# Elections

## 1NC

#### Obama now but it’s close

Silver, 538, 10-26-12

(Nate, “Oct. 25: The State of the States,” lexis, accessed 10-26-12, CMM)

Thursday was a busy day for the polls, with some bright spots for each candidate. But it made clear that Barack Obama maintains a narrow lead in the polling averages in states that would get him to 270 electoral votes. Mr. Obama also remains roughly tied in the polls in two other states, Colorado and Virginia, that could serve as second lines of defense for him if he were to lose a state like Ohio.¶ The day featured the release of 10 national polls, but there was little in the way of a consistent pattern in them. On average, the polls showed a tied race. Furthermore, among the nine polls that provided for a comparison to another poll conducted after the first presidential debate in Denver, the net result was unchanged, on average, with Mr. Obama gaining one percentage point or more in three polls, but Mr. Romney doing so in three others.¶ Mr. Obama held the lead in nine polls of battleground states on Thursday, as compared to three leads for Mr. Romney and two polls showing a tied race.¶ This tally exaggerates the lopsidedness of the polling a bit, since the state polls released on Thursday were something of a Democratic-leaning bunch, some of which had shown strong numbers for Mr. Obama previously.¶ Mr. Romney's strongest number came in a Fox News poll of Virginia, which had him 2 points ahead there - a sharp reversal from a 7-point advantage there for Mr. Obama before the Denver debate. However, Mr. Romney's worst poll of the day was probably also in Virginia, where Public Policy Polling showed Mr. Obama's lead expanding to 5 points from 2.¶ Among the 10 polls that provided for a comparison to another poll conducted after the Denver debate, Mr. Obama gained 1 percentage point, on average. The past week of polling suggests that Mr. Romney is no longer improving his position in the race.¶ Whether Mr. Obama has any momentum of his own, such as because of this week's debate in New York, is less clear. To me, it looks more like a gradual reversion to the mean than anything all that assertive.¶ At the same time, Mr. Obama has led in the polling averages all year in states that would allow him to win the Electoral College, and that remains the case now.

#### Plan’s causes a backlash – massively unpopular AND environmental benefits aren’t perceived

Moniz et al., Physics @ MIT, Director of Energy Studies, Laboratory for Energy and the Environment, 3

(Professor Ernest J, Professor John Deutch, Professor Stephen Ansolabehere, Professor Emeritus Michael Driscoll, Professor Paul E Gray, Professor John P Holdren, Professor Paul L Joskow, Professor Richard K Lester, Professor Neil E. Todreas, and Eric S Beckjord, “The Future of Nuclear Power: An Interdisciplinary MIT Study,” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2003, pg. 6, http://web.mit.edu/nuclearpower/pdf/nuclearpower-full.pdf, accessed 9-17-12, CMM)

Expanded deployment of nuclear power requires public acceptance of this energy source. Our review of survey results shows that a majority of Americans and Europeans oppose building new nuclear power plants to meet future energy needs. To understand why, we surveyed 1350 adults in the US about their attitudes toward energy in general and nuclear power in particular. Three important and unexpected results emerged from that survey: ¶ 􀂇The U.S. public’s attitudes are informed almost entirely by their perceptions of the technology, rather than by politics or by demographics such as income, education, and gender. ¶ 􀂇The U.S. public’s views on nuclear waste, safety, and costs are critical to their judgments about the future deployment of this technology. Technological improvements that lower costs and improve safety and waste problems can increase public support substantially. ¶ 􀂇In the United States, people do not connect concern about global warming with carbon-free nuclear power. There is no difference in support for building more nuclear power plants between those who are very concerned about global warming and those who are not. Public education may help improve understanding about the link between global warming, fossil fuel usage, and the need for low-carbon energy sources. ¶ There are two implications of these findings for our study: first, the U.S. public is unlikely to support nuclear power expansion without substantial improvements in costs and technology. Second, the carbon-free character of nuclear power, the major motivation for our study, does not appear to motivate the U.S. general public to prefer expansion of the nuclear option.

#### Base enthusiasm is key

Bouie, staff writer at The American Prospect, 9-26-12

(Jamelle, “Among Obama supporters, enthusiasm hasn’t dimmed,” http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/post/among-obama-supporters-enthusiasm-hasnt-dimmed/2012/09/26/cb65e624-07e7-11e2-9eea-333857f6a7bd\_blog.html, accessed 9-27-12, CMM)

A common theme we keep hearing from conservatives who are unhappy with the public polls is that the surveys assume a 2012 electorate that looks a lot like the one in 2008. For instance, The Weekly Standard’s Jay Cost argues that we should be wary of polls showing a strong national and swing state advantage for President Obama for exactly that reason. It’s worth considering Cost’s argument, because we’ll likely be hearing a lot of this.¶ Cost wisely stays away from the controversy over partisan weighting; as many pollsters have noted, party identification is a fluid variable that changes with public attitudes. To weigh in one direction or another is to make a particular judgment about how things should look, not how they are. Instead, Cost focuses his attention on two things.¶ Averaging five polls — Rasmussen, Gallup, Survey USA, Battleground and Pew — Cost finds that Romney and Obama are tied among independents, which for him, doesn’t track with a race where one candidate holds a 4 to 5 point lead over the other. “You do not get a four-point lead overall with a tie among independents, unless you are squeezing substantially more votes out of your base than your opponent is,” Cost writes.¶ Of course, what could be happening is that more Dem-leaning independents are self-identifying as Democrats than is happening on the GOP side. If so, that would mean the remaining pool of independents could split evenly, even as the overall electorate favors Obama. We don’t know if this is the case, but the point is that there isn’t enough information to make a particular claim about how the race should look based on the independent vote.¶ Cost raises a second question, and one that’s been echoed by other conservatives — how much will the electorate resemble the one in 2008? Cost is skeptical that Democrats will be as unified and as enthusiastic as they were four years ago. “If it comes down to whether or not this will be a repeat of 2008 — which is basically what the latter camp of pollsters is suggesting — then my money is on no.” He adds later that Obama’s “advantage is built entirely on Democratic enthusiasm, which right now is above its historical trends and clearly on a post-DNC bump.”¶ This sounds persuasive, until you realize that it’s been nearly three weeks since the Democratic National Convention ended, and there’s no sign of diminished enthusiasm among Democrats. Indeed, despite wide speculation that Obama will have to worry about lower enthusiasm and turnout among core groups — like African Americans and Latinos — the available polling suggests that this is an overblown concern. According to the most recent Pew poll, blacks are as engaged in the election as they were in 2008. Likewise, Public Policy Polling finds that African Americans are the single most excited group in the electorate — with Latinos a close second. Latino Decisions, which publishes a tracking poll of Latino public opinion, also finds high enthusiasm among the group: 46 percent report greater excitement for 2012 than 2008.¶ Yesterday, Greg interviewed Obama pollster Joel Benenson, who noted the extent to which nonwhites are an increasing share of the vote: “This will be an electorate that has been as diverse as the previous four presidential elections.” Not only is this probably the case, but in all likelihood, these groups will enter November highly energized, and ready to reelect the president.

#### Romney would crush US-Russia relations

The Economist, 9-1-12

(“Romney Could Screw Up US Relations With Russia,” http://www.businessinsider.com/mitt-romneys-foreign-policy-chops-come-into-light-2012-9, accessed 9-21-12, CMM)

Mitt Romney, the Republican candidate in the US presidential election, has indicated that he will adopt a tougher position towards Russia than his rival, the incumbent president, Barack Obama. Rivalry with Russia is unlikely to dominate Mr Romney's foreign policy, because Russia has neither the agenda nor the heft of the Soviet Union.¶ Yet in important areas-nuclear arms control, missile defence and crises in the Middle East-a Romney presidency could result in markedly higher levels of tension with Russia. This could narrow the scope for co-operation generally, and encourage Russia to develop partnerships in Asia.¶ In March Mr Romney criticised Mr Obama for being too soft on Russia, which he described as the US's "greatest geopolitical foe". It is easy to dismiss the comment as campaign hyperbole, especially as it was made by a politician who has been a pragmatist in the past, and because the position of Russia in the world is different from that of the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, US-Russian relations are still important, as is the question of what impact a Romney presidency would have.¶ The cold war between the US and the Soviet Union was the defining geopolitical relationship of the second half of the 20th century, and Europe was the principal region in which their struggle was waged. In the 21st century the defining geopolitical relationship is likely to be US-China and the main arena of competition the Asia-Pacific region. Russia's global weight has correspondingly shrunk. Russia still matters in US foreign policy, because of its permanent seat on the UN Security Council, its ties to states such as Iran and Syria, its influence on Europe, and its possession of the world's second-largest arsenal of nuclear weapons.¶ Mind the missile gap¶ In the nuclear weapons sphere, a Romney presidency has the greatest potential to change the course of US-Russia relations. Mr Obama aspires to a nuclear-free world through phased cuts in the arsenals of the nuclear powers, and in the first instance this concerns the US and Russia. To achieve this, he has indicated that he can show some flexibility with regard to US plans for ballistic missile defences deployed in Europe and elsewhere. Mr Romney's advisers see things differently: they have no wish to accept limitations on US development of missile-defence capabilities, and show little interest in new arms-control agreements.¶ A Romney presidency could therefore cause a breakdown over issues that Mr Obama might be able to finesse. Mr Obama's scope for concessions on missile defence might be limited, but he could meet Russian concerns in related areas such as the deployment of US tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, or engage in other confidence-building measures. Because Mr Romney's advisers do not seek nuclear disarmament, there seems little reason for them to compromise on missile defence or to advocate measures designed to assuage Russian concerns.¶ Circumstances could yet oblige Mr Romney to take a course that would be less likely to aggravate strategic relations with Russia. If fiscal troubles in the US prompted cuts in the defence budget beyond those currently planned, the administration could opt to spare conventional capabilities and procurement by reducing the nuclear force. Owing to the age of a large part of its nuclear arsenal, Russia is likely to embark on this course. Thus it is possible that both states might engage in nuclear-force cuts that would maintain a rough parity and offer some reassurance to each other.¶ Middle Eastern crises¶ The current US position on Iran's nuclear programme and the Syrian civil war is to work within the UN Security Council on the use of force, while using other forums and relationships to put economic pressure on Iran and Syria. Russia has stood against these efforts, but it has also ceased supplying weapons to Iran and Syria. Ultimately, Mr Obama may resort to military action. The main question for a prospective Romney presidency is whether that possibility becomes more likely. Instituting a no-fly zone in Syria or inserting troops would need the support of regional allies, in particular Turkey. A victory for Mr Romney might embolden Israeli leaders to attack Iran-a more plausible scenario than the US initiating military hostilities against Iran. Any resort to force without a UN mandate would seriously damage US-Russian relations.¶ Commerce and conscience¶ Russia has joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO), but the US is yet to grant Russia permanent normal trade relations. Moves to do so by repealing the Jackson-Vanik amendment have been stymied by the US election and efforts in Congress to tie such relations to legislation that would punish Russian officials deemed guilty of human rights abuses, including the arrest and death in custody of Sergei Magnitsky, a whistleblower. The Obama administration has taken action against those suspected of complicity in Mr Magnitsky's death, but in a limited and low-profile manner. It is not clear whether Mr Romney would be more forceful, because there are Democrats and Republicans on both sides of the argument. It seems likely that Mr Romney will back granting permanent normal trade relations soon after the election, but he might be more amenable to framing human rights legislation in ways that the Russian political class would regard as unwarranted interference in Russian domestic affairs.¶ A rockier road¶ The potential impact of a Romney presidency on US-Russian relations could be significant, and not only on the atmospherics of the relationship. Changed circumstances mean that the traditional Russian preference for dealing with Republican rather than Democrat presidents no longer holds. There would be little of the spirit of the "reset" launched by Mr Obama. A change of US administration could have adverse effects for political and commercial exchanges between the two states. It is also likely to give impetus to Russia's desire to develop closer ties with rising powers in Asia, as well contributing to a narrative that portrays Russia as targeted by malevolent, interfering Western powers.

#### US-Russian relations are key prevent war, nuclear terrorism, and prolif.

Allison, Director at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, and Blackwill, International Council Member, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs,

10-30-11

(Graham Allison,; Douglas Dillon Professor of Government; Faculty Chair, Dubai Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School, Robert D. Blackwill, International Council Member, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs "10 Reasons Why Russia Still Matters"http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/21469/10\_reasons\_why\_russia\_still\_matters.html, accessed 2-23-12, CMM)

That central point is that Russia matters a great deal to a U.S. government seeking to defend and advance its national interests. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin’s decision to return next year as president makes it all the more critical for Washington to manage its relationship with Russia through coherent, realistic policies. No one denies that Russia is a dangerous, difficult, often disappointing state to do business with. We should not overlook its many human rights and legal failures. Nonetheless, Russia is a player whose choices affect our vital interests in nuclear security and energy. It is key to supplying 100,000 U.S. troops fighting in Afghanistan and preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Ten realities require U.S. policymakers to advance our nation’s interests by engaging and working with Moscow. First, Russia remains the only nation that can erase the United States from the map in 30 minutes. As every president since John F. Kennedy has recognized, Russia’s cooperation is critical to averting nuclear war. Second, Russia is our most consequential partner in preventing nuclear terrorism. Through a combination of more than $11 billion in U.S. aid, provided through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program, and impressive Russian professionalism, two decades after the collapse of the “evil empire,” not one nuclear weapon has been found loose. Third, Russia plays an essential role in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and missile-delivery systems. As Washington seeks to stop Iran’s drive toward nuclear weapons, Russian choices to sell or withhold sensitive technologies are the difference between failure and the possibility of success. Fourth, Russian support in sharing intelligence and cooperating in operations remains essential to the U.S. war to destroy Al Qaeda and combat other transnational terrorist groups.

## 1NR

### Overview

#### Magnitude – Russia war causes extinction

Bostrom, Oxford philosophy faculty, 2

[Nick, “Existential Risks Analyzing Human Extinction Scenarios and Related Hazards,” Published in the Journal of Evolution and Technology, Vol. 9, March, http://www.nickbostrom.com/existential/risks.html]

A much greater existential risk emerged with the build-up of nuclear arsenals in

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existential risk, since it would not destroy or thwart humankind’s potential permanently.

#### Timeframe – faster than the aff – they need development, commercialization, exports, and then installation in other countries to solve – cross ex was pretty bad on this. Relations collapses right after Romney is elected because of Russian perceptions over US aggression

HERSZENHORN, NYT, 9-6-12

(David, “Putin Says Missile Deal Is More Likely With Obama,” http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/07/world/europe/putin-calls-missile-deal-more-likely-if-obama-wins.html?\_r=2src=recg&&pagewanted=print, accessed 9-21-12, CMM)

President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia sauntered into American presidential politics on Thursday,

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high. So what are we supposed to do to ensure our security?”

### AT: Romney = Rhetoric

#### Its not campaign rhetoric – rumors of Bolton as secretary of state prove

Larison, American Conservative, 6-21-12

(Daniel, “Report: Bolton Is a “Leading Candidate” for Secretary of State,” http://www.theamericanconservative.com/larison/report-bolton-is-a-leading-candidate-for-secretary-of-state/, accessed 9-21-12, CMM)

The Washington Times reports (via Glaser):¶ John R. Bolton, the U

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of a Romney victory, and a Bolton confirmation might be as well.

### UQ – EXTN – Base Enthusiasm

#### Base turnout THE ONLY THING that matters

Cohn, The New Republic, 10-26-12

(Nate, “Why Undecided Voters Matter Less And Turnout Matters More Than Ever Before,” http://www.tnr.com/blog/electionate/109171/why-undecided-voters-matter-less-and-turnout-matters-more-ever, accessed 10-26-12, CMM)

Heading into the final stretch of one of the closest presidential elections in recent history

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rates approach '08 levels, even if undecided voters broke in Romney's direction.

### AT: Uniqueness Overwhelms

#### You should err strongly against a close race

Silver, NYT, 10-1-12

(Nate, “New Polls Raise Chance of Electoral College Tie,” http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/10/01/new-polls-raise-chance-of-electoral-college-tie/, accessed 10-2-12, CMM)

As of Monday’s FiveThirtyEight forecast, there were 21 states that Barack Obama was projected

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election to Mr. Romney 80 percent of the time in such cases.)

### Link – AT: “Too Late”

#### Its still close – the plan can determine the election

Cohn, The New Republic, 10-24-12

(Nate, “Expect the Unexpected: Diverse Battleground States Mean the Race Can Shift in Any Number of Ways,” http://www.tnr.com/blog/electionate/109067/diverse-and-competitive-electoral-map-introduces-more-possibilities-surprisi, accessed 10-25-12, CMM)

With a deadlocked popular vote all eyes turn toward the electoral college, where the

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errors in the polling could easily reshape the electoral map before November 6.

#### Small changes can swing the election now

Cohn, The New Republic, 10-23-12

(Nate, “Daily Breakdown: Extraordinarily Tight Race With Fourteen Days To Go,” www.tnr.com/blog/electionate/109011/daily-breakdown-extraordinarily-tight-race-fourteen-days-go, accessed 10-25-12, CMM)

After the final presidential debate in Boca Raton, the two campaigns head into the

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imagine the national polls have ever been tighter with two weeks to go.

#### Small bumps at this point in the race are big

Silver, 538, 10-23-12

(Nate, “Obama Unlikely to Get Big Debate Bounce, but a Small One Could Matter,” lexis, accessed 10-25-12, CMM)

Still, with the contest being so tight, any potential gain for Mr.

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would advance his position to being a 75 percent favorite in the forecast.

### AT: DOD Shield

#### It’s perceived and unpopular with the base

Bowles, Writer about environmental issues for the Press-Enterprise, 8

(Jennifer, since 1999, attended a year-long fellowship at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she studied natural resources law, policy and science, Press Enterprise, “Renewable Energy Projects Meet Opposition from Environmentalists,” http://theguzzler.blogspot.com/2008/06/renewable-energy-projects-meet.html, accessed 9-20-12, CMM)

A rush to build environmentally friendly renewable energy in the windy, sunny Inland region

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sacrifice and which need to be protected," he said in a statement.

### Link – EXTN – Nuclear

#### SMRs are unpopular with the public which turns the aff – their evidence is skewed

Baker, American Security Project, 12

(Matthew, 6-22-12, “Do Small Modular Reactors Present a Serious Option for the Military’s Energy Needs?” http://americansecurityproject.org/blog/2012/do-small-modular-reactors-present-a-serious-option-for-the-militarys-energy-needs/, accessed 10-2-12, CMM)

Thirdly, some supporters of SMR technology seem to have a skewed opinion of public

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stone of the military’s energy needs the public needs to be on board.

#### Military energy debates are divisive and cause larger energy debates---zero risk of a link turn even if the plan saves money

Snider 12

(E&E reporter, 1/16, “Pentagon still can't define 'energy security,' much less achieve it,” <http://www.eenews.net/public/Greenwire/2012/01/16/1>)

But this is **not a good time** to be requesting money at the Pentagon.

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petroleum, but in the end they acquiesced, leaving the ban intact.

### AT: Hurricane

#### No impact – weather won’t hurt Obama

Koebler, US News, 10-25-12

[Jason, US News, “Experts: Team Obama Should Root for Hurricane Sandy to Interrupt Election”, <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2012/10/25/experts-team-obama-should-root-for-hurricane-sandy-to-interrupt-election>, accessed 10-27-12, AFB]

So far, American elections have been fairly natural disaster-free. Hudak says

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up a benefit to the president if a natural disaster did interrupt voting."

#### Won’t impact turn-out – general and New Hampshire

Parnass 10-26 [Sarah (ABC reporter), 6 Things That Could Shake Up Election, http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/hurricane-sandy-things-shake-election/story?id=17565930#.UIsEUdk2TF8]

"I think it's more folklore than anything else," Leighley said of the partisan

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state. We're used to a lot of raw weather," Scanlan said.

#### No impact on North Carolina – polling relocation

Politico 10-26 [Bob King, Election in Sandy's shadow, http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1012/82932.html?hp=t1]

Voting is under way in some states in Sandy’s potential path — including North Carolina

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Veronica Degraffenreid, a liaison at the North Carolina State Board of Elections.

#### Won’t impact Pennsylvania, and direct hit states are overwhelming blue states to begin with

Politico 10-26 [Bob King, Election in Sandy's shadow, http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1012/82932.html?hp=t1]

Officials are less worried about any delays in Pennsylvania, which harbors memories of widespread

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New Jersey and New York — are solidly in the blue column anyway.

### AT: Wood (Won’t Campaign)

#### **This card goes neg**

1. It says nuclear hasn’t come up as a campaign issue, which takes out all their link non uniques
2. nuclear is a toxic issue

Wood, AOL Energy, 9-13-12

(Elisa, “What Obama and Romney Don't Say About Energy,” http://energy.aol.com/2012/09/13/what-obama-and-romney-dont-say-about-energy, accessed 9-14-12, CMM)

Fossil fuels and renewable energy have become touchy topics in this election, with challenger

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billions to protect the public. It was unimaginable what hit that plant."

#### It’s not a campaign issue – plan generates uniqueness for the link AND they can’t win a turn – there’s no constituency for nuclear

Skutnik, Assistant Professor of Nuclear Engineering at the University of Tennessee,

10-22-12

(Steve, “Does nuclear lack a natural constituency?,” http://theenergycollective.com/skutnik/133191/does-nuclear-lack-natural-constituency?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=The+Energy+Collective+%28all+posts%29, accessed 10-22-12, CMM)

A quick Turing test from the prior round of U.S. presidential debates - see if you can spot the speaker:

 We have increased oil production to the highest levels in 16 years. Natural

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, enjoying a broad but shallow public consensus, finds itself politically homeless.