## NEG Elections Updates

### NEG Uniqueness: Obama Will Win Now

#### Obama will win a close election now:

Cameron **Joseph, 7/29/2012** (staff writer, “Election up for grabs with 100 days to go,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at <http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/240869-election-up-for-grabs-with-100-days-to-go>, rwg)

With 100 days until the 2012 election, President Obama has a tenuous lead, but the struggling economy hurts his bid for a second term. Obama leads Mitt Romney by a narrow margin in most national polls, and has a slightly wider lead in most swing states, giving Romney little room for error. But while Obama continues to lead Romney in personal likability — a major asset — there are few signs that Obama’s sustained summer attack on Romney’s business background has changed the contours of the race. The president, Romney and their allies have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on advertising since the general election campaign officially began, though neither side has been able to move the needle much. Polls have been remarkably unchanged during that period. Obama leads Romney by slightly more than one percentage point nationally, according to Real Clear Politics’ average of the national polls. That is nearly identical to where the polls had the race three months ago. In the swing states Obama has continued to hold a slight lead, and there is little hard evidence that the heavy spending by both sides has changed many voters’ minds.

#### Despite tightening, Obama will win the election now:

Brett **LoGiurato, 7/26/2012** (staff writer, “MOODY'S: Mitt Romney Is Gaining Ground On Obama In Crucial Swing States,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at <http://www.businessinsider.com/moodys-obama-romney-swing-states-electoral-college-map-2012-7>)

Moody's Analytics is out with its electoral forecast for July, and the sister company to the credit-rating agency sees the race tightening slightly in favor of presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney. Moody's latest analysis shows that Romney has made gains in crucial swing states, but Moody's still projects that President Barack Obama will win the election with 303 electoral votes to Romney's 235.

#### Obama will win now—electoral map favors Obama:

Steve **Urbanski, 7/29/2012** (staff writer, “If Romney wins Pennsylvania, he will be the next President,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at <http://www.examiner.com/article/if-romney-wins-pennsylvania-he-will-be-the-next-president>, rwg)

The electoral map favors Obama at this point The electoral map does not look good for Romney. If all of the toss up states are pushed into the column of the candidate who is currently leading in the RealClearPolitics average, Obama wins the election 332 to 206. Pennsylvania will see some Presidential candidate visits and attention, but as the election draws closer, don't expect a lot. Romney may end up doing to Pennsylvania what McCain did to Michigan in 2008 - pulling out to place badly needy resources elsewhere.

#### Obama will win now—low inflation numbers:

NATE **SILVER, 7/27/2012** (New York Times Election Analyst, “What the New G.D.P. Figures Mean for the Election,” <http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/27/what-the-new-g-d-p-figures-mean-for-the-election/>, rwg)

Growth at this rate would ordinarily make a president’s re-election prospects extremely tenuous: probably about 50-50, according to our model and others. The reason our economic index sees Mr. Obama as a very modest favorite for re-election is because it also considers inflation, which is assigned 15 percent of the weight. And inflation has been very low.

#### Obama will win now—swing state polls prove:

NATE **SILVER, 7/27/2012** (New York Times Election Analyst, “Ohio Polls Show Trouble for Romney,”

<http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/27/july-27-ohio-polls-show-trouble-for-romney/>, rwg)

I wrote earlier this week about some of the challenges in comparing state polls and national polls. Sometimes, apparent differences between the two sets of numbers can result from methodological quirks of the polling firms that are active in each arena, as well as random sampling error. With that said, we are starting to see a bit of a gap between our Electoral College and popular vote forecasts based on the latest polling data this week — one which potentially favors President Obama. In general, the polls from nonswing states this week, ranging from New Jersey to North Dakota, were mediocre for Mr. Obama. But his numbers held up better in swing states.

#### Narrow Obama victory is most likely outcome:

Greg **Sheridan, 7/19/2012** (staff writer, “Obama's political judo will deliver a knockout,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/obamas-political-judo-will-deliver-a-knockout/story-e6frg76f-1226429418931>, rwg)

If either candidate wins 52-48, or even 51-49, it is all but certain that he will win the presidency. But if the margin is 50.2 to 49.8 the electoral college numbers in the swing states become very important -- the mid-west, and the rocky mountain states will be the real battleground. One looming factor will be the automatic budget cuts and tax increases which kick into effect in January if there is no budget deal. These would be savage. My guess is that if Romney wins there will be a budget deal because the Democrats will feel chastened. If Obama wins by a wafer, I wouldn't guarantee a Republican propensity to compromise. Nonetheless, I think a narrow Obama victory the most likely outcome.

#### Obama has a 66.4 chance of winning the election now:

NATE **SILVER, 7/26/2012** (New York Times Election Analyst, “The Calm Before Critical Economic News,” <http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/26/july-26-the-calm-before-critical-economic-news/>, Accessed 7/30/2012, rwg)

The polling news was mixed for the candidates. A survey in Missouri showed Mitt Romney well ahead there, and another in New Jersey showed a smaller lead for Mr. Obama than others in the state. But Mr. Obama got a stronger number in a Nevada poll, a more critical state in the Electoral College, which put him ahead by five points there. Mr. Obama’s chances of winning the Electoral College rose in our model, to 66.4 percent from 65.0 percent, mostly because the stock market gain slightly bolstered the model’s economic index.

#### Economy makes Obama a slight favorite now:

Mike **Dorning, 7/27/2012** (staff writer, “Obama Holds Slim Re-Election Edge With Slow GDP Growth,”

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-07-27/slow-growth-leaves-room-for-obama-to-win-re-election>, Accessed 7/30/2012, rwg)

The slow growth reported for the second quarter is enough to allow President Barack Obama an edge in his re-election bid, according to a forecasting model based on the economy and polling data. The U.S. economy grew at a 1.5 percent annual rate from April through June, in line with forecasts and slowing from a revised 2.0 percent rate during the first three months of the year, the Commerce Department reported today. “It puts Obama just barely above the break-even point,” said Alan Abramowitz, a political science professor at Emory University in Atlanta and developer of the forecasting model. “Mainly it tells me we’re heading to a very close election and Obama is a slight favorite.”

#### Obama will win in a tight race now:

Greg **Sheridan, 7/19/2012** (staff writer, “Obama's political judo will deliver a knockout,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/obamas-political-judo-will-deliver-a-knockout/story-e6frg76f-1226429418931>, rwg)

HERE'S the dope. Barack Obama will be re-elected president in November, beating the Republican challenger, Mitt Romney. But it will be a tight race. My guess is the margin will be quite slim. Obama will win in the way George W. Bush beat John Kerry in 2004, and for many of the same reasons.

#### Odds of Obama victory is about 55-60 percent now:

Greg **Sheridan, 7/19/2012** (staff writer, “Obama's political judo will deliver a knockout,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/obamas-political-judo-will-deliver-a-knockout/story-e6frg76f-1226429418931>, rwg)

I am in America at the 20th anniversary meeting of the Australian American Leadership Dialogue. It is a great time to be in Washington, because this is a very live election. Romney still has an excellent chance of winning. Indeed, all the preconditions for an Obama defeat are there. But I rate Obama's chances as about 55 to 60 per cent, and Romney's at 40 to 45 per cent.

#### Obama will win now—Romney’s business experience is boomeranging on him:

Greg **Sheridan, 7/19/2012** (staff writer, “Obama's political judo will deliver a knockout,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/obamas-political-judo-will-deliver-a-knockout/story-e6frg76f-1226429418931>, rwg)

So why do I think he will still win? Notwithstanding everything listed above, Obama is still well liked. He is not loved as Ronald Reagan was, but he is not despised as Richard Nixon was, nor held in broad public contempt as was Jimmy Carter. And presidential elections are a referendum on the incumbent. The anti-Obama factor is there, but it is not strong enough to guarantee his loss. Enter Romney. Obama, in a brilliant if ruthless political judo trick, has taken what should have been Romney's greatest strength -- his business experience -- and made it into his greatest weakness. This is what reminds me so much of 2004. In that election Kerry wanted to make a great deal of his heroic war service in Vietnam, in contrast to Bush, who had had a brief stint, part-time, in the National Guard but never served in uniform overseas. Instead, the Bush team used Kerry's political opposition to the war, and his unwillingness to disclose some elements of his war service, to build a cloud of troubling doubt about Kerry's fitness to command. Kerry gave an excruciating military salute at the Democratic nominating convention, showing he thought this was a key to his political persona, and the whole of America laughed, or felt embarrassed. Thus, although the preconditions for Bush's defeat were in place, he eked out a narrow but clear victory. This is what I expect Obama to do to Romney. For unknowable reasons, Romney is unwilling to release more than two years of his tax returns. Similarly, it seems unclear when Romney left the firm he founded, Bain. There is nothing to suggest any wrongdoing by Romney, who was clearly successful as a businessman, governor, and, in the Salt Lake City Olympics, an administrator.

### NEG Uniqueness: AT: Romney’s Fundraising Advantage Means He Wins

#### Romney’s fundraising advantage won’t win him the election:

Dan **Eggen, 7/28/2012** (staff writer, “In 2012 campaign, Obama and Romney inundate swing states with ads,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/in-2012-campaign-obama-and-romney-inundate-swing-states-with-ads/2012/07/28/gJQACnHzGX_story.html>, rwg)

Obama advisers say that, even if he is outspent on the airwaves, they are confident that his massive ground operation and get-out-the-vote efforts will tip the scales. Romney spent nearly all the money that he raised during his fight for the GOP nomination earlier this year, while Obama used that time to open offices and hire staff. “Grass-roots giving is what’s powering this campaign,” said Obama campaign spokesman Adam Fetcher. “Our donor base is as diverse as the country is, and we are succeeding at reactivating longtime supporters and finding new ones.”

### NEG Uniqueness: AT: Health Care Hurts Obama

**Health care won’t hurt Obamas chances**

**Bacon 12** (Perry Jr, journalist at TheGrio at NBC news, covers African-American issues, “Why the health care ruling won’t hurt Obama’s chances in November,” June 26, <http://thegrio.com/2012/06/26/why-the-health-care-ruling-wont-hurt-obamas-chances-in-november/> lj)

¶ Perhaps the most-hyped Supreme Court decision of all-time may have little impact on who wins the presidential race.¶ ¶ Why not? Because health care is not a top-of-mind issue with most voters, particularly the undecided who will decide if Barack Obama or Mitt Romney wins the election. Polls consistently show the economy as by far the most important issue to most Americans. In a recent Gallup survey, 68 percent of people cited economic issues as the biggest challenges the country is facing today, while only 6 percent named health care.¶ ¶ Those polls suggest a slim majority of Americans oppose the law, while only about 40 percent back it. But many of these same surveys show Obama ahead, suggesting there are voters who don’t agree with the law but still support the president, and voters who oppose the law but won’t back Romney simply on that basis.¶ ¶ According to a recent Pew Research Center poll, more than 80 percent of Republicans oppose the law, while more than 70 percent of Democrats support it, unsurprising numbers in an increasingly-partisan country. In short, for most people in America, their view on the health care law is determined by which party they belong to.¶ ¶ That Pew survey showed 55 percent of independents opposed the law, while just 36 percent support it, a potential problem for the president. But Pew survey has showed Obama ahead of Romney by four points in the race.¶ ¶ And the Supreme Court decision ruling is unlikely to shift how Americans view the law or President Obama in a dramatic way. While many Americans don’t know the details of the law, it was extensively covered in 2009 and 2010 by the press, and people have strongly held views on whether they like it or not. The part of the law that is widely expected to be struck down, the individual mandate, is already unpopular with the majority of voters.¶ ¶ Views on the Supreme Court decision are likely to track along partisan lines, with Democrats praising parts of the opinion that support Obama’s views and Republicans extolling the court when it takes on the president.¶ ¶ What will change after Thursday? The decision will shift how the two candidates approach the issue. Obama, who has spent little time on the campaign trail discussing health care, may now press Romney on how and if he will cover Americans who suffer from chronic illnesses, who may have trouble getting insurance if the mandate is struck down.¶ ¶ Romney, who has long criticized the law, is likely to attack Obama, who was a constitutional law professor, for spending a year pushing a provision the Supreme Court then ruled was unconstitutional.¶ ¶ But like Obama’s decision to embrace gay marriage, which produced little change in the polls, the health care ruling will play less of a role in determining who wins the presidential race than the monthly reports on unemployment.

**Nobody cares about health care**

**Bernstein 12** (Jonathan, political scientist and contributor to the Washington Post and the New Republic, “Why the Obamacare Verdict Won’t Have Any Effect on the 2012 Election,” Mar 28, <http://www.tnr.com/article/politics/102090/obamacare-supreme-court-election-2012> lj)

¶ Several people are calling the Supreme Court sessions on the Affordable Care Act the most important since Bush v. Gore. The case is certainly critically important to the fate of the law, and with it the future of health care, the federal budget, and perhaps the U.S. economy. But you know what’s not riding on the Court’s decision, despite plenty of hype? The 2012 election. The truth is that the decision in this case will likely have little or no effect on Obama v. Romney.¶ ¶ There are two reasons for this. First, most events have much less staying power than we expect they do. Even truly important events—take, for example, the September 11 attacks—fade. Of course, events can have lasting effects, including electoral impact, even after we stop being aware of them. But it’s not at all hard to find a half dozen or more events that are said to be election-changing when they happen, only to disappear without a trace months later. No, Barack Obama’s church didn’t wind up dominating the November 2008 election; nor did how many houses John McCain owned. Or, for a (slightly!) more substantive issue: Remember when everyone cared so much about the federal government’s credit rating? When was the last time that was mentioned? The Supreme Court will likely decide the fate of ACA in June, some five months before Election Day; there will be dozens of headlines between decision day and when voters go to the polls. Unless one of the candidates puts a lot of effort into keeping it in the news, it’s not going to be on people’s minds.¶ ¶ The second reason is just that the room for influencing the vote is much less than some believe. Most voters are partisans, and are going to vote on that basis (that includes those who say they are independent but lean to one party, who tend to behave just like weak partisans do). For swing voters, health care reform must compete with everything else: the economy, the death of bin Laden and the continuing war in Afghanistan, and whatever smaller issues affect them personally. Indeed, this was already visible among Republicans during the presidential nomination battle. If ACA was really a make-or-break priority, there’s no way that Mitt Romney would have emerged as the GOP pick. That’s not to say that people don’t care about it; it’s just that they care about it as a function of, say, disliking Barack Obama. For a large number of opponents, if it wasn’t health care, it would be something else.¶ ¶ Some people may, in fact, care enough about health care reform that it will affect their vote. But I’m even more skeptical of the idea that anyone cares about the Constitutional issues that the Court will be discussing. I can’t imagine there are more than a handful of people who basically support the ideas behind ACA but are reluctant to approve of the law—and thus support the president—unless it receives a SCOTUS seal of approval.¶ ¶ Of course, whatever people care about now, if a campaign highlights an issue in the fall then people will start to care about it then. That’s not unusual. Something that people normally wouldn’t care about at all can be far more salient because candidates talk about it—after all, Republicans who would never have been affected by the law themselves cared quite a bit about inheritance taxes over the last decade because Republican politicians talked about that tax all the time.¶ ¶ But the Court decision likely won’t affect the calculation of the campaigns. If Romney believes that he’ll be helped by calling ACA an unprecedented power grab, he won’t be prevented from doing that if the Justices decided it’s constitutional. If Barack Obama wants to brag about the popular bits of health care reform (and the individual mandate is certainly not one of those), then he’ll do so, regardless of what the Court thinks. That’s probably true even in the unlikely event that the entire ACA is thrown out, but it’s certainly true if the law is only partially tossed. Sometimes people will say that a candidate “can’t” argue something or another, but that’s almost never true. Just as Mitt Romney is perfectly capable of attacking Barack Obama for “Obamacare” despite the very similar law Romney passed in Massachusetts, Romney will be capable of still calling ACA an abuse of power even if the Court disagrees—and Obama will be capable of praising it even if the Court takes down major portions. That’s especially true if many of the more popular provisions would remain intact, such as phasing out the donut hole for Medicare drug prescriptions or keeping children on their parent’s insurance until they turn 26. And fortunately for the Obama campaign, barring the unlikely event that the Court strikes down the entire law, there should be several of those feel-good items that dodge the bullet.¶ ¶ The Supreme Court decision over health care reform will certainly be substantively important. Should the law survive, and should Barack Obama survive the 2012 election, then health care reform will actually be enacted. But don’t expect the Court’s decision to affect what happens in November—the justices’ power doesn’t extend to the voting booth.

#### Nobody cares about health care:

**Logiurato 12** (Brett, political reporter for Business Insider, 6-29, “Here's Why 2012 Won't Be The 'Obamacare Election’” <http://www.businessinsider.com/supreme-courts-obamacare-decision-wont-have-too-much-election-impact-2012-6> lj)
After the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act on Thursday, Republican presidential nominee Mitt

Romney is placing renewed emphasis on the issue of "repealing Obamacare" in the 2012 election. ¶ But here's why it might not have much of an effect on the race between Romney and President Barack Obama: America doesn't rank it as an issue of high importance.¶ A new Gallup poll finds that health care down on the voter issue list of importance. Health care is No. 5 on the issue list, behind the general economy, jobs, "dissatisfaction with government" and the federal budget deficit.¶ Moreover, Health care ranks as the top issue for just 6 percent of respondents — well behind the 31 percent who rank the economy as their top issue.

### NEG Uniqueness: Obama Winning Rust Belt Now

#### Obama winning in Ohio now

Andrews July 27

(Cindi, 7-27-12, “Obama, HUD secretary book trips to Ohio”, <http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20120727/NEWS01/307270132/Obama-HUD-secretary-book-trips-Ohio?odyssey=nav|head>, twm)

President Barack Obama is returning to the heart of Ohio’s rust belt next week – his ninth visit to the state this year and the third visit by an Obama in three weeks. No word yet on whether Republican opponent Mitt Romney will make tracks here, as well.¶ Obama will visit Akron and Mansfield on Wednesday as part of a swing through three swing states, his campaign has announced. He’ll visit Orlando, Fla., and Leesburg, Va., on Thursday. Ohio, Florida and Virginia are among the largest states that aren’t firmly in either camp as the fall presidential election approaches.¶ Recent polls put Obama ahead in Ohio by 2 to 9 percentage points; Quinnipiac University found him leading Romney 47 percent to 38 percent in late June, with a margin of error of 2.8 percent.¶ The president was in Cincinnati on July 16, and First Lady Michelle Obama was in Columbus and Dayton earlier this week.¶ Obama’s campaign said his speeches next week will focus on rebuilding the economy “from the middle out” and cutting taxes for the middle class.¶ Christopher Maloney, Romney’s spokesman, said: “With 420,000 Ohioans looking for work, it’s clear that President Obama’s frequent fundraising and campaign trips are taking their toll on his ability to fix our struggling economy.”¶ However, Maloney had no comment Friday afternoon about Romney’s schedule next week. The presumptive Republican nominee has often made trips to Ohio within days of Obama.¶ In addition to the president’s visit, Shaun Donovan, his secretary of Housing and Urban Development, will also be in Ohio next week. Donovan will talk about Obama’s proposal to allow homeowners who owe more than their homes are worth to refinance. He will be in Cleveland on Monday with U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown and in Cincinnati on Tuesday with Mayor Mark Mallory.

#### Obama will win Ohio now because of the recovery of the auto industry in Ohio:

NATE **SILVER, 7/27/2012** (New York Times Election Analyst, “Ohio Polls Show Trouble for Romney,”

<http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/27/july-27-ohio-polls-show-trouble-for-romney/>, rwg)

Although state economic statistics have only modest predictive power as compared with the national numbers, Mr. Obama may be benefiting from the fact that Ohio’s unemployment rate has fallen substantially — to 7.3 percent from a peak of 10.6 percent. Had the national unemployment rate declined by a similar margin, Mr. Obama would likely be a clear favorite in the election right now. Much of the gain in Ohio has been from auto industry jobs, a relative bright spot in the economy, and a potential problem for Mr. Romney since he opposed the federal bailout of the major auto makers.

#### Obama is winning Ohio now:

Steve **Urbanski, 7/29/2012** (staff writer, “If Romney wins Pennsylvania, he will be the next President,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at <http://www.examiner.com/article/if-romney-wins-pennsylvania-he-will-be-the-next-president>, rwg)

Ohio is a big problem for Romney. Although most people think of Michigan as the automobile capital of the United States, the auto industry is very big in Ohio. Many of those Reagan Democrats work in the auto industry or auto industry related businesses in Ohio. Romney made no friends in the Buckeye State when he opposed the auto industry bailout and said "Let Detroit go bankrupt." The polls seem to reflect this. Romney has only lead in 3 out of 22 polls conducted in Ohio since the beginning of 2012, and Obama hold an average lead of 5.0 points in recent polls.

#### Obama ahead in the Rust belt now – Democratic incumbents prove.

Kane and Nakamura 12

(Paul and David, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/obama-begins-rust-belt-tour-assisted-by-popular-senators/2012/07/05/gJQAAgbKPW_story.html>, “Obama begins Rust Belt tour, assisted by popular senators”, 7-5-12, twm)

The 2010 Republican electoral rout in the industrial Rust Belt was decisive and complete, with the GOP sweeping the gubernatorial and Senate races in the presidential battleground states of Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan. In the aftermath, Democratic prospects for 2012, particularly President Obama’s, seemed bleak.¶ But less than two years later, the dynamics have changed. Things are looking up for the president, and the best evidence may be three Senate Democrats who will head into the final sprint of this year’s campaign as clear favorites, having weathered the worst of the tea party storm in the region.¶ President Obama told an Ohio campaign crowd that he's betting they won't lose interest in the November election despite political stalemates. He says the outcome will determine the nation's economic future for the next 10 to 20 years.¶ President Obama told an Ohio campaign crowd that he's betting they won't lose interest in the November election despite political stalemates. He says the outcome will determine the nation's economic future for the next 10 to 20 years.¶ Their good standing and an improving economy in the area are encouraging for the president, who desperately needs to engage white working-class voters in these must-win states.¶ Obama is helped by the better-than-average employment picture in Ohio and Pennsylvania, both of which recorded a rate of 7.3 percent in May, while the national level remained at 8.2 percent. Michigan’s unemployment rate in May was 8.5 percent.¶ The economic instability that continues to threaten Obama’s reelection hopes has not been a vulnerability for Democratic incumbents in these states.¶ Approval ratings for Sens. Sherrod Brown (Ohio), Robert P. Casey Jr. (Pa.) and Debbie Stabenow (Mich.) have held steady despite continued unease among voters about the pace of the economic recovery and an overall disgust toward Congress, providing some optimism for how Obama can campaign in this critical part of the country.¶ As he embarked Thursday on a two-day bus tour through Ohio and Pennsylvania, the president had Brown at his side. He will stump with Casey on Friday. The tour, which runs from Toledo to Pittsburgh, presents a stark contrast to the 2010 midterm-election campaigns, when virtually no endangered Democratic incumbent sought the spotlight with Obama.¶ Some experts think that these Democrats might be able to help shore up the president’s support among wavering party members and swing voters. This is particularly true of Casey, who endorsed Obama early in 2008. The senator has deep support in western, central and northeastern Pennsylvania, areas of uncertainty for the president that have created an opening for Republican challenger Mitt Romney and his party to contemplate an upset in the state.¶ “Casey will be so far ahead that he can be a messenger to blue-collar voters,” said former Pennsylvania governor Edward G. Rendell (D).¶ On the bus tour his campaign is calling “Betting on America,” Obama spent his first day emphasizing gains in manufacturing and his administration’s bailout of the U.S. auto industry, hoping to appeal to voters in areas with many union workers. The title is an unsubtle jab at Romney, who has faced questions about offshore personal bank accounts and investments by Bain Capital, made during his time as head of the firm, in companies that eventually outsourced jobs abroad.¶ “When the American auto industry was on the brink of collapse . . . Governor Romney said we should just let Detroit go bankrupt,” Obama told a crowd of 500 supporters in this manufacturing town just south of Toledo. “I refused to turn my back on communities like this one. . . . And three years later, the American auto industry is coming roaring back.” The president is paying special attention to Ohio, where he began his 2012 campaign with a speech in Columbus in May and delivered a major address on the economy in Cleveland last month. The Buckeye State has voted for the winning candidate in 10 consecutive presidential elections, and no Republican has won the presidency without capturing Ohio. Consequently, both campaigns are spending much time and ­advertising money in the state.¶ A Quinnipiac poll released last week gave Obama an edge in Ohio (47 percent to 38 percent) and Pennsylvania (45 percent to 39 percent).

### NEG Uniqueness: Obama Will Win Latino Vote Now

#### Obama has a huge lead among Latinos now:

DAVID **LIGHTMAN, 7/18/2012** (staff writer, <http://miamiherald.typepad.com/nakedpolitics/2012/07/obama-opens-up-big-lead-in-poll-of-latino-voters.html>, Accessed 7/30/2012, rwg)

WASHINGTON -- President Barack Obama has a 70-22 percent lead over Republican challenger Mitt Romney among Latino voters, according to a new poll released Wednesday. The Latino Decisions national survey comes about a month after both candidates spoke to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, and have made strong pitches for the Hispanic vote. Romney Wednesday unveiled a new Spanish language ad, and both he and Obama have intense efforts in states with large Latino populations--often swing states where the vote could determine the close outcome. Obama had failed to stir great enthusiasm among many Latino voters until recently. But his June 15 directive allowing many younger undocumented workers to stay in this country gave him a boost. The poll found that among foreign-born, naturalized citizens Obama leads 72-19 percent, and among U.S.-born Latinos he leads 69-25 percent.

### NEG Uniqueness: AT: Romney Olympics Gaffes Thump the Link

#### Romney’s Olympics gaffes won’t hurt him:

Julie Hirschfeld **Davis, 7/28/2012** (staff writer, “Romney’s Gaffe Joins Quayle’s Potatoe on Gore’s Internet,” <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-07-27/romney-s-gaffe-joins-quayle-s-potatoe-on-gore-s-internet>, Accessed 7/30/2012, rwg)

The mistakes may not have much shelf-life, given that they occurred overseas and will soon be overtaken by the Olympic Games, said political science professor Steven Frantzich. “The ones that are damaging are ones that really reflect a candidate’s character or ability, and particularly ones that are repeated so that it becomes a storyline of its own,” said Frantzich, who teaches at U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and has written a book about political gaffes.

#### Americans don’t care about Romney’s Olympics gaffes—they care about events back home:

Julie Hirschfeld **Davis, 7/28/2012** (staff writer, “Romney’s Gaffe Joins Quayle’s Potatoe on Gore’s Internet,” <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-07-27/romney-s-gaffe-joins-quayle-s-potatoe-on-gore-s-internet>, Accessed 7/30/2012, rwg)

The former Massachusetts governor’s allies say Americans couldn’t care less about perceived insults and mistakes in England. “We’re not worried about overseas headlines -- we’re worried about voters back here at home in America,” Louisiana Republican Governor Bobby Jindal told reporters during a conference call July 26.

### NEG Elections Link—Green Tech

#### The plan puts a focus on green tech which hurts Obama’s chance to win the election.

Munro 12

(Neil, http://dailycaller.com/2012/05/30/democrats-squirm-at-solyndra-vs-bain-questions/

“Democrats squirm at Solyndra vs. Bain questions” 5-30-12, twm)

Republicans are scoffing at Democrats’ attempts to explain why President Barack Obama’s failed green-tech investments are unimportant but Mitt Romney’s few failures at Bain Capital, an otherwise wildly successful private equity firm, are a scandal.¶ Obama deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter tried out the new tactic during a May 30 appearance on MSNBC’s “Daily Rundown,” when she was asked about the president’s support for Solyndra.¶ “The president’s not picking winners and losers, he’s making strategic investment to promote clean energy,” she said. “Mitt Romney’s role at Bain Capital was to make profits for his investors and for himself. … There were winners and losers, but Mitt Romney always won.”¶ Solyndra went bankrupt in 2010 after being given $535 million in taxpayers’ funds, and has since become a GOP watchword for crony capitalism.¶ The Solyndra money is a small portion of a larger $70 billion effort by the White House industrial policy to displace oil and gas energy with green-tech, including windmills, algae and the Chevy Volt.¶ Public debate over green-tech waste is damaging to Obama’s 2012 campaign because of the lack of tangible payoff in terms of increased employment.¶ “Well, no, it’s not fair. … Let’s just take a look at the facts of Solyndra,” Cutter said at the start of a 104-second answer.¶ On Tuesday, Carney fended off a similar question with a 42-second evasive answer. “Look, there, there, there is the … the difference in that … your overall view of what your responsibilities are as president, and what your view of the economic future is,” he said.¶ Republicans scoffed at the answers from Cutter and Carney.¶ “Obama’s investment decisions were infused with politics, based on political optics and not workers’ fates, and the administration chose winners and losers — all while taxpayers held the bag,” said a statement from Jonathan Collegio, the communications director at the GOP-aligned American Crossroads group.¶ Joe Pounder, the research director at the Republican National Committee. sent reporters a series of quotes from officials showing cooperation between White House officials and Solyndra executives and lobbyists.¶ “Obama’s deputy campaign manager tried to explain why it was okay that Solyndra laid off 1,100 workers after Obama invested taxpayer money and Obama administration officials sat in on board meetings,” Pounder said.

### NEG Links: Now Key Time

#### History proves: now is the key time for the election:

Chris **Cillizza, 7/19/2012** (staff writer, “Is the 2012 election the 2004 election all over again?”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/post/is-the-2012-election-the-2004-election-all-over-again/2012/07/19/gJQAaaU2wW_blog.html>, Accessed 7/30/2012, rwg)

It’s a critical time for both candidates. While most Americans tend to zone out of politics over the summer — and all the way through the two party conventions — the groundwork for the sprint to November is being laid now. (Remember that August is when Bush started making his move.)

### NEG Links: Ohio Key to Election

#### Ohio key to the election—very hard for Romney to win without it:

NATE **SILVER, 7/27/2012** (New York Times Election Analyst, “Ohio Polls Show Trouble for Romney,”

<http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/27/july-27-ohio-polls-show-trouble-for-romney/>, rwg)

However, the model now assigns just a 1.3 percent chance to the reverse happening: Mr. Romney’s winning the Electoral College while losing the popular vote. Ohio is a big part of the reason. It’s by no means impossible that Mr. Romney could win the Electoral College despite losing Ohio, but it would be an uphill battle.

### NEG Elections Links: Florida Key to Election

#### Florida key to the election—if Obama wins it, he wins:

Steve **Urbanski, 7/29/2012** (staff writer, “If Romney wins Pennsylvania, he will be the next President,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at <http://www.examiner.com/article/if-romney-wins-pennsylvania-he-will-be-the-next-president>, rwg)

Florida is not really a total Southern state. Whereas the northern part votes like a Southern state, the southern part votes like New York. The middle of the state (Disney World country) is the truly swing part of Florida. Bush won the middle and the state in 2004, Obama won the middle and the state in 2008. Polls in Florida are very close, with a slight edge to Obama. If Obama wins Florida, it's on to a second term. If Romney wins Florida, he still has some work to do.

### Elections Impacts: Warming Hurts the Poor

#### Warming devastates the world’s poor:

**World Wildlife Fund, 9/9/2005** (“GLOBAL WARMING AND POVERTY,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at

<http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/factsheetmdgsfinal.pdf>, rwg)

Global warming is already happening. Its impact is being felt most by the world’s poorest people. Food production, water supplies, public health, and people’s livelihoods are all being damaged and undermined. Global warming threatens to reverse human progress, making the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for poverty reduction unachievable. Industrialized countries must lead the switch from polluting fossil-fuel based energy systems to clean energy – they have the biggest historical and present share of emissions, the best investment possibilities, and a large, highly skilled workforce. The new models for energy development must apply in industrialized countries as well as in less-developed countries.

### Elections Impacts: Disabled Rights

#### DA Turns the case: Obama is good for disabled rights:

**CNN.com, 7/26/2010** (“Obama marks 20th anniversary of landmark disabled rights law,”

<http://articles.cnn.com/2010-07-26/politics/obama.disabled_1_americans-with-disabilities-act-disabled-people-ada?_s=PM:POLITICS>, rwg)

President Barack Obama commemorated Monday's 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act by signing an executive order to increase government employment of disabled people. "Not dependence but independence: That's what the ADA was all about," Obama said at a White House reception attended by several hundred guests, including Cabinet members, legislators and activists for the disabled. The law, which President George H.W. Bush signed July 26, 1990, is credited with smashing barriers and creating opportunities for the disabled in a nation where more than 3 million people 15 and older use wheelchairs.

#### Obama solving disabled rights now:

**CNN.com, 7/26/2010** (“Obama marks 20th anniversary of landmark disabled rights law,”

<http://articles.cnn.com/2010-07-26/politics/obama.disabled_1_americans-with-disabilities-act-disabled-people-ada?_s=PM:POLITICS>, rwg)

The executive order signed by Obama calls for strategic planning, mandatory training and other steps to increase federal hiring of people with disabilities. In addition, Obama said, the Department of Justice was publishing rules to prohibit disability-based discrimination by state and local governments as well as private businesses. He called the 1990 law "one of the most comprehensive civil rights bills in the history of this country" and cited examples of people who faced discrimination for their disabilities or overcame them.

## Neg Jackson-Vanik Updates

### Jackson-Vanik UQ Updates—Repeal Will Pass

#### Jackson-Vanik repeal will pass now:

Vicki **Needham, 7/22/2012** (staff writer, “Optimism grows Russia trade bill will pass before August recess,” <http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/1005-trade/239335-optimism-grows-that-congress-can-pass-russia-trade-bill-before-august-recess>, Accessed 7/30/2012, rwg)

Optimism is rising among lawmakers and trade advocates that Congress can pass a Russian trade bill before the August recess. The bill to normalize trade relations with Moscow, which appeared hopelessly stalled before a Senate Finance Committee markup, found new life after winning unanimous support among panel members following an agreement crafted by Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and top Republican Orrin Hatch of Utah. While actions last week — moving the joint trade and human rights bill through Senate Finance and locking in a bipartisan deal in the House — provide greater hope that Congress can get a bill to President Obama's desk before Russia joins the World Trade Organization next month, lawmakers are running short on time. "I remain confident this will get done by the August recess," Christopher Wenk, head of international policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce told The Hill on Friday.

### Jackson-Vanik: UQ Doesn’t Overwhelm Link

#### Uniqueness doesn’t overwhelm the link: no guarantees on Jackson-Vanik:

Vicki **Needham, 7/22/2012** (staff writer, “Optimism grows Russia trade bill will pass before August recess,” <http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/1005-trade/239335-optimism-grows-that-congress-can-pass-russia-trade-bill-before-august-recess>, Accessed 7/30/2012, rwg)

The broad support in the Senate Finance Committee for a bill that combines the repeal of the 37-year-old Jackson-Vanik provision to grant permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with a measure that punishes Russian officials involved in the death of whistleblower lawyer Sergei Magnitsky seemed to simultaneously surprise trade watchers and pave the way for a final resolution. Although the chances for the bill to clear Congress are looking up, and the measure represents a bright spot amid the legislative logjam in Congress, there are no guarantees, supporters caution. "Based on what I’ve been hearing, I wouldn’t say that they’re [lawmakers] confident about getting it done before the August recess," said Ed Gerwin, a senior fellow for trade and global economic policy at Third Way. While progress was made this week, there also are "a lot of moving pieces that would still have to break the right way" for the bill to move in time, Gerwin said.

## AFF Elections Updates

### AFF UQ: Romney Will Win Now

#### Romney will win—he is winning with likely voters:

Dick **Morris, 7/18/2012** (Fox News Analyst, “Dick Morris: Romney will win battleground states,”

<http://www.foxnews.com/on-air/oreilly/2012/07/19/dick-morris-romney-will-win-battleground-states>, Accessed 7/30/2012, rwg)

MORRIS: Among those who do vote which is the likely voter poll, Scott Rasmussen today has it at 47-44 Romney. Now, when 44 percent of the people are voting for Obama and even in some of these swing states as much as 47 percent are, that means he's going to lose the state.

#### Romney will win—undecided voters will break for Romney:

Dick **Morris, 7/18/2012** (Fox News Analyst, “Dick Morris: Romney will win battleground states,”

<http://www.foxnews.com/on-air/oreilly/2012/07/19/dick-morris-romney-will-win-battleground-states>, Accessed 7/30/2012, rwg)

Now, the President starts a little higher because he's got states like California and New York and Washington State, fairly significant electoral votes there. So he's starting a little bit higher than Mitt Romney. But as you said, in states like Michigan, that's in play this time around. MORRIS: Yes. I've studied all the polls in the different states, and I think Romney is going to win almost all of the battleground states. I think he's going to win Virginia, Florida, New Mexico. O'REILLY: But that's based on your wish, not reality, right? MORRIS: No, it's based on reality because I've been through hundreds of elections with incumbents running against challengers, hundreds of them, and the incumbent always loses the vast bulk of the undecided vote.

#### Romney will win—he has a fundraising advantage:

Dan **Eggen, 7/28/2012** (staff writer, “In 2012 campaign, Obama and Romney inundate swing states with ads,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/in-2012-campaign-obama-and-romney-inundate-swing-states-with-ads/2012/07/28/gJQACnHzGX_story.html>, rwg)

Barack Obama rode to victory in 2008 on a record wave of fundraising that allowed him to drown his opponent in advertising and rack up victories far into Republican territory. But with just 100 days until the 2012 election, President Obama faces a far more difficult financial task in his bid for reelection — battling a well-funded challenger in a narrow band of swing states, which will be inundated with attack ads and campaign visits.

### AFF: Uniqueness: Obama Losing Rust Belt Now

#### Popularity of democratic senators in Rust Belt won’t help Obama

Kane and Nakamura 12

(Paul and David, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/obama-begins-rust-belt-tour-assisted-by-popular-senators/2012/07/05/gJQAAgbKPW_story.html>, “Obama begins Rust Belt tour, assisted by popular senators”, 7-5-12, twm)

The Romney campaign is not ceding any ground, however, dispatching Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) and former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty (R) to make appearances along Obama’s bus route to counter the president’s message.¶ Despite the positive trends for Obama, some political analysts doubt that the popularity of Democratic senators in the Rust Belt will be enough to secure a victory for him, especially if Friday’s employment report shows a third consecutive month of sluggish growth.¶ “It’s not something that you can transfer from one person to another,” said Mike Dawson, a former GOP adviser to Ohio politicians.¶ Neil Oxman, Rendell’s former campaign consultant, agreed that it’s going to be difficult for the Democratic Senate candidates to boost Obama, but he suggested that it’s always better to have other popular candidates on the ticket.

### AFF: No Link To Elections

#### No link: voters in this election are unpersuadable:

Steve **Urbanski, 7/29/2012** (staff writer, “If Romney wins Pennsylvania, he will be the next President,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at <http://www.examiner.com/article/if-romney-wins-pennsylvania-he-will-be-the-next-president>, rwg)

Of course no votes have been cast, yet, and the actual electoral college doesn't vote until December., however, if we add up all the solidly Red or Blue states, Obama has about a 40 electoral vote advantage, roughly 231 to 191. These totals are based on historical trends and an averaging of polling over the past few months. Surprisingly, these numbers haven't changed much in that period of time. This is not a very fluid election. Most people fall into the unpersuadable category - that is their opinion or Presidential preference will not change between now and election day.

#### Huge number of ads means neither side can breakthrough:

Dan **Eggen, 7/28/2012** (staff writer, “In 2012 campaign, Obama and Romney inundate swing states with ads,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/in-2012-campaign-obama-and-romney-inundate-swing-states-with-ads/2012/07/28/gJQACnHzGX_story.html>, rwg)

Many of those targets are out of reach this year, resulting in a much heavier dose of advertising in the remaining swing states. Many voters are already turned off by the deluge, making it even harder for Obama or Romney to break through, according to experts and voter interviews.

#### Personal likeability means Obama will win no matter what policies are adopted:

Kathleen **Hennessey, 7/28/2012** (staff writer, “Obama outranks Romney on likability, polls show,”

<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/jul/28/nation/la-na-obama-likability-20120729>, Accessed 7/30/2012, rwg)

The economy is in the tank and hopes for quick improvement are dim. Most people don't like the direction the country is headed and many blame President Obama. And his GOP rival scores better on the top issues. So why isn't Obama doing worse in the polls? One likely reason: Voters like him more than Mitt Romney. Obama's job approval ratings long ago plummeted from his halcyon postelection days. But the president's favorability — the catchall measure that pollsters say reflects voters' gut feelings about a politician — has been resilient. Despite a recession, a sluggish jobless recovery, an oil spill, an unpopular healthcare law and a string of ugly tussles with Congress, Obama's favorability is 54%, according to a recent USA Today-Gallup poll. Respondents were essentially divided on Romney, who had a 46% favorability rating. When asked about likability, respondents favored Obama, 60% to 30%. Included in that barometer is a group of personal traits more consequential than just being nice. Obama gets high marks on honesty and trustworthiness. And most voters say he shares their values and cares about people like them. And, by some accounts, voters really like the president. Two-thirds of voters surveyed recently by the Wall Street Journal and NBC said they liked Obama personally. Romney, the unofficial Republican nominee, was personally liked by 47%. "Basically, it looks like Romney's personality is holding him back and Obama's likability is helping him," said Jeffrey M. Jones, managing editor for the Gallup Poll. "It seems frivolous, but it matters."

#### Stock market will decide the election—AFF can’t affect it:

Allan **Roth, 7/16/2012** (staff writer, “As stock market fares, so will Obama,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at

<http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505123_162-57468124/as-stock-market-fares-so-will-obama/>, rwg)

(MoneyWatch) Will President Barack Obama win another term? If he does, it will have little to do with health care or televised debates. The only thing that matters in his re-election is largely outside of his control, and that is how the stock market performs between now and November. Here's why.

#### GDP numbers are key to the election:

Allan **Roth, 7/16/2012** (staff writer, “As stock market fares, so will Obama,” Accessed 7/30/2012 at

<http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505123_162-57468124/as-stock-market-fares-so-will-obama/>, rwg)

There's no question that the economy is the most important issue in this election. Mitt Romney's central message has been that President Obama does not deserve re-election because he has failed to fully turn the economy around in the wake of the crisis. The president's fortunes are undeniably tied to what happens in terms of GDP growth between now and November.