

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted August 27-30, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 3.6\%$

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	11%	28%	21%	27%	13%
The economy	7%	19%	17%	47%	9%
Immigration	7%	20%	17%	39%	17%
The environment	10%	27%	18%	24%	20%
Terrorism	18%	26%	16%	26%	13%
Gay rights	10%	25%	12%	24%	28%
Education	13%	24%	22%	24%	17%
Health care	14%	21%	12%	43%	9%
Social security	10%	21%	16%	38%	15%
The budget deficit	7%	19%	16%	48%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	26%	22%	29%	13%
Taxes	10%	20%	20%	39%	11%
Medicare	11%	21%	16%	37%	15%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	36%	41%	15%	7%
The economy	82%	15%	2%	1%
Immigration	45%	34%	14%	7%
The environment	41%	38%	15%	6%
Terrorism	52%	31%	12%	5%
Gay rights	21%	25%	26%	29%
Education	58%	30%	9%	3%
Health care	71%	23%	4%	3%
Social security	65%	27%	6%	2%
The budget deficit	62%	28%	8%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	36%	43%	15%	7%
Taxes	63%	28%	6%	3%
Medicare	58%	30%	9%	4%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	39%
Immigration	3%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	10%
Social security	17%
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	13%
Somewhat Approve	25%
Somewhat Disapprove	16%
Strongly Disapprove	38%
Not Sure	7%

5. Compared to the way it handled Hurricane Katrina six years ago, would you say the federal government seems more or less prepared to handle a major hurricane now?

More	46%
About the same	38%
Less	6%
Not sure	11%

6. In the years since Hurricane Katrina, do you think the federal government has done all it could reasonably be expected to do to make sure the government responds better to future natural disasters, or could the government have done more?

Has done all it could	33%
Could have done more	36%
Not sure	30%

7. Looking ahead, how confident are you in the federal government's ability to respond effectively to another major disaster like the one caused by Hurricane Katrina?

Very confident	14%
Somewhat confident	49%
Not so confident	28%
Not confident at all	10%

8. How much have you heard or read about the earthquake that struck the East Coast on August 23rd with its epicenter in Virginia?

A lot	48%
A little	44%
Nothing at all	8%

9. Which of these statements is closer to your own opinion?

Asked if respondent is aware of East Coast earthquake

There will probably be more earthquakes of a similar or greater intensity on the East Coast in the near future.	36%
This was a highly unusual event and is not likely to occur again in the near future.	36%
Not sure	27%

10. How concerned are you about the danger of a potential earthquake in the area where you live that could pose a risk to your personal safety?

Very concerned	12%
Somewhat concerned	26%
Not very concerned	35%
Not at all concerned	21%
Not sure	5%

11. How much have you heard or read about the charges that were later dropped against Dominique Strauss-Kahn, former head of the IMF, that he sexually assaulted a hotel maid?

A lot	38%
A little	39%
Nothing at all	23%

12. If the case against Dominique Strauss-Kahn had gone to trial and you were a member of the jury, how would you have voted on the charge of sexual assault?

Asked if respondent is aware of Dominique Strauss-Kahn case

Guilty	31%
Not guilty	14%
Not sure	54%

13. From this list of prominent Americans over the past 40 to 50 years or so, which ONE do you admire the most?

Ronald Reagan	20%
Martin Luther King, Jr.	18%
Warren Buffett	4%
Steve Jobs	4%
Oprah Winfrey	4%
Billy Graham	5%
John F. Kennedy	12%
Colin Powell	3%
Bill Gates	4%
Barack Obama	8%
Bill Cosby	2%
Tom Hanks	3%
None of the above	11%

14. How much of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of racial equality has been realized today?

A great deal of it	22%
Quite a bit	42%
Only some	23%
Very little	4%
Not much at all	3%
Not sure	5%

15. Do you think race relations in the United States are generally...

Good 66%
 Bad 34%

16. How big a problem is racism in our society today?

A big problem 16%
 Somewhat of a problem 48%
 A small problem 30%
 Not a problem 6%

17. Since the 1960's, do you think race relations in the United States have gotten...

Better 77%
 Stayed about the same 17%
 Worse 6%

18. Since Barack Obama has been president, do you think race relations in the United States have gotten...

Better 11%
 Stayed about the same 59%
 Worse 30%

19. How much discrimination do the following groups face in America today?

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not much	None at all
Arab Americans	46%	35%	14%	5%
Asian Americans	7%	27%	52%	14%
African Americans	16%	39%	36%	9%
Mexican Americans	27%	43%	24%	6%

20. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	23%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	28%
No opinion	19%

21. In general, do you think leaders of other countries around the world have respect for Barack Obama or not?

A great deal of respect	13%
A fair amount of respect	38%
Not much respect	30%
No respect	19%

22. In today's world, does the United States have a responsibility to intervene militarily in trouble spots around the globe, or is this not a responsibility of the United States?

Has responsibility to intervene, even when other foreign allies do not	8%
Has responsibility to intervene, but only as part of an international coalition	51%
Has no responsibility to intervene	26%
Not sure	15%

23. Which of the following countries do you consider to be a friend or an enemy of the United States?

Asked of half of respondents

	Ally of U.S.	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy of the U.S.	Not sure
Iran	1%	2%	23%	52%	21%
Egypt	5%	28%	25%	7%	35%
Saudi Arabia	9%	24%	24%	12%	31%
Yemen	1%	10%	28%	20%	42%
Tunisia	1%	13%	22%	9%	56%
Iraq	5%	15%	30%	26%	24%
Bahrain	4%	19%	18%	8%	52%
Libya	1%	8%	31%	24%	36%
Syria	1%	5%	32%	26%	36%
Afghanistan	3%	9%	35%	30%	23%

24. Do you think that people in these countries have a favorable or an unfavorable view of the United States?

Asked of half of respondents

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
Iran	1%	10%	18%	55%	16%
Egypt	4%	26%	27%	22%	21%
Saudi Arabia	2%	20%	31%	28%	19%
Yemen	1%	9%	26%	37%	28%
Tunisia	1%	15%	23%	25%	37%
Iraq	2%	19%	29%	36%	15%
Bahrain	1%	16%	23%	23%	36%
Libya	4%	18%	19%	38%	20%
Syria	1%	10%	27%	37%	25%
Afghanistan	1%	12%	33%	38%	16%

25. Do you think that democracy will take hold in the following countries?

	Will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	Will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	Will probably never become a stable democracy.	Not sure
Egypt	9%	33%	29%	30%
Tunisia	3%	19%	32%	47%
Iraq	6%	24%	44%	26%
Libya	3%	26%	40%	31%
Syria	2%	18%	43%	36%
Afghanistan	3%	14%	58%	25%

26. Do you think Barack Obama has a clear plan for U.S. policy in the Middle East?

Yes	18%
No	53%
Not sure	29%

27. 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	49%
A little	39%
Nothing at all	12%

28. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to the uprising in Libya?

Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	25%
Somewhat disapprove	19%
Strongly disapprove	19%
No opinion	19%

29. Do you think Britain, France, the U.S. and other countries were right or wrong to take military action in Libya?

Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Right	49%
Wrong	23%
Not sure	28%

30. How much confidence do you have in the military capabilities of NATO?

A great deal	10%
A fair amount	47%
Not much	31%
None at all	12%

31. Do you support or oppose U.S. membership in NATO?

Strongly support	24%
Somewhat support	24%
Neither support, nor oppose	20%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	7%
Not sure	17%

32. How closely have you been following news about the 2012 presidential election campaign?

Very closely	29%
Somewhat closely	32%
Not too closely	24%
Not at all	15%

33. Next year, are you more likely to vote in a Democratic presidential primary or caucus, or a Republican primary or caucus, or aren't you likely to vote in a primary or caucus at all?

Asked of registered voters

Democratic primary or caucus	39%
Republican primary or caucus	41%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all	20%

34. Are you satisfied with the field of Republicans who have declared their candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination or would you like someone else to enter the race?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

Satisfied with current field	43%
Would like someone else to enter	22%
Not sure	35%

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

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

Sarah Palin	9%
Mitt Romney	14%
Newt Gingrich	6%
Michele Bachmann	5%
Jon Huntsman	2%
Ron Paul	13%
Rudy Giuliani	5%
Herman Cain	7%
Rick Santorum	1%
Rick Perry	28%
Other	5%
No preference	6%

36. And which of these individuals would be your SECOND choice to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

Sarah Palin	8%
Mitt Romney	15%
Newt Gingrich	7%
Michele Bachmann	15%
Jon Huntsman	4%
Ron Paul	5%
Rudy Giuliani	7%
Herman Cain	7%
Rick Santorum	2%
Rick Perry	16%
Other	3%
No preference	10%

37. How likely would you be to vote for the following people if they were the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not at all likely	Not sure
Sarah Palin	38%	19%	15%	23%	5%
Mitt Romney	45%	26%	11%	12%	7%
Newt Gingrich	32%	18%	16%	26%	8%
Michele Bachmann	39%	19%	12%	22%	9%
Jon Huntsman	21%	14%	22%	23%	20%
Ron Paul	33%	18%	15%	22%	12%
Rudy Giuliani	36%	21%	19%	18%	6%
Herman Cain	39%	18%	13%	14%	16%
Rick Santorum	28%	18%	14%	22%	17%
Rick Perry	51%	17%	11%	12%	10%

38. In the 2012 presidential election, would you prefer that Barack Obama or someone else run as the Democratic nominee for president?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Democratic primary or caucus

Barack Obama	74%
Someone else	10%
Not sure	15%

39. Are you satisfied with choosing between a Republican and Democratic candidate for president or would you favor having a third-party candidate to choose from?

Asked of registered voters

Satisfied with choice between Republican and Democratic candidates ...	49%
Would like a third-party candidate to run	18%
Not sure	33%

40. How likely would you be to vote for New York mayor Michael Bloomberg if he were to run as an independent candidate for president in 2012?

Asked of registered voters

Very likely	3%
Somewhat likely	9%
Not too likely	18%
Not at all likely	51%
Not sure	20%

41. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Rick Perry, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Rick Perry?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	45%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Rick Perry	3%
Rick Perry	40%
Other	4%
Not sure	6%

42. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	43%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Mitt Romney	2%
Mitt Romney	42%
Other	5%
Not sure	7%

43. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Michele Bachmann, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Michele Bachmann?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	46%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Michele Bachmann	3%
Michele Bachmann	37%
Other	6%
Not sure	7%

44. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Sarah Palin, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Sarah Palin?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	48%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Sarah Palin	2%
Sarah Palin	35%
Other	9%
Not sure	4%

45. How much have you heard or read about the political movement known as the Tea Party?

A great deal	34%
A fair amount	36%
Not much	22%
Nothing at all	8%

46. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement?

Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Yes	16%
No	84%

47. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?

Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Strongly support	18%
Somewhat support	15%
Neither support, nor oppose	15%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	30%
Not sure	13%

48. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	30%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	17%

49. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	42%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	58%

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

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	27%
Not sure	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	27%	51%	22%
Decisive	20%	52%	28%
Effective	16%	48%	37%
Experienced	13%	45%	42%
Honest	31%	41%	28%
In touch	22%	46%	31%
Inspiring	33%	43%	24%
Intelligent	57%	30%	14%
Partisan	25%	58%	17%
Patriotic	28%	47%	25%
Realistic	25%	47%	28%
Religious	15%	59%	26%
Sincere	32%	40%	28%
Strong	26%	48%	26%
Unifying	12%	50%	38%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	14%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	14%
Off on the wrong track	70%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	9%
About the same	34%
Getting worse	51%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	18%
About the same	31%
Lower	28%
Not sure	23%

56. Do you favor increasing taxes on families making over \$250,000 per year?

Favor	59%
Oppose	27%
Not sure	14%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	11%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	39%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	45%
Not sure	6%

58. How worried are you about losing your job?

Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed

Very worried	14%
Somewhat worried	33%
Not very worried	53%

59. If you lost your job, how hard would it be for you to find a new job that paid as much as you are making now?

Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed

Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut.	44%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	31%
Not very hard	16%
Not sure	9%

60. Six months from now do you think there will be...

More jobs	15%
The same amount of jobs	37%
Fewer jobs	35%
Not sure	13%

61. How happy would you say you are with your current job?

Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed

Very happy	21%
Happy	32%
Neither happy nor unhappy	29%
Unhappy	11%
Very unhappy	7%

62. How would you guess your total family income to be six months from now?

Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed

Higher	13%
Same	69%
Lower	18%

63. If you lost your job, how long would it be before you exhausted your savings?

Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed

I don't have any savings	35%
I could last a few weeks on my savings	18%
I could last a few months on my savings	28%
I could last a year on my savings	8%
I could last more than a year on my savings	11%

64. 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	37%
Other	2%
Not sure	17%
I would not vote	2%

65. If an election for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?

Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	40%
The Republican Party candidate	37%
Other	0%
Not sure	20%
I would not vote	3%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	August 27-30, 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 3, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.59.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.6% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	19 questions not reported.