

Poll: Most Americans doubt GOP bill will cut their taxes or boost the economy

Susan Page, USA TODAY

Comments by Phillip W. Weiss

According to this article, a USA Today/Suffolk Poll found that just 32 percent of those polled support the GOP tax plan while 48 percent oppose it. This report is another example of political editorializing masquerading as legitimate news. The article reports, "Christopher Warshaw, a political scientist at The George Washington University, cautions that passage of the bill will make it more likely Democrats win control of the House in next year's midterm elections, akin to the electoral price Democrats paid in the 2010 midterms for passing Obamacare." This assertion is pure speculation. The article cites no case when a political party lost an election because it favored decreasing taxes. Indeed, it is the rare taxpayer who will gladly refuse the monetary benefits to be derived from a tax cut.

Yet, hidden in all the verbiage is the article's salient point: that this tax bill is favored overwhelmingly by Republicans. That's the real headline. Under mounting pressure, Republican support for this bill is staying solid. The article reports, "One reason the GOP is moving ahead is that Republican voters are enthusiastic. In the survey, they backed the tax bill by an overwhelming 71%-12%. Two-thirds of Republicans predict their own taxes will be cut, and nearly three-fourths say the bill will significantly boost the nation's economy." Presuming this finding is accurate, and with public opinion polls, this is not a sure thing, this is crucial information because the Republicans have the votes, if they stay united, to get this bill passed WITHOUT HELP FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

This article also brings up another issue: political bias in the media.

First, the reporter, Susan Page, has served as the chairman of the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards. Her background itself gives reasonable cause to question whether she can be report objectively on a non-Democratic president.
(source:<https://usatoday30.usatoday.com/educate/college/careers/profile10.htm>)
Another issue is whether USA Today as a corporate entity is capable of reporting on Donald Trump or the GOP in a manner that is even remotely unbiased.

In their 2016 editorial about then presidential candidates Trump and Clinton, this is what USA Today wrote about Trump: "He is erratic." "He is ill-equipped to be commander in chief." "He traffics in prejudice." "His business career is checkered." "He isn't leveling with the American people." "He speaks recklessly." "He coarsens the national dialogue." "He's a serial liar."

USA TODAY's editorial board also had "serious reservations" about Clinton, but in their editorial added that some on the editorial board believed "she'd serve the nation ably as its president."

(source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2016/09/29/dont-vote-for-donald-trump-editorial-board-editorials-debates/91295020/>).

Given the USA Today's obvious distaste for Donald Trump coupled with their reporter's association with an organization named after the late Robert F. Kennedy, the brother of the late president and Democratic icon John F. Kennedy, it is hardly likely that this newspaper would, or even could conduct a poll that is fair and impartial. USA Today, being part of the media and having the right to free speech, has a right to pick political favorites. However, as a media outlet, USA Today is obligated to report news fairly, objectively and most of all, accurately. As far as USA Today is concerned, Donald Trump is a dishonest, reckless, coarse liar who has no business being president. That the media outlet that excoriates Donald Trump now conducts a public opinion poll on one of Trump's major legislative initiatives is such a transparent conflict of interest that it gives cause to wonder why the outlet would devote its time and resources to conducting a survey that can so easily be dismissed as mere propaganda.

It is sad that the American media industry has become politicized to the point that its credibility is in shambles and is open to accusations of producing fake news. But it is the media that created this situation by failing to be open and honest with the American public regarding the media's political biases, which, to a significant degree, is slanted heavily in favor of the Democratic Party.

As for the value of public opinion polls as a source of accurate information, after the results of the 2016 presidential race, the outcome of which virtually the entire public opinion poll industry failed to correctly predict, they have lost much of their value. Yet, they're the only cost-effective method to measure public opinion, so they continue to be used (and abused). However, it would behoove the public opinion poll industry to include in their polls a disclaimer that their findings are mere estimates and should not be construed as fact. One reason why Ms. Clinton lost the election may have been because she relied too much on polls which, as immediately became apparent on November 8, 2016, gave her inaccurate and misleading information.

source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/12/10/poll-most-americans-doubt-gop-bill-cut-their-taxes-boost-economy/938355001/>