

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted July 3-6, 2010
Margin of Error ±3.4%

1. How much have you heard or read about President Obama's nomination of Elena Kagan to replace John Paul Stevens as a Supreme Court Justice?

A lot	36%
A little	45%
Nothing at all	19%

2. Elena Kagan is the Solicitor General of the United States. She was appointed by President Obama. She graduated from Princeton University and then earned her law degree from the University of Chicago. She was formerly a professor of law at both the University of Chicago and Harvard, and the dean of Harvard Law School.

Do you think Elena Kagan would make a good Supreme Court Justice?

Definitely yes	13%
Probably yes	26%
Hard to say	34%
Probably no	10%
Definitely no	18%

3. Do you think the U.S. Senate should or should not confirm Elena Kagan as a Supreme Court Justice?

Should confirm	40%
Should not confirm	28%
Not sure	32%

4. Can someone with a lot of legal experience who has never served as a judge be a good Supreme Court Justice?

Definitely yes	18%
Probably yes	31%
Hard to say	26%
Probably no	17%
Definitely no	8%

5. How would you describe most of the decisions the Supreme Court has made recently?

Very good	4%
Good	23%
Neither good, nor bad	31%
Bad	18%
Very bad	7%
Not sure	18%

6. Which part of the government do you trust most to do what's right?

Congress	4%
The Supreme Court	30%
The President	20%
Political parties	3%
Don't Know	42%

7. Which part of the government do you trust least to do what's right?

Congress	29%
The Supreme Court	5%
The President	23%
Political parties	27%
Don't Know	16%

8. Do you think people who are openly gay or homosexual should be allowed to serve in the U.S. military?

Yes 62%
 No 23%
 Not sure 15%

9. Which of these comes closest to your view?

Abortion should be generally available to those who want it 38%
 Abortion should be available, but under stricter limits than it is now 35%
 Abortion should not be permitted 22%
 Not sure 5%

10. Below are some issues facing the country. For each one, indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling that issue.

	Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Somewhat Disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	No Opinion
The war in Iraq	11%	30%	23%	27%	10%
The economy	13%	24%	14%	44%	6%
Immigration	10%	22%	14%	42%	12%
The environment	12%	29%	17%	29%	13%
Terrorism	16%	29%	14%	29%	12%
Gay rights	12%	26%	15%	24%	24%
Education	16%	28%	16%	26%	14%
Health care	21%	22%	11%	40%	6%
Social security	12%	22%	15%	33%	19%
The budget deficit	10%	21%	17%	45%	8%
The war in Afghanistan	9%	28%	24%	29%	10%
Taxes	12%	25%	14%	39%	11%

11. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	43%	39%	13%	5%
The economy	83%	15%	1%	1%
Immigration	52%	30%	14%	4%
The environment	49%	36%	11%	4%
Terrorism	60%	27%	10%	3%
Gay rights	21%	26%	27%	26%
Education	58%	32%	7%	2%
Health care	72%	21%	4%	3%
Social security	63%	27%	8%	2%
The budget deficit	61%	29%	7%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	46%	37%	12%	5%
Taxes	64%	27%	7%	1%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	37%
Immigration	8%
The environment	6%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	3%
Education	6%
Health care	13%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	5%

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

Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	25%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	6%

14. Different people feel differently about voting. For some, voting is a duty. For others, voting is a choice. For you personally, voting is FIRST AND FOREMOST a:

Duty	53%
Choice	47%

15. How strongly do you feel personally that voting is a duty? (Asked if respondent thinks that voting is a duty)

Very strongly	70%
Somewhat strongly	26%
Not very strongly	5%

16. How much do you personally care about who wins the 2010 congressional elections?

A lot	57%
Somewhat	22%
A little	12%
Not at all	9%

17. Have you discussed this November's elections with any friends or family in the past few days?

Yes	42%
No	58%

18. How closely have you been following news about the 2010 congressional elections?

Very closely	25%
Somewhat closely	32%
Not too closely	25%
Not at all	18%

19. Where do you get most of your information about the political campaigns? (Asked if respondent has been following news about elections)

Local TV newscasts	21%
Cable news networks	30%
General Web sites like Yahoo or Google	5%
News Web sites	20%
Radio	6%
Newspapers and magazines	9%
Blogs	3%
Other	5%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	11%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	42%
Not sure	8%

21. If the 2010 elections for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?

	Republican	Lean Republican	Lean Democrat	Democrat	Not Sure
Registered Voters (N = 710, MoE = ±3.8%)	39%	4%	5%	42%	9%
All Respondents	34%	5%	7%	38%	15%

22. What is your preference for the outcome of the November 2010 congressional elections?

Congress controlled by Republicans	30%
Congress controlled by Democrats	33%
Congress divided between both parties	23%
No preference	14%

23. In general, do you think it is better for the same political party to control both the Congress and the presidency, so they can work together more closely, or do you think it is better to have different political parties controlling the Congress and the presidency to prevent either one from going too far?

Better for the same party to control Congress and presidency	25%
Better for different parties to control Congress and the presidency	41%
Not sure	34%

24. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

Just about always	2%
Most of the time	10%
Some of the time	41%
Almost never	40%
Not sure	8%

25. Which party is closer to you on the following issues?

	The Democratic Party	The Republican Party	Both the same	Not sure
Taxes	30%	35%	12%	23%
Government spending	26%	32%	19%	23%
Regulating business	32%	31%	12%	25%
The environment	38%	21%	16%	25%
Immigration	25%	34%	16%	25%
Gun control	27%	37%	12%	25%
Abortion	33%	28%	12%	27%
Gay marriage	33%	22%	14%	31%
National defense	23%	35%	18%	24%
The economy	32%	32%	13%	24%
Terrorism	24%	34%	19%	23%
Health Care	38%	33%	9%	21%
Energy policy	35%	25%	15%	25%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
Barack Obama	28%	19%	14%	35%	4%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	21%	11%	38%	19%
Harry Reid	5%	17%	12%	30%	37%
Newt Gingrich	14%	20%	15%	25%	27%
Joe Biden	14%	26%	18%	28%	14%
Sarah Palin	17%	22%	13%	40%	8%
Hillary Clinton	29%	28%	15%	22%	6%
Mitt Romney	10%	25%	16%	19%	29%
Michelle Obama	33%	23%	12%	21%	11%
Rush Limbaugh	12%	17%	12%	42%	17%
Glenn Beck	16%	16%	9%	29%	30%
John McCain	9%	32%	25%	22%	11%

27. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following groups?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
The Democratic Party	19%	23%	17%	31%	10%
The Republican Party	12%	27%	21%	30%	10%
The Tea Party movement	20%	16%	8%	31%	25%

28. How much have you heard or read about the political movement known as the Tea Party?

A great deal	29%
A fair amount	36%
Not much	22%
Nothing at all	14%

29. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement? (Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement)

Yes	26%
No	74%

30. Do you think that most Republicans consider themselves a part of the Tea Party movement? (Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement)

Yes	45%
No	55%

31. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement? (Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement)

Strongly support	23%
Somewhat support	15%
Neither support, nor oppose	16%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	24%
Not sure	13%

32. Do you think things are better off or worse off than they were two years ago when it comes to:

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	2%	13%	36%	18%	21%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	2%	13%	34%	23%	20%	8%
Energy issues	3%	16%	37%	17%	21%	7%
The environment	3%	12%	37%	18%	24%	6%
The economy in your area	3%	14%	23%	24%	33%	4%
Job security	2%	10%	23%	22%	38%	5%
Government spending	2%	10%	20%	15%	47%	6%
Health care coverage	7%	21%	18%	18%	31%	5%
Education	3%	14%	37%	19%	20%	7%
Social Security and Medicare	3%	9%	30%	24%	27%	8%
The U.S. financial system	3%	14%	19%	21%	38%	6%
Wall Street	3%	18%	23%	23%	24%	9%

33. Next, please tell us which of two statements comes closer to your own opinion. You might agree to some extent with both, but we want to know which one is closer to your views.

Which statement comes closer to your opinion?

- We need a strong government to handle today’s complex economic problems.58%
- The free market can handle these problems without government being involved.42%

34. Which statement comes closer to your opinion?

- Most poor people are poor because they don’t work hard enough.32%
- Most poor people are poor because of circumstances beyond their control.68%

35. Which statement comes closer to your opinion?

- The less government the better.52%
- There are more things that government should be doing.48%

36. Which statement comes closer to your opinion?

- The main reason government has become bigger over the years is because it has gotten involved in things that people should do for themselves.59%
- Government has become bigger because the problems we face have become bigger.41%

37. Would you say Barack Obama is...

- Very liberal32%
- Liberal18%
- Moderate23%
- Conservative5%
- Very conservative2%
- Not sure20%

38. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes 46%
 Says what he thinks people want to hear 54%

39. Regardless of whether you agree with him

Like a lot 35%
 Like somewhat 26%
 Dislike 30%
 Not sure 10%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	33%	33%	34%
Intelligent	60%	27%	13%
Religious	14%	56%	31%
Inspiring	36%	40%	23%
Patriotic	29%	42%	28%
Strong	32%	43%	25%
Bold	34%	48%	18%
Experienced	14%	39%	47%
Sincere	34%	35%	31%
Partisan	24%	57%	19%
Effective	23%	42%	35%
Unifying	17%	49%	34%
In Touch	25%	42%	32%
Realistic	26%	40%	34%
Decisive	24%	49%	27%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 27%
 Off on the wrong track 61%
 Not sure 12%

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

Getting better	18%
About the same	33%
Getting worse	46%
Not sure	3%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	36%
Lower	26%
Not sure	18%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	11%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	41%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	45%
Not sure	3%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 3-6, 2010
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's PollingPoint panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2005–2007 American Community Study. Voter registration, turnout, religion, news interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement and the Pew Religion in American Life Survey. Matching respondents were selected from the PollingPoint panel, an opt-in Internet panel.
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 0.6 to 2.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.5.
Number of respondents	1,000
Margin of error	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	27 questions not reported.