

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted June 11-14, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 3.8\%$

1. Below are some issues facing the country. For each one, indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling that issue.

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The war in Iraq	13%	27%	21%	27%	13%
The economy	10%	21%	17%	43%	10%
Immigration	10%	18%	16%	40%	16%
The environment	13%	26%	18%	27%	17%
Terrorism	21%	28%	14%	24%	12%
Gay rights	13%	22%	13%	24%	28%
Education	14%	27%	16%	28%	15%
Health care	19%	17%	11%	44%	9%
Social security	12%	20%	16%	36%	16%
The budget deficit	10%	20%	14%	45%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	27%	22%	27%	13%
Taxes	10%	22%	17%	38%	13%
Medicare	15%	19%	15%	36%	14%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	39%	39%	15%	6%
The economy	81%	16%	2%	1%
Immigration	48%	33%	15%	4%
The environment	47%	34%	13%	6%
Terrorism	54%	32%	10%	4%
Gay rights	24%	22%	26%	29%
Education	60%	30%	8%	2%
Health care	73%	20%	5%	2%
Social security	66%	24%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	65%	25%	7%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	40%	40%	13%	7%
Taxes	66%	25%	6%	2%
Medicare	61%	28%	8%	3%

3. Which of these is the **most important issue for you?**

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	38%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	3%
Education	8%
Health care	9%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	3%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

Strongly Approve	16%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	18%
Strongly Disapprove	31%
Not Sure	8%

5. How much have you heard or read about the violent conflict in Libya between rebels and forces loyal to Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi?

A lot	41%
A little	43%
Nothing at all	15%

6. Do you think Britain, France, the U.S. and other countries are right or wrong to take military action in Libya? Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Right	43%
Wrong	24%
Not sure	33%

7. Do you think the military action in Libya should actively aim to remove Colonel Gaddafi from power, or do only what is necessary to protect civilians from attack? Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Should actively attempt to remove Colonel Gaddafi from power	42%
Should do only what is necessary to protect civilians from attack	37%
Not sure	21%

8. If the chance arose for the military coalition to target Colonel Gaddafi himself in an air strike, should they attempt to kill him? Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Colonel Gaddafi should be targeted personally if the opportunity arises ...	52%
Colonel Gaddafi should not be targeted personally	19%
Not sure	28%

9. Do you think the rebels in Libya will be successful in removing Colonel Gaddafi from power or not? Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Rebels will succeed in removing Gaddafi from power	34%
Gaddafi will remain in power	22%
Not sure	44%

10. In recent months there have been anti-government protests or uprisings in several countries in the Middle East and North Africa. NATO has intervened militarily in Libya to prevent a humanitarian crisis and end hostilities. Do you support a similar military intervention in any other Middle Eastern countries where there are anti-government protests? Please check all that apply. Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Bahrain	22%
Syria	36%
Yemen	31%
None of these	55%

11. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Defense Secretary Robert Gates	19%	27%	12%	7%	35%
CIA Director Leon Panetta	12%	24%	12%	8%	44%
U.S. Army General David Petraeus	28%	25%	8%	4%	35%

12. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Afghanistan?

Yes	35%
No	47%
Not sure	18%

13. Do you favor increasing or decreasing the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan?

Increase	11%
Keep the same	28%
Decrease	60%

14. If U.S. troops were removed from Afghanistan, do you think the Taliban would return to power?

Yes	47%
No	15%
Not sure	38%

15. Barack Obama said that he will start removing U.S. troops from Afghanistan in July 2011. Do you support or oppose the decision to begin withdrawing troops in July?

Strongly support	40%
Somewhat support	19%
Neither support, nor oppose	13%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	8%
Not sure	10%

16. Do you support a fast troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, beginning with a large reduction in troop levels in July, or do you support a more gradual troop withdrawal, beginning with a modest reduction in July? Asked if respondent supports Afghanistan troop withdrawal beginning in July

Fast withdrawal	35%
Gradual withdrawal	59%
Not sure	6%

17. What do you think will eventually happen in Afghanistan?

The United States will win the war in Afghanistan.	28%
The United States will withdraw from Afghanistan without winning.	72%

18. Do you think most people in Afghanistan want to have U.S. troops in their country or would they like the U.S. to leave?

Most would like U.S. troops to stay	11%
About equally divided	36%
Most would like U.S. troops to leave	35%
Not sure	18%

19. Are Afghan civilians better off today than they were when the war in Afghanistan began?

Definitely yes	13%
Probably yes	37%
Probably no	19%
Definitely no	6%
Not sure	24%

20. How concerned are you about the size of the federal budget deficit?

Very concerned	61%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not very concerned	10%
Not at all concerned	2%

21. When, if ever, do you think the federal budget should be balanced, so that the amount the government spends is equal to the amount it collects in taxes?

Immediately	41%
Next year	12%
In a few years	37%
Not necessary to balance the budget	10%

22. As you may know, the debt ceiling refers to the cap set by Congress on the amount of debt the federal government can legally borrow, including the debt owed to the public and the debt owed to federal government trust funds such as those for Social Security and Medicare. In order for the U.S. Treasury to borrow money above the ceiling, Congress needs to vote to raise the ceiling. Congress has voted to raise the debt ceiling ten times since 2001 and 74 times since 1962. What is your opinion? Asked of half of respondents

- Congress should raise the debt ceiling 21%
- Congress should only raise the debt ceiling if accompanied by an equal amount of spending cuts 34%
- Congress should not raise the debt ceiling 25%
- Not sure 20%

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- Congress should raise the debt ceiling 19%
- Congress should only raise the debt ceiling if accompanied by an equal amount of spending cuts 31%
- Congress should not raise the debt ceiling 30%
- Not sure 20%

24. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Sarah Palin	16%	19%	12%	40%	13%
John Boehner	8%	20%	13%	20%	38%
Mitch McConnell	5%	15%	15%	18%	48%
Mitt Romney	9%	26%	20%	17%	28%
Newt Gingrich	5%	17%	17%	36%	25%
Anthony Weiner	5%	10%	17%	43%	25%
Nancy Pelosi	10%	21%	11%	37%	21%
Harry Reid	6%	17%	13%	28%	36%

25. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for... Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	41%
The Republican Party candidate	32%
Some other candidate	9%
Not sure	18%

26. Thinking ahead to the 2012 presidential election, who do you think you would vote for if you had the following choices...

Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama	46%
Mitt Romney	40%
Not sure	13%

27. Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Sarah Palin? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama	50%
Sarah Palin	36%
Not sure	13%

28. Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Newt Gingrich? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama	52%
Newt Gingrich	35%
Not sure	13%

29. If you had to choose one, which of these individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012? Asked of Republicans

Sarah Palin	20%
Mitt Romney	14%
Newt Gingrich	5%
Tim Pawlenty	4%
Michele Bachmann	5%
Jon Huntsman	2%
Ron Paul	5%
Rudy Giuliani	11%
Herman Cain	7%
Rick Santorum	3%
Rick Perry	8%
Gary Johnson	0%
Fred Karger	0%
Buddy Roemer	1%
No preference	15%

30. Compared to the way the news media have treated other political figures, have they been harder or easier on Sarah Palin?

Harder	42%
Same	29%
Easier	17%
Not sure	12%

31. Would you say the news media have paid too much or too little attention to Sarah Palin?

Too much	72%
About the right amount	14%
Too little	5%
Not sure	9%

32. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Sarah Palin.

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither agree, nor disagree	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Sarah Palin cares about people like me.	19%	15%	22%	6%	37%
Sarah Palin understands people like me.	17%	16%	21%	8%	38%
Sarah Palin shares my values.	17%	15%	22%	8%	39%
Sarah Palin understands complex issues.	14%	15%	23%	9%	38%

33. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Mitt Romney.

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither agree, nor disagree	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Mitt Romney cares about people like me.	7%	17%	44%	12%	20%
Mitt Romney understands people like me.	8%	15%	44%	13%	20%
Mitt Romney shares my values.	9%	15%	43%	13%	21%
Mitt Romney understands complex issues.	15%	25%	41%	7%	12%

34. How many politicians do you think cheat in their marriages?

Most	32%
Some	46%
A few	14%
Not sure	8%

35. Are Democratic or Republican politicians more likely to be unfaithful?

Democratic politicians	7%
Both the same	85%
Republican politicians	8%

36. Overall, do the news media focus more on political scandals when they involve Democratic politicians or Republican politicians?

Democratic politicians	13%
Republican politicians	24%
No difference in media treatment of Democratic and Republican politicians	49%
Not sure	13%

37. Would you consider voting for a candidate for President who had had an extra-marital affair?

Yes	34%
No	32%
Not sure	35%

38. Would you say that a person is cheating in their marriage if they exchange sexual communications over the internet with someone other than their spouse, but do not have a physical relationship with that person?

Yes	53%
No	17%
Depends	30%

39. How much have you heard or read about the controversy involving sexual messages that Congressman Anthony Weiner sent to social media followers on Facebook and Twitter?

A lot	48%
A little	39%
Nothing at all	13%

40. Should Congressman Weiner resign from office over the controversy regarding his online behavior? Asked if respondent is aware of Weiner controversy

Definitely yes	36%
Probably yes	24%
Probably no	16%
Definitely no	13%
Not sure	11%

41. Do you think the news media are paying too much or too little attention to the Anthony Weiner controversy? Asked if respondent is aware of Weiner controversy

Too much	56%
About the right amount	31%
Too little	8%
Not sure	6%

42. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	30%
Liberal	19%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	20%

43. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	44%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	56%

44. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Barack Obama as a person?

Like a lot	36%
Like somewhat	30%
Dislike	24%
Not sure	11%

45. Which of these words would you use to describe Barack Obama?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	33%	47%	20%
Decisive	24%	52%	24%
Effective	23%	45%	31%
Experienced	19%	44%	37%
Honest	34%	36%	30%
In touch	28%	43%	29%
Inspiring	36%	43%	20%
Intelligent	60%	27%	13%
Partisan	25%	55%	21%
Patriotic	32%	44%	24%
Realistic	30%	41%	29%
Religious	16%	56%	27%
Sincere	35%	38%	27%
Strong	31%	48%	21%
Unifying	18%	52%	29%

46. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the United States Congress is handling its job?

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	7%

47. Would you say things in this country today are...

Generally headed in the right direction	21%
Off on the wrong track	64%
Not sure	15%

48. Overall, do you think the economy is getting better or worse?

Getting better	17%
About the same	32%
Getting worse	45%
Not sure	6%

49. Do you think the stock market will be higher or lower 12 months from now?

Higher	20%
About the same	29%
Lower	30%
Not sure	21%

50. Would you say that you and your family are...

Better off financially	12%
About the same as now	43%
Worse off financially	39%
Not sure	5%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	June 11-14, 2011
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's PollingPoint panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2005–2007 American Community Study. Voter registration, turnout, religion, news interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement and the Pew Religion in American Life Survey. Matching respondents were selected from the PollingPoint panel, an opt-in Internet panel.
Weighting	The sample was weighted using propensity scores based on age, gender, race, education, news interest, voter registration, and non-placement on an ideology scale. The weights range from 0.5 to 4.5, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.72.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.8% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	22 questions not reported.