## AT: Midterms Disad

### Too Soon---2AC

#### Too soon---elections are decided the day before.

Laura Santhanam 4/29/22. PBS News Hour. "Independents favor the GOP right now, poll finds. Here's why it matters". PBS NewsHour. 4-29-2022. https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/republicans-have-the-advantage-right-now-on-key-issues-and-midterm-elections

The Republican Party rarely polls ahead of Democrats on the generic ballot, according to political scientist Lara Brown, who directs the Graduate School of Political Management at George Washington University. For Democrats to come back and win elections, they need to make significant gains in public support. But, she added, it’s too early, and political churn is too volatile, to know which party will emerge victorious from the midterms.

“Twelve hours is an eternity in politics,” Brown said.

### UQ---Dems Win---2AC

#### Dems win now---conventional wisdom doesn’t apply to modern politics.

Martin Pengelly 3/29/22. "Pelosi says she ‘fears for democracy’ if Republicans retake Congress". . 3-29-2022. https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/mar/29/nancy-pelosi-democracy-republicans-congress

But Pelosi said: “I don’t have any intention of the Democrats losing the Congress in November.”

Rejecting “so-called conventional wisdom” about midterm elections, the speaker said: “There’s nothing conventional anymore, because of the way people communicate with social media and how they receive their information, how they are called to action, how they’re called to meetings and the rest is quite different. So any past assumptions about elections are obsolete.”

“We do have a plan,” she added. “We have a vision of the victory. We will plan to get it done and we’re going to own the ground.”

Pelosi also cast doubt on the accuracy of polling about Biden’s favourability and said redistricting, a process widely thought to favour Republicans, who control more state governments, would not necessarily leave Democrats at a disadvantage.

“Everybody said redistricting was going to be horrible for the Democrats,” Pelosi said. “Remember that? Not so. Not so. If anything, we’ll pick up seats rather than lose 10 to 15, which conventional wisdom said that we would. There’s nothing conventional anymore, and it certainly ain’t wisdom.

“And nobody’s going to be rejecting the president.”

### UQ---AT: Polls---2AC

#### Can’t predict bias in this cycle’s polling

Geoffrey Skelley and Nathaniel Rakich, 3/22/22, elections analyst & senior elections analyst "Why Early Senate And Governor Polls Have Plenty To Tell Us About November," FiveThirtyEight, https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/why-early-senate-and-governor-polls-have-plenty-to-tell-us-about-november/

But good luck guessing the direction of the bias of early 2022 polls. True, in the last four cycles, early Senate polls have been about 3 to 6 points too good for Democrats. But in three of the four cycles before that, early Senate polls had overestimated Republicans — and early gubernatorial polls overestimated Republicans in 2018, too. Moreover, as the 2018 cycle showed, one set of polls could be skewed toward one party, while surveys for another office could end up biased toward the other party. Though the 2022 electoral environment is shaping up to be advantageous for the GOP, just how accurately the polls gauge races remains to be seen.

### UQ/No Link---Structural UQ Overwhelms---2AC

#### Dems will lose---fundamentals---Russia-based popularity boost is irrelevant.

Ed Kilgore 3/10/22. "Biden’s War Bounce Isn’t Big Enough to Save the Midterms". Intelligencer. 8-30-2021. https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2022/03/bidens-war-bounce-isnt-big-enough-to-save-the-midterms.html

The question we really can’t answer now is whether future developments in Ukraine will help or hurt Biden’s popularity. Short of an outright Russian defeat or the deployment of U.S. troops, it’s not easy to envision a trajectory of events that will greatly affect Biden’s standing. The short-term economic fallout is likely to be negative; if it’s very negative, and Biden fails to make a Churchillian appeal for sacrifice, it could make it very hard for him to recover popular support for the most important “real life” indicator, particularly among independents.

What we do know is the party controlling the White House almost always loses ground in the midterms except for rare occasions where the president was unusually popular. And even if Biden’s job-approval rating stabilizes or modestly improves, he’s a long way from what he’d need for his party to triumph in November. As Vox’s Andrew Prokop recently put it:

The historical pattern is clear, and ominous for Joe Biden and Democrats this year: The president’s party usually does poorly in midterm elections.

“It’s not quite a law of physics, but it’s probably as close as you’re going to get in the social sciences,” says Carlos Algara, a professor of political science at Claremont Graduate University.

On the two occasions since 1934 when that near law of physics has been broken, the president in office had job-approval ratings above 60 percent. In 1962, John F. Kennedy had an approval rating of 61 percent, and Democrats still lost four House seats, which happens to be exactly the maximum number of seats Democrats can afford to lose in November without losing the House and their governing trifecta.

So even with the modest good news Democrats have been given in the redistricting process, they will need a lot more than a “bump” in Biden’s approval ratings to overcome history and logic. Yes, stabilizing and marginally improving Biden’s popularity can place a floor on Democratic losses and perhaps (with some luck and a lot of Trump-fueled Republican stumbling) even save the Senate. But the blunt truth is that barring a dazzlingly successful Biden presidency — one that extends his popularity beyond his party deep into the ranks of independents and even Republicans — Democrats have already lost. They sealed their fate in November 2020 when they carried the House by such a surprisingly small margin. Nothing Biden has done right or wrong since then has changed that fundamental reality.

### UQ/No Link---Other Issues Outweigh---2AC

#### COVID, inflation, and SCOTUS thump---no one runs on or votes for the plan.

Dan Balz and Marianna Sotomayor 5/16/22. Dan Balz is chief correspondent at The Washington Post. He has served as the paper’s deputy national editor, political editor, White House correspondent and Southwest correspondent. Marianna Sotomayor covers the House of Representatives, primarily focusing on Democratic and Republican leadership, for The Washington Post. Sotomayor joined The Post in 2021 from NBC News. "The forces steering the 2022 midterm elections". Washington Post. 5-16-2022. https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/interactive/2022/big-picture-2022-midterms/

Every election has a story.

In 2010, the story was an angry tea party movement and a rebellion against President Barack Obama’s newly enacted Affordable Care Act. In 2018, it was a backlash, fueled by the energy and fury of suburban women, against the chaotic governing style and misogynistic belligerence of President Donald Trump.

The stories of some elections are often clearer in retrospect than they are in the moment, but there were blinking lights throughout 2010 and 2018 that the party in control of the White House was heading for trouble. The same can be said for 2022. President Biden’s approval ratings are in the danger zone, putting the Democrats’ slender majorities in the House and Senate in jeopardy. Many Democratic leaders are already braced, at a minimum, to lose control of the House.

Political volatility has become commonplace in a nation as deeply and closely divided as America today. Seven of the last eight elections qualify as change elections — a shift in the balance in some important way. And, if Republicans were to capture the House and Senate in November, Biden would become the fifth consecutive president to see his party lose both chambers of Congress on his watch.

But other than Democratic nervousness, what is the story of this year? What is motivating voters? What forces are steering the election, other than the tides of history?

Analysts point to a nation weary at a time in which there seems no escape from disorder, whether it be the long bout with the coronavirus or soaring prices or rising crime rates in cities or surging crossings of undocumented immigrants at the southern border. Added to all of that is the brutal war of aggression in Ukraine launched without provocation by Russian President Vladimir Putin, a conflict that is redrawing the international order.

“This is a country that is exhausted from politics,” said Democratic strategist Doug Sosnik, who served in the Clinton administration. “It’s exhausted from covid. It’s exhausted from uncertainty. It’s exhausted from inflation. It’s exhausted from the world unraveling. That’s not great when you’re in charge. But the second factor is disappointment. There was a notion that with Biden taking office we were going to come back to a sense of normalcy in the world.”

“Independent voters decide elections," said Richard Czuba, a Michigan-based analyst. "Right now [in Michigan] they are really worried about inflation — and it’s not just gas prices. You talk to people in focus groups and they will talk about milk and bread and cereal. They understand that gas prices have soared because of the war in Ukraine, but that’s not the case for food.”

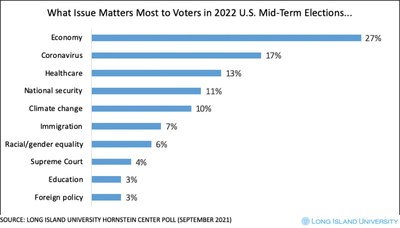
There is another element that now threatens to affect the direction of these elections: the prospect that the Supreme Court will overturn Roe v. Wade, a monumental action that would elevate a battle over the future of abortion rights into the campaign debates. Such a decision in the case involving Mississippi’s restrictive abortion law could cut into what is now a Republican advantage in enthusiasm to vote in November.

Biden administration officials and Democratic candidates will offer their own story as a counter to the prevailing gloomy predictions. Their narrative will highlight passage of a major economic stimulus package and a bipartisan infrastructure bill, the creation of roughly 8 million jobs and the lowest unemployment rate in a half-century. Their story now also includes confirmation of the first Black woman to the Supreme Court — a promise kept by the president to one of his party’s most loyal constituencies. Democrats also will seek to offset their disadvantages by mobilizing voters around abortion and other cultural issues.

#### Foreign policy is irrelevant---only 3% care.

Long Island University 21. "What Issues Matter Most To Voters in 2022 U.S. Mid-Term Elections: Long Island University Hornstein Center National Poll". No Publication. 9-16-2021. https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/what-issues-matter-most-to-voters-in-2022-us-mid-term-elections-long-island-university-hornstein-center-national-poll-301378814.html

BROOKVILLE, N.Y., Sept. 16, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Results of a newly released Long Island University Steven S. Hornstein Center for Policy, Polling and Analysis national poll reveal the early issues that matter most to voters in the 2022 U.S. Mid-Term Elections. The two issues that mattered most on deciding how to vote among respondents were the economy (27%) and coronavirus (17%).



TOP ISSUES FOR AMERICAN VOTERS IN 2022 U.S. MID-TERM ELECTIONS: #1 ECONOMY AND #2 CORONAVIRUS

Respondents were asked what one issue matters most in deciding how they will vote in the United States mid-term elections in 2022. While a variety of reasons were mentioned, the two issues that mattered most on deciding how to vote among respondents were the economy (27%) and coronavirus (17%). Following behind were health care (13%), national security (11%), climate change (10%), immigration (7%), racial/gender equality (6%), supreme court (4%), education (3%), and foreign policy (3%).

### XT---No FoPo Voters---1AR

#### No foreign policy voters---it’s a secondary issue.

Harvard Gazette interviewing Gerald Seib 5/18/22. Gerald Seib is a political journalist. "Will rare U.S. unity on Ukraine lift Democrats?". Harvard Gazette. https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2022/05/will-rare-u-s-unity-on-ukraine-lift-democrats/

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has managed to unite a deeply riven America around a rare common cause. A majority in both parties say they approve of U.S. help for Ukraine. This week, Congress is expected to approve a bipartisan $40 billion aid package for the war-torn country. But will the current political consensus on the issue make a measurable difference in this fall’s midterm elections?

Gerald Seib is skeptical. Seib was executive Washington editor of The Wall Street Journal, author of its “Capital Journal” column, and part of the reporting staff that won a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of 9/11. He retired last week. A current Institute of Politics Fellow, Seib spoke to the Gazette about how the conflict may figure in the upcoming races.

Q&A

Gerald Seib

GAZETTE: Foreign policy matters are not known to motivate voters unless American casualties are involved, but the U.S. support for Ukraine is widely popular. Could Ukraine be an important issue in the midterms?

SEIB: It’s, at the moment, a secondary not a primary issue, and that’s because traditionally Americans think about economics and domestic issues first, international issues second, unless they’re forced to do otherwise, and that’s what prevails right now.

#### Voters only have weak foreign policy preferences- domestic factors will outweigh

James Traub 21, nonresident fellow at New York University’s Center on International Cooperation, "Biden’s ‘Foreign Policy for the Middle Class’ Is a Revolution," Foreign Policy, https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/03/17/bidens-foreign-policy-middle-class-revolution/

The truth is that polls mean very little on subjects where most people do not feel personally engaged and thus have weak preferences. The United Nations has generally polled well in the United States, but politicians can make a lot more hay running against it than for it. The reason why “foreign-policy elites” have had so much leeway to fashion policy is that, unlike with domestic affairs, most Americans don’t care that much about issues where the stakes fall below life and death. Policymakers operate with implicit consent—until they can’t.

### XT---Other Issues Outweigh---1AR

#### Hot been issues outweigh Russia---hearts beat charts.

David Smith 4/1/22. The Guardian. "Joe Biden’s message drowned out by beat of the Republican culture-war drum". Guardian. 4-1-2022. https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/apr/24/joe-bidens-message-drowned-out-by-beat-of-the-republican-culture-war-drum

The party does have a story to tell about the creation of 7.9 million jobs – more over his first 14 months in office than any president in history – along with progress against the coronavirus pandemic, the passage of a $1tn bipartisan infrastructure law, diverse judicial appointments and leading the Nato alliance against Russia’s Vladimir Putin.

But opinion polls suggest this could be overwhelmed by Republicans’ characteristically blunt and visceral campaign targeting 40-year high inflation, rising crime, immigration at the Mexico border and “culture wars” over abortion, transgender rights and how race is taught in schools.

“Hearts beats charts,” said John Zogby, an author and pollster. “Very simply, look at the Democrats who’ve won the presidency: Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, Joe Biden. Contrast the obvious empathy and real-life stories with Michael Dukakis, Al Gore, John Kerry, Hillary Clinton.

“It’s the ability to tell a story that relates to all Americans. All of which is to suggest that Republicans will tell stories that matter and Democrats will show statistics.”

#### Economy matters more than Russia---no one votes on Putin.

Christian Datoc 4/18/22. Reporter. "Prices, not Putin: Biden allies frantically sound the alarm ahead of midterm elections". Washington Examiner. 5-19-2022. https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/white-house/democrats-urge-president-joe-biden-to-focus-on-inflation-economic-issues-rather-than-vladimir-putin-ahead-of-2022-midterm-elections

There's a growing sense of panic among Washington Democrats about the party's midterm election prospects, with a number of them calling on President Joe Biden to focus more heavily on domestic problems rather than the war in Ukraine.

Numerous polls show voters of both parties are overwhelmingly focused on the economy heading into November. Biden and the White House launched the year with a pledge to travel the country more to explain how the president's fiscal policies will "grow the economy from the bottom up and the middle out."

However, for the past two months, Biden's attention has been consumed by coordinating the West's economic pressure campaign against Russia. John Anzalone, Biden's campaign pollster, has said publicly that the president's inability to advance his economic agenda, not to mention liberal social proposals, has forced voters into a "what have you done for me lately" mode.

"They don’t feel Democrats can get their s\*\*\* together and get things done," he told Politico. "No one’s going to sit there as a Democratic consultant and try to bulls\*\*\* you that this is anything but a really sour environment for Democrats."

Anzalone called 2022 "the worst political environment that I’ve lived through in 30 years of being a political consultant," maintaining that Democrats have the "ability" to maintain a majority in the Senate but could suffer catastrophic losses in the House.

"There’s a big difference between losing 7 and 10 seats in the House and getting your ass kicked and losing 35, 40," he added.

White House officials, cautiously avoiding Hatch Act violations that plagued the Trump administration, have avoided publicly weighing in on Democrats' midterm election hopes but argue that the administration can "walk and chew gum at the same time."

Top administration officials have spent 2022 highlighting the president's legislative victories, the American Rescue Plan and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Biden is also ramping up the national tour he promised in January. The president traveled to a bioethanol plant in Menlo, Iowa, on Tuesday to discuss the administration's efforts to cut rising gas prices, and he visited North Carolina A&T State University to pressure Congress to pass a competitive manufacturing bill while simultaneously highlighting the administration's support of HBCUs.

The White House has also sought to blame Russian President Vladimir Putin and the war in Ukraine for the current inflationary run, referring to elevated gas prices as "Putin's price hike."

Still, polling indicates voters are much more likely to blame Democrats and the Biden administration for historic price increases than give them credit for adding a record number of jobs to the economy in Biden's first year-plus in office. A February poll conducted by liberal firm Navigator Research shows that 40% of the country actually believes the economy has shed jobs under Biden's stewardship.

A Democrat strategist told the Daily Mail that Democrats are also "losing the blame game" on inflation.

"No one is going to have to vote on Vladimir Putin anytime soon," that person added.

#### Domestic issues outweigh---no one cares about Russia anymore.

Kevin Liptak and Phil Mattingly 4/9/22. CNN. "Biden turns his focus from Ukraine war to kitchen table issues at home as midterms loom". CNN. 4-9-2022. https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/09/politics/biden-domestic-issues-ukraine-war/index.html

While the American public has shown wide-ranging approval for supporting Ukraine, their primary focus remains on the pocketbook issues they are feeling at home. And while Biden enjoyed a small rise in his approval ratings in the immediate aftermath of Russia's invasion, the bump vanished after a few weeks as Americans returned their attention to issues at home.

A Quinnipiac University poll released last week showed 30% of Americans said inflation was the most urgent issue facing the country. Less than half that number named the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Other polls have shown rising prices and inflation are overwhelmingly at the top of Americans' minds and not the conflict in Ukraine.

#### FoPo wins won’t last---domestic issues outweigh.

Arab News 3/28/22. "Biden’s Democrats face comprehensive midterms defeat". https://www.arabnews.com/node/2051661

However, the million-dollar question remains: Will Ukraine save Biden and his Democratic Party? I have my doubts. There are six months until the midterms and the American people are known for their short attention span, especially regarding issues that are happening away from US soil.

At the end of the day, voters are worried about their jobs, health and security, especially after two years of national lockdowns and other COVID-19 restrictions. It will take more than Ukraine for the Democrats to hold their ground and satisfy their disappointed constituents. The midterms of 2022 will likely see a big Republican victory.

### XT---Run on Other Issues---1AR

#### Dems won’t run on the plan---its not a winner.

Kevin Liptak and Phil Mattingly 4/9/22. CNN. "Biden turns his focus from Ukraine war to kitchen table issues at home as midterms loom". CNN. 4-9-2022. https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/09/politics/biden-domestic-issues-ukraine-war/index.html

(CNN)President Joe Biden and his aides are actively working to refocus on the litany of domestic issues threatening Democrats' prospects in the midterm elections following weeks of the President's days being consumed by the war in Ukraine.

Since Biden returned from a last-minute diplomatic outing to Europe last month, he's held no scheduled events about Russia's invasion -- a stark contrast to the previous weeks, when the President emerged regularly to update Americans on new sanctions, intelligence and Western military assistance.

Even as the atrocities of Bucha played out on television screens across the world this week — including in the West Wing, where an outraged Biden and his team watched with horror — there were no specific events to address the grim footage.

Instead, Biden's focus has been squarely at home. From the cost of health care to supply chain bottlenecks to prices at the pump and a robust economic recovery — one that officials believe simply hasn't broken through — Biden's public focus has lately been guided entirely by domestic issues.

The shift comes as Biden and his team assess a concerning political landscape complicated by the ripple effect of severe economic sanctions imposed on Moscow. Other recent developments -- including a decision to lift pandemic-era restrictions on the border -- have contributed to growing unease among Democrats about November's elections. And a recent surge of Covid-19 cases among Biden's circle has acted as a reminder of the virus' continued presence.

Biden's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine has done little to boost his sagging political standing, despite generating unprecedented unity among Western allies. As the White House settles in for what officials believe will be a prolonged conflict, there has been a clear effort to try and break through wall-to-wall war coverage with Biden's domestic priorities.

"We can do more than one thing at a time," a senior administration official told CNN. "We have a story to tell at home and it's only natural that we would focus on that as much as possible."

### No Link---Ideology---2AC

#### Popularity doesn’t translate---ideology is locked in.

Gregory Krieg and Eric Bradner 3/27/22. Writers @ CNN. "The 2022 campaign story was set. Then Russia invaded Ukraine.". CNN. 3-27-2022. https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/27/politics/2022-midterm-elections-russia-ukraine-invasion/index.html

But even bipartisan support for Biden's actions to date has not translated into a meaningful bump in the President's overall approval numbers or their views on his performance on Ukraine.

In a recent Monmouth poll, partisan loyalties appeared to be the main drivers of a 46%-48% negative split on Biden's handling of the crisis, with 77% of Democrats giving a positive rating and only 18% of Republicans saying they approved.

"In the past, when we've seen a 'rally around the flag' effect, it's generally been around every aspect of Washington from the president on down," Murray said. "And here we see results, perhaps for the first time, where Republicans just really can't get over the hump of saying that 'This is a president of a different party, ergo, I'm going to judge him differently than I judge the actions that are being taken.'"

### AT: Tough on Russia Link---2AC

#### Tough on Russia can’t help Biden.

Sarah Robinson 2/16/22. CBS19. "Analyst says Russia invading Ukraine could impact U.S. midterm elections". https://www.cbs19news.com/story/45881349/how-could-russia-invading-ukraine-impact-the-us-midterms

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (CBS19 NEWS) -- With the 2022 midterms right around the corner, political experts say President Joe Biden's response to ongoing tensions between Russia and Ukraine could have a big impact ahead of the election.

Political analyst J. Miles Coleman with the University of Virginia Center for Politics says Biden is in a no-win situation.

While Biden was criticized for the Afghanistan pullout, Coleman warns the American public isn't eager to send troops to another war. But Republicans could find a way to paint him as weak if he doesn't.

"If he navigates things well, he might not get that much of a benefit, but if he screws it up, the consequences are much worse than the potential benefits could be,” said Coleman.

### AT: Dems Cause Financial Regs---2AC

#### Dems won’t cause financial regs---it’s a party fault line.

Politico 3/23/22. "Democrats want to crack down on Wall Street. Guess who's getting in the way." https://www.politico.com/news/2022/03/22/federal-reserve-biden-powell-raskin-00019394

President Joe Biden pledged to bring financial oversight back in style after four years of rule rollbacks under Donald Trump. But more than a year into Biden’s first term, none of the government’s major bank regulators have Senate-confirmed leaders.

Sarah Bloom Raskin withdrew last week as Biden’s nominee for the top job overseeing banks at the Federal Reserve after facing opposition from Republicans and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.). Moderate Democrats earlier rejected Saule Omarova, Biden’s pick to head another bank regulator, because she had advocated for a dominant role for government in finance. The other key overseer, the FDIC, was just taken over by an Obama appointee on an acting basis — though his term technically expired three years ago.

The result is that regulators have done little to reverse what many Democrats saw as a weakening of the guardrails around banks during the Trump administration. Progressive priorities, like making it tougher for banks to merge or pressing financial institutions to prepare for climate change, are moving slowly. And there’s no point person on the Fed board during an especially risky moment for the financial system as banks deal with soaring inflation, rising interest rates and disruption caused by the war in Ukraine.

“This is a moment, similar to what was happening in the late 1990s and early 2000s, with tremendous technological shifts in the financial sector,” Omarova said in an interview, referring to the years leading up to the 2008 financial crisis. “At that time, a lot of what was happening was allowed to happen because there was not sufficiently attuned and careful oversight.”

The administration’s difficulties in getting bank cop nominees through a Democratic-controlled Senate underscore the fault lines within the party over how to approach financial regulation. In 2018, fully a third of the Democratic caucus voted in favor of bipartisan legislation aimed in part at slashing regulations on regional lenders that were put in place after the financial crisis, a bill that was fiercely opposed by progressive Democrats as a giveaway to bigger banks.

### AT: Financial Regs Hurt Growth---2AC

#### Dems better for financial stability---key to solve stock and crypto nosedive---08 proves.

RockyMount Telegram 5/20/22. "Editorial: Midterms looming, Dems must act on financial regulation". . 5-20-2022. https://www.rockymounttelegram.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-midterms-looming-dems-must-act-on-financial-regulation/article\_0f690798-d1e4-54c7-bc18-56f5e2ea69a4.html

President Biden likes to tout his role as “Sheriff Joe” in the Obama administration, where he helped distribute and monitor billions in recovery aid in response to the Great Recession. But another key part of the cleanup from the 2008 financial crisis was tighter regulation of Wall Street banks. In that area, Biden is in danger of not getting his own sheriffs in place.

At the top of the list is the need to fill the role of the Federal Reserve vice chair of supervision. This post has been vacant since Oct. 13, 2021. If midterm elections go the way polling currently predicts, Biden will have an even tougher time getting much done with a GOP-led House and possibly Senate, too. So this is likely Biden’s last window to get his picks in place in top bank cop positions. It’s inexplicable how slowly the White House and Senate Democrats have moved to fill these roles.

Financial regulators aren’t household names, but they can have a massive impact on everything from bitcoin to bank mergers to market stability. They have wide discretion to make regulations, largely without any additional input from Congress. The Trump administration used regulatory channels to severely curb immigration. Democrats could make a similarly large impact on financial regulation, but they have been slow to nominate and confirm key appointments.

It was well known since Biden’s first day in office that the Fed’s banking supervision position would be open in October 2021, yet the White House waited until January 2022 to nominate Sarah Bloom Raskin for the role. She was unable to garner enough Democratic votes for confirmation and was forced to withdraw. On April 15 — six months after the position became vacant — Biden nominated former Treasury official Michael Barr for the Fed role. His confirmation hearing has been scheduled for Thursday. Senate Democrats need to move swiftly after that to confirm him.

Barr was instrumental in implementing the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act during President Barack Obama’s first term. He is widely seen as a moderate Democrat and is well known in the financial industry. He was an acolyte of Robert Rubin when he was Treasury secretary during the Clinton administration. While some on the left are concerned that Barr would be more lenient on the banks than they would like, it’s clear he is qualified for the role. In a less polarized world, he would garner Republican votes, too.

The comptroller of the currency post also remains open after Biden’s nominee, Saule Omarova, was forced to withdraw in December after a rocky confirmation hearing, and there’s no confirmed chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. At both the OCC and FDIC, there are acting heads, which, while not ideal, at least allows Biden to have some sway over the agencies. But the Fed needs to have a confirmed person for the role.

At a time when stocks are nosediving and various cryptocurrencies are collapsing, Biden and fellow Democrats need to make these appointments a more urgent priority. This opportunity may not come again.

### Impact D/No Economic War---2AC

#### Economic collapse doesn’t cause war

Daniel Drezner 14. professor of International Law at Tufts, The System Worked: Global Economic Governance during the Great Recession, World Politics, Volume 66. Number 1, January 2014

The final significant outcome addresses a **dog** that **hasn't barked**: the effect of the Great Recession on cross-border conflict and violence. During the initial stages of the crisis, multiple analysts asserted that the financial crisis would lead states to increase their use of force as a tool for staying in power.42 They voiced genuine concern that the global economic downturn would lead to an increase in conflict—whether through greater internal repression, diversionary wars, arms races, or a ratcheting up of great power conflict. Violence in the Middle East, border disputes in the South China Sea, and even the disruptions of the Occupy movement fueled impressions of a surge in global public disorder.

**The aggregate data suggest otherwise**, however. The Institute for Economics and Peace has concluded that "the average level of peacefulness in 2012 is approximately the same as it was in 2007."43 Interstate violence in particular has declined since the start of the financial crisis, as have military expenditures in most sampled countries. Other studies confirm that the Great Recession has not triggered any increase in violent conflict, as Lotta Themner and Peter Wallensteen conclude: "[T]he pattern is one of relative stability when we consider the trend for the past five years."44 The secular decline in violence that started with the end of the Cold War has not been reversed. Rogers Brubaker observes that "**the crisis has not** to date **generated the surge in protectionist nationalism or ethnic exclusion that might have been expected**."45

### XT---No War---1AR

#### No diversionary war.

Elad Segev et al. 21. Tel Aviv University AND Atsushi Tago and Kohei Watanabe, Waseda University. "Could Leaders Deflect from Political Scandals? Cross-National Experiments on Diversionary Action in Israel and Japan". Taylor & Francis. 5-5-2021. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03050629.2022.2044326

The diversionary theory of war is one of the best-known conflict initiation theories focusing on democratic leaders’ incentives. According to the theory, democratic leaders who face greater electoral challenges, either due to political scandals or an economic downturn, are more likely to choose provocative foreign policies and seek to lead the country into diplomatic crises, in hopes of inciting nationalistic sentiments that will boost their approval ratings via the so-called “rally around the flag” effect (e.g. Gaines 2002; Hetherington and Nelson 2003; Mueller 1973).

Despite the intuitive appeal of this theory, empirical studies have been largely unable to find consistent evidence to corroborate the purported theoretical mechanisms. Findings from observational studies have been quite mixed. The fact that a diverse set of findings have been reported from observational studies suggests that unobservable confounders arising from strategic interactions greatly hinder our ability to tease out the causal effect of electoral hardship on conflict behaviors.

In this research note, we claim that the key assumption of the theory does not work as expected. That is, a political leader cannot divert attention from his/her political scandals by emphasizing a foreign threat and alerting the general public that the country may go to war against an enemy. Although the assumptions that the threat or use of force is salient and that an acute enemy threat would create a rally-around-the-flag effect are common, they have rarely been tested at a micro-level in an experimental setting. Our team conducted a cross-national experiment to find out whether and how political leaders could divert the public’s attention away from their political scandals.

#### Collapse won’t cause war

Robert Jervis 11. Department of Political Science and School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University Force in Our Times http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0047117811422531

Even if war is still seen as evil, the security community could be dissolved if severe conflicts of interest were to arise. Could the more peaceful world generate new interests that would bring the members of the community into sharp disputes?45 A zero-sum sense of status would be one example, perhaps linked to a steep rise in nationalism. More likely would be a worsening of the current economic difficulties, which could itself produce greater nationalism, undermine democracy and bring back old-fashioned beggar-myneighbor economic policies. While these dangers are real, **it is hard to believe that the conflicts could be great enough to lead the members of the community to contemplate fighting each other**. It is not so much that economic interdependence has proceeded to the point where it could not be reversed – states that were more internally interdependent than anything seen internationally have fought bloody civil wars. Rather it is that even if the more extreme versions of free trade and economic liberalism become discredited, it is hard to see how without building on a preexisting high level of political conflict leaders and mass opinion would come to believe that their **countries could prosper by impoverishing or even attacking others**. Is it possible that problems will not only become severe, but that people will entertain the thought that they have to be solved by war? While a pessimist could note that this argument does not appear as outlandish as it did before the financial crisis, an optimist could reply (correctly, in my view) that the very fact that we have seen such a sharp economic down-turn without anyone suggesting that force of arms is the solution shows that **even if bad times bring about greater economic conflict, it will not make war thinkable.**

### GOP Bad---Democracy---2AC

#### Turn---GOP win wrecks democracy---they cheat and suppress voting to win.

Real Clear Politics 22. "Swalwell: 2022 Midterms Could Be "The Last Election" If Republicans Win". 1-3-2022. https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2022/01/03/swalwell\_2022\_midterms\_could\_be\_the\_last\_election\_if\_republicans\_win.html

Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) said Monday on MSNBC that Republicans choosing "violence over voting" gives him pause to believe that if Republicans win the midterm elections it may be "the last election" in the United States.

"I'm worried that if Republicans win in the midterm elections, that voting as we know it in this country will be gone," Swalwell told MSNBC host Chris Hayes. "They're already putting as many barriers to the ballot box as possible in Arizona, Florida, Texas, Georgia. And on the other side of the finish line, they're putting in place processes where they could reverse the outcome even if we crawl through glass and run through the fire to get to the ballot box, and so if they are able to win the House, the damage they could do, you know, to permanently make it difficult to vote and just alter the way that we participate in a democratic process could be irreversible."

"This may not be -- as I said, this is not only the most important election, if we don't get it right, it could be the last election, because they're also putting in place what I believe is a way to make sure that Donald Trump wins with what they're doing across state legislatures to allow them to reverse the outcome and the electoral college," Swalwell said.

#### [IF NOT IN 1AC] Global democratic crisis increases hostility---only countering autocratic power projection can solve.

Larry Diamond 17. Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He coordinates the democracy program of the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) within the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI). "How to Reverse the Degradation of Our Politics". American Interest. https://www.the-american-interest.com/2017/11/10/reverse-degradation-politics/

The world is facing a gathering crisis of liberal democracy. As I argued here last month, freedom and democracy have been retreating in many countries, including in Europe. Authoritarian regimes like Russia and China are pushing anti-democratic values with increasing energy, resourcefulness, and determination. If they succeed, the world will be a very different place—and for the United States, a more hostile one.

The United States and its liberal democratic allies must develop a new global strategy to counter the power projection of expansive autocracies, and to reboot an international campaign to promote democratic values and ideas. But we also need to renew the core of what we are fighting for: the worth of our own democracy.

### XT---Democracy Impact---1AR

#### Turn---GOP win wrecks democracy---causes 2024 election fraud.

Margaret Sullivan 5/15/22. "Perspective: Democracy is at stake in the midterms. The media must convey that.". Washington Post. 5-15-2022. https://www.washingtonpost.com/media/2022/05/15/democracy-midterms-vote-integrity-media-coverage/

Koppelman underscored what we should all be clear about by now: that most of the Republican Party publicly touts the lie that Donald Trump won the 2020 election but that the vote was rigged and victory stolen from him. The Republican elected officials who won’t back Trump are being driven out of office by his faithful. “Those true believers think there is no way Trump could lose a presidential election,” he wrote, “and maybe that no Republican nominee could.”

That makes the outcome of this year’s midterm elections extraordinarily consequential. If Republicans take one or both houses of Congress, and if Trump or another Trump-inspired Republican runs for president in 2024, Koppelman added, “there may be no stopping the tide.” These true believers will see to it that the Republican nominee is declared the winner — even if it takes a coup to do so. (Let’s face it: We saw that very thing attempted on Jan. 6 last year when a violent mob stormed the Capitol and demanded the election results be reversed.)

#### Trump loyalists take over ruins democracy---they’ll break the election system.

Russell Berman 4/25/22. "Mitch McConnell’s Nightmare Scenario". Atlantic. 4-25-2022. https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2022/04/republicans-senate-midterm-elections/629657/

The possibility of a sizable Republican majority has even larger implications for a close 2024 election, when Trump could again be on the ballot and might try to pressure his allies in Congress to overturn a narrow defeat, as he did unsuccessfully in 2020. “It would be a disaster,” Martha McKenna, a Democratic strategist who spent several years at the DSCC, told me. “It would be a very dangerous situation for democracy.”

### GOP Bad---Trump 2024---2AC

#### GOP win leads to Trump in 2024.

Julian Zelizer 21. CNN Commentator. "The threat November 2022 poses to Biden". 7-25-2021. https://www.proquest.com/docview/2554825750/37CC7151C6034A36PQ/98?accountid=10747

A base for 2024: Successful midterm elections can become a platform to prepare for a successful run against the president in his reelection bid. In 1966, for instance, Republicans gained seats in the midterm elections even though Democrats retained control of the House and Senate (which, other than when the Republicans controlled the Senate from 1981 to 1987, the Democrats held from 1955 to 1995). Teaming up with southern Democrats, in 1967 and 1968, Republicans put pressure on President Lyndon B. Johnson to cut Great Society spending and to deal with the inflationary effects of the war in Vietnam, all of which helped Richard Nixon win office in 1968.

To be sure, strong midterm performances don't always have this effect. Though Democrats were devastated when the GOP took control of Congress in 1994, President Clinton was able to decisively defeat Senator Robert Dole in 1996.

In 2023, Republican control of the House or Senate would likely help the GOP. Republican senators hoping to run for the White House in 2024 would have new opportunities for national attention. A Republican House or Senate could shift attention toward questions that would benefit possible candidates who are currently serving as governors. And given the close alignment of Congressional Republicans to former President Trump, this would clearly boost his chances for reelection.

#### Extinction---Disease, Climate, and China war!

Eve Ottenberg 10/22/21. Novelist and journalist. "The Rightwing Horror That Won't Go Away". CounterPunch.org. 10-22-2021. https://www.counterpunch.org/2021/10/22/the-rightwing-horror-that-wont-go-away/

On the very unlikely chance that Trump regains power, how bad would it be? Worse than your worst nightmare. And that’s assuming the powers that be wouldn’t try to resuscitate Russophobia. First, covid would roar back, as Trump would dismantle the Biden architecture of mask and vaccine mandates. Second, he would strip government of career officials and pack it with fanatical Trump parasites, and he would do this at once, having learned from his presidency that he can’t run departments like Justice as his own personal mafia without ditching people marked by any modicum of integrity. Without doubt, he would assault the press in every way possible, up to and including arresting journalists.

Trump would also cripple social security by eliminating the payroll tax. Medicare would be in his sights as well. He would inflame his base with wild fibs about migrants, who, in turn, would be brutalized even worse than they are under Biden. Trump would do everything in his power to pollute the planet and make the climate catastrophe worse. We know all this, because he did it before. The ghastly list of Trump horrors is enormous. But standing at the head of it all, looming over humanity’s future like the shadow of death, is war with China. If the human race survives a Trump Reich without nuclear war starting in Taiwan, the only explanation will be divine intervention.