## Negative Updates

### 1NC — Uniqueness Update

[Replace existing 1NC uniqueness card with this one.]

#### First, harsh immigration policies secure base support now.

USA Today 9-25 — USA Today, 2018 (“Trump administration wants to deny immigrants entry to the US, if they use public benefits: Today's talker,” USA Today, September 25th, Available Online at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2018/09/25/immigration-administration-green-cards-deny-public-benefits-taxpayers-talker/934275002/>, Accessed 10-08-2018)

The Trump administration announced over the weekend that it plans to deny green cards to immigrants if they use public benefits to which they are entitled such as food assistance, children’s health insurance or housing vouchers — purportedly to stop them from becoming "burdens on American taxpayers." According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, refugee immigrants pay more taxes than they receive in benefits for their first 20 years in America. This proposal would then effectively punish families and U.S. citizen children for their lack of wealth. In essence, this is the U.S. government punishing U.S. citizen children and low-income families. Immigrants who work minimum-wage jobs would be forced to decide between their continued legal status and their child’s health and nutrition. As we’ve seen, the Trump administration doesn’t seem to care that children will suffer because of his actions. This is nothing more than a blatant strategy to gin up President Donald Trump's base for the midterm elections. It is part of his agenda to ban immigrants and refugees from entering the country and to make it so difficult to live here that they self-deport. More: Texas AG: We're suing to repeal DACA because no president should have that much power Forget the wall already, it's time for the U.S. to have open borders MS-13 beat me up and threatened to kill me. Then the US government took my kids. This administration fought all the way to the Supreme Court to ban immigrants from Muslim-majority countries from entering. It ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals [DACA] program, destabilizing the lives of more than 800,000 young people who have grown up in the USA. It has threatened cities and counties with loss of federal funds for declining to provide local resources for federal immigration enforcement. It has torn children away from their parents at the border. It plans to expand immigration detention. It gutted protections for asylum seekers. And it has unleashed Immigration and Customs Enforcement in workplaces across the country. Trump and his advisers have used every means at his disposal to criminalize, punish and expel immigrants — regardless of the Constitution, the law and basic humanity. Denying citizenship or green cards to legal immigrants should not surprise anyone. But it should appall us all. Lorella Praeli is the deputy national political director for the American Civil Liberties Union. You can follow her on Twitter: @lorellapraeli What others are saying Paul Waldman and Greg Sargent, The Washington Post: "There’s little doubt that these initiatives are born of the sincere contempt that President Donald Trump, Stephen Miller and others in the administration have for immigrants, particularly non-white ones. The president has made that clear again and again. But there’s a political calculation at work, too. Trump knows that he has to keep feeding his base red meat on immigration, and one of the benefits of this policy is that it wouldn’t require congressional approval. Another benefit is that it can easily play into the misconceptions and prejudices Americans already hold."

### They Say: “Base Already Angry — Scandals”

#### Current scandals haven’t rocked base support.

Loiaconi 9/28 — Stephen Loiaconi, staff writer for KTVL News, 2018 (“'Intergalactic freakshow' confirmation process for Kavanaugh carries lasting consequences,” *KTVL News,* September 28th, Available Online at <https://ktvl.com/news/connect-to-congress/intergalactic-freakshow-confirmationprocess-for-kavanaugh-carries-long-term-consequences>, Accessed 10-08-2018)

Critics have accused President Trump of undermining respected institutions in the country since he descended the escalator in Trump Tower three years ago: the free press, the federal judiciary, the Justice Department, the Federal Reserve, etc. Nothing about this will alleviate those concerns. “The Trump administration has been so chaotic that credibility of the executive branch, particularly in light of the president's war with his own Justice Department, is low with most Americans with the exception of the Trump base,” said Arenberg, now a professor of the practice of political science at Brown University.

### Extend: “Base Support Now — Court”

#### Trump’s court appointments have secured his evangelical base support — the question is if he can keep it.

LeTourneau 9/4 — Nancy LeTourneau, staff writer for the Washington Monthly, 2018 (“Trump’s Base Is White Evangelical Voters,” Washington Monthly, September 4th, Available Online at <https://washingtonmonthly.com/2018/09/04/trumps-base-is-white-evangelical-voters/>, Accessed 10-08-2018)

As the Senate Judiciary Committee begins its hearings on the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, there is one group that is 100 percent behind him. Here’s Robert Jeffress, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas:As Kavanaugh tries to avoid stating his positions on these issues over the next couple of days, keep in mind that when it comes to Roe v. Wade or LGBT rights, white evangelicals like Jeffress say that Trump’s judicial nominees have been beyond their wildest imaginations. But Jeffress states something else that happens to be true. White evangelicals supported Trump at higher rates than in any previous election. There is some tension between a statement like that and the mythology that has developed about Trump voters/supporters being primarily white working class Americans. Over a year ago, Nicholas Carnes and Noam Lupu documented why that assumption isn’t true. Among people who said they voted for Trump in the general election, 35 percent had household incomes under $50,000 per year (the figure was also 35 percent among non-Hispanic whites), almost exactly the percentage in NBC’s March 2016 survey. Trump’s voters weren’t overwhelmingly poor. In the general election, like the primary, about two thirds of Trump supporters came from the better-off half of the economy. They go on to point out that, while almost 70 percent of Trump voters didn’t have a college degree, that is also true of all Republicans and pretty close to the national average. Amy Walter fills us in on what actually distinguishes Trump voters and supporters. Using a data set from Public Religion Research Institute, Podhorzer [AFL-CIO’s political director] broke out white voters by gender, education and whether they identified as evangelical. The gap between white voters who approve and disapprove of Trump by gender was 25 points. By education (college versus non-college) it was about the same at 26 percent. But the gap in perceptions of the president between white voters who are evangelical and those who aren’t was a whopping 60 percent! This evangelical support gap transcends education and gender. For example, among white evangelicals, college-educated men and non-college educated men give Trump equally impressive job approval ratings (78 percent and 80 percent respectively). But, among white men who aren’t evangelical, the education gap is significant. Those without a college degree give Trump a 52 percent job approval rating, while just 40 percent of those with a college degree approve of the job he’s doing. Meanwhile, among women, if you remove evangelicals, white women with and without a college degree have the same (very low) opinion of the president. White evangelical women without a college degree give Trump a 68 percent job approval rating, while those with a degree give him a much lower, though still positive 51 percent approval rating. Meanwhile, Trump’s approval among white, non-evangelical women without a college degree is 35 percent, just five points higher than the 30 percent approval rating he gets from white, non-evangelical college-educated women. To summarize, Trump’s base is evangelical white voters, regardless of education level. Once we understand that, a lot of things become more clear, like why the president told court evangelicals at a recent meeting that his executive order on the so-called “Johnson amendment” freed them up to support Republican candidates from the pulpit in the upcoming midterm elections. That is the base he needs to energize, even though he’s not on the ticket this time around. It also explains why Trump’s support among his base continues, regardless of the fact that he has broken every populist promise he made during the election. From his nominations of Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to moving the Israeli embassy to Jerusalem, Trump continues to do everything he can to court his base of white evangelical supporters. The fact that Vladimir Putin has successfully courted this same group means that they won’t likely be swayed by proof that Trump conspired with him to win the election. After all, as #MAGA twitter noted, “keeping Clinton out of office was so urgent and important that it warranted some foreign intervention.” It is truly a sad commentary on white evangelicals that they are willing to make this kind of deal with the devil in exchange for their support. But that is where we stand in this country right now. Whether a base of support among that group is big enough to continue to win elections and whether they continue to turn out to vote the way they did in 2016 are the only questions left on the table.

#### Kavanaugh hearings are revving up the base.

Gruenberg 9/26 — Mark Gruenberg, head of the Washington DC bureuao of People’s Workd, editor of Press Associates Inc., a union news service in Washington DC, former researcher and writer for Congressional Quarterly, BA in Public Policy from U Chicago, 2018 (“Win, lose or withdraw, Kavanaugh rush job revs up Trump base,” People’s World, September 26th, Available Online at <https://www.peoplesworld.org/article/win-lose-or-withdraw-kavanaugh-rush-job-revs-up-trump-base/>, Accessed 10-08-2018)

Win, lose or withdraw – and Brett Kavanaugh vows not to do that – the rush to put the right-wing federal judge on the U.S. Supreme Court serves one real and key purpose GOP President Donald Trump set: Rev up, gin up and get out the right-wing voter base this November. And the right wing, led by Trump, admits it. “The Supreme Court is one of the main reasons I got elected president. I hope Republican voters, and others, are watching, and studying, the Democrats’ playbook,” Trump tweeted several days ago. That “playbook,” the GOP alleges, is to delay Kavanaugh’s hearings and deny him a seat on the court. When that happens, Trump voters will sit on their hands this fall, right-wing leaders fear. As a result, defying evidence of sexual abuse by Kavanaugh, while dismissing Democratic and public objections, the Senate Judiciary Committee’s ruling Republicans are staging a sham hearing on September 27 to hear from Kavanaugh and his first accuser, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, back-to-back.

#### Court is the key issue for the base.

Roberts and Roberts 9-28 — Cokie Roberts, National Public Radio reporter, commentator for ABC News, and Steven V. Roberts, columnist for United Media, 2018 (“GOP may pay a price for gambling on Kavanaugh,” Daily Herald, September 28th, Available Online at <https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20180928/gop-may-pay-a-price-for-gambling-on-kavanaugh>, Accessed 10-08-2018)

Another incentive to stick by Kavanaugh: the president's political persona is defined by two words: "strong" and "win." If his nomination fails, Trump looks like a weak loser -- his worst fear. Moreover, the Supreme Court, more than any other issue, energizes Trump's base of support. Exit polls in 2016 show that for 1 in 5 voters, the court was the "most important issue" determining their vote, and those folks backed Trump by a wide margin: 56 to 41.

### Extend: “Base Support Now — Space Force”

#### Base loves the space force.

Hartung 9/25 — William D. Hartung, Director of the Arms Security Project at the Center for International Policy and a fellow at the World Policy Institute, 2018 (“Trump’s Space Force Is Putting Us All in Danger,” *The Nation*, September 25th, Available Online at <https://www.thenation.com/article/trumps-space-force-is-putting-us-all-in-danger/>, Accessed 10-08-2018)

Practical or not, the Space Force concept meets Trump’s two biggest needs: stroking his own ego and pumping up his political base. Calling for “space dominance” via a nifty new force makes for another great get-tough slogan for the president, not to mention a good distraction from his earthly troubles. He first used the term publicly in an address at Miramar Air Base in San Diego last March and it is now a standard part of his stump speech, as are cries of “Space Force! Space Force!” from adoring crowds at his rallies. “Space Force!” may eventually become the futuristic rhetorical equivalent of “the wall”—a big idea that appeals to Trump’s base but would be wildly impractical and hugely expensive to implement. And just as that “big, fat, beautiful” wall remains a symbol of a larger immigration policy whose impact continues to be devastating, the call for a Space Force could open the door to genuinely dangerous ideas—like placing weapons in outer space, which one Pentagon official recently suggested would be “relatively easy.”

## Affirmative Updates

### 2AC — Base Resilient

#### The base forgives Trump no matter what — tribalism beats issues.

Perry and Silver 9/26 — Perry Bacon, Senior Writer for FiveThirtyEight, and Nate Silver, Editor in Chief for FiveThirtyEight, 2018 (“Will The GOP Base Really Stay Home If Kavanaugh Isn’t Confirmed?,” *FiveThirtyEight*, September 26th, Available Online at <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/will-the-gop-base-really-stay-home-if-kavanaugh-isnt-confirmed/>, Accessed 10-08-2018)

perry: It is true, though, that if you wanted to accurately describe Trump’s base or the Republican base, white evangelicals would be a big part of the description. But I don’t know if it follows that therefore because white evangelicals are the base, abortion/LGBT issues motivate them, as opposed to taxes, immigration, health care, etc. natesilver: Or just overall tribal behavior. They’ve clearly forgiven a lot of Trump’s sins because he’s on their “team.”

### 2AC — Hasn’t Fulfilled Immigration Promises

#### Either the wall thumps, or it shows Trump can spin the plan.

Nakamura 9/7 — David Nakamura, White House Reporter for the Washington Post, BA in Journalism from University of Missouri, 2018 (“Under pressure from base, Trump falsely inflates administration’s progress on his border wall,” *Washington Post*, September 7th, Available Online at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/under-pressure-from-base-trump-falsely-inflates-administrations-progress-on-his-border-wall/2018/09/07/e086db64-b2b6-11e8-a20b-5f4f84429666_story.html?utm_term=.d8bd7024fd96>, Accessed 10-08-2018)

As pressure mounts on President Trump to fulfill his key campaign pledge to build a border wall, he has hit on a quick and easy method to demonstrate progress: Just inflate how much his administration is already spending on the project. Over the past week, including at a campaign rally Thursday night in Billings, Mont., Trump has begun boasting that he has spent $3.2 billion on the wall at the U.S.-Mexico border — twice as much as has been authorized by Congress. “We’ve started the wall,” Trump told thousands of supporters at the event. “We’ve spent $3.2 billion on the wall. We’ve got to get the rest of the funding.” Later, he repeated the monetary figure and added: “We’ve done a lot of work on the wall. A lot of people don’t understand that.” [Trump raises the specter of impeachment at Montana rally] Perhaps that is because it is not entirely true. The Trump administration has begun work on 14 miles of a wall in San Diego and 20 miles in Santa Teresa, N.M., under a $341 million appropriation from Congress last year, according to the Department of Homeland Security. Additional border security projects, including levee walls and a secondary wall in San Diego, have been planned and could begin soon under $1.6 billion allocated in the spring, the agency said. But Trump, who touted the $1.6 billion figure in rallies in June and July, has suddenly upped the figure, suggesting at a rally in Charleston, W.Va., in late August that the administration has spent “over $3 billion. It’s moving along very nicely.” A White House spokesman did not respond to a request for comment. But Trump appears to be adding the money authorized by Congress in the spring with another $1.6 billion proposed by lawmakers in a new spending bill this month. The White House is demanding more, hoping to win at least $5 billion for the wall in this month’s negotiations. Trump has vacillated in recent weeks on whether he will follow through on threats to force a partial government shutdown at the end of the month if lawmakers do not pony up the funds. The president has said GOP leaders have pressured him not to do so. [Juice the base or play it safe? Trump weighs fight over border wall.] During a conversation with reporters Friday on Air Force One, Trump was asked whether he is considering using money from the military’s budget to help pay for the wall. “We’d rather do it the old-fashioned way,” he said. “We have two options — we have military, we have homeland security. I’d rather get it through politically [in Congress]. If we don’t, I’m looking at that option very seriously.” In all, estimates for Trump’s wall have ranged between $25 billion and $50 billion. Early this year, Democrats appeared willing to support a figure in the lower edge of that range in exchange for providing a path to citizenship for younger immigrants in the country illegally — a deal that fell apart when Trump insisted on cuts to legal immigration, which Democrats opposed. The president’s dilemma has become more acute as he approaches November’s midterm elections, which could amount to a referendum on his leadership. His conservative base has grown increasingly impatient over the wall.

### 2AC — Base Already Angry

#### Trump’s already lost his mojo with the base.

Moran 9/15 — Lee Moran, Trends Editor at the Huffington Post, 2018 (“Bill Maher Breaks Down Why He Thinks Donald Trump’s Base Is Ditching Him,” *Huffington Post*, September 15th, Available Online at <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/bill-maher-donald-trump-real-time_us_5b9c9ef3e4b046313fbb577a>, Accessed 10-08-2018)

President Donald Trump’s “bad week,” “bad month” and “bad summer” has made Bill Maher feel a little bit “better” about the world. On Friday’s “Real Time,” the host picked apart the current controversies engulfing the Trump administration and concluded that he was feeling “a little lighter than I have in a very long time.” “The polls for him are going down. The looks on the faces at the people at his rallies ― I think the magic is gone,” Maher explained. “They’re bored. He hasn’t written new material. They have a look like, ‘Man, it’s a lot about you.’” “Con men traditionally skip town,” he added. “He’s working the same town. And eventually, even his people catch up.”

### Extend: “Base Already Angry”

#### New tariffs hit the base hardest.

White 9-24 — Ben White, POLITICO’s Chief Economic Correspondent, author of the “Morning Money” column for POLITICO, former Wall Street reporter for the NYT, 2018 (“Trump’s trade wars start biting GOP ahead of midterms,” *POLITICO*, September 24th, Available Online at <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/09/24/trump-midterms-trade-wars-china-801315>, Accessed 10-08-2018)

The latest impact will begin to hit Monday as new 10 percent tariffs Trump slapped on over $200 billion in imports from China are scheduled to go into effect. That tariff rate is set to rise to 25 percent on Jan. 1 if the Chinese don’t capitulate to White House demands. Trump has also threatened to bump the total up to more than $500 billion in imports, which would hit nearly every product China exported to the U.S. last year. Economists expect that to translate into higher prices for consumers across the country and special pain for low- to middle-income voters who make up much of Trump’s base — and are least able to absorb increased costs for consumer goods such as air conditioners, clothing and furniture. Republicans are counting on getting Trump supporters to the polls in November to hold off projected Democratic gains in the House and potentially the Senate. Forcing consumers to pay higher prices could make that harder.