

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted March 23-25, 2013
 Margin of Error $\pm 4.3\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction 31%
 Off on the wrong track 53%
 Not sure 16%

2. Please indicate if you know someone who...

	Yes, and that person is me	Yes, I know someone like this	Neither I nor anyone I know fit this description
Owns a gun	19%	54%	27%
A gun victim	2%	21%	78%
An illegal immigrant	1%	28%	71%
An Israeli	1%	22%	77%
A committed gay couple	4%	41%	55%
Doesn't have health care	17%	47%	36%
Died in 9/11	1%	9%	90%
Lost job in financial crisis	9%	47%	43%
Has HIV or AIDS	2%	19%	79%
Has served in the military	10%	71%	19%
Has served in Iraq	1%	48%	51%
Has served in Afghanistan	2%	41%	57%
Has had an abortion	6%	44%	50%
A married gay couple	1%	22%	76%
A Palestinian	1%	10%	89%

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

Very favorable	9%
Somewhat favorable	22%
Somewhat unfavorable	17%
Very unfavorable	11%
Not sure	41%

4. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Pope Francis, who was elected recently?

Very favorable	19%
Somewhat favorable	22%
Somewhat unfavorable	9%
Very unfavorable	6%
Not sure	44%

5. 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	34%
Hurt the church	4%
Mixed	20%
Not sure	41%

6. 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	33%
Minor changes	32%
No changes	13%
Not sure	23%

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

Asked of Catholic respondents

Support	49%
Oppose	24%
Not sure	26%

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

Asked of Catholic respondents

Support	60%
Oppose	22%
Not sure	18%

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

Asked of Catholic respondents

Support	37%
Oppose	46%
Not sure	17%

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

Asked of Catholic respondents

Support	60%
Oppose	23%
Not sure	17%

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

Asked of Catholic respondents

Support	52%
Oppose	24%
Not sure	23%

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

Support	48%
Oppose	34%
Not sure	18%

13. 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	41%
Not sure	22%

14. 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	29%
Not sure	24%

15. "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. 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.	37%
This law should be overturned.	43%
Not sure	20%

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

Strongly favor	29%
Somewhat favor	17%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	31%
Not sure	9%

17. 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%

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

Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society.	58%
Homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society	42%

19. Do you think being homosexual is something \$choice1, or do you think it is something \$choice2?

Homosexuality is a choice	46%
Homosexuality is not a choice	54%

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

Yes	68%
No	32%

21. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, are your sympathies more with...?

Israelis	32%
About equal	23%
Palestinians	9%
Not sure	37%

22. Do U.S. policies in the Middle East give too much or too little support to Israel?

Too much support	24%
About the right amount of support	21%
Too little support	22%
Not sure	33%

23. Do you favor or oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza strip?

Strongly favor	12%
Somewhat favor	19%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	11%
Not sure	49%

24. When, if ever, do you think Israel and Palestine will reach a lasting agreement that will end the conflict there?

This year	1%
Next year	0%
In a few years	8%
In the future, but not in the next few years	22%
Never	36%
Not sure	32%

25. Has the Obama Administration had a positive or negative effect on efforts to reach an agreement to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Positive	15%
No effect	30%
Negative	25%
Not sure	30%

26. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Strongly approve	9%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	23%
Not sure	30%

27. What's more important?

The right of people to own guns	17%
Protecting people from gun violence	32%
Both are equally important	47%
Not sure	4%

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

Very favorable	21%
Somewhat favorable	19%
Somewhat unfavorable	15%
Very unfavorable	23%
Not sure	23%

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

More strict	52%
No change	28%
Less strict	12%
Not sure	8%

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

Does	29%
Does not	35%
Not sure	36%

31. 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	77%	6%	16%
Banning semi-automatic weapons	44%	39%	17%
Banning the sale of all handguns, except those that are issued to law enforcement officers	20%	66%	14%
Banning the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons that hold more than 10 rounds	52%	30%	17%
Requiring people who purchase handguns to wait five days before they receive that gun	66%	19%	15%
Requiring gun owners to register their guns with a national gun registry	57%	28%	15%
Limiting the number of handguns a person can own	43%	40%	16%
Preventing people from carrying a concealed gun in public	38%	44%	18%
Requiring people to obtain a police permit before buying a handgun	50%	32%	17%
Having the Centers for Disease Control conduct research on gun violence	43%	32%	26%
Spending \$50 million to hire officers and counselors for schools, and provide emergency planning in schools	46%	28%	27%
Requiring criminal and mental background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales	75%	14%	11%
Stationing armed guards at all schools	37%	37%	25%

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

I personally own a gun	22%
I don't personally but someone in household does	15%
No	63%

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

A major effect	23%
A minor effect	36%
No effect	16%
Not sure	25%

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

A major effect	42%
A minor effect	29%
No effect	6%
Not sure	23%

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

A major effect	38%
A minor effect	30%
No effect	11%
Not sure	20%

36. 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	42%
A minor effect	23%
No effect	16%
Not sure	19%

37. 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	49%
People receiving government assistance	37%
None of these	16%
Not sure	16%

39. 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%	22%	10%	32%	6%
John Boehner	6%	21%	18%	28%	27%
Mitch McConnell	5%	15%	16%	21%	43%
Harry Reid	6%	18%	15%	27%	34%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	23%	11%	34%	21%
Joe Biden	21%	22%	14%	28%	14%
Hillary Clinton	32%	20%	15%	23%	10%
John Kerry	13%	27%	17%	23%	20%

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

Strongly Approve	20%
Somewhat Approve	28%
Somewhat Disapprove	11%
Strongly Disapprove	33%
Not Sure	7%

41. 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%	27%	13%	34%	11%
Immigration	16%	23%	13%	31%	17%
The environment	13%	28%	15%	23%	21%
Terrorism	18%	27%	15%	23%	17%
Gay rights	18%	23%	10%	28%	20%
Education	18%	25%	17%	22%	18%
Health care	22%	20%	11%	35%	10%
Social security	16%	21%	17%	26%	20%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	29%	15%	22%	19%
The budget deficit	13%	24%	13%	37%	13%
Taxes	16%	23%	13%	35%	13%
Medicare	15%	23%	17%	27%	18%
Abortion	15%	22%	10%	26%	27%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	13%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	9%

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

Very liberal	7%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	32%
Conservative	27%
Very Conservative	9%
Not sure	8%

44. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	33%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	7%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	14%

45. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	42%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	46%
Not sure	12%

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

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

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	34%	38%	28%
Bold	33%	53%	14%
Effective	25%	49%	26%
Exciting	15%	65%	20%
Experienced	25%	49%	27%
Honest	31%	36%	33%
Hypocritical	33%	44%	23%
Inspiring	35%	46%	20%
Intelligent	54%	35%	11%
Partisan	24%	61%	15%
Patriotic	25%	49%	26%
Religious	14%	59%	27%
Sincere	33%	39%	29%
Steady	28%	55%	17%
Strong	32%	51%	16%

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

Getting better	24%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	33%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	25%
About the same	32%
Lower	21%
Not sure	22%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	13%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	51%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	30%
Not sure	5%

51. Is the place where you live owned or rented?

Owned by you or your family	67%
Rented from someone else	31%
Other	2%

52. Do you think the value of your home has increased or decreased in the last year?

Increased	18%
Stayed about the same	43%
Decreased	30%
Not sure	9%

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

Increased	27%
Stayed about the same	41%
Decreased	12%
Not sure	20%

54. Thinking ahead, do you think home prices in your area will increase or decrease in the next year?

Will increase a lot	4%
Will increase a little	30%
Will stay about the same	32%
Will decrease a little	13%
Will decrease a lot	4%
Not sure	17%

55. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

56. Education

No high school	9%
High school graduate	34%
Some college	22%
2-year college	12%
4-year college	15%
Post-graduate	9%

57. How large a role religion plays in life

Very important	37%
Somewhat important	28%
Not too important	12%
Not at all important	23%

58. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?

Less than \$10,000	8%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	12%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	10%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	10%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	9%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	9%
\$60,000 - \$69,999	6%
\$70,000 - \$79,999	6%
\$80,000 - \$99,999	6%
\$100,000 - \$119,999	6%
\$120,000 - \$149,999	4%
\$150,000 or more	0%
Prefer not to say	13%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	1%
\$200,000 - \$249,999	0%
\$250,000 - \$349,999	1%
\$350,000 - \$499,999	0%
\$500,000 or more	0%

59. Age

18-29	25%
30-44	33%
45-64	30%
65+	12%

60. Race

White	65%
Black	15%
Hispanic	12%
Other	8%

61. Region

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

62. Catholics and non-Catholics

Non-Catholics	80%
Catholics	20%

63. News Interest

Most of the time	39%
Some of the time	34%
Only now and then	15%
Hardly at all	12%

64. Party Identification

Democrat	37%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	22%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	22%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	March 23-25, 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 0.3 to 6.3, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.94.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.3% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	14 questions not reported.