

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted October 2-5, 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%	29%	18%	25%	10%
The economy	14%	23%	14%	42%	7%
Immigration	8%	22%	16%	40%	13%
The environment	14%	29%	19%	25%	13%
Terrorism	15%	28%	17%	30%	11%
Gay rights	9%	26%	18%	24%	23%
Education	17%	27%	15%	26%	15%
Health care	19%	21%	12%	41%	7%
Social security	15%	22%	15%	33%	16%
The budget deficit	11%	21%	13%	45%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	29%	21%	27%	11%
Taxes	18%	20%	13%	40%	10%

**2. How important are the following issues to you?**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	39%	42%	14%	4%
The economy	81%	17%	1%	1%
Immigration	49%	33%	13%	4%
The environment	49%	34%	12%	5%
Terrorism	59%	29%	9%	3%
Gay rights	23%	28%	27%	22%
Education	61%	28%	8%	3%
Health care	75%	20%	4%	1%
Social security	64%	27%	8%	2%
The budget deficit	61%	30%	7%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	43%	39%	13%	4%
Taxes	65%	29%	4%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	38%
Immigration	5%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	3%
Education	7%
Health care	15%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	6%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%

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

Strongly approve .....	19%
Somewhat approve .....	24%
Somewhat disapprove .....	13%
Strongly disapprove .....	38%
Not sure .....	6%

**5. Compared to previous elections, are you more or less enthusiastic than usual about voting?**

More .....	35%
About the same .....	49%
Less .....	16%

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

Yes .....	60%
No .....	40%

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

Very closely .....	36%
Somewhat closely .....	34%
Not too closely .....	20%
Not at all .....	10%

**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 .....	21%
Cable news networks .....	30%
General Web sites like Yahoo or Google .....	7%
News Web sites .....	17%
Radio .....	7%
Newspapers and magazines .....	10%
Blogs .....	2%
Other .....	5%

**9. 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 .....	12%
Somewhat disapprove .....	24%
Strongly disapprove .....	46%
Not sure .....	6%

**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 = 732, MoE = ±4 %)	45%	3%	5%	39%	7%
All Respondents	40%	4%	5%	37%	13%

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

Congress controlled by Republicans .....	35%
Congress controlled by Democrats .....	35%
Congress divided between both parties .....	18%
No preference .....	12%

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 .....	29%
Better for different parties to control Congress and the presidency .....	39%
Not sure .....	32%

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

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

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

Just about always .....	1%
Most of the time .....	8%
Some of the time .....	41%
Almost never .....	44%
Not sure .....	6%

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

	The Democratic Party	The Republican Party	Both the same	Not sure
Taxes	34%	40%	8%	18%
Government spending	28%	39%	14%	19%
Regulating business	34%	35%	10%	21%
The environment	38%	28%	13%	21%
Immigration	27%	38%	13%	23%
Gun control	27%	42%	9%	22%
Abortion	36%	31%	9%	24%
Gay marriage	35%	25%	12%	27%
National defense	25%	40%	15%	19%
The economy	33%	38%	10%	19%
Terrorism	23%	39%	19%	19%
Health Care	39%	38%	6%	17%
Energy policy	36%	29%	12%	23%

16. 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	16%	27%	15%	33%	9%
The Republican Party	12%	28%	25%	26%	9%
The Tea Party movement	21%	16%	7%	33%	23%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Sarah Palin	19%	20%	11%	41%	9%
John Boehner	9%	16%	12%	20%	42%
Mitch McConnell	4%	18%	14%	18%	47%
Glenn Beck	17%	18%	8%	31%	26%
Rahm Emanuel	7%	18%	12%	27%	36%
Barack Obama	28%	20%	11%	36%	6%
Nancy Pelosi	9%	20%	10%	43%	17%
Harry Reid	5%	18%	12%	33%	33%
Joe Biden	18%	25%	14%	29%	14%
Michelle Obama	32%	19%	14%	24%	11%
John McCain	9%	32%	28%	21%	11%
Hillary Clinton	28%	28%	16%	22%	7%
Bill Clinton	33%	23%	17%	21%	6%

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

A great deal	34%
A fair amount	37%
Not much	20%
Nothing at all	9%

**19. 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%

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

Yes	40%
No	60%

21. 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 .....	14%
Somewhat oppose .....	9%
Strongly oppose .....	26%
Not sure .....	13%

22. Do you think that the Tea Party movement will help or hurt the Republican effort to gain control of Congress after the November 2010 elections? (Asked if respondent is aware of the Tea Party movement)

Help .....	29%
No effect .....	12%
Hurt .....	33%
Not sure .....	26%

23. Please tell us whether you think the following statements about Barack Obama are true or false.

	True	False	Not Sure
Barack Obama is a socialist	37%	39%	24%
Barack Obama was born in the United States	56%	23%	21%
Barack Obama is a Muslim	24%	52%	24%
Barack Obama shares my values	37%	47%	16%
Barack Obama is a Christian	46%	26%	28%
Barack Obama is a strong leader	43%	44%	14%



24. If the candidates for President in 2012 were Barack Obama for the Democrats and Sarah Palin for the Republicans, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama .....	47%
Sarah Palin .....	38%
Not sure .....	14%

25. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal .....	35%
Liberal .....	20%
Moderate .....	26%
Conservative .....	2%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	15%

26. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes .....	50%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	50%

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

Like a lot .....	36%
Like somewhat .....	25%
Dislike .....	27%
Not sure .....	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	34%	31%	35%
Intelligent	61%	26%	13%
Religious	15%	51%	35%
Inspiring	37%	38%	26%
Patriotic	31%	39%	30%
Strong	33%	41%	26%
Bold	34%	49%	17%
Experienced	14%	39%	47%
Sincere	34%	33%	33%
Partisan	26%	52%	22%
Effective	22%	42%	36%
Unifying	17%	46%	37%
In Touch	25%	41%	34%
Realistic	29%	38%	33%
Decisive	25%	49%	26%

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

Getting better	21%
About the same	39%
Getting worse	36%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	25%
About the same	35%
Lower	20%
Not sure	20%

**31. Right now, do you think the U.S. economy is...**

Growing .....	20%
Slowing Down .....	13%
In a Recession .....	44%
In a Depression .....	13%
Not sure .....	11%

**32. How long do you think it will take until the economy has recovered all the ground lost during the recession?**

Has already recovered .....	2%
Less than a year .....	4%
About a year .....	10%
Two years .....	27%
More than two years .....	58%

**33. In February 2009, Congress passed President Obama’s \$787 billion economic stimulus bill. Do you think the stimulus bill has helped the economy?**

Yes .....	30%
No .....	52%
Not sure .....	18%

**34. Do you think the stimulus bill WILL help the economy?** (Asked of respondents who are unsure or don’t think the stimulus bill has helped the economy)

Yes .....	10%
No .....	64%
Not sure .....	25%

35. From what you know so far, which comes closest to your own view about the economic stimulus package?

- It has already created a substantial number of new jobs in the U.S. . . . . 15%
- It will create a substantial number of new jobs in the U.S. but hasn't done that yet. . . . . 31%
- It will not create a substantial number of new jobs. . . . . 54%

36. Do you favor increasing taxes on families making over \$250,000 per year?

- Favor . . . . . 54%
- Oppose . . . . . 31%
- Not sure . . . . . 15%

37. 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 . . . . . 44%
- Not sure . . . . . 4%

38. How worried are you about losing your job? (Asked of full-time, part-time, or self-employed respondents)

- Very worried . . . . . 9%
- Somewhat worried . . . . . 29%
- Not very worried . . . . . 62%

39. If you lost your job, how hard would it be for you to find a new job that paid as much as you are making now? (Asked of full-time, part-time, or self-employed respondents)

- Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut. . . . . 43%
- Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much. . . . . 32%
- Not very hard . . . . . 16%
- Not sure . . . . . 9%

40. Six months from now do you think there will be...

More jobs .....	21%
The same amount of jobs .....	37%
Fewer jobs .....	29%
Not sure .....	14%

41. How would you guess your total family income to be six months from now? (Asked of full-time, part-time, or self-employed respondents)

Higher .....	18%
Same .....	63%
Lower .....	19%

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<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	October 2-5, 2010
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	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.
<b>Weighting</b>	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 0.3 to 3.9, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.5.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1,000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.5% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	24 questions not reported.