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Newsom on today's 'toxic' Democratic Party: We tend to be 'judgmental'

BY STEFF DANIELLE THOMAS - 03/29/25 8:42 AM ET



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California Gov. [Gavin Newsom](#) (D) took a swing [at his own party](#) Friday evening, claiming Democrats have become too “toxic” and “judgmental.”

Newsom, in [an appearance](#) on “Real Time with [Bill Maher](#),” was asked about other Democrats’ criticism of the party and those who have questioned the governor for bringing GOP guests on his new podcast, [“This Is Gavin Newsom,”](#) calling it “platforming.”

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“I mean, this idea that we can’t even have a conversation with the other side ... or the notion we just have to continue to talk to ourselves or win the same damn echo chamber, these guys are crushing us,” he continued, referencing Republicans who have seen better numbers in recent elections.

“The Democratic brand is toxic right now,” the governor said, adding later that “we talk down to people. We talk past people.”

“And I think with this podcast and having the opportunity to dialog with people I disagree with, it’s an opportunity to try to find common ground and not take cheap shots,” he said. “I’m not looking to put a spoke in the wheel of their or ... a crowbar in the spokes of their wheel to trip them up.”

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His comments come after polling shows the Democratic Party’s favorability rating sitting at a record low. A recent [NBC News poll](#), referenced during the show, shows [only 27 percent](#) of respondents having a positive view of the party.

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