

Center for Public Opinion

A1);\$1;#%#)2-\$%L-(%'">;2%*#L*,()7'C*;2[WR'1<P#"L>)">>1#;#%#)-,('AYR'1<9.*;;1,')>>1#;#%#)-&*+,2%&*.._(%<*;*;%.&\$1;%<1#`';2%*#521)%,'5-,(*(-;%3"M1C%\$%#7'XaR'1<P#"L>)">>1#;#%#)51L>-%('1[R'1<9.*;;1,')>>1#;#%#)-&;2%&51".(,)*..52-,+%;2%*#L*,(7*,(5-;*+,1>1%;*-.1>%,*+,<1#9.*;;1,*;2%'-);'C%%63"

9.*;;1,l)(">>1#;*)'51L*+,<#1L\$1;#%#)'C*;2'51..%+%('+%#%)7'C1L%,-,('&1",+%;#'\$1;#%#)7'C2*.%P#"L>'(1%)'/%);-L1,+L%,7;21)%';2-;2-\$%,'%\$%#'-;,%,(%'51..%+%'-,(;21)%QY&%-#)'1.(3"P2%'+%,(%#'+->'2-)'#%L*-,%(-)'*+,*<5-;,'>#;'1<;2*)';1#&U'9.*;;1,.'%-()'/&'XV'>1*;;)'-L1,+C1 L%,-,(P#"L>.'%-()'/&'X^>1*;;)'-L1,+L%,3'b2*.%;2*)'-'-.#+%'+%,(%#'+->7*;*),1;,">#%5%(%;,%(*;2%'O#-,*;%!;-;%U*;'-'TYXQ'@A-))'B1C%..cWN%#C)'>1..51,(5;%(,*;2%'N%#C'M-L>)2*#%!'%,-;%#-5%!'%;C%%,4%L15#-'0%-,,%'!2-2%%,-,(Z%>"/.5-;!#1C'K'!2-2%%,-.%-()'/&'XW'>1*;;)'-L1,+C1L%,3"P2%#%<1#%7'(%>*;%;2%'-;,%;,*1,<15")%(1,C1L%,C*;2;2%2*);1#*5'5-,*(-5&'1<M*..#&'9.*;;1,-,(51;#1\$%#)*-'#%L-#6)'L-(%'/&'41,-.(P#"L>7'\$1;#%#)'>>%-#;'1'/%'-.#+%.&-(2%#*+,;1;2%*#>#;&*('%,*;&3"

P2%#%#2-)-.1)1/%%,-'5.-%#)'2*<;*,\$1;#%#)'l)%,)%'1<C21C*..C*,3'b2*.%'-L-d1#*;&'STR] /%.*%\$%#M*..#&'9.*;;1,C*..C*,'2%#%.'%5;*1,7;2-;'L/%#*)'(1C,['>1*;;)'<#1L'1"#>#%\$*1)">1..7'C2*.%;2%!'%.'%<;2-'P#"L>'C*..C*,2-)*,5#%-%)%(<#1L'1"QR3"

Motivated Reasoning and the Effect of Controversies

=#"#>1..'.*,5."(%('D"%);*1,)-/1";'a*L>1#;-;5-L>-*+,'_%\$%#;)'2-;2-\$%'155"##%(*;2%'-);'V'C%#%6)e\X];2%#%\$%#.-;*1;2-;2%JKF'C-)'51,*,*,+;1*,\$%);*+;%M*..#&'9.*;;1,l)7qL-*)'7;2%'-55")-;*1,)'1<XX'C1L%,';2-;41,-.(P#"L>'2-)%,+-%%(*,*,->#1>#*-%)%'f"-.'/%2-\$*1#'-,(a];2%#%<<%5;1<;2%!(%/-;%3"=#'+%,%#-.'<*,(*,+)>1*;;1;1;1;2->51,*-)'-#%'-/.'%';1<*,%#-,(('L*))'51;#1\$%#)*%7'/'";2%)%51;#1\$%#)*%#5%#-)'L1;*\$-,*+,<-5;1#)'<1#;21)%<#1L';2%!'1;2%#>#;&3"

=,';2%'D"%);*1,)'1<;2%'JKFI)'#%\$%#C'1<-((;*1,-.'%L-*)'<#1L'M*..#&'9.*;;1,7'T[R'1<'.*6%.&'\$1;#%#)-&;2-;2%&'-%#'.%)'.*6%.&;1'\$1;%'<1#9.*;;1,/'%5-)%'1<;2*)',%C)7'C2*.%'V[R']-&'*;'(1%),1;L-6%'-(*<<%#%,5%\aR')-&'_L1#%'.*6%.&]3'M1C%\$%#7'-L1,+4%L15#-;)'7[^R']-&'*;'L-6%)',1'(*<<%#%,5%7'QR')-&'*;'L-6%)';2%L'L1#%'.*6%.&'1)">>1#;9.*;;1,7-,(1.,&'VR')-&'2%&'-%#'.%)'.*6%.&'1'\$1;%'<1#9.*;;1,/'%5-)%'1<;2*)',%C)3'?L1,+Z%>7,(*5,(%>%,(%;)'7'21C%\$%#7'C%)'%%'+%#%-%#'-;#*;*1,U'QQR'1<Z%>"/.5-,-,(aaR'1<*',(%>%,(%;))-&'2-;2*)',%C)'L-6%)';2%L'.%)'.*6%.&'1'\$1;%'<1#9.*;;1,3'K';7'C%2-);%,'1,1;%'2-'L-,&'1<;2%)%'\$1;#%#)'C%#%#-.'#%-(&'1,')">>1#;*,+9.*;;1,-,(2%*);'.%-()'P#"L>'L1,+F,(%>%,(%;)'a[R';1'aTR3"

b%#)%%#-'\$%#&)*L*..#>-;,%#,'C*;2%#%+-%();1;2%'-..%+-%;1,)/&)%\$%#-.'C1L%,-/1";'P#"L>|)'*,->#1>#*-%)'/%2-\$*1B316*+,--'..'.*6%.&'\$1;#%#)7'TVR')-&'2-;2*)'L-6%)';2%L_'.%)'.*6%.&'

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;1')">>1#;'P#"L>7'/'-L1,+Z%>"/. *5-,)7';2-;'L/%#(#1>);1'[R7'C*;2'[VR')-&*,'+*;'L-6%)'
,1'(*<<%#%,;-',('VR')-&*,'+*;'L-6%)';2%L'L1#%'. *6%.&;1'\$1;%'<1#9.*;;1,3"

g\$%, '1,;2%'(%/-;%)7'C2%#%'N%C'M-L>)'1#%#)-+##%&'-'C*(%L-#;2;9.*;;1,'C-);2%'
C*,,%#1<2%'(%/-;%)'SSR')-&'9.*;;1,'>%#<1#L%('/%;;%#51L>-#%('1'1,.&'TSR'<1#P#"L>]7'
1,.&'QR')-&;2-;'2%'(%/-;%)'52-,+%(;'2%*#'\$1;%'R'1<9.*;;1,'\$1;%'#)-,('SR'1<'P#"L>'\$1;%'#)3"

Policy Issues

=,%>-#;'1<;2%'%.%5;1#-.'>#15%))';2-;'2-)/%%,');#-,+%.&'-/)%,'<#1L>"/. *5'(*)51"#)%*')
)*+,*<*5-,;'>1. *5&'(%/-;%'3"N%C'M-L>)2*#%'\$1;%'#)'C%#%'-)6%('C21';2%&'#);'L1#%'1,'XX'>1. *5&
)")%7-',('C%'L-&'/%-/.%';1"',(%#);-,('>-#;'1<41,-('P#"L>I)'"#+%-',(;2%'5.1)%,%))'1<
;2*)%.%5;*1,'/&;2%*#-',)C%#)3"A-d1#0.2(-6)] TJ [0>-#)'1<%';2%L'L5;1#-.'

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>#;*),'.1&-.;&'#-;%)'-#%','%-#. &'%D"*\$-.%,'C*;2[VR'1<4%L15#-;)-,('[aR'1<Z%>"/. *5-,)'
)">>1#;* ,+';2%*#5-,(*(-;%3"!","7'21C%\$%#7'*)'C* , , +* , (%>% , (% , ; QR3"

k-, '=);%#,' 51, ; , "%);1)"<<%##1L';2%'-5;';2-;'L-, &'N%CM-L>)2*#%'\$1;)%#)'%*;2%#'(1',1;'
6,1C'C21'2%)'\XXR]'1#2-\$%'&%;'(1%\$%.1>-', '1>* , *1, '-/1";2*L'\X VR]3P2%)%' , "L/%#)'-#%'
L>#1\$%(7/'";1, &'XR'1<'N%CM-L>)2#%'\$1;)%#)'2-\$%' , %\$%#2%-#('1<'92#*)!' , " , "3"

Election