

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted February 2-4, 2013  
Margin of Error  $\pm 4.3\%$

## 1. Would you say things in this country today are...

Generally headed in the right direction .....	30%
Off on the wrong track .....	54%
Not sure .....	16%

## 2. What's more important?

The right of people to own guns .....	19%
Protecting people from gun violence .....	30%
Both are equally important .....	49%
Not sure .....	3%

## 3. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the NRA?

Very favorable .....	21%
Somewhat favorable .....	24%
Somewhat unfavorable .....	14%
Very unfavorable .....	22%
Not sure .....	19%

## 4. Do you think gun control laws should be made more or less strict than they are now?

More strict .....	51%
No change .....	31%
Less strict .....	9%
Not sure .....	8%

5. Do you think the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution does or does not allow states to regulate guns?

Does .....	26%
Does not .....	37%
Not sure .....	37%

6. Do you favor or oppose the following gun control measures?

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Preventing persons with a history of mental illness from owning guns	80%	7%	13%
Banning semi-automatic weapons	47%	38%	15%
Banning the sale of all handguns, except those that are issued to law enforcement officers	19%	69%	12%
Banning the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons that hold more than 10 rounds	57%	32%	12%
Requiring people who purchase handguns to wait five days before they receive that gun	69%	18%	13%
Requiring gun owners to register their guns with a national gun registry	61%	28%	12%
Limiting the number of handguns a person can own	43%	43%	14%
Preventing people from carrying a concealed gun in public	36%	48%	17%
Requiring people to obtain a police permit before buying a handgun	51%	35%	15%
Having the Centers for Disease Control conduct research on gun violence	40%	34%	26%
Spending \$50 million to hire officers and counselors for schools, and provide emergency planning in schools	43%	32%	25%
Requiring criminal and mental background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales	79%	10%	11%
Stationing armed guards at all schools	41%	38%	22%

**7. Do you or anyone else in your household own a gun?**

I personally own a gun .....	20%
I don't personally but someone in household does .....	15%
No .....	65%

**8. How important are the following issues to you?**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	80%	17%	2%	1%
Immigration	41%	38%	14%	7%
The environment	45%	33%	15%	7%
Terrorism	48%	33%	13%	6%
Gay rights	20%	23%	22%	36%
Education	60%	29%	8%	3%
Health care	62%	28%	6%	3%
Social security	56%	33%	9%	3%
The budget deficit	58%	31%	6%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	30%	40%	21%	10%
Taxes	60%	30%	7%	3%
Medicare	50%	35%	11%	4%
Abortion	35%	28%	22%	15%

**9. Do you support or oppose requiring employers to provide health care plans that cover the cost of contraceptives for their employees?**

Support .....	45%
Oppose .....	37%
Not sure .....	19%

10. Do you think religiously-affiliated hospitals and colleges should be exempt from requirements that their health care plans cover the cost of contraceptives for their employees?

They should be exempt .....	36%
They should not be exempt .....	39%
Not sure .....	25%

11. Do you support or oppose allowing women in the military to serve in ground units that engage in close combat?

Strongly support .....	26%
Somewhat support .....	19%
Neither support nor oppose .....	20%
Somewhat oppose .....	14%
Strongly oppose .....	15%
Not sure .....	6%

12. Do you favor or oppose providing a legal way for illegal immigrants already in the United States to become U.S. citizens?

Favor .....	44%
Oppose .....	36%
Unsure .....	20%

13. Do you favor or oppose providing a way for illegal immigrants currently in the country to gain legal citizenship if they pass background checks, pay fines, and have jobs?

*Asked of respondents who weren't sure or opposed a generic path to citizenship in previous question*

Favor .....	46%
Oppose .....	34%
Not sure .....	21%

14. Passing a law that would allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they go to college

Strongly support	25%
Somewhat support	24%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	22%
Not sure	15%

15. Passing a law that would allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military

Strongly support	32%
Somewhat support	24%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	18%
Not sure	16%

16. How serious a problem is immigration in your LOCAL community?

Very serious	15%
Somewhat serious	18%
A minor problem	27%
Not a problem	26%
Not sure	14%

17. Do you personally know anyone who is an illegal immigrant?

Yes	27%
No	55%
Not sure	18%

18. Do you support building more border fences?

Favor .....	51%
Oppose .....	26%
Not sure .....	23%

19. Would you favor a program allowing people from other countries to be guest workers in the U.S. for a temporary period of time, and then be required to return to their home country?

Favor .....	46%
Oppose .....	29%
Not sure .....	25%

20. Which of these statements best describes you?

Immigrant Citizen .....	6%
Immigrant non-citizen .....	6%
First generation .....	10%
Second generation .....	20%
Third generation .....	58%

21. Do you think abortion should be...

Legal in all cases .....	32%
Legal/Illegal in some cases .....	46%
Illegal in all cases .....	15%
Not sure .....	7%

22. Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

Strongly favor .....	30%
Somewhat favor .....	12%
Somewhat oppose .....	11%
Strongly oppose .....	36%
Not sure .....	11%

23. Should states be permitted to set their own policies when it comes to same-sex marriage, or is this something that should only be handled by the federal government?

States should be permitted .....45%  
 Should only be handled by federal government .....33%  
 Not sure .....21%

24. Do you think the use of marijuana should be legalized?

Yes .....48%  
 No .....36%  
 Not sure .....16%

25. Should states be permitted to set their own policies when it comes to marijuana legalization, or is this something that should only be handled by the federal government?

States should be permitted .....51%  
 Should only be handled by federal government .....33%  
 Not sure .....16%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Barack Obama	28%	20%	9%	35%	8%
John Boehner	4%	17%	22%	26%	31%
Mitch McConnell	4%	14%	17%	20%	45%
Harry Reid	5%	16%	14%	28%	37%
Nancy Pelosi	9%	18%	14%	36%	24%
Joe Biden	22%	20%	11%	31%	16%
Hillary Clinton	30%	22%	12%	25%	12%
John Kerry	12%	24%	18%	23%	23%



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

Strongly Approve .....	21%
Somewhat Approve .....	25%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	11%
Strongly Disapprove .....	35%
Not Sure .....	8%

**28. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling these specific issues?**

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The economy	16%	21%	13%	36%	14%
Immigration	17%	22%	13%	30%	17%
The environment	15%	26%	16%	24%	20%
Terrorism	21%	24%	14%	24%	17%
Gay rights	19%	18%	12%	31%	21%
Education	17%	25%	16%	23%	19%
Health care	20%	23%	10%	35%	12%
Social security	15%	23%	17%	27%	19%
The war in Afghanistan	19%	24%	19%	22%	16%
The budget deficit	14%	19%	14%	37%	16%
Taxes	17%	21%	14%	35%	13%
Medicare	16%	22%	15%	29%	18%
Abortion	16%	19%	13%	28%	25%

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

Strongly approve .....	2%
Somewhat approve .....	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	14%
Somewhat disapprove .....	24%
Strongly disapprove .....	40%
Not sure .....	10%

**30. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?**

Very liberal .....	8%
Liberal .....	14%
Moderate .....	32%
Conservative .....	27%
Very Conservative .....	8%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Very liberal .....	33%
Liberal .....	23%
Moderate .....	21%
Conservative .....	5%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	17%

**32. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	43%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	46%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Like a lot .....	32%
Like somewhat .....	28%
Dislike .....	28%
Not sure .....	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	33%	39%	28%
Bold	32%	56%	12%
Effective	26%	48%	27%
Exciting	19%	64%	17%
Experienced	23%	52%	25%
Honest	32%	36%	32%
Hypocritical	31%	44%	25%
Inspiring	36%	46%	18%
Intelligent	56%	33%	11%
Partisan	24%	61%	15%
Patriotic	29%	45%	27%
Religious	14%	60%	26%
Sincere	34%	38%	28%
Steady	24%	61%	15%
Strong	31%	55%	14%

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

Getting better	24%
About the same	33%
Getting worse	35%
Not sure	8%

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

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

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	17%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	47%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	32%
Not sure .....	4%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	February 2-4, 2013
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2010 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2010 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement. Religion, political interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Pew Religion in American Life Survey.
<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 0.4 to 4.8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.95.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.3% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	34 questions not reported.