

Disney Shareholder Meeting Question
Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
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I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research.

I want to talk about the need for reforms at ABC – specifically in its news division.

A study published in January found that the broadcast networks, including ABC News, continue to run overwhelmingly negative coverage of President Trump. In fact, from last September to January 1, stories about the president on these networks were negative 93 percent¹ of the time. That's not objective. Meanwhile, the leading Democratic presidential candidates received net positive coverage over the same time period.

Two weeks ago, Project Veritas exposed a video in which ABC News correspondent David Wright admitted that the network bosses regularly spike positive stories about President Trump and aren't covering the presidential campaign evenhandedly. Specifically, he stated, “[w]e also don't give [Trump] credit for what things he does do.... I feel terrible about it, I feel that the truth suffers, the voters are poorly informed.... Our bosses don't see an upside in doing the job we're supposed to do.”²

Wright isn't a green journalist and he is no conservative nor a Trump fan. He has degrees from Oxford and Harvard and identifies as a socialist.

And who can forget the video released last fall of acclaimed journalist Amy Robach clearly implying³ that ABC's bosses spiked her story on accused pedophile Jeffrey Epstein because of Epstein's close connections to Prince Andrew and Bill and Hillary Clinton. While she tried to walk back her comments with a figurative gun to her head, with her high-paying job on the line, we all heard the truth.

Mr. Chapek, I have been coming to this meeting for years imploring your predecessor Mr. Iger to address the extreme anti-conservative bias within ABC. I am asking you to be bold and take on this challenge. The public's trust in the mainstream media is at an all-time low. And when leaked videos show that your own reporters are frustrated because they are unable to tell the truth on air, that speaks to a systemic problem within ABC.

What steps are you taking to return objectivity to ABC News? And when can we expect to see balanced coverage on your airwaves?

¹ <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/rich-noyes/2020/01/13/tvs-trump-news-three-fourths-impeachment-and-93-negative>

² <https://www.projectveritas.com/news/breaking-senior-abc-correspondent-david-wright-on-hidden-camera-how-bosses-dont-see-an-upside-for-reporting-news-the-truth-suffers-says-abc-doesn/>

³ <https://www.projectveritas.com/news/video-leaked-insider-recording-from-abc-news-reveals-network-executives-killed-bombshell-story-implicating-jeffrey-epstein/>

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