

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted August 28-31, 2010
Margin of Error $\pm 3.5\%$

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 | 18% | 26% | 18% | 28% | 11% |
| The economy | 11% | 21% | 16% | 45% | 7% |
| Immigration | 11% | 20% | 15% | 43% | 12% |
| The environment | 13% | 28% | 16% | 29% | 14% |
| Terrorism | 16% | 22% | 14% | 35% | 12% |
| Gay rights | 9% | 22% | 17% | 28% | 24% |
| Education | 15% | 28% | 16% | 29% | 13% |
| Health care | 18% | 21% | 11% | 42% | 7% |
| Social security | 12% | 19% | 15% | 36% | 17% |
| The budget deficit | 10% | 18% | 15% | 45% | 11% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 9% | 27% | 20% | 32% | 13% |
| Taxes | 14% | 20% | 15% | 41% | 10% |

2. How important are the following issues to you?

| | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not Very Important | Unimportant |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| The war in Iraq | 43% | 37% | 13% | 6% |
| The economy | 83% | 15% | 2% | 1% |
| Immigration | 55% | 28% | 12% | 4% |
| The environment | 50% | 35% | 10% | 6% |
| Terrorism | 60% | 26% | 9% | 4% |
| Gay rights | 27% | 24% | 24% | 25% |
| Education | 64% | 27% | 6% | 3% |
| Health care | 77% | 18% | 3% | 2% |
| Social security | 67% | 24% | 6% | 2% |
| The budget deficit | 63% | 26% | 8% | 3% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 47% | 36% | 13% | 5% |
| Taxes | 64% | 28% | 6% | 2% |

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

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| The war in Iraq | 1% |
| The economy | 42% |
| Immigration | 7% |
| The environment | 4% |
| Terrorism | 3% |
| Gay rights | 3% |
| Education | 5% |
| Health care | 14% |
| Social security | 10% |
| The budget deficit | 6% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 1% |
| Taxes | 4% |

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

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve | 16% |
| Somewhat approve | 26% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 15% |
| Strongly disapprove | 36% |
| Not sure | 7% |

5. Which of these statements comes closest to your opinion:

| | |
|---|-----|
| The United States should help all countries who need humanitarian assistance, whatever their government’s political views | 42% |
| The United States needs to limit its humanitarian assistance to countries where its help may provide political benefits to the U.S. in return | 58% |

6. In the last few years, there have been a number of natural and man-made disasters throughout the world. Please rate the seriousness of each of the following events:

| | Very serious | Somewhat serious | Not very serious | Not sure |
|--|--------------|------------------|------------------|----------|
| The 2004 Christmas tsunami in South Asia | 57% | 24% | 10% | 9% |
| Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast | 78% | 16% | 3% | 4% |
| The 2010 floods in Pakistan | 48% | 32% | 12% | 9% |
| The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf Coast | 76% | 17% | 4% | 3% |
| The 2010 Haiti earthquake | 61% | 25% | 9% | 6% |

7. Which of those events do you think did the most damage?

| | |
|--|-----|
| The 2004 Christmas tsunami in South Asia | 17% |
| Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast | 34% |
| The 2010 floods in Pakistan | 7% |
| The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf Coast | 24% |
| The 2010 Haiti earthquake | 18% |

8. How much responsibility do you think the United States government has for assisting those affected by each of these events?

| | A great deal | Some | Only a little | None | Not sure |
|--|--------------|------|---------------|------|----------|
| The 2004 Christmas tsunami in South Asia | 9% | 40% | 23% | 19% | 8% |
| Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast | 74% | 15% | 4% | 2% | 5% |
| The 2010 floods in Pakistan | 8% | 38% | 24% | 21% | 8% |
| The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf Coast | 65% | 21% | 6% | 4% | 5% |
| The 2010 Haiti earthquake | 17% | 41% | 20% | 16% | 6% |

9. How much have you heard or read about the floods currently affecting large parts of Pakistan?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| A lot | 23% |
| A little | 59% |
| Nothing at all | 19% |

10. Do you think the severity of recent weather events, like the floods in Pakistan, are the result of climate change or do these kind of events just happen from time to time?

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Result of climate change | 31% |
| Just happen from time to time | 50% |
| Not sure | 19% |

11. How would you rate Jimmy Carter’s performance as president of the United States?

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Outstanding president | 6% |
| Above average president | 14% |
| Average president | 26% |
| Below average president | 12% |
| Poor president | 21% |
| Not sure | 22% |

12. How serious a threat do you think North Korea poses to the U.S.?

| | |
|--|-----|
| An immediate and serious threat to the U.S. | 18% |
| A somewhat serious threat to the U.S. | 46% |
| A minor threat to the U.S. | 20% |
| Not a threat to the U.S. | 4% |
| Not sure | 12% |

13. How much have you heard or read about former President Jimmy Carter’s trip to North Korea and the release of a U.S. citizen who had been sentenced to 8 years of hard labor there?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| A lot | 19% |
| A little | 51% |
| Nothing at all | 30% |

14. How do you think this trip to North Korea by former President Jimmy Carter will affect relations between the U.S. and North Korea in the future? (Asked if respondent is aware of former President Carter’s trip to North Korea)

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Will improve relations | 19% |
| Will have no real effect | 76% |
| Will make them worse | 5% |

15. Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. sending high-level representatives like former President Carter to North Korea on missions to negotiate the release of U.S prisoners there?

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve | 28% |
| Somewhat approve | 24% |
| Neither approve nor disapprove | 24% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 6% |
| Strongly disapprove | 7% |
| Not sure | 11% |

16. Which of the following countries do you consider to be an ally or an enemy of the United States?

| | Ally of U.S. | Friendly | Unfriendly | Enemy of the U.S. | Not sure |
|----------------|--------------|----------|------------|-------------------|----------|
| Pakistan | 3% | 20% | 35% | 18% | 23% |
| South Korea | 40% | 26% | 7% | 9% | 18% |
| United Kingdom | 69% | 13% | 2% | 2% | 14% |
| India | 14% | 49% | 9% | 3% | 25% |
| Russia | 5% | 28% | 33% | 13% | 21% |
| North Korea | 1% | 2% | 23% | 61% | 13% |
| Iran | 1% | 2% | 25% | 58% | 13% |
| Indonesia | 4% | 32% | 20% | 4% | 40% |
| Haiti | 13% | 52% | 10% | 2% | 23% |

17. How much have you heard or read about the recent recall of eggs linked to salmonella poisoning in several states?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| A lot | 54% |
| A little | 40% |
| Nothing at all | 7% |

18. How concerned are you personally about becoming sick from eggs contaminated with salmonella? (Asked if respondent is aware of egg recall)

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Very concerned | 14% |
| Somewhat concerned | 22% |
| Not very concerned | 34% |
| Not at all concerned | 29% |
| Not sure | 1% |

19. In your opinion, are organic eggs more or less likely to be contaminated with salmonella than eggs from factory farms?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| More | 6% |
| About the same | 42% |
| Less | 24% |
| Not sure | 27% |

20. How much do you trust government agencies responsible for ensuring food safety to do their jobs?

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| A great deal | 12% |
| Some | 32% |
| Only a little | 30% |
| Not at all | 21% |
| Not sure | 4% |

21. Would you say Barack Obama is...

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal | 34% |
| Liberal | 19% |
| Moderate | 23% |
| Conservative | 5% |
| Very conservative | 1% |
| Not sure | 19% |

22. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

- Like a lot 34%
- Like somewhat 28%
- Dislike 29%
- Not sure 9%

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

- Honest 8%
- Intelligent 14%
- Religious 4%
- Inspiring 8%
- Patriotic 7%
- Strong 7%
- Bold 8%
- Experienced 3%
- Sincere 8%
- Partisan 6%
- Effective 5%
- Unifying 4%
- In Touch 6%
- Realistic 6%
- Decisive 6%

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

- Generally headed in the right direction 28%
- Off on the wrong track 57%
- Not sure 15%

26. 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 | 23% |
| Strongly disapprove | 42% |
| Not sure | 9% |

27. 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 = 649, MoE = ±4.1%) | 40% | 4% | 5% | 40% | 11% |
| All Respondents | 33% | 4% | 7% | 36% | 20% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Getting better | 15% |
| About the same | 35% |
| Getting worse | 44% |
| Not sure | 6% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Higher | 19% |
| About the same | 33% |
| Lower | 28% |
| Not sure | 20% |

30. 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 | 39% |
| Worse off financially than you were a year ago | 45% |
| Not sure | 5% |

The Economist/YouGov Poll



| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Sponsorship | <i>The Economist</i> |
| Fieldwork | YouGov |
| Interviewing Dates | August 28-31, 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 3.0, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.5. |
| Number of respondents | 1,000 |
| Margin of error | ± 3.5% (adjusted for weighting) |
| Survey mode | Web-based interviews |
| Questions not reported | 23 questions not reported. |