

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted March 2-4, 2013  
Margin of Error  $\pm 4.6\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	24%
Off on the wrong track	61%
Not sure	16%

## 2. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Pope Benedict the Sixteenth?

Very favorable	7%
Somewhat favorable	19%
Somewhat unfavorable	18%
Very unfavorable	16%
Not sure	40%

## 3. Pope Benedict has announced that he is resigning. Overall, do you think Pope Benedict's resignation will help the Church, hurt the Church, or will it be a mixed blessing?

Help the church	18%
Hurt the church	8%
Mixed	28%
Not sure	46%

## 4. Some people have discussed the possibility that the next Pope could come from Europe, or from Latin America, or from Africa, or from the United States. Which would you prefer?

Europe	6%
Latin America	4%
Africa	6%
The United States	14%
It doesn't matter	44%
No opinion	26%

5. How much have you read or heard about automatic across the board cuts to federal spending that will take effect unless the president and Congress act?

Heard a lot .....	46%
Heard a little .....	37%
Heard nothing at all .....	8%
Not sure .....	9%

6. If automatic federal spending cuts take place, what effect do you think they would have on you and your family?

A major effect .....	19%
A minor effect .....	36%
No effect .....	21%
Not sure .....	25%

7. If automatic federal spending cuts take place, what effect do you think they would have on members of the military?

A major effect .....	40%
A minor effect .....	29%
No effect .....	7%
Not sure .....	23%

8. If automatic federal spending cuts take place, what effect do you think they would have on federal employees and contractors?

A major effect .....	39%
A minor effect .....	32%
No effect .....	10%
Not sure .....	19%

9. If automatic federal spending cuts take place, what effect do you think they would have on people receiving government assistance, such as food assistance or unemployment benefits?

A major effect .....	39%
A minor effect .....	26%
No effect .....	16%
Not sure .....	19%

10. Which of the following, if any, should be spared from the automatic federal spending cuts? (choose all that apply)

Federal employees and contractors .....	19%
Members of the military .....	48%
People receiving government assistance .....	37%
None of these .....	16%
Not sure .....	20%

11. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	76%	20%	3%	1%
Immigration	41%	35%	17%	6%
The environment	44%	33%	15%	8%
Terrorism	46%	33%	16%	5%
Gay rights	23%	20%	24%	32%
Education	60%	27%	8%	4%
Health care	66%	24%	9%	2%
Social security	58%	28%	11%	4%
The budget deficit	54%	33%	10%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	28%	38%	25%	9%
Taxes	63%	29%	6%	2%
Medicare	49%	33%	15%	3%
Abortion	33%	27%	21%	19%

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the Obama Administration using drones to kill high-level terrorism suspects overseas?

Approve .....	48%
Disapprove .....	22%
Not sure .....	30%

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the Obama Administration using drones to kill high-level terrorism suspects overseas, even if those suspects are American citizens?

*Asked of respondents who indicated they approved usage of drone strikes*

Approve .....	80%
Disapprove .....	11%
Not sure .....	9%

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the Obama administration using drones to kill high-level terrorism suspects overseas, even if innocent civilians may also be killed?

*Asked of respondents who indicated they approved usage of drone strikes*

Approve .....	47%
Disapprove .....	34%
Not sure .....	19%

15. Which comes closest to your opinion about who should be permitted to order drone strikes against suspected terrorists who are US citizens?

Only the president .....	20%
The president OR top military and CIA officials .....	39%
Nobody .....	19%
Not sure .....	22%

16. Who do you think should be responsible for setting the rules for when the CIA or U.S. military may use drone strikes on American citizens suspected of being terrorists?

The president .....	20%
Congress .....	12%
Both the president and Congress .....	47%
Not sure .....	21%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
John Boehner	5%	17%	16%	34%	29%
Mitch McConnell	4%	14%	15%	26%	41%
Harry Reid	6%	15%	14%	30%	36%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	20%	11%	34%	23%
Joe Biden	20%	24%	13%	27%	15%
Hillary Clinton	31%	25%	11%	24%	9%
John Kerry	12%	24%	14%	25%	25%

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

Strongly Approve	21%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	34%
Not Sure	6%

19. 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%	24%	14%	35%	11%
Immigration	17%	22%	13%	32%	17%
The environment	14%	24%	15%	27%	20%
Terrorism	19%	29%	14%	23%	15%
Gay rights	21%	19%	10%	29%	20%
Education	17%	24%	16%	25%	17%
Health care	21%	20%	12%	34%	13%
Social security	16%	21%	15%	28%	19%
The war in Afghanistan	16%	28%	19%	23%	15%
The budget deficit	14%	20%	14%	38%	14%
Taxes	18%	21%	15%	35%	12%
Medicare	18%	21%	15%	29%	17%
Abortion	18%	17%	10%	31%	24%

20. 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	14%
Somewhat disapprove	18%
Strongly disapprove	49%
Not sure	9%

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

Very liberal .....	8%
Liberal .....	19%
Moderate .....	30%
Conservative .....	24%
Very Conservative .....	10%
Not sure .....	8%

22. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal .....	32%
Liberal .....	24%
Moderate .....	23%
Conservative .....	4%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	14%

23. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes .....	42%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	47%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Like a lot .....	34%
Like somewhat .....	28%
Dislike .....	27%
Not sure .....	10%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	34%	35%	31%
Bold	31%	56%	14%
Effective	23%	48%	29%
Exciting	16%	65%	19%
Experienced	23%	50%	27%
Honest	30%	39%	31%
Hypocritical	33%	40%	27%
Inspiring	33%	47%	20%
Intelligent	57%	30%	13%
Partisan	25%	62%	13%
Patriotic	29%	49%	22%
Religious	14%	62%	24%
Sincere	32%	42%	26%
Steady	28%	57%	15%
Strong	34%	50%	17%

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

Getting better	24%
About the same	32%
Getting worse	38%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	20%
About the same	37%
Lower	24%
Not sure	19%



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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	16%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	47%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	34%
Not sure .....	3%

**29. Gender**

Male .....	49%
Female .....	51%

**30. Education**

No high school .....	7%
High school graduate .....	35%
Some college .....	26%
2-year college .....	8%
4-year college .....	14%
Post-graduate .....	10%

**31. How important is religion in your life?**

Very important .....	39%
Somewhat important .....	27%
Not too important .....	15%
Not at all important .....	19%

**32. Age**

18-29 .....	28%
30-44 .....	25%
45-64 .....	34%
65+ .....	12%

**33. Race**

White .....	66%
Black .....	15%
Hispanic .....	12%
Other .....	8%

**34. Region**

Northeast .....	19%
Midwest .....	19%
South .....	37%
West .....	25%

**35. Highest level of education attained**

HS .....	43%
Some college .....	34%
College grad .....	24%

**36. Party Identification**

Democrat .....	37%
Lean Democrat .....	9%
Independent .....	25%
Lean Republican .....	8%
Republican .....	21%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	March 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 0.2 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.11.
<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>	34 questions not reported.