

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 2500 General Population Respondents  
Conducted October 28 - November 1, 2010  
Margin of Error  $\pm 2.3\%$

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	14%	29%	20%	28%	8%
The economy	14%	22%	14%	45%	6%
Immigration	9%	20%	17%	43%	12%
The environment	13%	29%	18%	27%	13%
Terrorism	17%	25%	16%	32%	10%
Gay rights	10%	26%	17%	28%	19%
Education	16%	28%	18%	26%	12%
Health care	20%	19%	10%	46%	6%
Social security	14%	20%	17%	36%	14%
The budget deficit	11%	19%	14%	48%	8%
The war in Afghanistan	9%	29%	23%	29%	9%
Taxes	14%	21%	14%	42%	8%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	39%	40%	15%	5%
The economy	84%	14%	1%	1%
Immigration	51%	32%	13%	4%
The environment	41%	38%	15%	6%
Terrorism	58%	29%	8%	4%
Gay rights	23%	27%	26%	24%
Education	58%	31%	8%	3%
Health care	73%	20%	5%	2%
Social security	63%	27%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	61%	30%	7%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	43%	40%	13%	4%
Taxes	66%	27%	5%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	41%
Immigration	6%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	13%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	7%
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 .....	17%
Somewhat Approve .....	25%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	13%
Strongly Disapprove .....	40%
Not Sure .....	6%

**5. Do you think things are better off or worse off than they were two years ago when it comes to:**

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	4%	16%	36%	19%	18%	7%
The war in Afghanistan	3%	19%	34%	22%	15%	6%
Energy issues	3%	17%	40%	17%	16%	7%
The environment	3%	16%	51%	12%	10%	7%
The economy in your area	3%	16%	23%	25%	29%	4%
Job security	3%	12%	24%	21%	36%	4%
Government spending	3%	9%	21%	14%	48%	6%
Health care coverage	11%	20%	17%	15%	32%	5%
Education	4%	15%	42%	19%	14%	6%
Social Security and Medicare	3%	10%	31%	24%	26%	6%
The U.S. financial system	4%	17%	18%	17%	38%	6%
Wall Street	5%	21%	26%	19%	21%	8%
The war in Iraq	12%	29%	29%	13%	10%	6%

**6. How will you feel if Republicans take control of the House of Representatives in the elections on Tuesday?**

Enthusiastic .....	20%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic .....	24%
Dissatisfied but not angry .....	21%
Angry .....	20%
No opinion .....	15%

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

More .....	35%
About the same .....	44%
Less .....	21%

**8. Would you describe yourself as...**

A frequent air traveler .....	6%
An occasional air traveler .....	75%
Never flown .....	19%

**9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "When traveling by plane, I get nervous when I see another passenger wearing traditional Muslim clothing."** Asked if respondent has ever traveled by plane

Strongly agree .....	19%
Somewhat agree .....	22%
Neither agree, nor disagree .....	19%
Somewhat disagree .....	10%
Strongly disagree .....	25%
Not sure .....	4%

10. How much have you heard about the decision by National Public Radio (NPR) to fire news analyst Juan Williams for his comment on Fox News that he gets nervous when he sees people in Muslim dress on airplane flights?

A great deal .....	30%
A fair amount .....	31%
Not much .....	16%
Nothing at all .....	22%

11. Do you favor or oppose NPR’s decision to fire Juan Williams over the comments that he made on Fox News’ “The O’Reilly Factor?” Asked if respondent is aware of NPR’s firing of Juan Williams

Strongly favor .....	6%
Somewhat favor .....	7%
Neither favor, nor oppose .....	16%
Somewhat oppose .....	15%
Strongly oppose .....	50%
Not sure .....	5%

12. NPR receives federal money indirectly, through grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and from member station dues, that add up to less than 10% of its budget. Would you favor or oppose cutting off taxpayer money going to NPR?

Strongly favor .....	30%
Somewhat favor .....	10%
Neither favor, nor oppose .....	19%
Somewhat oppose .....	7%
Strongly oppose .....	22%
Not sure .....	13%

13. During the last seven days, did you listen to any NPR programs?

Yes .....	22%
No .....	78%

14. In general, would you describe LIBERALS as tolerant or intolerant of opinions that differ from their own?

Very tolerant .....	7%
Somewhat tolerant .....	21%
Somewhat intolerant .....	20%
Very intolerant .....	34%
Not sure .....	17%

15. In general, would you describe CONSERVATIVES as tolerant or intolerant of opinions that differ from their own?

Very tolerant .....	8%
Somewhat tolerant .....	21%
Somewhat intolerant .....	25%
Very intolerant .....	29%
Not sure .....	17%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't Know
Jon Stewart	24%	23%	16%	11%	25%
Stephen Colbert	20%	24%	16%	11%	30%
Juan Williams	13%	26%	15%	6%	41%
Glenn Beck	19%	18%	9%	30%	24%
Bill O'Reilly	17%	23%	14%	27%	18%
Rush Limbaugh	16%	18%	13%	38%	15%
Keith Olbermann	11%	17%	9%	22%	41%
Rachel Maddow	14%	13%	9%	17%	48%

**17. How much would you say you know about the religion of Islam and its practices?**

A great deal .....	12%
Some .....	43%
Not very much .....	30%
Nothing at all .....	15%

**18. As of today, what is your impression of the religion called Islam?**

Very favorable .....	5%
Somewhat favorable .....	18%
Somewhat unfavorable .....	28%
Very unfavorable .....	23%
Not sure .....	26%

**19. Compared with other American citizens, do you think Arab Americans are...**

More patriotic .....	3%
About as patriotic .....	54%
Less patriotic .....	44%

**20. How much discrimination do the following groups face in America today?**

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not much	None at all
Arab Americans	38%	37%	19%	5%
Asian Americans	6%	25%	53%	17%
African Americans	15%	36%	39%	10%
Mexican Americans	26%	40%	28%	7%

**21. How closely do you follow Major League Baseball?**

Very closely .....	12%
Somewhat closely .....	21%
Not very closely .....	28%
Not at all .....	38%

**22. Which baseball team would you like to see win the World Series?**

San Francisco Giants .....	19%
Texas Rangers .....	28%
I don't care .....	53%

**23. Which team do you think will win the World Series?**

San Francisco Giants .....	35%
Texas Rangers .....	16%
Not sure .....	49%

**24. Would you say Barack Obama is...**

Very liberal .....	38%
Liberal .....	20%
Moderate .....	22%
Conservative .....	3%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	15%

**25. Do you think Barack Obama...**

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

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

Like a lot .....	34%
Like somewhat .....	26%
Dislike .....	28%
Not sure .....	13%



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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	32%	32%	36%
Intelligent	62%	26%	12%
Religious	16%	52%	33%
Inspiring	36%	39%	25%
Patriotic	31%	38%	32%
Strong	31%	49%	21%
Bold	34%	50%	16%
Experienced	14%	39%	47%
Sincere	36%	32%	32%
Partisan	30%	51%	19%
Effective	22%	44%	34%
Unifying	15%	44%	41%
In Touch	25%	41%	34%
Realistic	29%	39%	32%
Decisive	25%	51%	24%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	12%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	47%
Not sure	8%

29. 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 = 1068, MoE = ±2.8%)	50%	2%	3%	42%	3%
All Respondents	42%	3%	4%	40%	12%

**30. 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	13%	25%	19%	36%	8%
The Republican Party	9%	29%	25%	29%	8%
The Tea Party movement	20%	20%	10%	34%	16%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	29%
Off on the wrong track .....	58%
Not sure .....	12%

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

Getting better .....	21%
About the same .....	33%
Getting worse .....	40%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Higher .....	27%
About the same .....	33%
Lower .....	20%
Not sure .....	20%

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

Better off financially .....	12%
About the same as now .....	45%
Worse off financially .....	40%
Not sure .....	3%

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<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	October 28 - November 1, 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 5.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.6.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	2,500
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 2.3% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Margin of error (Registered Voters)</b>	± 2.6% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Margin of error (Likely Voters)</b>	± 2.8% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	39 questions not reported.