

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1800 General Population Respondents
Conducted October 23-26, 2010
Margin of Error $\pm 2.7\%$

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	16%	26%	20%	27%	11%
The economy	13%	23%	14%	44%	6%
Immigration	10%	21%	15%	42%	12%
The environment	13%	28%	16%	28%	16%
Terrorism	16%	25%	14%	33%	12%
Gay rights	10%	25%	17%	27%	20%
Education	19%	26%	16%	26%	14%
Health care	21%	19%	10%	44%	6%
Social security	15%	18%	16%	36%	15%
The budget deficit	11%	20%	15%	45%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	9%	27%	25%	27%	11%
Taxes	16%	20%	13%	41%	10%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	39%	41%	15%	5%
The economy	85%	13%	1%	1%
Immigration	51%	31%	14%	3%
The environment	45%	35%	14%	6%
Terrorism	58%	29%	11%	3%
Gay rights	26%	28%	26%	20%
Education	60%	30%	8%	2%
Health care	75%	19%	4%	1%
Social security	63%	28%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	63%	29%	7%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	43%	41%	13%	4%
Taxes	65%	29%	5%	1%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	38%
Immigration	5%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	3%
Education	7%
Health care	14%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	6%

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	14%
Strongly Disapprove	38%
Not Sure	6%

5. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	35%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	16%

6. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	49%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	51%

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

Like a lot	35%
Like somewhat	27%
Dislike	28%
Not sure	10%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	34%	30%	36%
Intelligent	62%	27%	11%
Religious	18%	52%	30%
Inspiring	39%	39%	23%
Patriotic	30%	38%	32%
Strong	31%	49%	20%
Bold	36%	50%	14%
Experienced	14%	37%	49%
Sincere	36%	32%	32%
Partisan	29%	52%	20%
Effective	21%	46%	33%
Unifying	18%	42%	40%
In Touch	24%	42%	33%
Realistic	28%	38%	33%
Decisive	25%	52%	23%

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

Yes 68%
 No 32%

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

Very closely 39%
 Somewhat closely 29%
 Not too closely 21%
 Not at all 10%

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

More	35%
About the same	48%
Less	17%

12. 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 = 778, MoE = ±3.4%)	49%	3%	1%	43%	3%
All Respondents	40%	4%	4%	40%	12%

13. Do you consider your vote in the congressional elections to be a vote for or against President Obama?

For Obama	18%
Against Obama	29%
This is not a vote about Obama	43%
Don't plan to vote	9%

14. How will you feel if Republicans take control of the House of Representatives in the upcoming elections?

Enthusiastic	22%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	23%
Dissatisfied but not angry	22%
Angry	18%
No opinion	15%

15. What do you think is the likely outcome of the November 2010 congressional elections, regardless of your own personal preference?

Congress controlled by Republicans	36%
Congress controlled by Democrats	11%
Congress divided between both parties	33%
Not sure	20%

16. 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	23%
Better for different parties to control Congress and the presidency	43%
Not sure	34%

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

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

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

Supports policies in line with his or her principles, regardless of how constituents feel about those policies.	30%
Supports policies that constituents want, regardless of his or her own beliefs.	70%

19. Do you remember any political ads you have seen on television during this year's election campaign?

Yes	69%
No	31%

20. Did most of those ads give you reasons to vote for the candidate who paid for them or did most of them attack the other candidate? Asked if respondent saw a political TV ad during election campaign

Reasons to vote for candidate	6%
Attack on other candidate	70%
Both equal	22%
Not sure	3%

21. Did most of those television ads during the election campaign give you new information about any of the candidates, or not? Asked if respondent saw a political TV ad during election campaign

Yes	25%
No	66%
Not sure	9%

22. Did any of the television commercials you saw for a candidate help you in deciding how to vote? Asked if respondent saw a political TV ad during election campaign

Yes	16%
No	79%
Not sure	5%

23. 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	20%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	9%

24. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Republicans in Congress are handling their job?

Strongly approve	5%
Somewhat approve	16%
Neither approve nor disapprove	14%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	32%
Not sure	10%

25. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Democrats in Congress are handling their job?

Strongly approve	6%
Somewhat approve	18%
Neither approve nor disapprove	11%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	10%

26. 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	14%	26%	16%	34%	9%
The Republican Party	9%	29%	24%	28%	10%
The Tea Party movement	20%	16%	9%	35%	20%

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

	The Democratic Party	The Republican Party	Both the same	Not sure
Taxes	35%	39%	9%	17%
Government spending	28%	37%	15%	20%
Regulating business	34%	34%	10%	22%
The environment	39%	26%	13%	21%
Immigration	29%	37%	14%	21%
Gun control	28%	42%	9%	22%
Abortion	38%	31%	10%	22%
Gay marriage	37%	26%	12%	26%
National defense	27%	39%	14%	20%
The economy	34%	38%	10%	18%
Terrorism	25%	37%	17%	20%
Health Care	38%	39%	6%	17%
Energy policy	36%	29%	11%	23%

28. 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%

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

Getting better	18%
About the same	37%
Getting worse	38%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	25%
About the same	37%
Lower	19%
Not sure	20%

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

Favor	52%
Oppose	32%
Not sure	16%

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

Better off financially	12%
About the same as now	40%
Worse off financially	44%
Not sure	4%

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

Has already recovered	1%
Less than a year	2%
About a year	7%
Two years	20%
More than two years	69%

34. 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	53%
Not sure	17%

35. 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 9%
 No 68%
 Not sure 23%

36. 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. 16%
 It will create a substantial number of new jobs in the U.S. but hasn't done that yet. 29%
 It will not create a substantial number of new jobs. 55%

37. Do you think that so far the policies of the Obama Administration have helped or hurt these groups

	Helped	No Effect	Hurt	Not Sure
The Economy	31%	12%	45%	12%
The Stock Market	28%	22%	31%	19%
Major Corporations	28%	22%	31%	18%
Banks and other financial organizations	46%	14%	25%	15%
Labor Unions	39%	23%	12%	26%
The Middle Class	24%	17%	47%	12%
The Rich	19%	37%	28%	15%
The Poor	31%	21%	37%	11%

38. Who do you think is more responsible for the current state of the economy?

George W. Bush 44%
 Barack Obama 27%
 Equally responsible 28%

39. Who do you think is more responsible for the current size of the federal budget deficit?

George W. Bush	39%
Barack Obama	38%
Equally responsible	23%

40. How concerned are you about the size of the federal budget deficit?

Very concerned	52%
Somewhat concerned	34%
Not very concerned	10%
Not at all concerned	3%

41. When, if ever, do you think the federal budget should be balanced?

Immediately	34%
Next year	11%
In a few years	47%
Not necessary to balance the budget	8%

42. Do you think financial markets need more or less regulation by the federal government?

More	41%
About the same	20%
Less	24%
Not sure	15%

43. Do you think the problems with banks have been fixed?

Most problems have been fixed	12%
Most problems have not been fixed	62%
Not sure	26%

44. How worried are you about losing your job? Asked if respondent is full-, part-, or self-employed

Very worried	8%
Somewhat worried	30%
Not very worried	62%

45. 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 if respondent is full-, part-, or self-employed

Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut.	40%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	37%
Not very hard	18%
Not sure	5%

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

More jobs	23%
The same amount of jobs	38%
Fewer jobs	27%
Not sure	12%

47. How happy would you say you are with your current job? Asked if respondent is full-, part-, or self-employed

Very happy	24%
Happy	39%
Neither happy nor unhappy	26%
Unhappy	7%
Very unhappy	5%

48. How would you guess your total family income to be six months from now? Asked if respondent is full-, part-, or self-employed

Higher	19%
Same	65%
Lower	16%

49. If you lost your job, how long would it be before you exhausted your savings? Asked if respondent is full-, part-, or self-employed

I don't have any savings	34%
I could last a few weeks on my savings	18%
I could last a few months on my savings	25%
I could last a year on my savings	11%
I could last more than a year on my savings	12%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	October 23-26, 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 5.8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.6.
Number of respondents	1,800
Margin of error	± 2.7% (adjusted for weighting)
Margin of error (Registered Voters)	± 3.1% (adjusted for weighting)
Margin of error (Likely Voters)	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	39 questions not reported.