

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted October 1-4, 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	12%	28%	22%	26%	13%
The economy	10%	20%	16%	44%	10%
Immigration	9%	21%	17%	38%	15%
The environment	12%	24%	18%	28%	18%
Terrorism	23%	29%	13%	24%	12%
Gay rights	18%	21%	11%	24%	26%
Education	16%	24%	18%	26%	17%
Health care	18%	19%	13%	41%	10%
Social security	14%	20%	17%	35%	15%
The budget deficit	11%	18%	16%	44%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	26%	23%	27%	13%
Taxes	16%	18%	17%	37%	12%
Medicare	15%	20%	16%	35%	14%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	37%	42%	16%	6%
The economy	80%	15%	3%	2%
Immigration	48%	31%	14%	6%
The environment	44%	33%	17%	6%
Terrorism	56%	28%	11%	4%
Gay rights	24%	27%	25%	24%
Education	55%	30%	10%	5%
Health care	72%	19%	7%	2%
Social security	67%	22%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	64%	25%	8%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	37%	42%	15%	6%
Taxes	68%	23%	7%	2%
Medicare	59%	27%	11%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	41%
Immigration	4%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	10%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	4%

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	17%
Strongly Disapprove	36%
Not Sure	8%

5. How much have you heard or read about the trial of Conrad Murray, Michael Jackson’s doctor, who is charged with involuntary manslaughter in the singer’s death?

A lot	23%
A little	59%
Nothing at all	18%

6. If you were a member of the jury in the trial of Conrad Murray, how would you vote on the charge of involuntary manslaughter?

Asked if respondent is aware of Conrad Murray trial

Guilty	38%
Not guilty	18%
Not sure	45%

7. In the past, winners of the Nobel Peace Prize have included people like the Dalai Lama, Jimmy Carter, Mikhail Gorbachev, Barack Obama and Nelson Mandela. In general, do you think the Nobel Peace Prize Committee makes good decisions about who wins the prize?

Asked of half of respondents

Good decisions	35%
Bad decisions	33%
Not sure	32%

8. In general, do you think the Nobel Peace Prize Committee makes good decisions about who wins the prize?

Asked of half of respondents

Good decisions	27%
Bad decisions	30%
Not sure	43%

9. In 2009, President Barack Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama receiving the Nobel Peace Prize?

Approve	26%
Disapprove	51%
Not sure	22%

10. Which of these statements best describes how you feel about Barack Obama being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009?

I think Barack Obama deserved the Nobel Peace Prize	16%
I am happy Barack Obama received the prize, but the Nobel Committee really should have waited until he had been president longer and had accomplished more	35%
I think that awarding the prize to Barack Obama was a mistake; he did not deserve it	48%

11. Why do you think Barack Obama was awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize?

The award committee believed he had improved the chance of peace in the world	27%
The award committee wanted to encourage global support for some Obama initiatives	18%
The award committee wanted to make a statement critical of President George W. Bush	21%
Not sure	34%

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

Much more safe	14%
Somewhat more safe	32%
About the same	30%
Somewhat less safe	7%
Much less safe	6%
Not sure	12%

13. 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%)	14%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%)	39%
Not very likely (1% to 10%)	24%
Very unlikely (less than 1%)	8%
Not sure	15%

14. 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	30%
Less safe	20%
Not sure	20%

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

An immediate and serious threat to the United States	21%
A somewhat serious threat to the United States	43%
A minor threat to the United States	20%
Not a threat to the United States	4%
Not sure	12%

16. Should terror suspects who are U.S. citizens be deliberately killed by U.S. military forces or should they be granted the constitutional right given to U.S. citizens to be tried in a court of law?

Should be targeted for killing	43%
Should be tried in a court of law	36%
Not sure	21%

17. When the U.S. arrests terror suspects who are U.S. citizens, should they be treated as U.S. citizens, with the rights the Constitution gives citizens, or should they be treated as enemy combatants, without any of those rights?

Should be treated as U.S. citizens	21%
Should be treated as enemy combatants	42%
Depends on the case	25%
Not sure	12%

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

Yes	50%
No	31%
Not sure	19%

19. Do you favor increasing or decreasing the number of U.S. troops in Iraq?

Increase	6%
Keep the same	25%
Decrease	69%

20. What do you think will eventually happen in Iraq?

The United States will win the war in Iraq.	33%
The United States will withdraw from Iraq without winning.	67%

21. Do you think most people in Iraq 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	9%
About equally divided	35%
Most would like U.S. troops to leave	43%
Not sure	14%

22. Are Iraqi civilians better off today than they were when the war in Iraq began?

Definitely yes	20%
Probably yes	32%
Probably no	18%
Definitely no	7%
Not sure	23%

23. Next, we would like to ask you about the war in Afghanistan.

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

Yes	33%
No	45%
Not sure	22%

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

Increase	11%
Keep the same	30%
Decrease	59%

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

Yes	51%
No	10%
Not sure	39%

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

The United States will win the war in Afghanistan. 25%
 The United States will withdraw from Afghanistan without winning. 75%

27. 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 10%
 About equally divided 35%
 Most would like U.S. troops to leave 37%
 Not sure 18%

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

Definitely yes 12%
 Probably yes 33%
 Probably no 23%
 Definitely no 6%
 Not sure 26%

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

Very closely 27%
 Somewhat closely 33%
 Not too closely 25%
 Not at all 15%

30. 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 42%
 Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all 19%

31. 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	45%
Would like someone else to enter	23%
Not sure	33%

32. 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	5%
Mitt Romney	17%
Newt Gingrich	7%
Michele Bachmann	3%
Jon Huntsman	3%
Ron Paul	8%
Rudy Giuliani	5%
Herman Cain	21%
Rick Santorum	1%
Rick Perry	10%
Chris Christie	9%
Other	3%
No preference	8%

33. 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	6%
Mitt Romney	15%
Newt Gingrich	14%
Michele Bachmann	5%
Jon Huntsman	2%
Ron Paul	4%
Rudy Giuliani	7%
Herman Cain	16%
Rick Santorum	4%
Rick Perry	8%
Chris Christie	10%
Other	6%
No preference	4%

34. Preferred Republican nominee for President (announced candidates only): Displaying second choice when first choice is an unannounced candidate

Mitt Romney	21%
Newt Gingrich	10%
Michele Bachmann	5%
Jon Huntsman	3%
Ron Paul	9%
Herman Cain	26%
Rick Santorum	1%
Rick Perry	12%
Other	4%
No preference	9%

35. 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	45%
Rick Perry	35%
No preference	20%

36. 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	73%
Someone else	14%
Not sure	13%

37. 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	47%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Rick Perry	1%
Rick Perry	37%
Other	8%
Not sure	7%

38. 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	42%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Mitt Romney	1%
Mitt Romney	42%
Other	6%
Not sure	7%

39. 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	43%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Chris Christie	2%
Chris Christie	39%
Other	7%
Not sure	8%

40. 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	38%
Equally likely	10%
Perry	27%
Not sure	24%

41. 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	29%
Equally likely	15%
Romney	32%
Not sure	24%

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

A great deal	30%
A fair amount	35%
Not much	20%
Nothing at all	14%

43. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement?
Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Yes	18%
No	82%

44. 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	17%
Neither support, nor oppose	18%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	31%
Not sure	10%

45. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	22%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	18%

46. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	43%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	57%

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

Like a lot	30%
Like somewhat	31%
Dislike	24%
Not sure	15%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	27%	53%	20%
Decisive	20%	54%	26%
Effective	16%	46%	37%
Experienced	13%	42%	45%
Honest	30%	40%	30%
In touch	22%	48%	30%
Inspiring	33%	45%	22%
Intelligent	54%	31%	15%
Partisan	24%	59%	17%
Patriotic	30%	45%	25%
Realistic	25%	44%	30%
Religious	15%	58%	28%
Sincere	33%	39%	28%
Strong	27%	47%	26%
Unifying	14%	53%	33%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Not sure	8%

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

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

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

Getting better	9%
About the same	33%
Getting worse	50%
Not sure	8%

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

Higher	13%
About the same	34%
Lower	31%
Not sure	22%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	7%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	41%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	44%
Not sure	8%

54. 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	39%
Other	4%
Not sure	15%
I would not vote	2%

55. 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	38%
Other	2%
Not sure	18%
I would not vote	2%

56. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

57. Age

18-29	23%
30-64	60%
65+	17%

58. Education

High school or less	47%
Some college	29%
College graduate	23%

59. Race

White	72%
Black	11%
Hispanic	9%
Other	8%

60. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	22%
South	37%
West	23%

61. Party Identification

Democrat	37%
Republican	27%
Independent	36%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	October 1-4, 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 3.4, 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	25 questions not reported.