

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted March 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	30%
Off on the wrong track	56%
Not sure	14%

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

Very favorable	8%
Somewhat favorable	25%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%
Very unfavorable	12%
Not sure	42%

3. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Pope Francis, who was elected this past week?

Very favorable	16%
Somewhat favorable	24%
Somewhat unfavorable	7%
Very unfavorable	7%
Not sure	47%

4. Overall, do you think the selection of a Pope from Latin America will help the Church, hurt the Church, or will it be a mixed blessing?

Help the church	35%
Hurt the church	4%
Mixed	19%
Not sure	41%

5. Do you want the new Pope to make major changes in Church rules and policy, minor changes, or no changes?

Asked of Catholic respondents

Major changes	26%
Minor changes	36%
No changes	12%
Not sure	26%

6. Do you support or oppose women being allowed to become ordained as priests in the Catholic church?

Asked of Catholic respondents

Support	46%
Oppose	38%
Not sure	16%

7. Do you support or oppose the Catholic church allowing divorce?

Asked of Catholic respondents

Support	54%
Oppose	25%
Not sure	20%

8. Do you support or oppose the Catholic church allowing gay marriage?

Asked of Catholic respondents

Support	36%
Oppose	48%
Not sure	16%

9. Do you support or oppose the Catholic church allowing artificial means of birth control?

Asked of Catholic respondents

Support	62%
Oppose	16%
Not sure	22%

10. Do you support or oppose the Catholic church permitting abortion in some cases?

Asked of Catholic respondents

Support	53%
Oppose	31%
Not sure	16%

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

Support	47%
Oppose	32%
Not sure	20%

12. 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	37%
They should not be exempt	43%
Not sure	20%

13. 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	47%
Should only be handled by federal government	33%
Not sure	20%

14. "In 1996, the federal government passed a law that says the government will only recognize marriages between a man and a woman. It was called the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA. This law means that married same-sex couples could not receive federal benefits when it comes to taxes or entitlements like Social Security and Medicare. Next week, the Supreme Court will hear arguments on whether this law is constitutional. Several lower courts have said it is not. Do you think the Supreme Court should uphold DOMA and only recognize heterosexual marriages, or should it overturn the law and let the federal government recognize same-sex marriages, too?"

This law should be upheld.	38%
This law should be overturned.	47%
Not sure	15%

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

Strongly favor	34%
Somewhat favor	15%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	31%
Not sure	9%

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

Benefit	9%
Have no impact	59%
Threaten	32%

17. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion:

Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society.	59%
Homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society	41%

18. Do you think being homosexual is something a person chooses to be, or do you think it is something a person cannot change?

Homosexuality is a choice 43%
Homosexuality is not a choice 57%

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

Yes 68%
No 32%

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

A major effect 28%
A minor effect 34%
No effect 14%
Not sure 24%

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

A major effect 46%
A minor effect 26%
No effect 5%
Not sure 22%

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

A major effect 42%
A minor effect 28%
No effect 8%
Not sure 21%

23. 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	44%
A minor effect	26%
No effect	11%
Not sure	19%

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

Federal employees and contractors	20%
Members of the military	54%
People receiving government assistance	40%
None of these	17%
Not sure	15%

25. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	75%	21%	3%	1%
Immigration	38%	41%	14%	7%
The environment	40%	36%	14%	11%
Terrorism	45%	32%	14%	8%
Gay rights	19%	26%	21%	34%
Education	56%	32%	9%	3%
Health care	65%	27%	5%	2%
Social security	57%	34%	6%	3%
The budget deficit	55%	32%	9%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	27%	40%	21%	12%
Taxes	58%	32%	7%	3%
Medicare	51%	36%	10%	4%
Abortion	32%	32%	21%	14%

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	31%	18%	9%	35%	7%
John Boehner	6%	18%	22%	28%	26%
Mitch McConnell	3%	17%	16%	22%	41%
Harry Reid	4%	17%	14%	30%	35%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	21%	12%	36%	20%
Joe Biden	22%	21%	12%	32%	13%
Hillary Clinton	32%	24%	13%	22%	10%
John Kerry	12%	29%	14%	26%	19%

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

Strongly Approve	20%
Somewhat Approve	28%
Somewhat Disapprove	10%
Strongly Disapprove	36%
Not Sure	6%

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	18%	25%	10%	36%	11%
Immigration	18%	22%	14%	32%	15%
The environment	15%	26%	15%	25%	19%
Terrorism	20%	26%	14%	25%	14%
Gay rights	20%	19%	11%	29%	20%
Education	17%	25%	14%	27%	16%
Health care	25%	21%	8%	38%	9%
Social security	16%	26%	14%	30%	15%
The war in Afghanistan	17%	27%	18%	24%	14%
The budget deficit	15%	25%	12%	37%	12%
Taxes	17%	25%	13%	33%	12%
Medicare	17%	24%	13%	29%	16%
Abortion	17%	22%	10%	28%	24%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	11%

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

Very liberal	8%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	24%
Very Conservative	10%
Not sure	9%

31. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	32%
Liberal	22%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	16%

32. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	42%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	48%
Not sure	10%

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

Like a lot	37%
Like somewhat	26%
Dislike	30%
Not sure	7%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	35%	33%	32%
Bold	33%	50%	17%
Effective	23%	48%	29%
Exciting	19%	61%	21%
Experienced	28%	45%	28%
Honest	30%	36%	34%
Hypocritical	33%	40%	27%
Inspiring	36%	41%	23%
Intelligent	55%	31%	14%
Partisan	23%	59%	18%
Patriotic	30%	44%	26%
Religious	14%	60%	26%
Sincere	32%	41%	27%
Steady	26%	57%	17%
Strong	32%	50%	18%

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

Getting better	29%
About the same	32%
Getting worse	33%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	27%
About the same	30%
Lower	21%
Not sure	22%

37. 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	44%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	35%
Not sure	4%

38. Are you currently enrolled as a student?

Full-time student	10%
Part-time student	4%
Not a student	86%

39. Do you have a job outside of school?

Full-time job	34%
Part-time job	18%
No job outside of school	48%

40. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Full-time employed	43%
Part-time employed	8%
Self-employed	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff	12%
Retired	15%
Permanently disabled	8%
Homemaker	12%
Other	2%

41. Do you currently have more than one job?

Yes	11%
No	89%

42. In a typical week, about how many hours do you work for pay?

Mean 18

43. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried 13%
 Somewhat worried 34%
 Not very worried 54%

44. If you lost your job, how hard would it be for you to find a new job that paid as much as you are making now?

Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut. 43%
 Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.
 37%
 Not very hard 14%
 Not sure 6%

45. Gender

Male 48%
 Female 52%

46. Education

No high school 8%
 High school graduate 29%
 Some college 29%
 2-year college 10%
 4-year college 17%
 Post-graduate 8%

47. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	38%
Somewhat important	29%
Not too important	14%
Not at all important	20%

48. Age

18-29	26%
30-44	27%
45-64	33%
65+	14%

49. Race

White	66%
Black	14%
Hispanic	12%
Other	8%

50. Region

Northeast	16%
Midwest	21%
South	42%
West	21%

51. Highest level of education attained

HS	37%
Some college	39%
College grad	24%

52. Party Identification

Democrat	37%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	24%
Lean Republican	8%
Republican	22%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	March 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 0.2 to 7.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.91.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.2% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	34 questions not reported.