

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted December 4-7, 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	12%	29%	21%	26%	12%
The economy	12%	21%	16%	43%	8%
Immigration	7%	23%	15%	41%	13%
The environment	10%	29%	17%	25%	19%
Terrorism	16%	27%	16%	30%	12%
Gay rights	11%	25%	15%	26%	24%
Education	14%	28%	18%	24%	17%
Health care	17%	21%	12%	42%	9%
Social security	11%	20%	19%	35%	15%
The budget deficit	10%	20%	16%	44%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	9%	30%	23%	27%	11%
Taxes	13%	23%	15%	39%	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	82%	16%	1%	1%
Immigration	49%	31%	13%	6%
The environment	43%	36%	14%	8%
Terrorism	56%	28%	11%	4%
Gay rights	23%	23%	25%	29%
Education	58%	31%	8%	3%
Health care	73%	20%	5%	2%
Social security	64%	27%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	60%	29%	7%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	42%	41%	13%	4%
Taxes	67%	26%	5%	2%

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	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	13%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	7%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

Strongly Approve	13%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	17%
Strongly Disapprove	37%
Not Sure	7%

5. How do you feel about increased drilling for oil and natural gas offshore in U.S. waters?

Strongly favor	29%
Mildly favor	22%
Mildly oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	20%
Not sure	13%

6. President Obama announced he will NOT lift a moratorium on offshore oil drilling on the East Coast and the eastern Gulf of Mexico, reversing an earlier decision to do so. Do you favor or oppose his decision to keep the moratorium in these places?

Strongly favor	19%
Mildly favor	15%
Mildly oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	29%
Not sure	24%

7. Would offshore oil and natural gas drilling in U.S. waters help or hurt the following issues?

	Help	Neither help nor hurt	Hurt	Not sure
The environment	9%	33%	42%	17%
The U.S. economy	57%	21%	8%	14%
U.S. national security	30%	42%	8%	20%

8. How much have you heard or read about secret U.S. State Department communications that were released by the Web site called WikiLeaks?

A great deal	37%
A little	44%
Nothing at all	18%

9. As you may know, the Web site WikiLeaks recently began releasing leaked U.S. State Department communications, called cables, many of which are classified as secret. Do you approve or disapprove of the decision by WikiLeaks to release these cables?

Strongly approve	9%
Somewhat approve	10%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	14%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	10%

10. Have you read any leaked State Department cables posted by WikiLeaks, or have you only learned about the WikiLeaks story from news reports? Asked of respondents who have heard about leak of State Department cables on WikiLeaks

Read leaked cables	11%
Have not read leaked cables, but learned about story from news reports ..	83%
Neither	7%

11. Will the release of leaked cables through WikiLeaks help or hurt the ability of the U.S. State Department to conduct diplomatic relations with foreign countries?

Help	3%
No effect	16%
Hurt	54%
Not sure	27%

12. Since September 11, 2001, government agencies have tried to share more classified information with one another. Information sharing may help prevent a terrorist attack, but also increases the chance that secrets are leaked to the public. Do you think that government agencies should increase or decrease their efforts to share classified information with one another.

Increase	42%
No change	28%
Decrease	9%
Not sure	21%

13. How worried are you that the release of secret U.S. State Department cables will lead to a decrease in the level of information sharing among government agencies?

Very worried	10%
Somewhat worried	45%
Not too worried	34%
Not at all worried	11%

14. How worried are you that the release of secret U.S. State Department cables will lead to a decrease in the level of information sharing among government agencies?

Very worried	10%
Somewhat worried	45%
Not too worried	34%
Not at all worried	11%

15. Should the press be allowed to publish truthful and newsworthy government secrets that it obtains through ordinary reporting?

Definitely yes	20%
Probably yes	18%
Hard to say	30%
Probably no	14%
Definitely no	18%

16. Do you support or oppose the following actions?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support, nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Amazon.com's decision to stop hosting the WikiLeaks Web site	45%	13%	18%	7%	9%	7%
Computer hackers trying to disrupt access to the WikiLeaks Web site	20%	11%	21%	12%	25%	11%
The decision by major media outlets to publish the leaks	15%	14%	19%	15%	29%	8%
Prosecution of Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks	36%	13%	19%	9%	12%	10%
Prosecution of individuals who leak information to WikiLeaks	45%	17%	15%	7%	9%	8%

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

Very concerned	56%
Somewhat concerned	33%
Not very concerned	8%
Not at all concerned	3%

18. When, if ever, do you think the federal budget should be balanced, so that the amount the government spends is equal to the amount it collects in taxes?

Immediately	37%
Next year	11%
In a few years	40%
Not necessary to balance the budget	11%

19. Do you think the cost of government entitlement programs, including Social Security and Medicare, will create major economic problems for the U.S. in the next 25 years if no changes are made to them?

Yes	57%
No	19%
Not sure	24%

20. Should the government raise taxes or cut benefits if the cost of major entitlement programs create major economic problems for the U.S.?

Raise taxes	22%
Cut benefits	20%
Both	25%
Neither	33%

21. Congress is considering some of the following policies. Which do you support?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support, nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Ratification of the START treaty to reduce American and Russian nuclear stockpiles	31%	19%	19%	7%	9%	15%
The DREAM Act, to allow immigrant students who arrived illegally as minors to apply for temporary legal status if enrolled in college or the military	21%	16%	13%	10%	32%	8%
Extending unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed	28%	20%	15%	14%	14%	9%
A national sales tax	12%	18%	20%	11%	27%	12%
“Cap and trade” legislation to lower pollution	20%	18%	19%	6%	22%	15%
A ban on Members of Congress directing spending projects to their own states or districts, known as “earmarks”	46%	16%	14%	7%	8%	9%
Repeal of President Obama’s health care reform law passed earlier this year by Congress	36%	8%	12%	7%	27%	10%
The Paycheck Fairness Act which makes it illegal for employers to pay unequal wages to men and women performing equal work	53%	14%	14%	4%	7%	8%
Overhauling the food safety inspection process and authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to order mandatory food recalls	37%	25%	14%	5%	8%	10%

22. 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	30%
Keep tax cuts only for those earning under \$250,000	46%
Let all tax cuts expire	9%
Not sure	14%

23. Senate Republicans have vowed to block all legislation until the end of this Congressional session in January unless the Bush-era tax cuts are extended for ALL income levels and the government is funded. Do you think votes on other legislation should or should not be postponed?

All other legislation should be postponed	18%
Most legislation should be postponed, with some exceptions	20%
No other legislation should be postponed	39%
No opinion	23%

24. Which pieces of legislation should the Senate vote on, even if it has not voted on extending the Bush-era tax cuts for ALL income levels and funding the government? Please check all that apply.

Ratification of the START treaty to reduce American and Russian nuclear stockpiles	37%
The DREAM Act, to allow immigrant students who arrived illegally as minors to apply for temporary legal status if enrolled in college or the military	32%
Extending unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed	51%
“Cap and trade” legislation to lower pollution	30%
Repeal of “Don’t ask, don’t tell” to allow openly gay men and women to serve in the military	37%
Overhauling the food safety inspection process and authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to order mandatory food recalls	42%
None of the above	28%

25. Some people say that if the tax cuts are NOT extended for those earning more than \$250,000 a year that jobs will be lost. What do you think? If the tax cuts are NOT extended for those earning more than \$250,000 a year:

Jobs will be lost	31%
Jobs will be created	7%
There will be no impact on jobs	43%
Not sure	20%

26. What if the tax cuts for those making more than \$250,000 a year are extended? If they are extended, do you think:

Jobs will be lost	12%
Jobs will be created	26%
There will be no impact on jobs	41%
Not sure	21%

27. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following parties?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
The Democratic Party	12%	23%	19%	33%	13%
The Republican Party	9%	24%	18%	36%	13%

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

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	32%
Mostly just oppose the other party	46%
Not sure	22%

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

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	24%
Mostly just oppose the other party	56%
Not sure	20%

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

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

31. Do you think people who are openly gay or homosexual should be allowed to serve in the U.S. military?

Yes	63%
No	20%
Not sure	17%

32. Currently, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law forbids openly gay men and women from serving in the military. If "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" were repealed, how do you think that would affect preparedness, unit cohesion and morale in the military?

Very positively	7%
Positively	9%
Equally as positively as negatively	22%
Negatively	13%
Very negatively	11%
No effect	20%
Not sure	18%

33. The Department of Defense recently released the results of a survey of members of the military asking their opinions about the effect of repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The survey found that 70% of service members believe that the impact of repealing the law would be positive, mixed or of no consequence at all. Do you favor or oppose Congress repealing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law?

Strongly favor	33%
Somewhat favor	13%
Neither favor, nor oppose	20%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	12%
Not sure	13%

34. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion:

Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society.	61%
Homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society	39%

35. Do you think being homosexual is something a person chooses to be, or do you think it is something a person cannot change?

Homosexuality is a choice	44%
Homosexuality is not a choice	56%

36. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	33%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	18%

37. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes 46%
 Says what he thinks people want to hear 54%

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

Like a lot 30%
 Like somewhat 33%
 Dislike 26%
 Not sure 11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	31%	39%	30%
Intelligent	61%	28%	12%
Religious	16%	55%	28%
Inspiring	31%	47%	22%
Patriotic	28%	43%	29%
Strong	23%	53%	24%
Bold	30%	53%	17%
Experienced	11%	46%	43%
Sincere	35%	38%	26%
Partisan	25%	55%	20%
Effective	17%	49%	34%
Unifying	16%	49%	35%
In Touch	21%	48%	31%
Realistic	27%	42%	30%
Decisive	20%	53%	27%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	25%
Off on the wrong track	62%
Not sure	13%

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

Getting better	16%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	42%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	26%
About the same	34%
Lower	18%
Not sure	22%

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

Better off financially	12%
About the same as now	43%
Worse off financially	41%
Not sure	5%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 4-7, 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 0.6 to 2.9, 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	22 questions not reported.