

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted January 5-7, 2013  
Margin of Error  $\pm 4.6\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	35%
Off on the wrong track	50%
Not sure	15%

## 2. There was another lethal shooting Saturday in Aurora, the same Colorado town witness to the Dark Knight killings by a gunman in a movie theater this past summer. Whether or not you think it's right, will there be an "Aurora Effect" on legislation about gun control?

Yes	48%
No	18%
Not sure	34%

## 3. What's more important?

The right of people to own guns	13%
Protecting people from gun violence	32%
Both are equally important	51%
Not sure	4%

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

Very favorable	18%
Somewhat favorable	23%
Somewhat unfavorable	15%
Very unfavorable	24%
Not sure	19%

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

More strict .....	60%
No change .....	25%
Less strict .....	9%
Not sure .....	7%

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

I personally own a gun .....	21%
I don't personally but someone in household does .....	16%
No .....	63%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	80%	17%	2%	1%
Immigration	39%	38%	16%	7%
The environment	43%	37%	12%	8%
Terrorism	46%	32%	12%	9%
Gay rights	23%	24%	21%	32%
Education	59%	31%	6%	4%
Health care	69%	23%	5%	3%
Social security	62%	29%	6%	3%
The budget deficit	57%	26%	12%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	29%	41%	21%	10%
Taxes	63%	29%	7%	1%
Medicare	54%	34%	9%	3%
Abortion	34%	31%	20%	15%
Cracking down on gun laws	37%	29%	15%	19%

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

The economy .....	34%
Immigration .....	5%
The environment .....	5%
Terrorism .....	2%
Gay rights .....	3%
Education .....	9%
Health care .....	8%
Social security .....	10%
The budget deficit .....	11%
The war in Afghanistan .....	1%
Taxes .....	5%
Medicare .....	3%
Abortion .....	2%
Cracking down on gun laws .....	2%

**9. Who do you think should be the Republican nominee for President in 2016?**

Chuck Hagel .....	1%
Chris Christie .....	11%
Marco Rubio .....	8%
Jeb Bush .....	5%
Condoleezza Rice .....	9%
Paul Ryan .....	8%
Bobby Jindal .....	1%
Rick Santorum .....	3%
Other .....	7%
Not sure .....	47%

**10. Do you think the Republican Presidential nominee in 2016 should be more conservative or less conservative than Mitt Romney?**

More conservative .....	25%
About the same .....	21%
Less conservative .....	31%
Not sure .....	23%

11. Who do you think should be the Democratic nominee for President in 2016?

Chuck Hagel .....	0%
Hillary Clinton .....	34%
Rahm Emanuel .....	1%
Joe Biden .....	7%
Martin O'Malley .....	2%
Mark Warner .....	3%
Other .....	6%
Not sure .....	47%

12. Do you think the Democratic Presidential nominee in 2016 should be more liberal or less liberal than Barack Obama?

More liberal .....	15%
About the same .....	34%
Less liberal .....	30%
Not sure .....	20%

13. Looking back at 2012, how would you describe the year for the world?

A very good year .....	2%
A good year .....	29%
A bad year .....	53%
A very bad year .....	16%

14. Now, looking back in terms of your family alone – how would you describe your 2012 as having been?

A very good year .....	6%
A good year .....	50%
A bad year .....	32%
A very bad year .....	12%

**15. How do you feel about your family’s future in the upcoming year?**

Very optimistic .....	14%
Somewhat optimistic .....	34%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic .....	27%
Somewhat pessimistic .....	15%
Very pessimistic .....	10%

**16. Which describes your views on the U.S. economy in the new year?**

Very optimistic .....	8%
Somewhat optimistic .....	30%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic .....	22%
Somewhat pessimistic .....	23%
Very pessimistic .....	17%

**17. Are you personally or is someone in your household a member of a labor union?**

I personally belong to a union .....	6%
I don’t but someone in household does .....	11%
No .....	83%

**18. Right-to-work laws permit employees to work without joining a union, or having to pay union dues, even if a union represents other workers at the same place of employment. Do you favor or oppose right-to-work laws?**

Strongly favor .....	36%
Somewhat favor .....	20%
Somewhat oppose .....	10%
Strongly oppose .....	12%
Not sure .....	21%

**19. Moving forward – do you see changes on the horizon in the next 30 years?**

Yes and I think the level of influence wielded by labor unions will go up .. 13%  
 No, I see it staying constant ..... 17%  
 Yes and I think this change will be a loss of influence held by labor unions, not a gain ..... 40%  
 Not sure ..... 30%

**20. 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	30%	21%	8%	32%	9%
John Boehner	5%	15%	19%	30%	31%
Mitch McConnell	5%	13%	15%	23%	44%
Chuck Hagel	4%	16%	14%	10%	56%
Nancy Pelosi	13%	21%	11%	32%	23%

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

Strongly Approve ..... 22%  
 Somewhat Approve ..... 31%  
 Somewhat Disapprove ..... 11%  
 Strongly Disapprove ..... 30%  
 Not Sure ..... 6%

22. 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	17%	27%	11%	33%	11%
Immigration	13%	25%	14%	30%	17%
The environment	14%	28%	15%	22%	20%
Terrorism	25%	28%	11%	21%	15%
Gay rights	22%	24%	9%	21%	24%
Education	17%	31%	16%	21%	17%
Health care	24%	22%	10%	34%	11%
Social security	18%	23%	17%	25%	17%
The budget deficit	16%	24%	12%	36%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	16%	33%	15%	21%	16%
Taxes	21%	27%	11%	31%	11%
Medicare	19%	23%	15%	27%	16%
Abortion	17%	24%	10%	23%	27%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	47%
Not sure	7%

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

Very liberal .....	8%
Liberal .....	18%
Moderate .....	35%
Conservative .....	18%
Very Conservative .....	12%
Not sure .....	9%

25. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal .....	32%
Liberal .....	26%
Moderate .....	24%
Conservative .....	4%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	13%

26. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes .....	48%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	41%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Like a lot .....	36%
Like somewhat .....	27%
Dislike .....	25%
Not sure .....	11%



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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	31%	34%	35%
Bold	31%	55%	14%
Effective	28%	48%	24%
Exciting	17%	63%	20%
Experienced	26%	49%	25%
Honest	35%	36%	29%
Hypocritical	29%	45%	27%
Inspiring	34%	44%	22%
Intelligent	55%	33%	12%
Partisan	21%	63%	17%
Patriotic	29%	47%	24%
Religious	15%	59%	26%
Sincere	38%	38%	24%
Steady	31%	53%	16%
Strong	33%	50%	16%

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

Getting better	26%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	32%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	26%
About the same	29%
Lower	21%
Not sure	24%

31. Where do you see yourself as being in the income distribution of the United States? Choose your best choice below of the five income brackets listed.

0 - 20 percent	31%
20 - 40	26%
40 - 60	25%
60 - 80	11%
80 - 100	7%

32. Do you approve or disapprove of the recent legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Obama that raises taxes and averts the "fiscal cliff"?

Approve strongly	9%
Approve somewhat	28%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Disapprove somewhat	12%
Disapprove strongly	19%
Not sure	14%

33. How much do you expect your taxes to increase because of the deal on the "fiscal cliff"?

A lot	12%
Some	35%
A little	29%
None	25%

34. There is talk in Washington about spending cuts and further tax increases to cut the deficit. What do you think Congress and the President should do?

Cut spending and raise taxes	31%
Only cut spending	38%
Only raise taxes	8%
Neither cut spending nor raise taxes	6%
Not sure	17%

35. Congress recently raised taxes on people earning over \$400,000 per year. Do you favor or oppose a further increase in taxes on people earning over \$400,000?

Favor an additional increase	53%
Oppose an additional increase	28%
Not sure	19%

36. How about families earning between \$250,000 and \$400,000 per year? Do you favor or oppose increasing their taxes?

Favor increasing their taxes	52%
Oppose increasing their taxes	30%
Not sure	17%

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	48%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	29%
Not sure	6%

38. Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%

39. Education

No high school	8%
High school graduate	36%
Some college	22%
2-year college	8%
4-year college	18%
Post-graduate	8%

**40. Age**

18-29	24%
30-44	20%
45-64	41%
65+	14%

**41. Race**

White	70%
Black	11%
Hispanic	11%
Other	8%

**42. Region**

Northeast	20%
Midwest	20%
South	37%
West	23%

**43. Party Identification**

Democrat	36%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	23%
Lean Republican	8%
Republican	23%

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<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	January 5-7, 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 7.3, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.07.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.6% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	14 questions not reported.