

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted September 11-14, 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%	25%	16%	28%	10%
The economy	15%	22%	13%	43%	8%
Immigration	9%	21%	15%	43%	12%
The environment	15%	27%	15%	27%	16%
Terrorism	17%	25%	14%	33%	11%
Gay rights	11%	23%	15%	27%	25%
Education	16%	28%	16%	26%	14%
Health care	20%	20%	9%	44%	7%
Social security	15%	17%	18%	34%	16%
The budget deficit	11%	19%	14%	45%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	28%	19%	29%	11%
Taxes	17%	19%	12%	40%	12%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	43%	40%	15%	3%
The economy	84%	14%	1%	1%
Immigration	51%	31%	13%	5%
The environment	47%	37%	11%	5%
Terrorism	58%	29%	9%	3%
Gay rights	23%	24%	24%	28%
Education	58%	33%	7%	2%
Health care	73%	21%	5%	2%
Social security	65%	26%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	62%	30%	7%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	45%	41%	12%	3%
Taxes	67%	26%	6%	1%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	42%
Immigration	5%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	16%
Social security	9%
The budget deficit	7%
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	18%
Somewhat approve	22%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	8%

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

A lot	61%
Somewhat	22%
A little	10%
Not at all	7%

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

Yes	51%
No	49%

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

Very closely	31%
Somewhat closely	35%
Not too closely	23%
Not at all	11%

8. Where do you get most of your information about the political campaigns? (Asked if respondent has been following the 2010 congressional elections)

Local TV newscasts	24%
Cable news networks	28%
General Web sites like Yahoo or Google	8%
News Web sites	19%
Radio	6%
Newspapers and magazines	8%
Blogs	2%
Other	4%

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

Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	10%
Neither approve nor disapprove	14%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	7%

10. 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 = 713, MoE = ±4%)	42%	3%	5%	41%	9%
All Respondents	37%	3%	6%	38%	16%

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

Congress controlled by Republicans	32%
Congress controlled by Democrats	31%
Congress divided between both parties	21%
No preference	16%

12. 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 26%
 Better for different parties to control Congress and the presidency 38%
 Not sure 36%

13. 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 9%
 Some of the time 41%
 Almost never 40%
 Not sure 8%

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

	The Democratic Party	The Republican Party	Both the same	Not sure
Taxes	31%	38%	9%	22%
Government spending	26%	36%	15%	23%
Regulating business	32%	32%	12%	24%
The environment	38%	23%	15%	24%
Immigration	23%	36%	16%	26%
Gun control	27%	39%	10%	24%
Abortion	34%	28%	11%	26%
Gay marriage	31%	24%	14%	30%
National defense	25%	39%	15%	22%
The economy	33%	36%	9%	21%
Terrorism	24%	37%	17%	22%
Health Care	38%	36%	7%	19%
Energy policy	35%	27%	14%	25%

15. 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	15%	25%	15%	33%	12%
The Republican Party	12%	26%	25%	23%	13%
The Tea Party movement	21%	14%	8%	31%	26%

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

A great deal	29%
A fair amount	39%
Not much	22%
Nothing at all	10%

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

Yes	24%
No	76%

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

Strongly support	22%
Somewhat support	15%
Neither support, nor oppose	17%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	23%
Not sure	13%

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

Yes	63%
No	22%
Not sure	15%

20. When it comes to preparedness, unit cohesion and morale in the military today, which do you think has MORE of a negative impact:

The current policy that requires gay and lesbian soldiers to conceal their sexual preferences from other members of their unit	55%
The proposed policy that allows gay and lesbian soldiers to be open about their sexual preferences	45%

21. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion:

Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society.	59%
Homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society	41%

22. Do you think being homosexual is something a person chooses to be, or do you think it is something a person cannot change?

Homosexuality is a choice	48%
Homosexuality is not a choice	52%

23. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	34%
Liberal	19%
Moderate	21%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	21%

24. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes 45%
 Says what he thinks people want to hear 55%

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

Like a lot 32%
 Like somewhat 26%
 Dislike 27%
 Not sure 15%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	32%	33%	35%
Intelligent	61%	27%	12%
Religious	15%	54%	32%
Inspiring	34%	42%	24%
Patriotic	27%	43%	30%
Strong	32%	47%	21%
Bold	35%	48%	17%
Experienced	13%	40%	47%
Sincere	33%	36%	31%
Partisan	25%	55%	20%
Effective	19%	47%	34%
Unifying	14%	49%	36%
In Touch	24%	42%	34%
Realistic	28%	39%	34%
Decisive	23%	50%	27%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 29%
 Off on the wrong track 57%
 Not sure 14%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Neutral	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Barack Obama	23%	18%	15%	10%	34%
Sarah Palin	17%	16%	20%	12%	35%
John McCain	8%	23%	30%	23%	15%
Joe Biden	12%	17%	33%	13%	25%
George W. Bush	15%	19%	19%	15%	31%
Bill Clinton	26%	26%	22%	16%	11%
Nancy Pelosi	7%	13%	30%	11%	39%
Harry Reid	2%	10%	49%	9%	30%
John Boehner	5%	10%	60%	9%	15%
Mitch McConnell	2%	9%	66%	7%	15%
Glenn Beck	17%	11%	36%	8%	28%
Mitt Romney	10%	15%	47%	17%	12%

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

Getting better	19%
About the same	33%
Getting worse	41%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	32%
Lower	25%
Not sure	22%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	September 11-14, 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 3.2, 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.