

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted November 20-23, 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%	32%	21%	23%	10%
The economy	13%	22%	15%	44%	6%
Immigration	10%	18%	17%	42%	13%
The environment	15%	28%	17%	26%	15%
Terrorism	16%	27%	15%	32%	10%
Gay rights	9%	25%	17%	26%	23%
Education	15%	25%	19%	26%	15%
Health care	20%	21%	10%	43%	6%
Social security	13%	21%	18%	35%	14%
The budget deficit	11%	20%	15%	46%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	31%	22%	25%	10%
Taxes	15%	21%	15%	39%	10%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	42%	40%	15%	3%
The economy	85%	13%	1%	0%
Immigration	52%	29%	14%	4%
The environment	47%	35%	14%	4%
Terrorism	61%	28%	8%	3%
Gay rights	24%	28%	25%	24%
Education	61%	30%	7%	2%
Health care	75%	20%	4%	1%
Social security	66%	27%	6%	1%
The budget deficit	64%	27%	7%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	45%	40%	13%	3%
Taxes	66%	27%	5%	1%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	38%
Immigration	6%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	15%
Social security	11%
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 .....	18%
Somewhat Approve .....	25%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	15%
Strongly Disapprove .....	36%
Not Sure .....	6%

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

More than I expected .....	18%
About what I expected .....	33%
Less than I expected .....	42%
Not sure .....	7%

**6. Do you support or oppose reducing the number of strategic nuclear warheads possessed by the United States and Russia?**

Strongly support .....	29%
Somewhat support .....	16%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	20%
Somewhat oppose .....	9%
Strongly oppose .....	14%
Not sure .....	13%

**7. How much have you heard or read about the New START treaty?**

A lot .....	11%
A little .....	37%
Nothing at all .....	52%

8. The New START treaty signed in April this year is a bilateral nuclear arms reduction treaty between the U.S. and Russia that would further reduce the number of strategic warheads, ballistic missiles and nuclear bombers each country possesses over the next seven years. Do you support or oppose Senate ratification of this treaty?

Strongly support .....	31%
Somewhat support .....	20%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	13%
Somewhat oppose .....	10%
Strongly oppose .....	13%
Not sure .....	13%

9. Would you favor a unilateral reduction of American nuclear warheads even if Congress does not ratify the agreement with Russia?

Strongly support .....	18%
Somewhat support .....	16%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	13%
Somewhat oppose .....	14%
Strongly oppose .....	24%
Not sure .....	16%

10. Do you favor or oppose providing a way for illegal immigrants currently in the country to gain legal citizenship if they pass background checks, pay fines, and have jobs?

Favor .....	44%
Oppose .....	40%
Not sure .....	15%

11. Would you support or oppose granting permanent legal status to students who arrived in the country illegally as minors if they attended college or served in the U.S. military for at least two years?

Strongly support .....	18%
Somewhat support .....	20%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	11%
Somewhat oppose .....	11%
Strongly oppose .....	29%
Not sure .....	10%

12. Would you support or oppose granting temporary legal status to students who arrived in the country illegally as minors if they enroll in college or the military?

Strongly support .....	18%
Somewhat support .....	23%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	11%
Somewhat oppose .....	11%
Strongly oppose .....	28%
Not sure .....	9%

13. Do you support or oppose students being eligible for in-state tuition and student loans regardless of immigration status.

Strongly support .....	9%
Somewhat support .....	9%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	10%
Somewhat oppose .....	14%
Strongly oppose .....	51%
Not sure .....	7%

14. The DREAM Act is a bill that would enable current immigrant students who arrived illegally in the U.S. as minors to apply for temporary legal status if they enroll in college or serve in the U.S. military. This would also allow them to eventually seek permanent residency and apply for citizenship. Do you support or oppose the DREAM Act?

Strongly support	19%
Somewhat support	24%
Neither support, nor oppose	10%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	29%
Not sure	7%

15. Do you support or oppose a national sales tax?

Strongly support	9%
Somewhat support	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	17%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	35%
Not sure	12%

16. Do you approve or disapprove of using a “cap and trade” plan to lower pollution?

Approve strongly	11%
Approve somewhat	21%
Disapprove somewhat	9%
Disapprove strongly	27%
Not sure	32%

17. The tax cuts enacted in 2001 under President George W. Bush will expire at the end of this year unless Congress makes changes. Which of the following best describes what Congress should do about the tax cuts?

Keep all tax cuts in place	34%
Keep tax cuts only for those earning under \$250,000	42%
Let all tax cuts expire	11%
Not sure	13%

18. Senators and Representatives who were not re-elected remain in office until January 3, 2011. Do you think that they should be allowed to vote on legislation while they are still in office?

Yes .....	52%
No .....	33%
Not sure .....	16%

19. Members of Congress sometimes add provisions to legislation that include government spending projects for their own states or districts. Such spending projects are known as ‘earmarks’ or ‘pork.’ Do you approve or disapprove of this practice?

Strongly approve .....	2%
Somewhat approve .....	7%
Neither approve, nor disapprove .....	13%
Somewhat disapprove .....	21%
Strongly disapprove .....	47%
Not sure .....	11%

20. Some members of Congress have promised to ban ‘earmarks’. Do you trust Congress to follow-through with this ban?

Yes .....	8%
No .....	70%
Not sure .....	21%

21. How often can you trust your elected officials to do the right thing?

Always .....	0%
Nearly always .....	6%
Some of the time .....	49%
Almost never .....	32%
Never .....	8%
Not sure .....	5%

22. How often do you think your elected officials consider their own personal gain instead of the public's welfare?

Always .....	20%
Nearly always .....	38%
Some of the time .....	31%
Almost never .....	4%
Never .....	1%
Not sure .....	5%

23. How much have you heard or read about Charlie Rangel's corruption charges?

A lot .....	31%
A little .....	39%
Nothing at all .....	30%

24. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't Know
Sarah Palin	20%	18%	12%	44%	6%
John Boehner	16%	15%	12%	19%	38%
Mitch McConnell	5%	18%	13%	20%	44%
Barack Obama	28%	17%	13%	37%	5%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	17%	16%	42%	14%
Harry Reid	6%	17%	13%	33%	31%

25. Do you think Sarah Palin will run for president of the United States in 2012?

Very likely .....	24%
Somewhat likely .....	41%
Somewhat unlikely .....	12%
Very unlikely .....	9%
Not sure .....	14%



26. If Sarah Palin were the Republican nominee for president in 2012, who would you vote for in the presidential election?

Sarah Palin .....	33%
Barack Obama .....	46%
Don't plan to vote .....	6%
Not sure .....	16%

27. If Sarah Palin were the Republican nominee for president in 2012, do you think she would beat Barack Obama in the presidential election?

Definitely yes .....	10%
Probably yes .....	16%
Probably no .....	25%
Definitely no .....	31%
Not sure .....	18%

28. Will you spend at least one night away from home during the Thanksgiving holiday?

Yes, I will travel more than 100 miles from home .....	13%
Yes, I will travel less than 100 miles from home .....	9%
No, I will not spend any nights away from home .....	78%

29. What is the main type of transportation you will use to reach your destination over the Thanksgiving holiday? Asked if respondents will spend at least one night more than 100 miles away from home

Plane .....	16%
Car .....	77%
Bus, train, or other public transportation .....	5%
None of the above .....	2%

30. Do you plan on buying Christmas presents this year?

Yes .....	79%
No .....	21%

**31. Compared to previous years, how much do you plan to spend on Christmas gifts this year?**  
Asked if respondent plans on buying Christmas presents this year

More .....	8%
About the same .....	49%
Less .....	42%
Not sure .....	2%

**32. Would you describe yourself as...**

A frequent air traveler .....	8%
An occasional air traveler .....	71%
Never flown .....	21%

**33. Do you think the passenger screening procedures that you saw the last time you flew were too tight or not tight enough?** Asked if respondent describes self as a frequent or occasional air traveler

Too tight .....	23%
About right .....	63%
Not tight enough .....	14%

**34. How much have you heard or read about changes in airport security that went into effect around November 1?**

A lot .....	57%
A little .....	33%
Nothing at all .....	10%

**35. Some airports are now using full body scanner machines that send a naked image of you to be looked at by a TSA agent before you can proceed past the security checkpoint, would that be acceptable to you?**

Unacceptable .....	43%
Acceptable .....	41%
Not sure .....	16%

**36. Are you concerned about the radiation from full body scanning machines?**

Yes .....	43%
No .....	39%
Not sure .....	17%

**37. How comfortable are you with undergoing a full body scan at an airport security checkpoint?**

Very uncomfortable .....	30%
Somewhat uncomfortable .....	25%
Not too uncomfortable .....	16%
Not uncomfortable at all .....	22%
Not sure .....	6%

**38. Full body scans produce detailed pictures of travelers and items that are hidden on their bodies. It might have detected the explosives that were meant to be ignited on the Christmas Day Northwest flight from Amsterdam to Detroit. But many privacy advocates have objected to them. The scanners would not detect items within a person’s body. What is your opinion of the use of full body scanners at airports?**

They should be used for all passengers .....	31%
They should be used, but only on people who screeners think may pose a threat .....	37%
They should not be used .....	20%
Not sure .....	12%

**39. While some are concerned about the radiation or invasion of privacy from full body scanning machines, others say the risk of terrorism justifies these costs. What do you think?**

Full body scans are not justified .....	35%
Full body scans are justified to keep us safe .....	44%
Not sure .....	20%

40. Do you favor or oppose the following security measures for air travel?

	Oppose	Favor	Not sure
Limiting passengers to a single carry-on bag	24%	64%	12%
Not allowing passengers to leave their seats during the last hour of flight	41%	39%	19%
Not allowing passengers to have any personal items during the last hour of flight	51%	26%	23%
Requiring travelers to remove their shoes at security checkpoints	21%	67%	12%
Not allowing more than 3 ounces of liquids	34%	49%	17%
Checking IDs multiple times	12%	78%	9%
Full body scanner machines that produce a detailed picture of travelers' bodies	40%	41%	18%
A traditional pat down	17%	70%	13%
An enhanced pat down which includes touching genitals and breasts	70%	16%	14%

41. Overall, do you think the recent changes in air travel security measures will make flying safer or not?

Won't make much difference .....	52%
Will make flying safer .....	30%
Not sure .....	18%

42. Will you travel by air less frequently in the future in order to avoid being subjected to the new procedures, or not?

Yes .....	35%
No .....	65%

43. 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%) .....	15%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%) .....	41%
Not very likely (1% to 10%) .....	23%
Very unlikely (less than 1%) .....	7%
Not sure .....	15%

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

More safe .....	28%
No effect .....	45%
Less safe .....	27%

45. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal .....	36%
Liberal .....	20%
Moderate .....	24%
Conservative .....	3%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	16%

**46. Do you think Barack Obama...**

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

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

Like a lot ..... 35%  
 Like somewhat ..... 26%  
 Dislike ..... 27%  
 Not sure ..... 12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	33%	35%	31%
Intelligent	63%	24%	13%
Religious	16%	54%	30%
Inspiring	35%	39%	26%
Patriotic	32%	39%	29%
Strong	28%	50%	23%
Bold	31%	47%	21%
Experienced	15%	39%	45%
Sincere	37%	33%	29%
Partisan	28%	51%	21%
Effective	21%	46%	34%
Unifying	15%	47%	38%
In Touch	22%	43%	35%
Realistic	29%	36%	35%
Decisive	22%	52%	27%

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

Strongly approve .....	1%
Somewhat approve .....	10%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	12%
Somewhat disapprove .....	22%
Strongly disapprove .....	47%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	32%
Off on the wrong track .....	56%
Not sure .....	12%

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

Getting better .....	24%
About the same .....	38%
Getting worse .....	34%
Not sure .....	4%

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

Higher .....	29%
About the same .....	35%
Lower .....	15%
Not sure .....	20%

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

Better off financially .....	11%
About the same as now .....	47%
Worse off financially .....	39%
Not sure .....	4%

<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	November 20-23, 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 0.6 to 3.6, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.4.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Margin of error (Registered Voters)</b>	± 3.8% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	25 questions not reported.