

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted November 6-9, 2010
Margin of Error $\pm 3.4\%$

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	15%	29%	21%	24%	10%
The economy	13%	21%	16%	43%	8%
Immigration	10%	20%	15%	41%	15%
The environment	14%	28%	16%	25%	17%
Terrorism	18%	27%	15%	28%	12%
Gay rights	10%	22%	17%	25%	26%
Education	18%	28%	15%	24%	15%
Health care	22%	18%	10%	42%	8%
Social security	15%	20%	15%	33%	16%
The budget deficit	10%	19%	15%	45%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	31%	23%	23%	11%
Taxes	17%	20%	13%	39%	10%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	40%	41%	15%	4%
The economy	82%	15%	1%	1%
Immigration	50%	30%	15%	5%
The environment	44%	38%	13%	5%
Terrorism	60%	27%	10%	3%
Gay rights	27%	24%	25%	24%
Education	57%	34%	7%	2%
Health care	73%	21%	4%	2%
Social security	61%	28%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	60%	28%	10%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	42%	40%	13%	4%
Taxes	62%	28%	7%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	39%
Immigration	5%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	5%
Gay rights	3%
Education	6%
Health care	17%
Social security	9%
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	18%
Somewhat Approve	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	36%
Not Sure	9%

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

More than I expected	19%
About what I expected	35%
Less than I expected	37%
Not sure	9%

6. As a President, how do you think Barack Obama will go down in history?

Outstanding	11%
Above Average	17%
Average	18%
Below Average	16%
Poor	28%
Not Sure	10%

7. Would you say Barack Obama is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	15%
Somewhat strong	34%
Somewhat weak	24%
Very weak	26%

8. Would you say that Barack Obama is more or less liberal than you would like?

More liberal than you would like	40%
About as liberal as you would like	28%
Not as liberal as you would like	13%
Not sure	19%

9. In general, do you think Barack Obama is...

Leading the country in the right direction	36%
Taking the country down the wrong track	47%
Not sure	17%

10. How much confidence do you have in the leaders of ...

	A great deal	Quite a bit	Only some	Very little	None at all	No opinion
Congress	2%	4%	24%	32%	29%	8%
Business	7%	15%	25%	25%	20%	8%
The Military	30%	28%	19%	9%	6%	8%
The Federal Reserve Board	3%	10%	27%	27%	20%	13%

11. How much confidence do you have in the leaders of ...

	A great deal	Quite a bit	Only some	Very little	None at all	No opinion
The Democrats in Congress	8%	10%	20%	20%	34%	9%
The Republicans in Congress	8%	13%	22%	17%	30%	9%

12. 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%	24%	17%	34%	10%
The Republican Party	10%	28%	22%	30%	10%
The Tea Party movement	18%	17%	11%	37%	17%

13. Sometimes something comes up and people are not able to vote. In the recent midterm elections on November 2, were you able to vote, or did you not vote this time? Asked if respondent is registered to vote

Voted	85%
Did not vote	15%

14. In the vote for House of Representatives in your district, did you vote for the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate? Asked if respondent voted in midterm election

The Republican candidate	49%
The Democratic candidate	43%
A candidate from another party	3%
I'm sure I voted, but don't remember which candidate I voted for	2%
I voted for other offices, but didn't vote in this race	2%

15. Was your vote for the Republican candidate for the House of Representatives more in support of that candidate, or in opposition to President Obama? Asked if respondent voted for Republican House candidate

In support of Republican candidate	45%
In opposition to President Obama	22%
Both equally	32%
Neither of these	1%

16. Was your vote for the Democratic candidate for the House of Representatives more in support of that candidate, or in support of President Obama? Asked if respondent voted for Democratic House candidate

In support of Democratic candidate	40%
In support of President Obama	18%
Both equally	35%
Neither of these	7%

17. How do you feel about Republicans taking control of the House of Representatives in the recent midterm elections?

Enthusiastic	26%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	20%
Dissatisfied but not angry	27%
Angry	12%
No opinion	15%

18. With control of the House of Representatives, should Republicans in Congress work mainly to carry out their agenda or mainly to compromise with Democrats?

Carry out their agenda	33%
Compromise	49%
Not sure	19%

19. Which of the following should be the highest priority for Congress to focus on?

Extend income tax cuts enacted during the Bush administration	7%
Repeal the health care reform law	13%
Stimulate the economy to create new jobs	41%
Cut government spending	16%
Fight illegal immigration	4%
Improve public school quality	5%
Other	6%
Not sure	8%

20. Are you in favor of or opposed to repealing President Obama’s health care reform law passed earlier this year by Congress?

Favor	42%
Oppose	39%
Not sure	19%

21. Do you think the **current** Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does during a two-year term?

More than usual	24%
About the same	28%
Less than usual	28%
Not sure	20%

22. Do you think the **next** Congress that has just been elected will accomplish more or less than Congress usually does during a two-year term?

More than usual	18%
About the same	29%
Less than usual	32%
Not sure	21%

23. In your opinion, do the Democrats in Congress...

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	32%
Mostly just oppose the other party	47%
Not sure	21%

24. In your opinion, do the Republicans in Congress...

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	27%
Mostly just oppose the other party	54%
Not sure	19%

25. In dealing with President Obama, do you think the Republicans in Congress...

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives29%
 Mostly just oppose the President51%
 Not sure21%

26. 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 24%
 Better for different parties to control Congress and the presidency46%
 Not sure30%

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

Compromises to get things done.58%
 Sticks to his or her principles, no matter what.42%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Sarah Palin	20%	18%	11%	43%	8%
John Boehner	12%	18%	11%	20%	38%
Mitch McConnell	7%	18%	13%	19%	43%
Barack Obama	26%	21%	12%	36%	5%
Hillary Clinton	27%	30%	17%	19%	6%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	17%	12%	44%	16%
Harry Reid	7%	17%	13%	32%	30%
Joe Biden	16%	26%	17%	27%	14%
Rand Paul	11%	19%	12%	22%	36%
Marco Rubio	15%	12%	11%	15%	47%

29. 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%)	21%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%)	38%
Not very likely (1% to 10%)	21%
Very unlikely (less than 1%)	8%
Not sure	11%

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

Much more safe	12%
Somewhat more safe	35%
About the same	28%
Somewhat less safe	8%
Much less safe	9%
Not sure	9%

31. How much have you heard or read about the explosives found in packages mailed from Yemen recently?

A lot	39%
A little	45%
Nothing at all	16%

32. Which of these statements is closer to your own opinion? Asked if respondent is aware of mail bombs sent from Yemen

There will probably be more attempts to send explosives to the U.S. through the mail in the near future.	82%
This was a random attempt and is not likely to be repeated in the near future.	18%

33. Do you think that current procedures for screening letters and packages sent to the U.S. by airmail are too tight or not tight enough?

Too tight	2%
About right	28%
Not tight enough	52%
Not sure	18%

34. How much confidence do you have that the Department of Homeland Security, including the intelligence agencies, will be able to protect the country from terrorist attacks?

A lot of confidence	9%
Some confidence	56%
Not too much confidence	26%
No confidence at all	8%

35. Which comes closer to your view?

In the long run, the U.S. will be safer from terrorism if it confronts the countries and groups that promote terrorism	55%
In the long run, the U.S. will be safer from terrorism if it stays out of other countries' affairs	45%

36. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	34%
Liberal	23%
Moderate	22%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	17%

37. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

Like a lot	35%
Like somewhat	30%
Dislike	24%
Not sure	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	34%	36%	30%
Intelligent	60%	29%	11%
Religious	16%	55%	29%
Inspiring	37%	42%	21%
Patriotic	32%	41%	27%
Strong	32%	46%	23%
Bold	35%	49%	16%
Experienced	17%	37%	46%
Sincere	38%	35%	27%
Partisan	29%	51%	20%
Effective	21%	47%	32%
Unifying	18%	44%	38%
In Touch	24%	44%	33%
Realistic	30%	38%	32%
Decisive	25%	52%	22%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	14%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Not sure	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	29%
Off on the wrong track	57%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	25%
About the same	33%
Getting worse	35%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	32%
About the same	32%
Lower	15%
Not sure	21%

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

Better off financially	12%
About the same as now	39%
Worse off financially	43%
Not sure	6%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	November 6-9, 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 3.8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.5.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	26 questions not reported.