### Politics

#### Election momentum not sufficient

Eric Ferreri (writer for Duke Today) November 7, 2012 “Obama's Win May Bring 'Same Kind of Gridlock'” http://today.duke.edu/2012/11/electionwrapup

Barack Obama's re-election suggests voters believe the economy is improving and aren't hung up on the president's national health care program, Duke experts say. But they add that Obama's win was also slim enough to knock back any talk of a national mandate. With an incumbent president defending his turf and no power shifts in either chamber of Congress, the country may not change much in the near future, cautions David Rohde, a Duke political science professor. In 2008, Obama won the popular vote by seven percentage points over John McCain. On Tuesday, he squeaked past Republican nominee Mitt Romney by two percentage points. "House Speaker (John) Boehner made it clear he doesn't see this as a mandate for the kinds of things the president wants, like higher taxes on the wealthy," Rohde said Wednesday morning. "There is the potential for the same kind of gridlock." A wider margin of victory would have given Obama a stronger hand to play, Rohde added. "If the president had won by more than he won four years ago, he could claim a stronger endorsement of his policies," Rohde said.

#### No fiscal cliff compromise – both sides hardening positions

Kelley Beaucar Vlahos (writer for Fox News) November 7, 2012 “

Gridlock as usual or new era of compromise? Washington stares down 'fiscal cliff' crisis after election” http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/11/07/gridlock-as-usual-or-new-era-compromise-washington-faces-choice-after-election/

Obama and the Democrats have shown interest in letting the so-called Bush tax rates expire for the top earners, while Republicans have not shown an inclination yet for budging on it. Time will tell if there is room for negotiation -- a combination of increased revenue and cuts -- though Obama may hold the upper hand. Still, the ideological lines are firm and with the addition of two fiscal conservatives to the Republican ranks in the Senate -- Ted Cruz from Texas, and Jeff Flake in Arizona -- there might be more of a hardening than Hill watchers think, said David Boaz, senior politics analyst from the Cato Institute. "My gut level instinct would be there are fundamental differences between the Democrats and the Republicans in Congress and the election hasn't moved us any closer to resolving these questions," he said.

#### No ‘fiscal cliff’ deal

Dave Michaels (writer for the Dallas Morning News) November 7, 2012 “Divided Congress faces immediate danger of fiscal cliff”http://www.dallasnews.com/business/headlines/20121107-divided-congress-faces-immediate-danger-of-fiscal-cliff.ece

But Democrats, who want to let the tax cuts expire for top earners, say they’re not willing to go for the easiest thing this time. President Barack Obama’s re-election — and the pickup of two Senate seats — seems to have emboldened Democrats to push for higher taxes on the wealthiest Americans. The White House said in June that Obama would not support even a temporary extension of the tax cuts for high earners. “There was a message sent to us by the American people based on the campaign,” Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Wednesday. “That is, people making all this money have to contribute a little more.” House Republicans don’t acknowledge receiving that message. Speaker John Boehner, whose party kept control of the House, repeated his stance that raising rates on top earners would hurt some business owners and result in job losses. Boehner also said a major compromise on the fiscal cliff isn’t likely to happen during a lame duck. Instead, he suggested it would happen through entitlement and tax reform in 2013. “What we can do is avert the cliff in a manner that serves as a down payment on and a catalyst for major solutions enacted in 2013 to begin to solve the problem,” Boehner said.

**IF YOU HAVE TIME**

**Precipitates subsequent gains in capital**

**Marshall, et al 11** [Bryan W. poli sci at Miami University, Ohio, Brandon C., poli sci at the University of Tennessee & Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, “Power or Posturing? Policy Availability and Congressional Influence on U.S. Presidential Decisions to Use Force”, Presidential Studies Quarterly 41, no. 3 (September) 2011]

Presidents rely heavily on Congress in converting their political capital into **real policy success**. Policy success not only shapes the reelection prospects of presidents, but it also **builds the president's reputation** for political effectiveness and fuels the prospect **for subsequent gains in political capital** (Light 1982). Moreover, the president's legislative success in foreign policy is correlated with success on the domestic front. On this point, some have largely disavowed the two-presidencies distinction while others have even argued that foreign policy has become a mere extension of domestic policy (Fleisher et al. 2000; Oldfield and Wildavsky 1989) Presidents implicitly understand that there **exists a linkage** between their actions in one policy area and their ability to affect another. The use of force is no exception; in promoting and protecting U.S. interests abroad, presidential decisions are made with an eye toward managing political capital at home (Fordham 2002).