

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted September 3-6, 2011  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.7\%$

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	15%	25%	22%	24%	15%
The economy	9%	19%	18%	44%	10%
Immigration	7%	22%	16%	39%	17%
The environment	11%	27%	19%	26%	17%
Terrorism	22%	24%	15%	24%	15%
Gay rights	15%	21%	13%	23%	30%
Education	14%	24%	19%	27%	17%
Health care	19%	18%	13%	40%	11%
Social security	13%	19%	18%	35%	15%
The budget deficit	10%	18%	17%	43%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	25%	24%	24%	14%
Taxes	12%	22%	17%	38%	12%
Medicare	12%	22%	17%	34%	15%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	37%	43%	13%	8%
The economy	80%	16%	2%	2%
Immigration	44%	31%	18%	7%
The environment	44%	37%	13%	6%
Terrorism	52%	32%	11%	5%
Gay rights	21%	24%	23%	32%
Education	59%	27%	9%	5%
Health care	72%	20%	4%	4%
Social security	65%	27%	6%	2%
The budget deficit	61%	28%	8%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	39%	40%	13%	7%
Taxes	66%	25%	5%	4%
Medicare	57%	30%	10%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	40%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	10%
Social security	15%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	3%

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

Strongly Approve .....	12%
Somewhat Approve .....	27%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	17%
Strongly Disapprove .....	36%
Not Sure .....	8%

**5. Are we safer from terrorist attacks now than we were in 2001?**

Much more safe .....	12%
Somewhat more safe .....	33%
About the same .....	30%
Somewhat less safe .....	7%
Much less safe .....	9%
Not sure .....	10%

**6. What do you think are the chances of a terrorist attack against the United States in the next 12 months?**

Very likely (more than 50%) .....	15%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%) .....	38%
Not very likely (1% to 10%) .....	24%
Very unlikely (less than 1%) .....	9%
Not sure .....	14%

**7. Do you think the policies of the George W. Bush Administration made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?**

More safe .....	36%
No effect .....	14%
Less safe .....	32%
Not sure .....	17%

**8. Do you think the policies of the Obama Administration have made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?**

More safe .....	31%
No effect .....	27%
Less safe .....	23%
Not sure .....	19%

**9. Which comes closer to your view?**

In the long run, the United States will be safer from terrorism if it confronts the countries and groups that promote terrorism. ....	46%
In the long run, the United States will be safer from terrorism if it stays out of other countries' affairs. ....	54%

**10. As a President, how do you think George W. Bush will go down in history?**

Outstanding .....	3%
Above Average .....	15%
Average .....	25%
Below Average .....	20%
Poor .....	28%
Not Sure .....	9%

**11. As a President, how do you think Barack Obama will go down in history?**

Outstanding .....	6%
Above Average .....	18%
Average .....	23%
Below Average .....	18%
Poor .....	25%
Not Sure .....	10%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Dick Cheney	9%	17%	16%	41%	18%
Rudy Giuliani	16%	28%	20%	14%	23%
Condoleezza Rice	18%	28%	18%	14%	21%
Colin Powell	25%	35%	14%	7%	19%
George W. Bush	16%	21%	19%	36%	8%
Joe Biden	13%	26%	17%	24%	20%
Barack Obama	23%	23%	14%	32%	8%
Hillary Clinton	28%	30%	15%	16%	11%
Karl Rove	6%	14%	13%	28%	38%
Michael Bloomberg	5%	23%	20%	15%	38%

**13. How serious a threat do you think Al Qaeda poses to the United States?**

An immediate and serious threat to the United States	22%
A somewhat serious threat to the United States	41%
A minor threat to the United States	21%
Not a threat to the United States	3%
Not sure	13%

**14. In your opinion, has the United States recovered from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, DC?**

Has recovered	23%
Has yet to recover	40%
Will never recover	25%
Not sure	12%

15. In your opinion, do the American people currently focus too much or too little on the memory of the events of September 11, 2001?

Too much .....	17%
About the right amount .....	53%
Too little .....	19%
Not sure .....	11%

16. Since September 11, 2001, the United States has fought against the threat of terrorism through military operations abroad and increased security and surveillance inside of the United States. Do you think these actions have been worth the cost?

Worth cost .....	46%
Not worth cost .....	30%
Not sure .....	23%

17. Do you think that September 11th should be a national holiday to commemorate those who died in the attacks on that day in 2001?

Yes .....	46%
No .....	32%
Not sure .....	22%

18. How would you rank the following historical events from most to least important? Drag the most important event to the top position on the right and the least important to the bottom.

	Ranked 1st	Ranked 2nd	Ranked 3rd	Ranked 4th	Ranked 5th
Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, bringing the United States into World War Two (December 7, 1941)	36%	26%	20%	11%	6%
The "9/11" terrorist attacks on New York and Washington D.C. (September 11, 2001)	26%	25%	23%	14%	12%
Fall of the Berlin Wall (November 1989) and dissolution of the Soviet Union (1990-91)	5%	10%	17%	26%	41%
Atomic weapons used by the United States against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War Two (August 1945)	19%	24%	21%	23%	13%
Assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy (November 22, 1963)	14%	15%	18%	25%	28%

19. Thinking about the events of the last ten years, how would you rank the following events from most to least important? Drag the most important event to the top position on the right and the least important to the bottom.

	Ranked 1st	Ranked 2nd	Ranked 3rd	Ranked 4th	Ranked 5th
The "9/11" terrorist attacks on New York and Washington D.C. (September 11, 2001)	50%	22%	14%	9%	5%
The election of Barack Obama as president of the United States (November 4, 2008)	11%	14%	16%	17%	41%
The wave of anti-government uprisings in the Arab world, also known as the Arab Spring (2011)	5%	10%	16%	35%	33%
The global financial crisis (August 2008-present)	26%	29%	23%	13%	8%
War in Iraq and Afghanistan (2002-present)	8%	24%	29%	25%	12%

20. As of today, what is your impression of the religion called Islam?

Very favorable	5%
Somewhat favorable	18%
Somewhat unfavorable	21%
Very unfavorable	29%
Not sure	28%



**21. Do you think Islam is more or less likely than other religions to encourage violence?**

More .....	43%
About the same .....	33%
Less .....	4%
Not sure .....	20%

**22. What do you think will eventually happen in Iraq?**

The United States will win the war in Iraq. ....	30%
The United States will withdraw from Iraq without winning. ....	70%

**23. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Iraq?**

Yes .....	54%
No .....	30%
Not sure .....	16%

**24. How much responsibility do you think President Barack Obama has for the current situation in Iraq today?**

Most .....	15%
Some .....	38%
Only a little .....	25%
None .....	12%
Not sure .....	9%

**25. How much responsibility do you think former President George W. Bush has for the current situation in Iraq today?**

Most .....	56%
Some .....	27%
Only a little .....	5%
None .....	3%
Not sure .....	9%

**26. What do you think will eventually happen in Afghanistan?**

The United States will win the war in Afghanistan. ....27%  
The United States will withdraw from Afghanistan without winning. .... 73%

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

Yes .....37%  
No .....42%  
Not sure .....21%

**28. How much responsibility do you think President Barack Obama has for the current situation in Afghanistan today?**

Most .....21%  
Some .....43%  
Only a little ..... 22%  
None ..... 6%  
Not sure ..... 8%

**29. How much responsibility do you think former President George W. Bush has for the current situation in Afghanistan today?**

Most .....41%  
Some .....35%  
Only a little ..... 9%  
None ..... 5%  
Not sure ..... 9%

**30. Do you support or oppose additional government spending to create jobs and stimulate the economy?**

Strongly support	29%
Somewhat support	21%
Neither support, nor oppose	15%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	20%
Not sure	7%

**31. Do you think President Barack Obama is doing enough to create new jobs for Americans or should he do more?**

Doing enough	18%
Should do more	63%
Not sure	19%

**32. Which party do you trust more to handle the issue of job creation?**

Democrats	34%
Republicans	26%
About the same	21%
Not sure	19%

**33. How much have you heard or read about Hurricane Irene, which caused flood and wind damage along the East Coast?**

A lot	62%
A little	32%
Nothing at all	5%

**34. Do you agree or disagree that President Obama cares about the needs and problems of people affected by Hurricane Irene?**

*Asked if respondent is aware of Hurricane Irene*

Strongly agree	33%
Somewhat agree	23%
Neither agree, nor disagree	18%
Somewhat disagree	9%
Strongly disagree	9%
Not sure	8%

**35. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to Hurricane Irene?**

*Asked if respondent is aware of Hurricane Irene*

Strongly approve	27%
Somewhat approve	16%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	28%
Somewhat disapprove	8%
Strongly disapprove	7%
Not sure	14%

**36. How confident are you in the federal government's ability to respond effectively to a major natural disaster?**

Very confident	11%
Somewhat confident	47%
Not so confident	30%
Not confident at all	12%

**37. What is your opinion on providing federal aid to communities affected by major natural disasters, such as the recent hurricane that affected the East Coast?**

The federal government should provide aid, regardless of the impact on the federal budget	51%
Any aid to affected communities should be offset by government spending cuts in other areas of the budget	33%
The federal government should not provide any aid to affected communities	2%
Not sure	13%

38. Do you think the severity of recent weather events, like Hurricane Irene, are the result of climate change or do these kind of events just happen from time to time?

Result of climate change .....	35%
Just happen from time to time .....	50%
Not sure .....	16%

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

Very closely .....	26%
Somewhat closely .....	30%
Not too closely .....	27%
Not at all .....	17%

40. In the upcoming primary elections, 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 .....	40%
Republican primary or caucus .....	39%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all .....	21%

41. 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 .....	46%
Would like someone else to enter .....	26%
Not sure .....	28%

**42. 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 .....	8%
Mitt Romney .....	13%
Newt Gingrich .....	3%
Michele Bachmann .....	5%
Jon Huntsman .....	5%
Ron Paul .....	8%
Rudy Giuliani .....	9%
Herman Cain .....	5%
Rick Santorum .....	1%
Rick Perry .....	29%
Other .....	6%
No preference .....	8%

**43. 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 .....	9%
Mitt Romney .....	21%
Newt Gingrich .....	6%
Michele Bachmann .....	10%
Jon Huntsman .....	2%
Ron Paul .....	5%
Rudy Giuliani .....	9%
Herman Cain .....	7%
Rick Santorum .....	5%
Rick Perry .....	13%
Other .....	2%
No preference .....	11%

44. 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 .....	67%
Someone else .....	18%
Not sure .....	14%

45. 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 .....	49%
Lean Barack Obama .....	2%
Lean Rick Perry .....	2%
Rick Perry .....	36%
Other .....	4%
Not sure .....	7%

46. 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 .....	46%
Lean Barack Obama .....	2%
Lean Mitt Romney .....	2%
Mitt Romney .....	39%
Other .....	5%
Not sure .....	6%

**47. 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 .....	52%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Michele Bachmann .....	2%
Michele Bachmann .....	35%
Other .....	6%
Not sure .....	5%

**48. 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 .....	53%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Sarah Palin .....	2%
Sarah Palin .....	33%
Other .....	7%
Not sure .....	4%

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

A great deal .....	33%
A fair amount .....	34%
Not much .....	23%
Nothing at all .....	10%

**50. 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%



**51. 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	15%
Somewhat support	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	17%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	32%
Not sure	13%

**52. Would you say Barack Obama is...**

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	19%

**53. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes	45%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	55%

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

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	23%
Not sure	15%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	26%	53%	21%
Decisive	19%	52%	29%
Effective	17%	46%	37%
Experienced	14%	45%	41%
Honest	32%	39%	29%
In touch	24%	44%	31%
Inspiring	32%	46%	22%
Intelligent	55%	32%	12%
Partisan	24%	57%	19%
Patriotic	32%	44%	24%
Realistic	30%	42%	28%
Religious	13%	63%	24%
Sincere	33%	40%	26%
Strong	27%	47%	27%
Unifying	15%	52%	33%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Not sure	8%

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

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

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

Getting better .....	8%
About the same .....	38%
Getting worse .....	47%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Higher .....	15%
About the same .....	35%
Lower .....	29%
Not sure .....	21%

**60. Would you say that you and your family are...**

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	8%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	40%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	47%
Not sure .....	5%

**61. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for...**

*Asked of registered voters*

The Democratic Party candidate .....	44%
The Republican Party candidate .....	37%
Other .....	3%
Not sure .....	14%
I would not vote .....	2%

62. 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 .....	45%
The Republican Party candidate .....	36%
Other .....	2%
Not sure .....	15%
I would not vote .....	3%

<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	September 3-6, 2011
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	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.
<b>Weighting</b>	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 4.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.66.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	24 questions not reported.