

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted September 4-7, 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	21%	28%	16%	25%	9%
The economy	11%	26%	14%	43%	6%
Immigration	10%	22%	15%	43%	10%
The environment	14%	28%	16%	29%	12%
Terrorism	18%	25%	12%	35%	10%
Gay rights	10%	24%	13%	25%	28%
Education	16%	27%	16%	28%	14%
Health care	20%	20%	11%	43%	7%
Social security	12%	21%	15%	36%	16%
The budget deficit	9%	23%	14%	46%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	30%	21%	27%	10%
Taxes	15%	21%	14%	42%	9%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	38%	40%	14%	8%
The economy	80%	14%	2%	3%
Immigration	53%	28%	14%	6%
The environment	52%	29%	13%	6%
Terrorism	60%	24%	9%	6%
Gay rights	25%	21%	27%	26%
Education	61%	26%	8%	4%
Health care	75%	18%	4%	3%
Social security	64%	25%	7%	3%
The budget deficit	61%	26%	8%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	43%	38%	11%	7%
Taxes	66%	23%	7%	4%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	38%
Immigration	6%
The environment	6%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	4%
Education	6%
Health care	13%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	6%
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	17%
Somewhat approve	26%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	8%

5. Are we safer from terrorist attacks now than we were in 2001?

Much more safe	10%
Somewhat more safe	25%
About the same	27%
Somewhat less safe	10%
Much less safe	17%
Not sure	9%

6. What do you think are the chances of a terrorist attack against the United States in the next 12 months?

Very likely (more than 50%)	21%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%)	39%
Not very likely (1% to 10%)	21%
Very unlikely (less than 1%)	9%
Not sure	11%

7. How much confidence do you have that the Department of Homeland Security, including the intelligence agencies, will be able to protect the country from terrorist attacks?

A lot of confidence	8%
Some confidence	45%
Not too much confidence	31%
No confidence at all	17%

8. Do you think the policies of the Bush Administration made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?

More safe	40%
No effect	27%
Less safe	34%

9. Do you think the policies of the Obama Administration have made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?

More safe	29%
No effect	36%
Less safe	35%

10. Which party do you think would do a better job in preventing terrorist attacks in the future?

Democrats	25%
Republicans	32%
About the same	44%

11. Which comes closer to your view?

In the long run, the U.S. will be safer from terrorism if it confronts the countries and groups that promote terrorism	51%
In the long run, the U.S. will be safer from terrorism if it stays out of other countries' affairs	49%

12. Has sending troops to fight in Iraq helped or hurt the U.S. in its fight against Al Qaeda?

Helped	31%
No effect	18%
Hurt	33%
Not sure	19%

13. How would you describe the U.S. performance in the war in Iraq?

The United States HAS won the war in Iraq.	16%
The United States WILL win the war in Iraq.	12%
The United States will withdraw from Iraq without winning.	48%
Not sure	24%

14. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Iraq?

Yes	53%
No	32%
Not sure	15%

15. How much have you heard or read about the end of the U.S. combat mission in Iraq on August 31, 2010?

A lot	34%
A little	52%
Nothing at all	14%

16. Did you listen to the President's Oval Office address announcing the end of the U.S. combat mission in Iraq last Tuesday night?

Yes, listened to all of it	17%
Yes, listened to part of it	24%
No, did not listen to it	60%

17. How would you rate President Obama's Oval Office address to the nation? (Asked if respondent listened to all or part of Oval Office address)

Very good	21%
Good	30%
Fair	27%
Poor	22%

18. As you may know, the U.S. combat mission in Iraq formally ended on August 31, 2010. About 50,000 troops are remaining in Iraq to serve as trainers for the Iraqi military.

How much combat would you guess the U.S. troops who remain in Iraq will see in the next 12 months?

A lot	25%
Some	47%
Only a little	14%
None	3%
Not sure	11%

19. How do you feel about Barack Obama's decision to end the U.S. combat mission in Iraq on August 31, 2010?

Enthusiastic	22%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	41%
Dissatisfied but not angry	17%
Angry	7%
No opinion	13%

20. Do you think Barack Obama has a clear plan for U.S. strategy in Iraq?

Yes	29%
No	48%
Not sure	23%

21. How likely is it that Barack Obama will be able fulfill the plan to remove all U.S. non-combat troops from Iraq by December 31, 2011?

Very likely	15%
Somewhat likely	29%
Somewhat unlikely	22%
Very unlikely	20%
Not sure	14%

22. Which of these do you think is most likely?

Iraq will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	2%
Iraq will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	34%
Iraq will probably never become a stable democracy.	49%
Not sure	16%

23. In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?

Israelis	36%
About equal	29%
Palestinians	10%
Not sure	25%

24. Do U.S. policies in the Middle East give too much or too little support to Israel?

Too much support	23%
Too little support	28%
About the right amount of support	20%
Not sure	29%

25. Do you favor or oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza strip?

Strongly favor	15%
Somewhat favor	24%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	12%
Not sure	38%

26. When, if ever, do you think Israel and Palestine will reach a lasting agreement that will end the conflict there?

This year	1%
Next year	1%
In a few years	5%
In the future, but not in the next few years	28%
Never	45%
Not sure	20%

27. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	34%
Liberal	15%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	17%

28. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	48%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	52%

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

Like a lot	37%
Like somewhat	25%
Dislike	27%
Not sure	10%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	33%	35%	32%
Intelligent	62%	26%	12%
Religious	15%	54%	31%
Inspiring	35%	42%	24%
Patriotic	31%	39%	29%
Strong	32%	45%	23%
Bold	33%	49%	17%
Experienced	14%	39%	46%
Sincere	38%	33%	28%
Partisan	23%	54%	23%
Effective	23%	45%	32%
Unifying	16%	49%	36%
In Touch	26%	41%	33%
Realistic	29%	41%	30%
Decisive	25%	49%	26%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	33%
Off on the wrong track	54%
Not sure	13%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	13%
Neither approve nor disapprove	10%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	9%

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

		Lean Republican	Lean Democrat	Democrat	Not Sure
Registered Voters					
(N = 701, MoE = ±4.1%)	40%	4%	7%	39%	9%
All Respondents	35%	4%	8%	36%	16%

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

Getting better	19%
About the same	34%
Getting worse	42%
Not sure	4%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	35%
Lower	23%
Not sure	21%

36. 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	43%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	43%
Not sure	4%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	September 4-7, 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 0.4 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	24 questions not reported.