

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted September 24-27, 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	11%	24%	22%	27%	16%
The economy	9%	20%	14%	46%	11%
Immigration	8%	19%	16%	40%	17%
The environment	10%	26%	16%	28%	20%
Terrorism	18%	26%	15%	25%	16%
Gay rights	17%	20%	11%	28%	24%
Education	15%	25%	16%	30%	15%
Health care	17%	19%	9%	44%	11%
Social security	13%	18%	15%	39%	15%
The budget deficit	9%	19%	12%	47%	13%
The war in Afghanistan	9%	26%	22%	27%	15%
Taxes	17%	19%	11%	41%	12%
Medicare	14%	19%	15%	38%	15%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	38%	41%	13%	8%
The economy	83%	13%	2%	3%
Immigration	45%	36%	13%	6%
The environment	43%	35%	15%	7%
Terrorism	52%	31%	11%	5%
Gay rights	22%	29%	23%	27%
Education	58%	31%	7%	4%
Health care	72%	20%	4%	4%
Social security	63%	27%	6%	4%
The budget deficit	61%	27%	7%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	38%	41%	12%	8%
Taxes	67%	25%	4%	4%
Medicare	57%	30%	9%	4%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	40%
Immigration	4%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	7%
Health care	10%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	6%
Medicare	2%

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

Strongly Approve	14%
Somewhat Approve	25%
Somewhat Disapprove	15%
Strongly Disapprove	38%
Not Sure	8%

5. Do you favor the death penalty for serious crimes such as murder and rape?

Strongly favor	33%
Favor	27%
Oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	9%
Not sure	19%

6. In your opinion, is the death penalty imposed too often or not often enough?
Asked if respondent favors the death penalty or has no opinion on the death penalty

Too often	7%
About the right amount	19%
Not often enough	46%
Not sure	27%

7. Do you think that any innocent persons have been executed in the U.S. during the last five years?

Yes	51%
No	12%
Not sure	37%

8. Do you think that executing murderers deters others from committing murder?

Yes	35%
No	47%
Not sure	18%

9. Given the same crime and context, do you think that racial minorities are more likely than whites to receive the death penalty?

Yes	39%
No	39%
Not sure	21%

10. How much have you heard or read about the possibility of a shutdown of the federal government if Congress can't reach an agreement on federal spending?

A lot	40%
A little	46%
Nothing at all	13%

11. How likely is it that a budget agreement will not be reached, resulting in a shutdown of the federal government?

Asked if respondent has heard of possibility of government shutdown

Very likely	11%
Somewhat likely	30%
Not too likely	36%
Not at all likely	11%
Not sure	12%

12. Do you think that you would be personally affected by a shutdown of the federal government?

Definitely yes	22%
Probably yes	24%
Hard to say	33%
Probably no	15%
Definitely no	6%

13. 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	44%
Any aid to affected communities should be offset by government spending cuts in other areas of the budget	38%
The federal government should not provide any aid to affected communities	3%
Not sure	15%

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

Very concerned	52%
Somewhat concerned	34%
Not very concerned	11%
Not at all concerned	4%

15. 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	39%
Next year	13%
In a few years	34%
Not necessary to balance the budget	13%

16. How much responsibility do you think President Barack Obama has for the current size of the federal budget deficit?

Most	26%
Some	32%
Only a little	25%
None	8%
Not sure	9%

17. Overall, do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease the amount it spends?

Increase	6%
Keep the same	14%
Decrease	67%
Not sure	13%

18. Do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease taxes?

Increase	31%
Keep the same	23%
Decrease	31%
Not sure	15%

19. Are you willing to accept cuts to programs that benefit people like you in order to reduce the federal budget deficit?

Definitely yes	17%
Probably yes	29%
Probably no	16%
Definitely no	22%
Not sure	16%

20. Are you willing to accept a tax increase on people like you in order to reduce the federal budget deficit?

Definitely yes	9%
Probably yes	21%
Probably no	22%
Definitely no	35%
Not sure	12%

21. Do you think the cost of government entitlement programs, including Social Security and Medicare, is a major economic problem for the U.S.?

Yes	43%
No	38%
Not sure	19%

22. Should the government raise taxes or cut entitlements in order to address the economic problem caused by the cost of major entitlement programs?

Asked if respondent thinks the cost of government entitlement programs is a major economic problem

Raise taxes	11%
Cut benefits	40%
Both	24%
Neither	26%

23. In 2012, tax cuts initiated under President Bush and extended under President Obama are scheduled to expire. Which of the following would you support:

Keep all tax cuts in place	21%
Keep tax cuts only for those earning under \$250,000	44%
Let all tax cuts expire	18%
Not sure	18%

24. Do you feel you pay more than your fair share in federal income taxes, less than your fair share, or is the amount you pay about right?

More than fair share	37%
About right	45%
Less than fair share	5%
I don't file taxes	13%

25. Do you expect the amount of taxes you must pay to increase or decrease in the next year?
Asked if respondent files taxes

Increase	48%
Stay about the same	47%
Decrease	5%

26. Which party do you trust more to make the right decisions about taxes?

Democrats	35%
Republicans	30%
About the same	34%

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

Favor	55%
Oppose	25%
Not sure	20%

28. Do you favor increasing taxes on families making over \$1 million per year?

Favor	68%
Oppose	18%
Not sure	14%

29. Do you think the following groups pay too much or too little in federal taxes?

	Too much	About the right amount	Too little	Not sure
The Rich	12%	13%	65%	11%
The middle class	53%	33%	3%	11%
The poor	38%	25%	20%	16%

30. Overall, how fair do you think the U.S. tax system is?

Very fair	1%
Somewhat fair	11%
Somewhat unfair	34%
Very unfair	44%
Not sure	10%

31. How concerned are the following groups about issues that affect POOR people?

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
The Obama Administration	30%	23%	15%	17%	14%
The Republican Party	15%	18%	17%	35%	15%
The Democratic Party	28%	28%	16%	15%	14%

32. How concerned are the following groups about issues that affect MIDDLE CLASS people?

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
The Obama Administration	26%	22%	19%	18%	14%
The Republican Party	16%	23%	19%	28%	15%
The Democratic Party	23%	26%	19%	17%	15%

33. How concerned are the following groups about issues that affect WEALTHY people?

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
The Obama Administration	22%	24%	15%	21%	18%
The Republican Party	52%	21%	6%	6%	15%
The Democratic Party	22%	25%	20%	18%	16%

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

Very closely	29%
Somewhat closely	34%
Not too closely	24%
Not at all	13%

35. 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	9%	18%	15%	44%	14%
Mitt Romney	11%	25%	20%	19%	25%
Newt Gingrich	8%	17%	18%	32%	25%
Michele Bachmann	8%	20%	11%	37%	25%
Ron Paul	9%	22%	21%	21%	28%
Chris Christie	12%	16%	12%	17%	41%
Rick Perry	8%	19%	14%	32%	27%

36. 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	38%
Republican primary or caucus	43%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all	19%

37. 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	40%
Would like someone else to enter	32%
Not sure	28%

38. 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	15%
Newt Gingrich	6%
Michele Bachmann	4%
Jon Huntsman	2%
Ron Paul	6%
Rudy Giuliani	6%
Herman Cain	11%
Rick Santorum	2%
Rick Perry	14%
Chris Christie	15%
Other	5%
No preference	6%

39. 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	4%
Mitt Romney	22%
Newt Gingrich	10%
Michele Bachmann	9%
Jon Huntsman	3%
Ron Paul	5%
Rudy Giuliani	6%
Herman Cain	12%
Rick Santorum	5%
Rick Perry	6%
Chris Christie	10%
Other	3%
No preference	5%

40. Who would you prefer as the Republican nominee for president in 2012 if the choice were between Rick Perry and Mitt Romney?

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

Mitt Romney	43%
Rick Perry	33%
No preference	23%

41. 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	69%
Someone else	17%
Not sure	14%

42. 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	43%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Rick Perry	2%
Rick Perry	39%
Other	7%
Not sure	7%

43. 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	40%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Mitt Romney	2%
Mitt Romney	43%
Other	7%
Not sure	6%

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

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	42%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Chris Christie	2%
Chris Christie	39%
Other	7%
Not sure	8%

45. In the Presidential election next year, if the Democratic candidate was Barack Obama and the Republican candidate was Michele Bachmann, would you consider voting instead for Michael Bloomberg as a third party candidate?

Asked of registered voters

Would definitely vote for Bloomberg	5%
Would consider voting for Bloomberg	17%
Would not consider voting for Bloomberg	53%
Not sure	25%

46. In the presidential election next year, if the Democratic candidate were Barack Obama and the Republican candidate were Rick Perry, who do you think would be more likely to win?

Obama	35%
Equally likely	12%
Perry	30%
Not sure	23%

47. In the presidential election next year, if the Democratic candidate were Barack Obama and the Republican candidate were Mitt Romney, who do you think would be more likely to win?

Obama	28%
Equally likely	15%
Romney	32%
Not sure	24%

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

A great deal	34%
A fair amount	35%
Not much	22%
Nothing at all	9%

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

Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Yes	19%
No	81%

50. 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	17%
Somewhat support	17%
Neither support, nor oppose	18%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	29%
Not sure	12%

51. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	31%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	17%

52. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

Like a lot	31%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	25%
Not sure	16%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	28%	51%	21%
Decisive	18%	49%	33%
Effective	16%	45%	39%
Experienced	14%	42%	44%
Honest	33%	36%	31%
In touch	21%	45%	34%
Inspiring	31%	44%	25%
Intelligent	57%	30%	13%
Partisan	23%	56%	21%
Patriotic	31%	41%	28%
Realistic	26%	40%	34%
Religious	15%	57%	29%
Sincere	35%	35%	30%
Strong	25%	48%	27%
Unifying	15%	46%	39%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	47%
Not sure	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	12%
Off on the wrong track	72%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	6%
About the same	30%
Getting worse	54%
Not sure	9%

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

Higher	15%
About the same	29%
Lower	33%
Not sure	23%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	12%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	42%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	40%
Not sure	6%

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

Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	37%
The Republican Party candidate	40%
Other	4%
Not sure	16%
I would not vote	3%

61. 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	38%
The Republican Party candidate	39%
Other	4%
Not sure	16%
I would not vote	3%

62. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

63. Age

18-29	24%
30-64	59%
65+	17%

64. Education

High school or less	45%
Some college	30%
College graduate	25%

65. Race

White	70%
Black	12%
Hispanic	8%
Other	10%

66. Region

Northeast	18%
Midwest	23%
South	36%
West	22%

67. Party Identification

Democrat	36%
Republican	29%
Independent	36%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	September 24-27, 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 3.3, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.65.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	26 questions not reported.