The Parties Remain at a Kind of Parity on Who's Best at What

**Question:** Do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party would do a better job of dealing with each of the following issues and problems...

- **Democrats**
  - Foreign trade: 35%
  - Foreign affairs: 34%
  - Tax cuts: 36%
  - Crime: 37%
  - Federal budget deficit: 38%
  - Campaign finance reform: 31%
  - The power of the IRS: 35%
  - Taxes: 42%
  - Keeping the country prosperous: 44%
  - The economy: 45%
  - Protecting people's interests: 46%
  - Social Security: 46%
  - Education: 49%
  - Health care policy: 51%
  - Medicare: 51%
  - Environment: 57%

- **Republicans**
  - Foreign trade: 48%
  - Foreign affairs: 47%
  - Tax cuts: 43%
  - Crime: 43%
  - Federal budget deficit: 40%
  - Campaign finance reform: 37%
  - The power of the IRS: 37%
  - Taxes: 42%
  - Keeping the country prosperous: 42%
  - The economy: 39%
  - Protecting people's interests: 37%
  - Social Security: 35%
  - Education: 34%
  - Health care policy: 34%
  - Medicare: 31%
  - Environment: 26%

**Advantage Republicans**

**Advantage Democrats**

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for CNN/USA Today, October 27-28, 1997.

**Question:** Which political party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job on...

- **Democrats**
  - Maintaining a strong national defense: 37%
  - Foreign affairs: 41%
  - Balancing the federal budget: 41%
  - Handling the crime problem: 39%
  - Reducing the problem of illegal drugs: 33%
  - Changing the way campaigns are financed: 33%
  - Encouraging high moral standards and values: 40%
  - Handling the nation's economy: 45%
  - Holding taxes down: 45%
  - Coping with the nation's main problems*: 45%
    - Protecting Social Security: 48%
    - Protecting Medicare: 52%
    - Improving education and the schools: 54%
    - Providing affordable health care: 54%
    - Protecting the environment: 54%
    - Helping the middle class: 57%
    - Helping the poor: 61%

- **Republicans**
  - Maintaining a strong national defense: 53%
  - Foreign affairs: 45%
  - Balancing the federal budget: 43%
  - Handling the crime problem: 42%
  - Reducing the problem of illegal drugs: 41%
  - Changing the way campaigns are financed: 41%
  - Encouraging high moral standards and values: 41%
  - Handling the nation's economy: 44%
  - Holding taxes down: 44%
  - Coping with the nation's main problems*: 42%
    - Protecting Social Security: 38%
    - Protecting Medicare: 33%
    - Improving education and the schools: 33%
    - Providing affordable health care: 33%
    - Protecting the environment: 31%
    - Helping the middle class: 34%
    - Helping the poor: 27%

*The question posed in this case was “Overall, which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years?”