

The Economist/YouGov Poll

Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted July 10-13, 2010
Margin of Error $\pm 3.6\%$

1. 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	13%	32%	17%	26%	13%
The economy	14%	25%	15%	40%	7%
Immigration	10%	22%	14%	42%	11%
The environment	14%	28%	19%	27%	12%
Terrorism	17%	28%	15%	29%	10%
Gay rights	12%	24%	13%	25%	27%
Education	17%	28%	16%	23%	15%
Health care	22%	22%	11%	38%	7%
Social security	13%	21%	14%	31%	19%
The budget deficit	12%	20%	18%	41%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	30%	20%	27%	12%
Taxes	14%	24%	15%	36%	12%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	45%	37%	14%	4%
The economy	80%	17%	2%	1%
Immigration	53%	28%	15%	5%
The environment	53%	34%	11%	3%
Terrorism	57%	29%	10%	3%
Gay rights	24%	23%	24%	28%
Education	60%	30%	8%	2%
Health care	73%	21%	5%	1%
Social security	62%	26%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	60%	29%	9%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	47%	36%	13%	4%
Taxes	61%	30%	7%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	35%
Immigration	8%
The environment	7%
Terrorism	5%
Gay rights	3%
Education	8%
Health care	12%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	4%

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

Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	30%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	32%
Not sure	7%

5. When you just evaluated the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President, which of the following mattered most in your assessment?

Issues like the economy	32%
The President's personal qualities	9%
The President's party identification	3%
Issues like the Gulf oil spill	7%
Issues like health care reform	26%
I have always liked him	8%
I have never liked him	9%
Something else	6%

6. Was there a time when you approved of the way Barack Obama was handling his job as President? *(Asked if respondent disapproves of or has no opinion of President Obama)*

Yes	31%
No	69%

7. When did you change your opinion? *(Asked if respondent used to approve of President Obama, but does not now)*

In the last few weeks	14%
Earlier this year	45%
Last year	41%

8. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Barack Obama cares about people like me.

Agree strongly	25%
Agree somewhat	28%
Disagree somewhat	14%
Disagree strongly	33%

9. How much have you heard or read about the recent explosion on an offshore oil rig off the coast of Louisiana that killed 11 workers and resulted in an oil spill of thousands of barrels a day?

A lot	76%
A little	19%
Nothing at all	5%

10. Do you approve or disapprove of how President Obama has responded to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

Strongly approve	13%
Somewhat approve	21%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	19%
Somewhat disapprove	15%
Strongly disapprove	32%

11. How much trust do you have in BP to do the right thing in stopping the oil spill? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

A great deal	8%
Quite a bit	15%
Only some	23%
Very little	26%
None at all	25%
Not sure	4%

12. How much trust do you have in BP to do the right thing in cleaning up the oil spill? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

A great deal	7%
Quite a bit	17%
Only some	24%
Very little	26%
None at all	22%
Not sure	3%

13. What is the main reason that you do not trust BP to do the right thing to clean up the oil spill? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and does not trust BP to clean it up)

BP is not technologically capable of doing it	25%
BP does not want to do it	43%
Some other reason	32%

14. How much trust do you have in the federal government to make sure the oil spill is stopped? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

A great deal	9%
Quite a bit	21%
Only some	28%
Very little	23%
None at all	16%
Not sure	4%

15. How much trust do you have in the federal government to make sure the oil spill is cleaned up? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

A great deal	12%
Quite a bit	20%
Only some	30%
Very little	21%
None at all	14%
Not sure	3%

16. In the next few years, how likely is it that:

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Neither likely, nor unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	Not sure
BP will go bankrupt	18%	20%	17%	19%	19%	7%
Off shore oil drilling will resume at previous levels or more	38%	26%	12%	12%	5%	7%
The spill will be cleaned up successfully	13%	29%	14%	22%	19%	3%

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

Very serious	22%
Somewhat serious	22%
A minor problem	26%
Not a problem	23%
Not sure	7%

18. Should LEGAL immigration be increased, decreased, or kept at the current level?

Increased	21%
Decreased	37%
Kept at the current level	42%

19. What should happen to illegal immigrants who have never committed a crime and are currently employed in the United States?

They should be given the opportunity to become U.S. citizens	21%
They should be given the opportunity to become U.S. citizens after paying a fine	32%
They should be deported to their home countries	39%
Not sure	8%

20. 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	44%
Oppose	32%
Not sure	23%

21. How much have you heard or read about Arizona's new immigration legislation, recently signed into law by the Governor of Arizona?

A lot	54%
A little	34%
Nothing at all	12%

22. Arizona's new immigration law requires immigrants to have proof of their immigration status and requires police officers to attempt to determine the immigration status of persons suspected to be illegal immigrants. Do you approve or disapprove this new law?

Strongly approve	44%
Somewhat approve	13%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	12%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	20%

23. Would you approve or disapprove of your state passing an immigration law like the one recently signed into law in Arizona? (Asked if respondent does not live in Arizona)

Strongly approve	43%
Somewhat approve	14%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	11%
Somewhat disapprove	8%
Strongly disapprove	24%

24. Should states be permitted to set their own policies when it comes to immigration, or is this something that should only be handled by the federal government?

States should be permitted	48%
Should only be handled by federal government	37%
Not sure	16%

25. Which party is closer to you on the issue of immigration?

The Democratic Party	32%
The Republican Party	31%
Don't know	37%

26. Overall, do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease the amount it spends?

Increase	8%
Keep the same	14%
Decrease	66%
Not sure	12%

27. Do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease taxes?

Increase	14%
Keep the same	28%
Decrease	47%
Not sure	11%

28. Do you think federal spending on the following programs should be increased or decreased?

	Increase	Keep the same	Decrease	Not sure
Social Security	42%	42%	9%	8%
National Defense	31%	39%	25%	6%
Medicare	40%	42%	12%	6%
Aid to the Poor	34%	39%	20%	7%
Medicaid	32%	46%	15%	7%
Veterans' Benefits	52%	39%	4%	6%
Health research	43%	42%	9%	5%
Education	53%	30%	12%	5%
Highways	28%	53%	13%	6%
Mass Transit	29%	41%	20%	10%
Foreign Aid	3%	22%	67%	8%
Unemployment benefits	31%	40%	23%	6%
Science and Technology	36%	45%	12%	7%
Agriculture	23%	44%	24%	9%
Housing	21%	42%	30%	7%
The Environment	37%	36%	21%	6%

29. Are you in favor of or opposed to having a balanced budget (where the amount the government spends is equal to the amount it collects in taxes)?

In favor of a balanced budget	71%
Opposed to a balanced budget	8%
Not sure	21%

30. When do you think the federal budget should be balanced? (Asked if respondent is in favor of a balanced budget)

Immediately	53%
Next year	15%
After next year	19%
Not sure	12%

31. Would you be in favor of having a balanced budget in a few years? (Asked if respondent is opposed to a balanced budget or is unsure of whether the budget should be balanced)

Yes 73%
 No 27%

32. If you had to choose between raising taxes and cutting spending to balance the budget, which would you choose? (Asked if respondent is in favor of balancing the budget or thinks it should be balanced in a few years)

Raise taxes 21%
 Cut spending 79%

33. Are you in favor of repealing the Obama health care plan?

Yes 41%
 No 36%
 Not sure 23%

34. Under the health care reform bill recently passed by Congress and signed by President Obama, do you think you personally will receive better or worse care than you receive now?

Better care 13%
 About the same 40%
 Worse care 34%
 Not sure 13%

35. Do you think you personally will pay more, either in taxes or insurance costs, under the health care reform bill recently passed by Congress and signed by President Obama?

Pay more 50%
 About the same 28%
 Pay less 7%
 Not sure 14%

36. Does politics ever make you angry?

Yes 86%
No 14%

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

Compromises to get things done 52%
Sticks to his or her principles, no matter what 48%

38. Which party do you think will control Congress after the 2010 elections?

The Democratic Party 30%
The Republican Party 37%
Not sure 33%

39. Generally, do you think members of Congress are more honest or dishonest than most people?

More honest 3%
About the same 38%
More dishonest 58%

40. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree, nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
Government should censor pornography on the Internet	24%	11%	20%	13%	28%	4%
Every 18 year old should be required to provide a year of National Voluntary Service	18%	19%	18%	13%	28%	5%
Marijuana should be legalized	27%	18%	16%	10%	25%	4%
Every person should be required to carry a national ID card proving their citizenship	29%	19%	14%	10%	25%	3%
The minimum wage should be raised	36%	21%	18%	10%	12%	3%
Government should protect industries from foreign competition	27%	23%	23%	11%	11%	6%
Social security should be privatized	13%	13%	20%	10%	30%	14%
Government spending should be cut by 25% or more	42%	23%	15%	6%	9%	5%
Everyone is entitled to free health care	30%	17%	12%	13%	24%	4%
The federal government should provide loans to small businesses	26%	32%	21%	7%	8%	7%

41. 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	17%	25%	16%	29%	12%
The Republican Party	6%	25%	25%	32%	12%
Liberals	11%	23%	16%	31%	19%
Moderates	13%	39%	18%	10%	20%
Conservatives	16%	23%	21%	21%	19%
The Tea Party movement	17%	18%	10%	31%	24%
Libertarians	7%	26%	21%	16%	30%
Environmentalists	12%	32%	18%	20%	18%

42. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	31%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	20%

43. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	47%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	53%

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

Like a lot	37%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	24%
Not sure	10%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	33%	36%	31%
Intelligent	64%	23%	12%
Religious	15%	56%	30%
Inspiring	39%	38%	23%
Patriotic	32%	38%	30%
Strong	34%	46%	20%
Bold	36%	48%	17%
Experienced	15%	40%	45%
Sincere	37%	34%	30%
Partisan	25%	53%	22%
Effective	25%	44%	30%
Unifying	21%	47%	32%
In Touch	28%	41%	31%
Realistic	32%	38%	30%
Decisive	26%	49%	25%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	29%
Off on the wrong track	56%
Not sure	15%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	10%
Neither approve nor disapprove	14%
Somewhat disapprove	27%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	9%

48. 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 = 707, MoE = ±3.9%)	38%	4%	6%	40%	12%
All Respondents	34%	5%	6%	38%	17%

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

Getting better	18%
About the same	39%
Getting worse	39%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	23%
About the same	32%
Lower	27%
Not sure	18%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	12%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	40%
Not sure	4%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 10-13, 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 0.5 to 3.4, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.6.
Number of respondents	1,000
Margin of error	± 3.6% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	25 questions not reported.