Why the Win?

We're interested in your opinions of why the Republicans did better than expected in this week's elections. As I read some possible reasons, please tell me if you think each is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason for the Republicans' success...

- Voter support for President Bush's willingness to use military force, if necessary, to disarm and remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq: 59% major, 23% minor
- President Bush's personal popularity and campaign efforts: 53% major, 31% minor
- The Democrats didn't offer a clear alternative to Bush and the Republicans on the issue of war with Iraq: 51% major, 27% minor
- Republicans were trusted more on terrorism and national security issues: 50% major, 26% minor
- The Democrats didn't offer a clear alternative to the Republicans on the Bush tax cuts and other economic issues: 48% major, 29% minor
- The Republicans had better ideas on the economy, such as their emphasis on tax cuts: 41% major, 31% minor

One Thing's Clear

Do you think [the Republican Party/the Democratic Party] does or does not have a clear plan for solving the country's problems?

- THE REPUBLICAN PARTY: Yes, has a clear plan 50%, No, does not 42%, No opinion 8%
- THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY: Yes, has a clear plan 30%, No, does not 60%, No opinion 10%

In general, is your opinion of [the Republican Party/the Democratic Party] favorable or not favorable?

- THE REPUBLICAN PARTY: Favorable 51%, Not favorable 39%, Don't know/No answer 10%
- THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY: Favorable 45%, Not favorable 44%, Don't know/No answer 11%
Ahead and to the Right

**Question:**

...[D]o you think it’s a good thing or bad thing that the Republicans won control of both houses of Congress, or do you think it won’t make much difference either way?

**Questions:**

Do you think that Republicans controlling the White House and both houses of Congress is a good thing or a bad thing for the country in each of the following areas? How about...

- The Economy
  - Good thing: 53%
  - No opinion: 4%
  - Bad thing: 40%

- Foreign Affairs
  - Good thing: 57%
  - No opinion: 3%
  - Bad thing: 36%

**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates/Newsweek, November 7-8, 2002.

Now that the Republicans control both Congress and the White House, how concerned are you, if at all, that they will move the country in too conservative a direction?

- Not at all/not too concerned
  - Total: 46%
  - Voted Democratic: 21%
  - Voted Republican: 73%

- Somewhat/very concerned
  - Total: 52%
  - Voted Democratic: 76%
  - Voted Republican: 25%

- How concerned are you, if at all, that the Republicans will push through tax cuts and military spending that will lead to big increases in the federal budget deficit?

- Not at all/not too concerned
  - Total: 34%
  - Voted Democratic: 12%
  - Voted Republican: 57%

- Somewhat/very concerned
  - Total: 63%
  - Voted Democratic: 39%
  - Voted Republican: 39%

**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates/Newsweek, November 7-8, 2002.

As I read you some of the things the new Congress might do over the next two years, please tell me if you think each should be one of their top priorities, a lower priority, or shouldn’t be done at all. What about...

- TOP PRIORITY
  - Helping seniors pay for prescription drugs: 80%
  - Major reform of the federal income tax system: 65%
  - Making President Bush’s 10-year, $1.3 trillion tax cut program permanent: 42%
  - Approval of conservative judges President Bush has nominated for the federal courts: 30%

- LOWER PRIORITY
  - Limiting or eliminating affirmative action preferences for minorities and women: 28%
  - Giving religious charities a bigger role in providing government social services: 26%
  - Social Security reform to allow some of the tax money collected to be invested in the stock market: 24%

- SHOULD NOT BE DONE
  - Relating environmental regulations to allow oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: 26%
  - New laws to restrict abortion: 24%

**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates/Newsweek, November 7-8, 2002.