

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted February 23-25, 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	54%
Not sure	16%

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

Very favorable	10%
Somewhat favorable	19%
Somewhat unfavorable	14%
Very unfavorable	14%
Not sure	44%

## 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	15%
Hurt the church	7%
Mixed	26%
Not sure	51%

## 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	5%
Latin America	3%
Africa	5%
The United States	15%
It doesn't matter	43%
No opinion	29%

## 5. What's more important?

The right of people to own guns .....	20%
Protecting people from gun violence .....	30%
Both are equally important .....	44%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Very favorable .....	21%
Somewhat favorable .....	20%
Somewhat unfavorable .....	10%
Very unfavorable .....	25%
Not sure .....	24%

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

More strict .....	49%
No change .....	28%
Less strict .....	12%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Does .....	28%
Does not .....	36%
Not sure .....	36%

## 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	78%	7%	15%
Banning semi-automatic weapons	46%	36%	18%
Banning the sale of all handguns, except those that are issued to law enforcement officers	19%	63%	18%
Banning the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons that hold more than 10 rounds	53%	32%	15%
Requiring people who purchase handguns to wait five days before they receive that gun	64%	20%	16%
Requiring gun owners to register their guns with a national gun registry	59%	29%	12%
Limiting the number of handguns a person can own	42%	43%	15%
Preventing people from carrying a concealed gun in public	35%	44%	21%
Requiring people to obtain a police permit before buying a handgun	47%	35%	18%
Having the Centers for Disease Control conduct research on gun violence	39%	35%	26%
Spending \$50 million to hire officers and counselors for schools, and provide emergency planning in schools	43%	29%	29%
Requiring criminal and mental background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales	74%	14%	12%
Stationing armed guards at all schools	39%	39%	22%

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

I personally own a gun .....21%  
 I don't personally but someone in household does .....15%  
 No .....64%

**11. How important are the following issues to you?**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	75%	19%	4%	2%
Immigration	41%	35%	15%	9%
The environment	43%	34%	15%	8%
Terrorism	47%	31%	15%	7%
Gay rights	24%	24%	19%	34%
Education	56%	31%	8%	5%
Health care	65%	24%	7%	4%
Social security	59%	29%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	56%	28%	11%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	28%	37%	23%	11%
Taxes	57%	31%	9%	4%
Medicare	57%	27%	11%	4%
Abortion	33%	29%	21%	17%

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

Approve .....49%  
 Disapprove .....19%  
 Not sure .....32%

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 .....	77%
Disapprove .....	10%
Not sure .....	13%

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 .....	53%
Disapprove .....	29%
Not sure .....	18%

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 .....	18%
The president OR top military and CIA officials .....	38%
Nobody .....	20%
Not sure .....	24%

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 .....	17%
Congress .....	13%
Both the president and Congress .....	45%
Not sure .....	24%

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	10%
A moderate impact	13%
A small impact	30%
No impact	40%
Not sure	8%

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

Once a week or more	22%
Several times a month	26%
About once a month	18%
Less than once a month	26%
Never	7%

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

Electronically	48%
By mail	23%
Use both methods equally	24%
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	38%
Somewhat serious	24%
A minor problem	21%
Not a problem	10%
Not sure	7%

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	41%	28%	23%	8%
Ending Saturday mail delivery	55%	21%	18%	6%
Raising postage rates	35%	25%	34%	6%
Laying off postal workers	23%	26%	43%	9%

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

Support .....	42%
Oppose .....	35%
Not sure .....	23%

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 .....	34%
They should not be exempt .....	40%
Not sure .....	26%

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

Favor .....	43%
Oppose .....	38%
Unsure .....	19%

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 .....	40%
Oppose .....	36%
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 .....	24%
Somewhat support .....	24%
Somewhat oppose .....	13%
Strongly oppose .....	24%
Not sure .....	15%

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 .....	30%
Somewhat support .....	27%
Somewhat oppose .....	9%
Strongly oppose .....	20%
Not sure .....	15%

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

Very serious .....	17%
Somewhat serious .....	17%
A minor problem .....	22%
Not a problem .....	25%
Not sure .....	20%



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

Yes .....25%  
 No .....55%  
 Not sure .....20%

30. Do you support building more border fences?

Favor .....52%  
 Oppose .....25%  
 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 .....47%  
 Oppose .....26%  
 Not sure .....27%

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	30%	41%	29%
Rand Paul	26%	40%	34%
Mitch Daniels	12%	32%	55%
Marco Rubio	25%	42%	34%
Michael Steele	18%	27%	55%
Fred Thompson	23%	38%	39%
Rick Perry	29%	43%	28%
Herman Cain	28%	39%	33%
Michelle Bachmann	28%	43%	28%
Jeb Bush	27%	51%	22%

## 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	20%	43%	25%	13%
Rand Paul	20%	26%	22%	31%
Mitch Daniels	14%	34%	32%	20%
Marco Rubio	24%	26%	26%	25%
Michael Steele	10%	38%	35%	17%
Fred Thompson	17%	39%	26%	18%
Rick Perry	12%	30%	26%	32%
Herman Cain	19%	22%	27%	32%
Michelle Bachmann	13%	28%	18%	41%
Jeb Bush	16%	33%	27%	24%

## 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	32%	19%	8%	33%	8%
John Boehner	8%	17%	20%	27%	28%
Mitch McConnell	6%	15%	13%	24%	42%
Harry Reid	9%	16%	11%	29%	36%
Nancy Pelosi	13%	21%	10%	33%	23%
Joe Biden	24%	21%	11%	29%	15%
Hillary Clinton	35%	22%	13%	21%	9%
John Kerry	15%	25%	15%	23%	22%

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

Mitch Daniels .....	1%
Chris Christie .....	15%
Marco Rubio .....	8%
Jeb Bush .....	4%
Condoleezza Rice .....	6%
Paul Ryan .....	3%
Bobby Jindal .....	2%
Rick Santorum .....	1%
Sarah Palin .....	4%
Rand Paul .....	4%
Rick Perry .....	2%
Michael Steele .....	0%
Herman Cain .....	2%
Other .....	7%
Not sure .....	40%

**36. Do you think the Republican Presidential nominee in 2016 should be more conservative or less conservative than Mitt Romney?**

More conservative .....	22%
About the same .....	21%
Less conservative .....	31%
Not sure .....	26%

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

Strongly Approve .....	21%
Somewhat Approve .....	26%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	12%
Strongly Disapprove .....	32%
Not Sure .....	9%

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	15%	25%	14%	34%	12%
Immigration	16%	22%	15%	31%	17%
The environment	14%	29%	14%	24%	19%
Terrorism	19%	28%	16%	20%	17%
Gay rights	20%	20%	10%	28%	22%
Education	19%	27%	13%	23%	19%
Health care	22%	20%	11%	36%	11%
Social security	16%	25%	14%	28%	15%
The war in Afghanistan	18%	28%	17%	21%	17%
The budget deficit	15%	22%	12%	38%	13%
Taxes	17%	23%	13%	33%	14%
Medicare	16%	25%	12%	30%	17%
Abortion	15%	23%	10%	25%	27%

39. 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 .....	18%
Somewhat disapprove .....	18%
Strongly disapprove .....	42%
Not sure .....	12%

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

Very liberal .....	11%
Liberal .....	14%
Moderate .....	30%
Conservative .....	19%
Very Conservative .....	10%
Not sure .....	15%

**41. Would you say Barack Obama is...**

Very liberal .....	28%
Liberal .....	23%
Moderate .....	22%
Conservative .....	5%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	20%

**42. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	42%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	42%
Not sure .....	15%

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

Like a lot .....	35%
Like somewhat .....	24%
Dislike .....	28%
Not sure .....	13%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	33%	39%	28%
Bold	30%	57%	13%
Effective	25%	49%	27%
Exciting	16%	66%	18%
Experienced	23%	51%	25%
Honest	31%	37%	32%
Hypocritical	28%	46%	26%
Inspiring	32%	48%	20%
Intelligent	52%	37%	11%
Partisan	25%	60%	15%
Patriotic	29%	47%	25%
Religious	14%	63%	23%
Sincere	34%	41%	25%
Steady	27%	56%	16%
Strong	31%	55%	14%

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

Getting better	25%
About the same	30%
Getting worse	36%
Not sure	8%

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

Higher	22%
About the same	31%
Lower	22%
Not sure	25%

<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	February 23-25, 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 6.3, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.89.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.2% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	34 questions not reported.