

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample                1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted          January 19-21, 2013  
Margin of Error     $\pm 4.5\%$

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Generally headed in the right direction ..... | 28% |
| Off on the wrong track .....                  | 58% |
| Not sure .....                                | 14% |

## 2. Since taking office, do you think Barack Obama has accomplished...

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| More than I expected .....  | 13% |
| About what I expected ..... | 42% |
| Less than I expected .....  | 36% |
| Not sure .....              | 8%  |

## 3. As a President, how do you think Barack Obama will go down in history?

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Outstanding .....   | 11% |
| Above Average ..... | 22% |
| Average .....       | 24% |
| Below Average ..... | 13% |
| Poor .....          | 24% |
| Not Sure .....      | 7%  |

## 4. Would you say Barack Obama is a strong or a weak leader?

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Very strong .....     | 16% |
| Somewhat strong ..... | 34% |
| Somewhat weak .....   | 24% |
| Very weak .....       | 26% |

5. How much progress has Barack Obama made in achieving the following campaign promises?

|  | A lot | Some | Only a little | None | Not sure |
|--|-------|------|---------------|------|----------|
| Changing the partisan tone in Washington | 5%    | 15%  | 19%           | 49%  | 13%      |
| Improving the U.S. image in the world    | 19%   | 22%  | 15%           | 39%  | 5%       |
| Improving the economy                    | 9%    | 28%  | 21%           | 37%  | 4%       |

6. How much progress do you think Barack Obama will make in achieving these campaign promises in the year 2013?

|  | A lot | Some | Only a little | None | Not sure |
|--|-------|------|---------------|------|----------|
| Changing the partisan tone in Washington | 7%    | 17%  | 21%           | 44%  | 11%      |
| Improving the U.S. image in the world    | 16%   | 25%  | 15%           | 36%  | 8%       |
| Improving the economy                    | 14%   | 25%  | 19%           | 35%  | 7%       |

## 7. How do you think the U.S. compares to other wealthy countries (such as Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Spain)?

|   | Lower in U.S. | About the same | Higher in U.S. | Don't know |
|---|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| The proportion of newborn babies who die before they are one year old | 30%           | 28%            | 19%            | 22%        |
| The proportion of persons who are obese                               | 3%            | 11%            | 75%            | 11%        |
| The proportion of persons who are homicide victims                    | 7%            | 27%            | 49%            | 17%        |
| The proportion of people who die in car accidents                     | 7%            | 33%            | 38%            | 22%        |
| Average life expectancy   | 23%           | 40%            | 21%            | 16%        |
| The proportion of persons who are illiterate                          | 17%           | 32%            | 32%            | 18%        |
| Average family income   | 29%           | 28%            | 25%            | 18%        |
| Income tax rates  | 26%           | 23%            | 34%            | 17%        |

## 8. What's more important?

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| The right of people to own guns .....     | 19% |
| Protecting people from gun violence ..... | 30% |
| Both are equally important .....          | 47% |
| Not sure .....                            | 4%  |

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

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Very favorable .....       | 22% |
| Somewhat favorable .....   | 23% |
| Somewhat unfavorable ..... | 13% |
| Very unfavorable .....     | 23% |
| Not sure .....             | 20% |

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

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| More strict ..... | 51% |
| No change .....   | 32% |
| Less strict ..... | 10% |
| Not sure .....    | 7%  |

## 11. Do you think the second amendment of the U.S. Constitution does or does not allow states to regulate guns?

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Does .....     | 35% |
| Does not ..... | 34% |
| Not sure ..... | 31% |

12. 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  | 79%   | 8%     | 13%      |
| Banning semi-automatic weapons  | 49%   | 37%    | 13%      |
| Banning the sale of all handguns, except those that are issued to law enforcement officers                          | 20%   | 67%    | 13%      |
| Banning the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons that hold more than 10 rounds                         | 57%   | 29%    | 13%      |
| Requiring people who purchase handguns to wait five days before they receive that gun                               | 67%   | 19%    | 13%      |
| Requiring gun owners to register their guns with a national gun registry  | 64%   | 26%    | 10%      |
| Limiting the number of handguns a person can own  | 45%   | 44%    | 11%      |
| Preventing people from carrying a concealed gun in public   | 37%   | 49%    | 15%      |
| Requiring people to obtain a police permit before buying a handgun  | 49%   | 35%    | 15%      |
| Having the Centers for Disease Control conduct research on gun violence   | 39%   | 37%    | 25%      |
| Spending \$50 million to hire officers and counselors for schools and to provide emergency planning in schools      | 45%   | 29%    | 25%      |
| Requiring criminal and mental background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales | 79%   | 12%    | 10%      |
| Stationing armed guards at all schools  | 41%   | 35%    | 24%      |

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

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| I personally own a gun .....                           | 18% |
| I don't personally but someone in household does ..... | 15% |
| No .....   | 67% |

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

|                           | Very<br>important | Somewhat<br>important | Not very<br>important | Unimportant |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| The economy               | 80%               | 17%                   | 2%                    | 1%          |
| Immigration               | 43%               | 34%                   | 16%                   | 7%          |
| The environment           | 42%               | 37%                   | 14%                   | 6%          |
| Terrorism                 | 47%               | 35%                   | 13%                   | 5%          |
| Gay rights                | 24%               | 21%                   | 24%                   | 31%         |
| Education                 | 65%               | 28%                   | 6%                    | 2%          |
| Health care               | 66%               | 26%                   | 7%                    | 2%          |
| Social security           | 63%               | 29%                   | 8%                    | 1%          |
| The budget deficit        | 60%               | 30%                   | 8%                    | 3%          |
| The war in<br>Afghanistan | 29%               | 39%                   | 23%                   | 10%         |
| Taxes                     | 61%               | 32%                   | 6%                    | 1%          |
| Medicare                  | 55%               | 34%                   | 9%                    | 2%          |
| Abortion                  | 38%               | 30%                   | 19%                   | 13%         |

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

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| The economy .....            | 35% |
| Immigration .....            | 4%  |
| The environment .....        | 4%  |
| Terrorism .....              | 2%  |
| Gay rights .....             | 2%  |
| Education .....              | 8%  |
| Health care .....            | 10% |
| Social security .....        | 11% |
| The budget deficit .....     | 9%  |
| The war in Afghanistan ..... | 1%  |
| Taxes .....                  | 6%  |
| Medicare .....               | 2%  |
| Abortion .....               | 6%  |

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

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Mitch Daniels .....    | 1%  |
| Chris Christie .....   | 12% |
| Marco Rubio .....      | 9%  |
| Jeb Bush .....         | 4%  |
| Condoleezza Rice ..... | 7%  |
| Paul Ryan .....        | 5%  |
| Bobby Jindal .....     | 1%  |
| Rick Santorum .....    | 4%  |
| Sarah Palin .....      | 3%  |
| Rand Paul .....        | 3%  |
| Rick Perry .....       | 1%  |
| Other .....            | 5%  |
| Not sure .....         | 46% |

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

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| More conservative ..... | 23% |
| About the same .....    | 22% |
| Less conservative ..... | 33% |
| Not sure .....          | 22% |

18. Who do you think should be the Democratic nominee for President in 2016?

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Elizabeth Warren ..... | 2%  |
| Hillary Clinton .....  | 28% |
| Rahm Emanuel .....     | 1%  |
| Joe Biden .....        | 9%  |
| Martin O'Malley .....  | 1%  |
| Mark Warner .....      | 0%  |
| Julian Castro .....    | 1%  |
| Andrew Cuomo .....     | 3%  |
| Amy Klobuchar .....    | 1%  |
| Evan Bayh .....        | 1%  |
| Tammy Baldwin .....    | 0%  |
| Other .....            | 6%  |
| Not sure .....         | 48% |

19. Do you think the Democratic Presidential nominee in 2016 should be more liberal or less liberal than Barack Obama?

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| More liberal .....   | 12% |
| About the same ..... | 32% |
| Less liberal .....   | 33% |
| Not sure .....       | 23% |

20. Which describes your views on the U.S. economy in the new year?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Very optimistic .....                    | 7%  |
| Somewhat optimistic .....                | 26% |
| Neither optimistic nor pessimistic ..... | 24% |
| Somewhat pessimistic .....               | 20% |
| Very pessimistic .....                   | 22% |

21. 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    | 28%            | 23%                | 9%                   | 32%              | 8%         |
| Sarah Palin     | 14%            | 19%                | 13%                  | 38%              | 15%        |
| John McCain     | 8%             | 28%                | 25%                  | 22%              | 17%        |
| Joe Biden       | 20%            | 24%                | 11%                  | 28%              | 17%        |
| Mitch Daniels   | 7%             | 10%                | 11%                  | 8%               | 65%        |
| Julian Castro   | 5%             | 8%                 | 10%                  | 10%              | 67%        |
| Hillary Clinton | 32%            | 26%                | 12%                  | 21%              | 10%        |

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

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Approve .....    | 16% |
| Somewhat Approve .....    | 30% |
| Somewhat Disapprove ..... | 12% |
| Strongly Disapprove ..... | 35% |
| Not Sure .....            | 7%  |

23. 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            | 13%              | 25%              | 14%                 | 35%                 | 14%        |
| Immigration            | 10%              | 22%              | 15%                 | 32%                 | 20%        |
| The environment        | 11%              | 27%              | 15%                 | 24%                 | 23%        |
| Terrorism              | 18%              | 25%              | 14%                 | 26%                 | 18%        |
| Gay rights             | 15%              | 21%              | 7%                  | 26%                 | 31%        |
| Education              | 14%              | 26%              | 16%                 | 24%                 | 20%        |
| Health care            | 19%              | 20%              | 11%                 | 37%                 | 14%        |
| Social security        | 13%              | 22%              | 16%                 | 32%                 | 17%        |
| The budget deficit     | 12%              | 20%              | 14%                 | 38%                 | 15%        |
| The war in Afghanistan | 15%              | 26%              | 16%                 | 24%                 | 18%        |
| Taxes                  | 16%              | 22%              | 12%                 | 36%                 | 15%        |
| Medicare               | 13%              | 22%              | 15%                 | 31%                 | 19%        |
| Abortion               | 12%              | 21%              | 10%                 | 26%                 | 31%        |

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

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve .....               | 3%  |
| Somewhat approve .....               | 6%  |
| Neither approve nor disapprove ..... | 18% |
| Somewhat disapprove .....            | 22% |
| Strongly disapprove .....            | 43% |
| Not sure .....                       | 8%  |

25. If you had to choose, would you rather have a member of Congress who...

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Compromises to get things done. ....             | 60% |
| Sticks to their principles, no matter what. .... | 40% |

26. If you had to choose, would you rather have a congressperson who...

Supports policies in line with his or her principles, regardless of how constituents feel about those policies. ....33%

Supports policies that constituents want, regardless of his or her own beliefs. ....67%

27. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

|   | Agree<br>strongly | Agree<br>somewhat | Neither<br>agree<br>nor<br>disagree | Disagree<br>somewhat | Disagree<br>strongly | Not sure |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------|
| It makes me angry when I see Democratic and Republican leaders arguing with each other. | 31%               | 23%               | 27%                                 | 10%                  | 5%                   | 4%       |
| Disagreement about policy is healthy in a democracy.                                    | 20%               | 40%               | 24%                                 | 5%                   | 5%                   | 5%       |
| Democrats and the Republicans generally argue over things that are not very important.  | 30%               | 28%               | 20%                                 | 9%                   | 7%                   | 5%       |
| I would like Democrats and the Republicans to come together and compromise.             | 47%               | 23%               | 17%                                 | 3%                   | 5%                   | 5%       |

28. How would you feel if you had a son or daughter who married a Democrat?

*Asked of Republicans and Independents*

Very upset .....8%

Somewhat upset .....11%

Not upset at all .....65%

Not sure .....16%

## 29. How would you feel if you had a son or daughter who married a Republican?

*Asked of Democrats and Independents*

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Very upset .....       | 5%  |
| Somewhat upset .....   | 12% |
| Not upset at all ..... | 62% |
| Not sure .....         | 20% |

## 30. Which of the following words would you use to describe people who are Republicans? Check all that apply.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Patriotic .....         | 40% |
| Closed-minded .....     | 37% |
| Intelligent .....       | 31% |
| Hypocritical .....      | 33% |
| Honest .....            | 23% |
| Selfish .....           | 30% |
| Generous .....          | 17% |
| Open-minded .....       | 17% |
| Mean .....              | 16% |
| None of the above ..... | 22% |

## 31. Which of the following words would you use to describe people who are Democrats? Check all that apply.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Patriotic .....         | 22% |
| Closed-minded .....     | 27% |
| Intelligent .....       | 28% |
| Hypocritical .....      | 32% |
| Honest .....            | 16% |
| Selfish .....           | 23% |
| Generous .....          | 23% |
| Open-minded .....       | 36% |
| Mean .....              | 14% |
| None of the above ..... | 22% |

32. Do you think the outcome of the Presidential election last November will have much impact on you personally?

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Yes, a big impact .....   | 27% |
| Yes, some impact .....    | 33% |
| No, not much impact ..... | 20% |
| No impact at all .....    | 7%  |
| Not sure .....            | 13% |

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

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal .....      | 7%  |
| Liberal .....           | 15% |
| Moderate .....          | 30% |
| Conservative .....      | 25% |
| Very Conservative ..... | 10% |
| Not sure .....          | 12% |

34. Would you say Barack Obama is...

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal .....      | 34% |
| Liberal .....           | 22% |
| Moderate .....          | 22% |
| Conservative .....      | 3%  |
| Very conservative ..... | 2%  |
| Not sure .....          | 17% |

35. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Like a lot .....    | 32% |
| Like somewhat ..... | 28% |
| Dislike .....       | 27% |
| Not sure .....      | 13% |

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

|              | Yes | No Opinion | No  |
|--------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Arrogant     | 36% | 36%        | 28% |
| Bold         | 28% | 59%        | 14% |
| Effective    | 20% | 55%        | 25% |
| Exciting     | 19% | 62%        | 19% |
| Experienced  | 23% | 52%        | 25% |
| Honest       | 27% | 43%        | 30% |
| Hypocritical | 31% | 44%        | 26% |
| Inspiring    | 32% | 49%        | 19% |
| Intelligent  | 55% | 35%        | 10% |
| Partisan     | 21% | 64%        | 15% |
| Patriotic    | 30% | 43%        | 27% |
| Religious    | 14% | 60%        | 27% |
| Sincere      | 33% | 43%        | 25% |
| Steady       | 24% | 62%        | 14% |
| Strong       | 30% | 53%        | 18% |

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

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Getting better ..... | 23% |
| About the same ..... | 34% |
| Getting worse .....  | 36% |
| Not sure .....       | 7%  |

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

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Higher .....         | 20% |
| About the same ..... | 35% |
| Lower .....          | 21% |
| Not sure .....       | 23% |

40. Do you approve or disapprove of the recent legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Obama that raises taxes and averts the "fiscal cliff"?

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Approve strongly .....               | 8%  |
| Approve somewhat .....               | 23% |
| Neither approve nor disapprove ..... | 15% |
| Disapprove somewhat .....            | 17% |
| Disapprove strongly .....            | 20% |
| Not sure .....                       | 17% |

41. How much do you expect your taxes to increase because of the deal on the "fiscal cliff"?

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| A lot .....    | 18% |
| Some .....     | 38% |
| A little ..... | 24% |
| None .....     | 20% |

42. There is talk in Washington about spending cuts and further tax increases to cut the deficit. What do you think Congress and the President should do?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Cut spending and raise taxes .....         | 25% |
| Only cut spending .....                    | 44% |
| Only raise taxes .....                     | 9%  |
| Neither cut spending nor raise taxes ..... | 7%  |
| Not sure .....                             | 15% |

43. Congress recently raised taxes on people earning over \$400,000 per year. Do you favor or oppose a further increase in taxes on people earning over \$400,000?

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Favor an additional increase .....  | 51% |
| Oppose an additional increase ..... | 33% |
| Not sure .....                      | 16% |

44. How about families earning between \$250,000 and \$400,000 per year? Do you favor or oppose increasing their taxes?

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Favor increasing their taxes .....  | 47% |
| Oppose increasing their taxes ..... | 38% |
| Not sure .....                      | 15% |

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Better off financially than you were a year ago .....   | 14% |
| About the same financially as you were a year ago ..... | 45% |
| Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....    | 35% |
| Not sure .....  | 6%  |

46. Gender

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Male .....   | 49% |
| Female ..... | 51% |

47. Education

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| No high school .....       | 9%  |
| High school graduate ..... | 34% |
| Some college .....         | 25% |
| 2-year college .....       | 11% |
| 4-year college .....       | 13% |
| Post-graduate .....        | 8%  |

**48. Age**

|       |     |
|-------|-----|
| 18-29 | 23% |
| 30-44 | 30% |
| 45-64 | 35% |
| 65+   | 12% |

**49. Race**

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| White    | 71% |
| Black    | 13% |
| Hispanic | 10% |
| Other    | 6%  |

**50. Region**

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Northeast | 18% |
| Midwest   | 25% |
| South     | 36% |
| West      | 21% |

**51. Party Identification**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Democrat        | 33% |
| Lean Democrat   | 8%  |
| Independent     | 27% |
| Lean Republican | 8%  |
| Republican      | 23% |

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Sponsorship</b>            | <i>The Economist</i>  |
| <b>Fieldwork</b>              | YouGov  |
| <b>Interviewing Dates</b>     | January 19-21, 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 0.3 to 7.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.05.   |
| <b>Number of respondents</b>  | 1000  |
| <b>Margin of error</b>        | ± 4.5% (adjusted for weighting)   |
| <b>Survey mode</b>            | Web-based interviews  |
| <b>Questions not reported</b> | 16 questions not reported.  |