### 2AC – Mandates

You should add more case specific stuff

1. Obama will almost definitely win

Silver 8/3 (Nate Silver, 8/3/12, Fiver Thirty Eight Blog for New York Times, “Aug. 3: A Good Week for Obama in Forecast,” http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/03/aug-3-a-good-week-for-obama-in-forecast/ //nimo)

The past week of polling and economic data was relatively newsworthy by our forecast model’s standards, and most of the news was good for President Obama. On Tuesday, Mr. Obama was helped in the forecast by a report showing an increase in personal income — one of the economic variables that the forecast model uses, and a reasonably good predictor of voter preferences in past elections. On Wednesday, he polled strongly in a number of swing states. And on Friday, Mr. Obama got a respectable — although by no means wonderful — employment report, which estimated that 163,000 jobs were created in July. The forecast model uses the jobs number directly in its forecast. It also incorporates the S&P 500 index, which was up sharply on Friday — partly on the jobs news and partly because investors were in a better mood about the situation in Europe. Mr. Obama’s probability of winning the Electoral College increased slightly on the economic news, to 71.1 percent from 70.2 percent. Mr. Obama’s lead in the popular vote is quite narrow: the forecast projects him to win 50.7 percent of the vote, against 48.3 percent for Mitt Romney. (Interestingly, this is the exact margin by which George W. Bush defeated John Kerry in 2004.) Mr. Obama has some chance of winning the Electoral College despite losing the popular vote — but the reverse outcome is less likely. Meanwhile, the comparatively encouraging economic reports of the past week make it less likely that there is another shoe to drop on Mr. Obama in the form of a further economic downturn. The economy is bad enough as it is, but voters in past elections have judged incumbents by the amount of progress in the economy, rather than how productive it is in an absolute sense. So far, Mr. Obama seems to have persuaded a slim plurality of voters that there are enough hopeful signs to warrant another term for him. Mr. Romney still has plenty of ammunition to make the counterargument, but the flow of economic data this week made it a little harder for him.

2. Close elections are caused by political division – makes mandates impossible

West 2 (Darrell M. West, PhD Indiana University, Political Science, 2002, Genesis Institute, InsidePolitics.org, “Divided America Produces Divided Election Results,” http://www.insidepolitics.org/heard/heard110800.html //nimo)

It was a historic election in many respects -- razor thin margins in the House and Senate, a presidential contest still too close to call the morning after the election, and the potential for a split result between the popular vote and the Electoral College. But what the 2000 election confirmed is what we have known for several years -- America is closely divided between Republican and Democratic visions. The tightness of the presidential, House, and Senate results shows neither party has a mandate for decisive action. Men, whites, country-dwellers, and those making over $100,000 tilted toward Bush and Republicans across the country, while women, minorities, and those with modest incomes leaned in favor of Gore and Democrats.

#### 3. We have the best internal link to the economy – without strong inland waterway we won’t be able to trade or revitalize the economy through investor confidence

#### 4. Voter partisanship precludes any large victory

Abramowitz 12 Alan I. Abramowitz, Senior Columnist and prof of political science at Emory July 12th, 2012

Saboto's Crystal Ball Fasten Your Seat Belts: Polarization, Weak Economy Forecast Very Close Election http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/abramowitzpolarizationmodel/

The unexpected closeness of all four presidential elections since 1996 suggests that growing partisan polarization is resulting in a decreased advantage for candidates favored by election fundamentals, including first-term incumbents. This change is the product of a close division between party supporters within the electorate and a decrease in the willingness of voters to cross party lines to vote for any candidate from the opposing party, including an incumbent. As a result, election outcomes tend to reflect the underlying division between supporters of the two major parties, and right now that division is very close. In fact, the last four presidential elections have produced the closest victory margins and the smallest inter-election vote swings of any four consecutive elections in the past century.

**5. There is no internal link between their link and impact evidence indicating that Romney will win.**

#### 6. The plan can't change the election – voters have already decided

Helling 12 DAVE HELLING, McClatchy Newspapers Miami Herald 7-22-12 "Is the race for president already over?"

http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/07/22/2906564/peoples-minds-are-made-up-unlikely.html

But a growing number of political scientists and campaign consultants - backed by the latest polling data - think the daily campaign back-and-forth is having no significant effect on voters. Most Americans have locked in their presidential decisions, polls released Thursday suggested, and the already small number of persuadable voters shrinks by the hour. Put another way: America could vote for president next week, and the outcome would probably be the same as it will be in November. "That's accurate, barring some really big, big event or change in the political environment," said Alan Abramowitz, a political science professor at Emory University in Atlanta, who has studied presidential voting patterns. Kenneth Warren, a political science professor at St. Louis University, agreed. "Most people have decided who they're going to vote for early on," he said. Recent polls show those who have decided are split almost evenly between Obama and Romney. In a CBS/New York Times poll, Romney led by 1 point. In a Fox News poll, he trailed Obama by 4 points. A National Public Radio poll found Obama leading by 2 points. A Gallup tracking poll over the same time period showed the race dead even. The average of polls puts the Obama advantage at 1.2 percent, according to Real Clear Politics, a political aggregation website. The incumbent has led Romney in that average by a one- to two-point margin since last October. Political scientists and consultants said there were several reasons for early presidential decision-making. In an Internet-cable-TV age, voters are pounded with political messages daily, helping them make up their minds far in advance of the election. An incumbent in the race makes at least one of the candidates a known quantity. And American voters are deeply divided, further cementing their choices.

#### 7. Issues won't help Romney – people just don't like him. He's already ahead on the issues

Tumulty 7-28-12 Karen Tumulty, The Washington Post Originally published Saturday, July 28, 2012 Seattle Times

<http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2018799201_likability29.html>

If you believe the polls, it would appear there is one big factor standing in the way of Mitt Romney being elected president: Americans don't like him as well as they do Barack Obama. That was confirmed again in a new USA Today-Gallup survey, where respondents gave Romney higher marks on every issue that voters say they care most about this year: the economy, jobs, taxes, the deficit. But President Obama crushed Romney — 60 percent to 30 percent — on the question of which of the two was more likable. In April, a Washington Post-ABC News poll found an even larger gap, with 64 percent of those surveyed describing Obama as the friendlier, more likable candidate, and only 26 percent saying that about Romney.