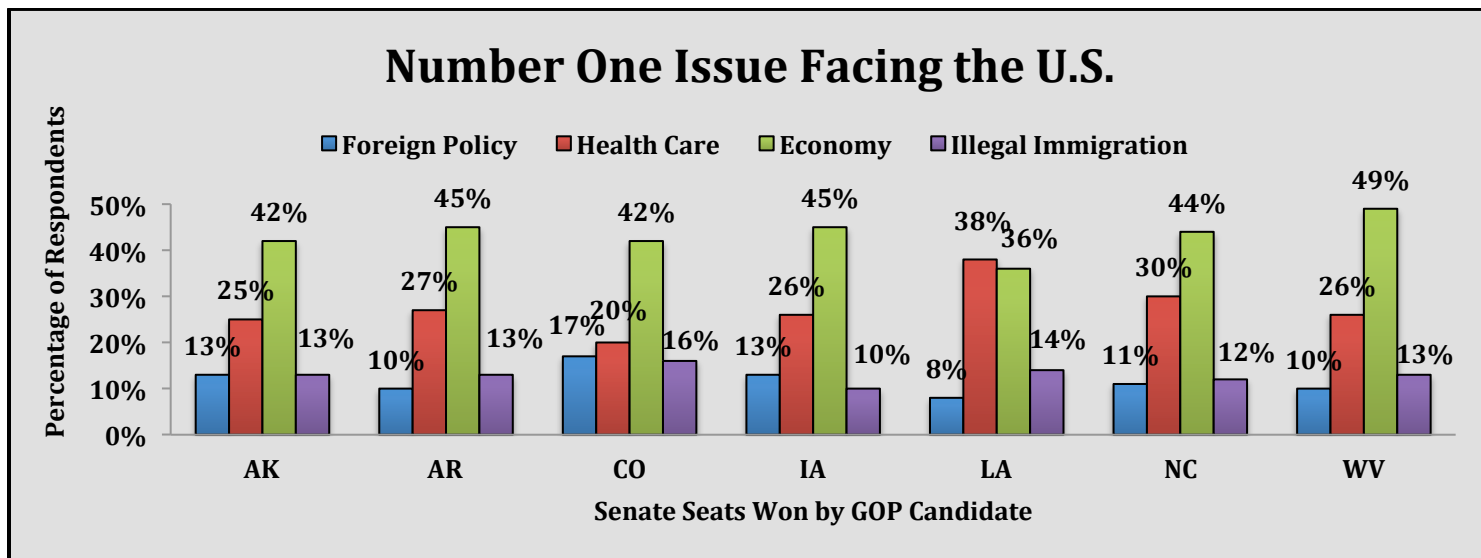


GOP Won Big In 2014 Despite 2013 Shutdown: In the weeks leading up to the October 2013 government shutdown, some [warned](#) that President Barack Obama was setting a trap to discredit Republicans ahead of the 2014 Midterms, explaining Republicans would inevitably be blamed for the shutdown as they were in the 1995 shutdown. Those fears were confirmed. At the time, an Oct. 3-6 CNN poll found 63% were angry with Republicans for how they handled the shutdown compared with 57% who were angry with Democrats and 53% angry with Mr. Obama. It took months for the GOP to reverse this.

Today, in the wake of a debate over funding the Department of Homeland Security, some argue the 2013 shutdown contributed to sweeping Republican victories in 2014. But no candidates in tight Senate races campaigned on the 2013 shutdown over ObamaCare. While [exit polls](#) showed most voters disapproved of the health care law, they also revealed the economy, not health care, was voters' biggest concern. Of the nine seats the GOP picked up, the economy was the number one concern of voters in six states: Alaska (42%), Arkansas (45%), Colorado (42%), Iowa (45%), North Carolina (44%), and West Virginia (49%). The GOP candidate carried at least a plurality of the vote of the economy-focused voters in each of these states except Alaska, winning 51%, 48%, 51%, 52%, and 60%, respectively. Additionally, voters who prioritized health care went for the Democratic candidate. Louisiana was the only state in which health care polled ahead of the economy (38% to 36%). However, in LA, as in the other states, 56% of those who believed health care was the most important issue voted for Democratic Senator Mary Landrieu. The question was not asked in two states, Montana and South Dakota.

The GOP won control of Congress in spite of, not because of, the shutdown. Though GOP candidates who won did support a full repeal of ObamaCare, their emphasis on economic growth had a greater impact on voters this past November.



Source: 2014 Midterm Election Exit Polls