

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted October 9-12, 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	17%	26%	17%	29%	11%
The economy	13%	23%	11%	44%	8%
Immigration	9%	21%	14%	43%	13%
The environment	14%	28%	16%	29%	13%
Terrorism	17%	26%	12%	35%	11%
Gay rights	9%	24%	15%	26%	26%
Education	18%	25%	16%	28%	13%
Health care	20%	21%	9%	43%	8%
Social security	14%	20%	15%	36%	15%
The budget deficit	11%	19%	15%	44%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	28%	20%	30%	11%
Taxes	16%	20%	12%	41%	11%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	41%	39%	15%	5%
The economy	83%	14%	1%	1%
Immigration	51%	32%	13%	4%
The environment	44%	36%	13%	7%
Terrorism	57%	29%	10%	4%
Gay rights	25%	25%	23%	27%
Education	59%	31%	7%	4%
Health care	75%	19%	5%	2%
Social security	65%	25%	8%	2%
The budget deficit	60%	29%	8%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	45%	39%	12%	4%
Taxes	67%	25%	6%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	40%
Immigration	7%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	3%
Education	5%
Health care	15%
Social security	11%
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	18%
Somewhat Approve	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	38%
Not Sure	7%

5. Since taking office, do you think Barack Obama has accomplished...

More than I expected	15%
About what I expected	37%
Less than I expected	39%
Not sure	9%

6. 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%	10%	42%	9%
John Boehner	9%	15%	10%	22%	44%
Mitch McConnell	5%	16%	12%	20%	48%
Glenn Beck	17%	14%	10%	33%	25%
Barack Obama	28%	18%	10%	38%	7%
Nancy Pelosi	9%	20%	12%	42%	17%
Harry Reid	4%	17%	13%	34%	33%
Joe Biden	17%	24%	16%	30%	13%
Michelle Obama	33%	19%	14%	25%	9%
John McCain	10%	28%	26%	25%	11%
Hillary Clinton	30%	25%	17%	21%	8%
Bill Clinton	33%	24%	17%	19%	7%

7. If President Obama runs for reelection in 2012, do you think he should keep Joe Biden as his vice-presidential running mate, or should he choose someone new?

Keep Joe Biden	31%
Choose someone new	28%
No opinion	41%

8. In your opinion, would Hillary Clinton be a good or a bad choice as President Obama's vice-presidential running mate in 2012?

Very good	22%
Good	20%
Neither good, nor bad	24%
Bad	11%
Very bad	14%
Not sure	10%

9. How likely is it that Hillary Clinton will be President Obama's vice-presidential running mate in the next election?

Very likely	9%
Somewhat likely	21%
Somewhat unlikely	22%
Very unlikely	24%
Not sure	24%

10. Do you think Hillary Clinton would have the ability to be an effective vice president?

Yes	60%
No	23%
Not sure	17%

11. Thinking about the presidency, do you think Hillary Clinton would have the ability to be an effective president?

Yes	49%
No	31%
Not sure	20%

12. How would you rate Hillary Clinton's performance so far as secretary of state?

Excellent	26%
Good	31%
Only fair	18%
Poor	13%
Not sure	12%

13. Compared to the way the news media have treated other political figures, have they been harder or easier on Hillary Clinton?

Harder	17%
Same	38%
Easier	29%
Not sure	17%

14. Do you think Hillary Clinton's views on most issues are too liberal or too conservative for you?

Too liberal	34%
About right	41%
Too conservative	4%
Not sure	21%

15. When it comes to politics, do you think Bill Clinton has too much or too little influence on Hillary Clinton?

Too much	14%
About the right amount	44%
Too little	11%
Not sure	31%

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

Much more safe	9%
Somewhat more safe	27%
About the same	27%
Somewhat less safe	11%
Much less safe	16%
Not sure	10%

17. 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%)	24%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%)	38%
Not very likely (1% to 10%)	19%
Very unlikely (less than 1%)	6%
Not sure	13%

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

More safe	27%
No effect	37%
Less safe	35%

19. Do you think the policies of governments in Europe have made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?

More safe	17%
No effect	52%
Less safe	31%

20. Do you oppose or favor holding trials for foreign terrorist suspects held by the U.S. military?

Favor strongly	42%
Favor somewhat	23%
Oppose somewhat	7%
Oppose strongly	11%
Not sure	17%

21. If trials are held for terrorist suspects, should they be held in U.S. courts or military tribunals?

U.S. courts	29%
Military tribunals	49%
Not sure	23%

22. When the U.S. arrests terrorist suspects who are U.S. citizens, should they be treated as U.S. citizens, with the rights the Constitution gives citizens, or should they be treated as enemy combatants, without any of those rights?

Should be treated as U.S. citizens	31%
Should be treated as enemy combatants	37%
Depends on the case	21%
Not sure	10%

23. How much have you heard or read about the sentencing of Faisal Shahzad for his attempted car bombing in New York's Times Square in May?

A lot	24%
A little	53%
Nothing at all	23%

24. Faisal Shahzad, who was found guilty of the attempted Times Square bombing and sentenced to life in prison, was born in Pakistan but is a naturalized U.S. citizen. He was tried in a civilian court. Do you approve or disapprove of the decision to treat Shahzad as a U.S. citizen, with the rights the Constitution gives citizens?

Strongly approve	28%
Somewhat approve	18%
Neither approve nor disapprove	11%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	20%
Not sure	11%

25. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	34%
Liberal	19%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	17%

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	22%
Dislike	30%
Not sure	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	34%	31%	36%
Intelligent	57%	26%	17%
Religious	14%	51%	36%
Inspiring	36%	37%	27%
Patriotic	30%	38%	33%
Strong	32%	43%	25%
Bold	34%	48%	18%
Experienced	14%	41%	45%
Sincere	37%	33%	31%
Partisan	26%	53%	21%
Effective	23%	41%	35%
Unifying	16%	48%	37%
In Touch	26%	39%	36%
Realistic	30%	37%	33%
Decisive	26%	50%	25%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	14%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	10%

30. 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
Likely Voters (N = 456, MoE = ±4.7%)	46%	3%	2%	43%	5%
All Respondents	37%	4%	5%	40%	14%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	31%
Off on the wrong track	58%
Not sure	11%

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

Getting better	21%
About the same	34%
Getting worse	38%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	26%
About the same	35%
Lower	21%
Not sure	18%

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

Better off financially	11%
About the same as now	41%
Worse off financially	42%
Not sure	5%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	October 9-12, 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 2.5, 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	25 questions not reported.