

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted February 16-18, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.2\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	32%
Off on the wrong track	53%
Not sure	16%

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

Very favorable	10%
Somewhat favorable	23%
Somewhat unfavorable	14%
Very unfavorable	12%
Not sure	42%

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	6%
Mixed	30%
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	4%
Latin America	6%
Africa	6%
The United States	11%
It doesn't matter	46%
No opinion	27%

5. What's more important?

The right of people to own guns	21%
Protecting people from gun violence	31%
Both are equally important	44%
Not sure	5%

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

Very favorable	20%
Somewhat favorable	19%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%
Very unfavorable	25%
Not sure	23%

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

More strict	51%
No change	27%
Less strict	14%
Not sure	9%

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

Does	29%
Does not	34%
Not sure	37%

9. 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	83%	7%	10%
Banning semi-automatic weapons	50%	34%	16%
Banning the sale of all handguns, except those that are issued to law enforcement officers	18%	69%	13%
Banning the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons that hold more than 10 rounds	52%	30%	18%
Requiring people who purchase handguns to wait five days before they receive that gun	68%	18%	14%
Requiring gun owners to register their guns with a national gun registry	60%	28%	12%
Limiting the number of handguns a person can own	45%	43%	13%
Preventing people from carrying a concealed gun in public	40%	42%	18%
Requiring people to obtain a police permit before buying a handgun	47%	35%	17%
Having the Centers for Disease Control conduct research on gun violence	40%	33%	27%
Spending \$50 million to hire officers and counselors for schools, and provide emergency planning in schools	44%	32%	23%
Requiring criminal and mental background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales	77%	12%	10%
Stationing armed guards at all schools	38%	40%	22%

10. 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	13%
No	67%

11. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	78%	19%	2%	2%
Immigration	44%	37%	14%	5%
The environment	48%	31%	13%	7%
Terrorism	51%	30%	12%	7%
Gay rights	24%	22%	21%	33%
Education	67%	24%	6%	2%
Health care	69%	23%	7%	2%
Social security	59%	30%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	57%	28%	11%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	33%	38%	20%	10%
Taxes	60%	30%	8%	2%
Medicare	53%	32%	11%	4%
Abortion	37%	30%	19%	14%

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

Approve	48%
Disapprove	19%
Not sure	33%

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 approve using drone strikes on high-level terrorism suspects

Approve	75%
Disapprove	11%
Not sure	14%

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 approve using drone strikes on high-level terrorism suspects

Approve	46%
Disapprove	34%
Not sure	20%

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	19%
The president OR top military and CIA officials	39%
Nobody	19%
Not sure	23%

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	19%
Congress	15%
Both the president and Congress	45%
Not sure	21%

17. The Postal Service has been losing money and says it will have to eliminate Saturday deliveries. How much of an impact will that have on your life?

A major impact	7%
A moderate impact	17%
A small impact	30%
No impact	42%
Not sure	4%

18. On average, how often do you mail items through the U.S. Postal Service?

Once a week or more	24%
Several times a month	30%
About once a month	17%
Less than once a month	24%
Never	6%

19. Does your household pay most of its bills electronically over the Internet or by mail?

Electronically	49%
By mail	22%
Use both methods equally	23%
Not sure	5%

20. How serious a problem would it be for you personally if the U.S. Postal Service were to shut down?

Very serious	40%
Somewhat serious	27%
A minor problem	22%
Not a problem	7%
Not sure	3%

21. Would you support or oppose the U.S. Postal Service taking the following measures to cut costs or raise revenues in order to prevent a shut down?

	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Not sure
Closing some post offices	40%	25%	26%	9%
Ending Saturday mail delivery	56%	20%	17%	6%
Raising postage rates	33%	26%	34%	7%
Laying off postal workers	22%	27%	42%	9%

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

Support	44%
Oppose	37%
Not sure	19%

23. 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	38%
They should not be exempt	40%
Not sure	21%

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

Favor	48%
Oppose	34%
Unsure	18%

25. 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	31%
Not sure	23%

26. 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	26%
Somewhat support	24%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	20%
Not sure	14%

27. 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	34%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	15%
Not sure	13%

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

Very serious	13%
Somewhat serious	21%
A minor problem	26%
Not a problem	24%
Not sure	16%

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

Yes 26%
 No 57%
 Not sure 17%

30. Do you support building more border fences?

Favor 51%
 Oppose 26%
 Not sure 23%

31. 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 52%
 Oppose 23%
 Not sure 25%

32. How much do you know about each of the following figures of the Republican Party?

	Know a lot	Know a little	Have not heard of this person
Chris Christie	35%	37%	28%
Rand Paul	29%	37%	34%
Mitch Daniels	12%	31%	57%
Marco Rubio	31%	34%	35%
Michael Steele	19%	27%	54%
Fred Thompson	24%	35%	41%
Rick Perry	31%	40%	29%
Herman Cain	29%	39%	32%
Michelle Bachmann	32%	40%	28%
Jeb Bush	27%	48%	25%

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

Asked of respondents who indicated they had heard of each of the following people

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Chris Christie	19%	45%	26%	10%
Rand Paul	20%	30%	20%	30%
Mitch Daniels	10%	41%	29%	20%
Marco Rubio	27%	25%	25%	23%
Michael Steele	7%	44%	28%	21%
Fred Thompson	14%	43%	26%	17%
Rick Perry	12%	30%	26%	32%
Herman Cain	17%	25%	28%	30%
Michelle Bachmann	14%	25%	24%	37%
Jeb Bush	13%	35%	30%	21%

34. 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%	20%	10%	31%	8%
John Boehner	5%	19%	18%	29%	29%
Mitch McConnell	5%	17%	17%	19%	42%
Harry Reid	7%	18%	13%	28%	34%
Nancy Pelosi	13%	18%	10%	34%	24%
Joe Biden	24%	19%	13%	29%	15%
Hillary Clinton	33%	22%	12%	22%	11%
John Kerry	15%	23%	15%	24%	24%

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

Mitch Daniels	1%
Chris Christie	13%
Marco Rubio	8%
Jeb Bush	3%
Condoleezza Rice	8%
Paul Ryan	3%
Bobby Jindal	1%
Rick Santorum	2%
Sarah Palin	3%
Rand Paul	5%
Rick Perry	1%
Michael Steele	1%
Herman Cain	1%
Other	5%
Not sure	45%

36. 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%

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

Strongly Approve	23%
Somewhat Approve	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	32%
Not Sure	6%

38. 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	18%	21%	15%	36%	10%
Immigration	17%	22%	14%	32%	15%
The environment	15%	25%	16%	24%	21%
Terrorism	22%	27%	13%	24%	14%
Gay rights	21%	21%	11%	29%	18%
Education	20%	27%	12%	24%	17%
Health care	20%	21%	10%	39%	9%
Social security	16%	22%	20%	27%	16%
The war in Afghanistan	19%	30%	14%	25%	13%
The budget deficit	15%	20%	16%	37%	12%
Taxes	18%	20%	16%	34%	11%
Medicare	18%	21%	16%	29%	16%
Abortion	17%	19%	10%	30%	23%

39. 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	13%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	13%

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

Very liberal	8%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	26%
Very Conservative	9%
Not sure	13%

41. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	32%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	17%

42. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	42%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	46%
Not sure	11%

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

Like a lot	35%
Like somewhat	26%
Dislike	27%
Not sure	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	34%	34%	32%
Bold	32%	53%	15%
Effective	26%	49%	25%
Exciting	18%	63%	19%
Experienced	26%	49%	25%
Honest	33%	39%	29%
Hypocritical	29%	44%	27%
Inspiring	38%	42%	20%
Intelligent	61%	30%	9%
Partisan	26%	58%	16%
Patriotic	30%	45%	25%
Religious	16%	57%	27%
Sincere	36%	38%	25%
Steady	28%	59%	13%
Strong	35%	51%	14%

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

Getting better	28%
About the same	33%
Getting worse	33%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	22%
About the same	34%
Lower	20%
Not sure	24%

47. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

48. Education

No high school	10%
High school graduate	34%
Some college	24%
2-year college	9%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	7%

49. Age

18-29	25%
30-44	30%
45-64	32%
65+	13%

50. Race

White	67%
Black	15%
Hispanic	11%
Other	7%

51. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	21%
South	35%
West	27%

52. Highest level of education attained

HS	44%
Some college	33%
College grad	23%

53. Party Identification

Democrat	32%
Lean Democrat	11%
Independent	27%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	21%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	February 16-18, 2013
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	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.
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 0.4 to 7.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.93.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.2% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	34 questions not reported.