

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents

Conducted July 6-8, 2013

Margin of Error $\pm 4.4\%$

1. Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs...?

Most of the time	44%
Some of the time	32%
Only now and then	15%
Hardly at all	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	26%
Off on the wrong track	58%
Not sure	17%

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

Favor	41%
Oppose	40%
Unsure	19%

4. Do you support building more border fences?

Favor	61%
Oppose	22%
Not sure	17%

5. Edward Snowden, a former CIA employee, made the news recently for leaking information of government surveillance on Americans, including monitoring internet usage and telephone records, to the press. What is your opinion on Snowden, if any?

Very favorable	14%
Somewhat favorable	22%
Somewhat unfavorable	18%
Very unfavorable	23%
Not sure	23%

6. Would you support or oppose the prosecution of Edward Snowden for leaking the information?

I would support prosecution	31%
I neither support nor oppose	27%
I would oppose his prosecution	26%
Not sure	16%

7. Do you think collecting and analyzing Americans' phone records is justified as a way to combat terrorism, or is it an unnecessary intrusion into Americans' lives?

Justified as a way to combat terrorism	25%
Unnecessary intrusion into Americans' lives	58%
Not sure	17%

8. How much have you heard or read about the National Security Agency collecting information about telephone records including the length of phone calls and the numbers called?

A great deal	21%
A fair amount	45%
Not much	26%
Nothing at all	8%

9. The National Security Agency has been collecting information about telephone records – length of calls and the numbers called – in order to reduce the threat of terrorism. Do you approve or disapprove of their doing this?

Approve strongly	9%
Approve somewhat	26%
Disapprove somewhat	26%
Disapprove strongly	30%
Not sure	10%

10. The phone records information has been collected since 2007. How likely do you think it is that this information has prevented a terrorist attack?

Very likely	8%
Somewhat likely	27%
Somewhat unlikely	22%
Very unlikely	25%
Not sure	17%

11. The NSA says that it is not listening in to phone conversations, just looking at the "metadata" of call duration, etc. Do you think the NSA is telling the truth about this, or do you think it is listening in to phone conversations on a regular basis?

Telling the truth	15%
Is listening in on phone conversations on a regular basis	58%
Not sure	27%

12. Which part of the government do you trust MOST to do what's right?

Congress	6%
The Supreme Court	24%
The President	20%
Political parties	3%
Not sure	48%

13. Which part of the government do you trust LEAST to do what's right?

Congress	28%
The Supreme Court	5%
The President	27%
Political parties	20%
Not sure	20%

14. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the Supreme Court's recent decisions?

Approve	26%
Disapprove	36%
Not sure	38%

15. Thinking about the current Supreme Court, please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
The Supreme Court should be able to throw out any law it considered unconstitutional	23%	22%	24%	10%	11%	10%
The Supreme Court gets too mixed up in politics	29%	22%	26%	8%	3%	12%
The decisions of the Supreme Court favor some groups more than others	20%	30%	25%	8%	5%	12%
If the Supreme Court started making a lot of rulings that most Americans disagreed with, it might be better to do away with the Court altogether	13%	10%	25%	16%	25%	12%
The Supreme Court can usually be trusted to make decisions that are right for the country as a whole	8%	30%	26%	16%	12%	9%

16. How much do you know or have you heard about the Justices who are currently serving on the Supreme Court? For each justice below, would you say you know/have heard about this person...?

	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	Did not even know this person was on the Supreme Court
Chief Justice John Roberts	21%	23%	28%	27%
Antonin Scalia	20%	21%	26%	34%
Anthony Kennedy	12%	19%	28%	41%
Clarence Thomas	24%	26%	25%	24%
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	16%	22%	28%	34%
Stephen Breyer	6%	16%	30%	49%
Samuel Alito	12%	22%	28%	39%
Sonia Sotomayor	19%	27%	30%	24%
Elena Kagan	14%	21%	27%	38%

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

Asked of respondents who indicated they knew of each of the following justices

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Chief Justice John Roberts	12%	44%	31%	13%
Antonin Scalia	24%	35%	14%	27%
Anthony Kennedy	10%	51%	29%	10%
Clarence Thomas	27%	29%	17%	27%
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	26%	27%	20%	27%
Stephen Breyer	17%	50%	25%	8%
Samuel Alito	20%	39%	18%	22%
Sonia Sotomayor	26%	31%	16%	28%
Elena Kagan	22%	24%	24%	30%

18. Do you think the next generation of Americans will have a higher or lower standard of living than people today?

Higher	21%
Lower	54%
Not sure	25%

19. Which of the following countries do you consider to be a friend or an enemy of the United States?

	Ally of U.S.	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy of the U.S.	Not sure
Iran	0%	3%	26%	50%	20%
Israel	43%	21%	8%	8%	20%
Egypt	4%	21%	30%	12%	32%
Saudi Arabia	9%	22%	25%	15%	28%
Jordan	10%	24%	21%	10%	35%
Tunisia	1%	12%	24%	11%	52%
Iraq	2%	13%	35%	27%	23%
Libya	1%	9%	38%	23%	29%

20. How much have you heard or read about the protests in Egypt against President Muhammad Morsi?

A lot	32%
A little	45%
Nothing at all	23%

21. Which of these do you think is most likely to happen in Egypt?

Egypt will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	6%
Egypt will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	35%
Egypt will probably never become a stable democracy.	33%
Not sure	26%

22. Which ONE of the following best describes your feelings about recent events in Egypt?

Excited	1%
Hopeful	19%
Scared	7%
Worried	34%
Interested	23%
Bored	16%

23. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to the protests in Egypt?

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	22%
No opinion	42%

24. Do you think the foreign policy of the Obama Administration has made the United States more or less safe?

More safe	25%
Less safe	43%
Not sure	32%

25. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

Approve	28%
Disapprove	46%
Not sure	26%

26. As you may know, the Voting Rights Act was passed in the 1960's to prevent state and local governments from using rules and procedures which prevented many blacks from voting. Do you think the Voting Rights Act is necessary today to make sure that blacks are allowed to vote, or do you think the Voting Rights Act is no longer necessary?

The Voting Rights Act is still necessary38%
 The Voting Rights Act is no longer necessary 43%
 Not sure 19%

27. How would you describe yourself?

Very patriotic 38%
 Somewhat patriotic 41%
 Not very patriotic 13%
 Not at all patriotic 8%

28. Do you think Americans are becoming more or less patriotic?

More patriotic 12%
 About the same 49%
 Less patriotic 40%

29. Is it possible for someone to do the following things and still be considered patriotic?

	Yes	No	Not sure
Refuse to serve in a war that they oppose	48%	32%	21%
Disobey a law they think is immoral	55%	27%	18%
Criticize our leaders to foreigners	51%	35%	14%
Refuse to pay taxes	34%	48%	17%
Burn an American flag in protest	18%	69%	13%

30. Which political party do you think is more patriotic?

Democratic party	18%
About the same	53%
Republican party	29%

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

Strongly favor	29%
Somewhat favor	13%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	38%
Not sure	9%

32. 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	49%
Should only be handled by federal government	30%
Not sure	21%

33. What would be the impact of legalizing same sex marriages on the institution of traditional male-female marriages?

Benefit	7%
Have no impact	57%
Threaten	36%

34. Do you think gay marriage will be legal in the entire country thirty years from now?

Yes	68%
No	32%

35. 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	39%	37%	24%
Rand Paul	34%	37%	29%
Marco Rubio	34%	37%	29%
Michael Steele	18%	28%	54%
Fred Thompson	24%	37%	39%
Rick Perry	36%	43%	21%
Herman Cain	30%	39%	31%
Michelle Bachmann	36%	42%	22%
Jeb Bush	33%	46%	21%

36. 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	17%	41%	28%	13%
Rand Paul	24%	33%	23%	20%
Marco Rubio	13%	32%	34%	21%
Michael Steele	7%	43%	33%	18%
Fred Thompson	16%	40%	31%	14%
Rick Perry	13%	33%	24%	30%
Herman Cain	19%	29%	25%	26%
Michelle Bachmann	12%	27%	22%	39%
Jeb Bush	13%	30%	30%	26%

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

Rand Paul	10%
Chris Christie	16%
Marco Rubio	5%
Jeb Bush	6%
Condoleezza Rice	9%
Paul Ryan	4%
Bobby Jindal	2%
Rick Santorum	3%
Other	7%
Not sure	39%

38. 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	26%
Less conservative	28%
Not sure	20%

39. When do you think abortion should be legal?

Abortion should always be legal. There should be no restrictions on abortion.	22%
Abortion should be legal, but with some restrictions (such as for minors or late-term abortions).	32%
Abortion should only be legal in special circumstances, such as when the life of the mother is in danger.	31%
Abortion should be illegal. It should never be allowed.	15%

40. When do you think human life begins during a pregnancy?

At conception	45%
With the fetus' first heartbeat	17%
When the fetus feels pain	2%
When the fetus is capable of surviving outside of the womb	14%
Birth	7%
Not sure	15%

41. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	73%	19%	5%	2%
Immigration	40%	37%	17%	6%
The environment	42%	32%	16%	10%
Terrorism	47%	33%	11%	9%
Gay rights	19%	21%	23%	37%
Education	53%	29%	12%	6%
Health care	64%	25%	6%	5%
Social security	57%	31%	9%	4%
The budget deficit	56%	27%	12%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	26%	38%	23%	13%
Taxes	55%	32%	10%	3%
Medicare	51%	31%	14%	5%
Abortion	34%	31%	22%	13%

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

The economy	38%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	3%
Education	7%
Health care	11%
Social security	8%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	5%
Abortion	5%

43. 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	25%	20%	11%	35%	8%
John Boehner	5%	16%	20%	32%	28%
Mitch McConnell	4%	16%	17%	24%	39%
Harry Reid	5%	15%	14%	31%	35%
Nancy Pelosi	8%	19%	15%	38%	20%
Joe Biden	18%	22%	14%	31%	15%
Hillary Clinton	26%	24%	12%	27%	11%
John Kerry	12%	26%	16%	26%	20%

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

Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	26%
Somewhat disapprove	15%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	9%

45. 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	15%	20%	15%	36%	14%
Immigration	13%	22%	13%	34%	18%
The environment	13%	25%	13%	28%	21%
Terrorism	16%	20%	18%	27%	18%
Gay rights	18%	20%	9%	33%	21%
Education	14%	25%	14%	27%	20%
Health care	18%	19%	11%	39%	13%
Social security	12%	21%	16%	32%	20%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	25%	19%	26%	18%
The budget deficit	11%	20%	14%	39%	16%
Taxes	12%	21%	16%	34%	17%
Medicare	12%	19%	16%	32%	21%
Abortion	12%	20%	10%	30%	28%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	14%

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

Very liberal	5%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	32%
Conservative	26%
Very conservative	11%
Not sure	9%

48. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	34%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	15%

49. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	40%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	49%
Not sure	10%

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

Like a lot	28%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	29%
Not sure	14%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	37%	38%	25%
Bold	28%	55%	17%
Effective	23%	47%	30%
Exciting	15%	62%	23%
Experienced	22%	47%	31%
Honest	26%	38%	36%
Hypocritical	38%	40%	21%
Inspiring	28%	48%	24%
Intelligent	48%	38%	14%
Partisan	26%	60%	14%
Patriotic	26%	45%	29%
Religious	13%	61%	26%
Sincere	31%	37%	32%
Steady	24%	56%	19%
Strong	27%	51%	22%

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

Getting better	22%
About the same	43%
Getting worse	29%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	33%
Lower	23%
Not sure	24%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	15%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	33%
Not sure	6%

55. Do you think home prices in your area have increased or decreased in the last year?

Increased	31%
Stayed about the same	42%
Decreased	9%
Not sure	18%

56. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?

Yes	23%
No	77%

57. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

58. Education

No high school	10%
High school graduate	34%
Some college	24%
2-year college	12%
4-year college	13%
Post-graduate	7%

59. Age

18-29	28%
30-44	29%
45-64	30%
65+	13%

60. Race

White	68%
Black	15%
Hispanic	11%
Other	6%

61. Region

Northeast	18%
Midwest	23%
South	36%
West	23%

62. Party Identification

Democrat	34%
Lean Democrat	11%
Independent	24%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	21%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 6-8, 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, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.03.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.