal, introducing a new slogan that calls to mind President-elect Barack Obama's campaign message? MSNBC says it is not. But the commercial, which began last week, stirred fresh complaints from the network's critics.

"Presidents have the power to change lives, to change course, to change America," the ad's narrator says. Before the election, the ad quoted John F. Kennedy's famous "ask not" address. By Wednesday, it had been updated with a line from Mr. Obama's election-night speech: "At this defining moment, change has come to America."

Source: New York Times, "[MSNBC's Tag for Now: 'The Power of Change'](#)" 11/9/2008

#### 2009: Publicized Fake Photos of Sarah Palin





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Excerpt: MSNBC anchor Dylan Ratigan apologized this morning for using fake photos of Sarah Palin last Friday in a segment about the former Alaska governor, and for not acknowledging their inauthenticity.

The pictures, which were widely circulated during last year's presidential campaign, show Palin's head photoshopped onto other women's bodies. In one, "Palin" is wearing an American flag bikini and holding a rifle; in the other, the faux Palin is wearing a tight black miniskirt.

In the segment, which explored "What it is about Palin that drives America wild," the miniskirt image appeared when Ratigan said "She's hot." The bikini image, juxtaposed with one of former Vice President Cheney holding a rifle, comes as Ratigan said, "She's not Bush."

Source: Talking Points Memo, "[MSNBC Host Apologizes For Using Fake Palin Pics](#)" 11/16/2009

### **2010: Olberman Direct Contributions to Democrats**

#### **MSNBC Host Suspended for Contributions to Democrats**

Excerpt: MSNBC host Keith Olbermann has been suspended indefinitely without pay after POLITICO reported that he made three campaign contributions to Democratic candidates.

MSNBC President Phil Griffin said in a statement Friday: "I became aware of Keith's political contributions late last night. Mindful of NBC News policy and standards, I have suspended him indefinitely without pay."

Olbermann made campaign contributions to two Arizona members of Congress and failed Kentucky Senate candidate Jack Conway ahead of Tuesday's election.

Olbermann, who acknowledged the contributions in a statement to POLITICO, made the maximum legal donations of \$2,400 apiece to Conway and to Arizona Reps. Raul Grijalva and Gabrielle Giffords. He donated to the Arizona pair on Oct. 28 — the same day that Grijalva appeared as a guest on Olbermann's "Countdown" show.

Source: Politico, "[Olbermann suspended after donations](#)" 11/5/2010

#### **MSNBC Host Chris Hayes Donated to Democratic Candidates**

Excerpt: The network originally announced that Chris Hayes, the Washington editor for The Nation, was going to fill in for Olbermann. But the network announced



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late Friday that Hayes would not be the substitute host, after Hayes' previous donations to two Democratic candidates in 2008 and 2009 came to light.

Source: Politico, "[Olbermann suspended after donations](#)" 11/5/2010

### 2012: Anti-Romney Campaign

#### Pew: MSNBC More Overwhelmingly Negative about Romney

Excerpt: MSNBC was even more overwhelmingly negative about Romney and offered mostly positive coverage about Obama.

MSNBC moved in the other direction. MSNBC's coverage of Romney during the final week (68% negative with no positive stories in the sample), was far more negative than the overall press, and even more negative than it had been during October 1 to 28 when 5% was positive and 57% was negative.

For Obama, meanwhile, the coverage improved in the last week. From October 1 to 28, 33% was positive and 13% negative. During the campaign's final week, fully 51% of MSNBC's stories were positive while there were no negative stories at all in the sample.

Source: Pew Research Center, "[Final Weeks in the Mainstream Press](#)" 11/16/2012

### Anti-Tea Party Framing

#### Study: MSNBC More Likely to Marginalize Tea Party as 'Idiots'

Excerpt: Divisive language is not solely used by conservative commentators. In a study by Weaver and Scacco (2013) on the Tea Party movement, findings indicated that MSNBC program hosts were more likely to marginalize the Tea Party than CNN or FOX hosts, calling its members "idiots" and questioning the grassroots nature of Tea Party membership. Boykoff and Laschever (2011) similarly found that a "non-mainstream frame" was used more frequently by MSNBC news sources than an "everyday American frame" to describe Tea Party members.

Source: Murphy-Erby Y, Hamilton L, Shobe M, Christy K, Hampton-Stover E, Jordan S. "[Progressive and Conservative 'Freedom' Through the Lens of FOX and MSNBC.](#)" Journal of Family Issues. July 2016

#### Study: MSNBC Referred to Tea Party as "Teabaggers" "whack jobs"

Excerpt: MSNBC expressed negative sentimentality about the Tea Party in more than 55 percent of its references to the movement. MSNBC host Keith



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Olbermann, for instance, referred to Tea Party activists as “teabaggers” while other hosts referred to them as “whack jobs” or “birthers.”

For MSNBC, the Tea Party was used to link extremism, nativism, and racism to the Republican Party.

Source: Rafail P, McCarthy JD. Making the Tea Party Republican: Media Bias and Framing in Newspapers and Cable News. Social Currents. 2018

### **2016: MSNBC Host Says Network in the tank for Hillary Clinton**

Excerpt: Russia Today host Ed Schultz claims he was let go from MSNBC in 2015 because he supported Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., during the Democratic presidential primary.

MSNBC was “in the tank for Hillary Clinton,” Schultz said last week in an interview with National Review’s Jamie Weinstein.

He also said the network’s president, Phil Griffin, was like a “watchdog,” closely monitoring what the hosts covered, including campaign events and speeches. Schultz claimed there was a moment in May 2015 when he planned to air Sanders’ campaign launch in Burlington, Vt. He even prerecorded an interview with the senator ahead of the launch. Griffin wasn’t interested, he said.

Schultz claimed he received a call from the MSNBC head on the day of Sanders’ campaign launch and was told they were not going to cover the event.

“It got rather contentious,” Schultz said, adding he was then forced to cover something “totally meaningless.”

“I think the Clintons were connected to [NBC News chief] Andy Lack, connected at the hip,” Schultz told Weinstein. “I think that they didn’t want anybody in their prime time or anywhere in their lineup supporting Bernie Sanders. I think that they were in the tank for Hillary Clinton, and I think that it was managed, and 45 days later, I was out at MSNBC.”

Source: Washington Examiner, “Former MSNBC host says network ‘in the tank’ for Hillary Clinton” 4/17/2018



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MSNBC Host Fired for Supporting Bernie Sanders

Excerpt: Ex-MSNBC host Ed Schultz in a recent interview ripped his former network as "in the tank for Hillary Clinton" and suggested he was fired in 2015 because of his support for Sen. Bernie Sanders (I., Vt.).

Schultz, ... in an an interview posted Friday that MSNBC chief Phil Griffin was a "watchdog," and he said he was often given direction on what stories to cover.

Source: Free Beacon, "Ed Schultz: MSNBC Fired Me for Supporting Bernie Sanders, 'They Were in the Tank for Hillary Clinton'" 4/16/2018



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## Media Content Analysis

### 85 Percent of MSNBC Programming Dedicated to Opinion

**Excerpt:** Opinion filled 85 percent of the content on MSNBC, according to the Pew Research Center's 2013 State of the News Media report. On Fox News, commentary made up 55 percent of its coverage, while CNN was the only of the big three cable news channels to produce more straight reporting than opinion... MSNBC had just 15 percent reporting."

**Source:** Politico, On Media Blog, [Report: Opinion dominates MSNBC](#)

**Date:** 3/18/2013

**Excerpt:** In March, a Pew Research Center study -- yes, Pew -- found that 85 percent of MSNBC's programming is dedicated to "opinion," versus 15 percent that is dedicated to "news." Fox News dedicated just 55 percent of its programming to "opinion" and 45 percent to "news." (CNN dedicates 46 percent to "opinion" and 54 percent to "news.")

**Source:** Politico, On Media Blog, ["Is MSNBC worse than Fox News?"](#)

**Date:** 12/9/2013

### 2018: Democrats & GOP Agree MSNBC Biased in Favor of Democrats

**Excerpt:** "...a negative score indicates more people said the outlet was more biased than unbiased... MSNBC earned a negative bias rating from both Republicans and Democrats. But while Democrats and those who lean Democratic gave MSNBC a -1 bias rating, Republicans and those who lean Republican gave it a -85."

**Source:** Business Insider, ["These are the most and least biased news outlets in the US, according to Americans"](#)

**Date:** 9/2/2018

### MSNBC The Democratic Channel Selling Conspiratorial Fantasy

**Excerpt:** Thanks to Trump and the Russia investigation, the liberal network is booming. But is it selling its viewers a conspiratorial fantasy?

MSNBC has become what, just a few years ago, critics thought impossible: the liberal, Democratic cable channel. It is the touchstone network for the





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Resistance movement on social media, which is itself tightly wound around allegations of Russian plots and “collusion,” and its stars look likely to become kingmakers in the coming Democratic primaries. Since the New Year and as of this writing, Senators Kirsten Gillibrand, Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker, and Amy Klobuchar, all announced presidential candidates, have made appearances on The Rachel Maddow Show.

Source: The New Republic, “MSNBC’s Wild Ride” 4/4/2019

**2012 Election Coverage Favored Obama by 23-to-1 Margin Over Mitt Romney**

**Excerpt:** During the 2012 election, the ratio of unfavorable to favorable treatment in stories on Barack Obama and Mitt Romney on MSNBC “was roughly 23-to-1; the negative-to-positive ratio on Fox News was 8-to-1.”

**Source:** Politico, On Media Blog, “Is MSNBC worse than Fox News?”

**Date:** 12/9/2013



A REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE FOUNDATION

## Inciting Violence, Dehumanizing & Hateful Rhetoric on Political Opponents

### **MSNBC Host Martin Bashir Calls for Someone to Defecate in Sarah Palin's Mouth**

**Excerpt:** After suggesting someone do something untoward to Sarah Palin, and weathering a storm of criticism since, MSNBC host Martin Bashir resigned from the network... He called her America's "resident dunce," a "world class idiot," and then suggested someone should urinate on her face and/or poop in her mouth.

**Source:** The Atlantic, "[Martin Bashir Resigns from MSNBC After Saying Bad Things Should Happen to Sarah Palin](#)"

**Date:** 12/4/2013

### **MSNBC Host Martin Bashir Dehumanizes Palin as "Long-Deceased Mind"**

**Excerpt:** In his "Clear the Air" segment, Bashir lit into Palin straight away, referring to her as America's "resident dunce" and characterizing her remarks as "scraping the barrel of her long-deceased mind, and using her all-time favorite analogy in an attempt to sound intelligent about the national debt."

**Source:** Mediaite, "[Martin Bashir Says Someone Should Sh\\*t in Sarah Palin's Mouth,](#)"

**Date:** 11/15/2013

### **2013: MSNBC Host Calls GOP Senator Cult Killer**

**Excerpt:** MSNBC host Martin Bashir likened Ted Cruz to the cult leader who died in 1993, along with 75 others, after the FBI laid siege to his compound in Waco, Texas.

"Do you think Ted Cruz is a bit like the David Koresh of the Republican party?" Bashir asked on Wednesday. "He's a bit like a character who believes himself to be anointed, believes himself to be a prophet, ignores everything, and torches the place in the process."

Koresh considered himself the final prophet of the Branch Davidian religious sect. After the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives suspected the group of firearms violations and attempted to raid the ranch, Koresh led a 51-day siege that eventually led to his own death and took the lives of dozens of his coreligionists.



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Bashir has a history of fiery rhetoric. Earlier this year, he compared Florida governor Rick Scott to Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu after Scott cut government programs. That same month, during the national debate over gun control, the host said the National Rifle Association “deserved to be equated with Hitler.” During the Republican presidential primaries in 2012, Bashir said candidate Rick Santorum “sounds more like Stalin than Pope Innocent III.”

Source: National Review, [“MSNBC’s Bashir: Ted Cruz ‘the David Koresh of Republican Party’”](#) 10/16/2013

### **2013: MSNBC Host Refers to GOP Senators as Terrorists**

Excerpt: Chris Matthews, the hard-charging, blunt-speaking host of MSNBC’s Hardball. This time he was vilifying the Tea Party senators Ted Cruz, Rand Paul and Mike Lee.

Matthews concluded Hardball on Wednesday, July 31:

“Let me finish tonight with this. They are political terrorists and like all terrorists, including those who use bombs, their number one goal — their only goal — is to blow things up. Cruz, Paul and Mike Lee are on a mission to destroy, shut down the American government, destroy Obamacare, drive the country into default, destroy the U.S. credit rating. Terrorists with one purpose: To bring down, not just this administration but, let’s face it, the American government. Just watch. And the fact is, the likelihood out there, is this crew could be the one that crashes the Republican convention next time. And that, fortunately, could be the end of them.”

Source: Washington Examiner, [“Mainstream Media Scream: Chris Matthews calls Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Mike Lee ‘political terrorists’”](#) 8/1/2013

### **MSNBC Host Conspiracy: Wealthy White Men Created Obamacare Term to Put Themselves Above Black Man”**

Excerpt: MSNBC is certainly as bad as Fox News, in terms of presenting ideologically biased information and demonizing the opposition...

Many of MSNBC’s opinions aren’t rooted in fact. Many of them are rooted in unfounded speculation. Melissa Harris-Perry’s recent claim that Obamacare is a racially loaded term conceived of “by a group of wealthy white men who needed a way to put themselves above and apart from a black man” is based on... what? The fact that the term was first used by a woman? The fact that,



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from Reaganomics to Hillarycare, we've always ascribed names to signature policies and legislation?

**Source:** Politico, On Media Blog, ["Is MSNBC worse than Fox News?"](#)

**Date:** 12/9/2013

### **MSNBC Host Joy Reid Falsely Accused Trump Supporter of Racist Remark**

**Excerpt:** An appellate court has ruled that Joy Reid, the new host of MSNBC's 7 PM weeknight hour, should again face a defamation lawsuit over a woman's claim that, in Reid's social media posts, she falsely accused her of making racist remarks at a 2018 Simi Valley, CA city council meeting.

The plaintiff in the case, Roslyn La Liberte, contends that in one of Reid's social media posts on Instagram, she defamed her by attributing racist remarks to her. Then in another post on Facebook and Instagram, La Liberte claims, Reid juxtaposed a photo from the council meeting with the 1957 image of a white woman in Little Rock screaming execrations at a Black child trying to go to school.

The teenager gave an interview to Fox 11 in Los Angeles and told the station that La Liberte did not yell racial slurs and that the discussion was "civil."

The judges wrote that Reid, in her June 29 post, "went way beyond her earlier retweet of Vargas in ways that intensified and specified the vile conduct that she was attributing to La Liberte. She accordingly stands liable for any defamatory content."

**Source:** Deadline, ["Joy Reid Again Faces Defamation Claim Over Social Media Posts"](#)

**Date:** 7/15/2020



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### Extreme Favorable Coverage for Democrats

#### MSNBC Prominent Stage for Democratic Elites

**Excerpt:** MSNBC is also a prominent stage for the Democratic elites that Sanders has bashed for his entire political career. His primary strategy is built around ignoring more traditional paths to the nomination, snubbing party mandarins who appear on Morning Joe in favor of turning out new voters. Indeed there is some anecdotal evidence that MSNBC's distaste for him is helping—a New Hampshire voter told the network on Tuesday that she was voting for Sanders because of the network's negative coverage of the candidate. "It made me angry, and I said, 'OK, Bernie has my vote,'" she said.

**Source:** The New Republic, "[Bernie Sanders Has an MSNBC Problem](#)" 2/12/2020

#### After Caught Spying on Journalists, Obama AG Eric Holder Praised by MSNBC as "Moses of Our Time"

**Excerpt:** "In an elaborate effort to exonerate the members of President Barack Obama's Justice Department of any wrongdoing in relation to the scandal surrounding the sweeping subpoenas of the communications records of journalists, an MSNBC panel implied that the administration was the subject of persecution. During the discussion, MSNBC contributor and Georgetown University Professor Michael Eric Dyson said that Attorney General Eric Holder, himself a victim of an elaborate right-wing effort to smear him, is "the Moses of our time."

"What he should understand is that he is the chief lawgiver of the United States of America, so to speak – he's the Moses of our time, and at least for this administration," Dyson continued.

Dyson concluded by saying that Holder is "the whipping boy" for a right-wing that cannot come to terms with having lost the 2012 presidential election."

**Source:** Mediaite, "[MSNBC Contributor Michael Eric Dyson: Eric Holder 'Is The Moses Of Our Time'](#)"

**Date:** 5/30/2013

#### 2013: MSNBC Host Congratulates Democrat Chair for Uniting The Party





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Excerpt: ... Andrea Mitchell's daytime show. Wrapping up an interview with Democratic National Committee Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, he cooed, "Congresswoman, I want to congratulate you on one thing that nobody ever gives you credit for, which is uniting the Democratic Party as it's never been united."

(Chris) Matthews, co-hosting with his wife Kathleen, continued: "And I'm telling you, it's not - I grew up with a Democratic Party that was never united, and you are united. And that's something the Republicans are going to envy you for." A beaming Wasserman Schultz replied: "Thank you. We're very proud of that."

Source: Washington Examiner, "[Mainstream Media Scream: Chris Matthews cheers Democratic unity](#)" 8/1/2013

### **MSNBC Host Fired for Failing to Stick to Pro-Democrat Script**

Excerpt "Saying crazy stuff doesn't get you fired from MSNBC. It's only saying stuff that annoys the Left that gets you fired from MSNBC. But that was what was important about Matthews — he's an impeccably credentialed Democrat (Jimmy Carter speechwriter, aide to Tip O'Neill, guy who "felt this thrill going up my leg" when he heard Barack Obama speak) who doesn't always stick to the party line."

Source: New York Post, "[The real reason Chris Matthews was fired from MSNBC,](#)"

Date: 3-3-2020

### **Embraced Progressive Ideology in Tagline & Branding**

Excerpt: Msnbc to 'lean forward' in two-year brand campaign

Msnbc cable said it is launching a two-year, multimillion-dollar marketing campaign, embracing its politically progressive identity with the new tagline "Lean Forward."

Cable news network msnbc said Tuesday it is launching a two-year, multimillion-dollar marketing campaign, embracing its politically progressive identity with the new tagline "Lean Forward."

With the addition of left-leaning anchors including Rachel Maddow and Ed Schultz, the network increasingly became identified with a rising tide of progressive political sentiment. The new branding campaign, while not overtly political, implicitly embraces the network's progressive identity.



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The television ads feature dramatic music and patriotic themes, including images of American soldiers at war, the space shuttle, Martin Luther King Jr. and presidents including John F. Kennedy and Barack Obama.

Source; NBC News, "[Msnbc to 'lean forward' in two-year brand campaign](#)" 10/5/2010