

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted January 15-18, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 3.5\%$

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	13%	29%	23%	22%	12%
The economy	14%	24%	15%	39%	7%
Immigration	10%	23%	17%	37%	13%
The environment	14%	30%	17%	24%	16%
Terrorism	17%	27%	14%	29%	13%
Gay rights	17%	24%	13%	24%	23%
Education	15%	30%	18%	23%	15%
Health care	21%	19%	11%	42%	7%
Social security	11%	22%	19%	32%	15%
The budget deficit	11%	20%	18%	42%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	30%	23%	24%	12%
Taxes	10%	26%	20%	33%	12%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	38%	42%	14%	5%
The economy	81%	16%	2%	1%
Immigration	51%	31%	12%	6%
The environment	46%	35%	12%	6%
Terrorism	59%	28%	9%	4%
Gay rights	25%	21%	27%	27%
Education	58%	32%	6%	4%
Health care	73%	20%	4%	3%
Social security	67%	24%	6%	3%
The budget deficit	62%	30%	5%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	42%	41%	12%	5%
Taxes	65%	26%	6%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	36%
Immigration	5%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	3%
Education	7%
Health care	16%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%

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

Strongly Approve	20%
Somewhat Approve	25%
Somewhat Disapprove	15%
Strongly Disapprove	33%
Not Sure	7%

5. 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	18%
Somewhat disapprove	25%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	9%

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

More than I expected	21%
About what I expected	38%
Less than I expected	34%
Not sure	7%

7. Do you think President Obama accomplished more or less than Presidents usually do in their first two years in office?

Much more	16%
Somewhat more	23%
About the same	22%
Somewhat less	14%
Much less	16%
Not sure	10%

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

Outstanding	12%
Above Average	21%
Average	18%
Below Average	16%
Poor	23%
Not Sure	10%

9. Since Barack Obama has been President, do you think the United States' image in the world has gotten better or worse?

Gotten better	35%
Obama's Presidency has had no effect on U.S. image in the world	16%
Gotten worse	38%
Not sure	11%

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

Very strong	17%
Somewhat strong	34%
Somewhat weak	23%
Very weak	26%

11. Would you be more likely to describe Barack Obama as more or less liberal than you would like?

More liberal than you would like	39%
About as liberal as you would like	29%
Not as liberal as you would like	12%
Not sure	20%

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

Leading the country in the right direction	39%
Taking the country down the wrong track	45%
Not sure	16%

13. Do you think gun control laws should be made more or less strict than they are now?

More strict	48%
No change	29%
Less strict	16%
Not sure	8%

14. Do you favor or oppose the following gun control measures?

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Preventing persons with a history of mental illness from owning guns	85%	4%	10%
Banning semi-automatic weapons	52%	31%	17%
Banning the sale of all handguns, except those that are issued to law enforcement officers	17%	67%	16%
Banning the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons that hold more than 10 rounds	59%	25%	16%
Requiring people who purchase handguns to wait five days before they receive that gun	74%	15%	11%
Requiring gun owners to register their guns with a national gun registry	67%	23%	10%
Limiting the number of handguns a person can own	44%	42%	14%
Preventing people from carrying a concealed gun in public	43%	39%	18%
Requiring people to obtain a police permit before buying a handgun	56%	29%	15%

15. Do you think the second amendment of the U.S. Constitution does or does not allow states to regulate guns?

Does	27%
Does not	33%
Not sure	40%

16. Do you or does anyone in your household own a gun?

Personally own a gun	24%
Don't personally own a gun, but someone in the household owns a gun ..	13%
No one in the household owns a gun	58%
Not sure	5%

17. Do you favor the death penalty for serious crimes such as murder and rape?

Favor	64%
Oppose	20%
Not sure	16%

18. If a mentally ill person is convicted of a serious crime, should the death penalty be one of the possible punishments that the person might receive?

Yes	40%
No	37%
Not sure	23%

19. Is the amount of money that the government currently spends on providing services to the mentally ill too low or too high?

Too high	9%
About right	14%
Too low	41%
Not sure	36%

20. Currently, mentally ill persons can only be committed to a psychiatric institution against their will if they exhibit behavior that is an imminent danger to themselves or others. Should it be easier for the government to commit mentally ill people against their will?

Definitely yes	16%
Probably yes	27%
Probably no	27%
Definitely no	13%
Not sure	18%

21. How much have you heard or read about the recent shooting in Tucson, Arizona, in which Jared Loughner shot and wounded Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, among others, and killed six other people?

A lot	70%
A little	27%
Nothing at all	3%

22. Did you listen to President Obama’s speech on Wednesday at a memorial service in Tucson for the victims of the Arizona shooting?

Yes, listened to all of it	22%
Yes, listened to part of it	31%
No, did not listen to it	47%

23. How would you rate President Obama’s speech in Tucson? Asked if respondent listened to all or part of President’s speech in Tucson

Very good	51%
Good	25%
Fair	17%
Poor	6%

24. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the aftermath of the shooting in Arizona?

Strongly approve	31%
Somewhat approve	24%
Somewhat disapprove	8%
Strongly disapprove	7%
No opinion	30%

25. Do you think that stricter gun laws could have prevented the shooting in Arizona committed by Jared Loughner?

Definitely yes	15%
Probably yes	22%
Probably no	26%
Definitely no	25%
Not sure	12%

26. From what you have heard about Jared Loughner's behavior, do you think that he is mentally ill?

Yes	53%
No	18%
Not sure	30%

27. Some people say that the aggressive manner in which politicians and media figures discuss political issues encourages violent acts like the recent shooting in Arizona. Others say the shooting was just the senseless act of a troubled person and was not influenced by the statements of any public figures. Do you think the tone of discussions in politics and in the media played an important role in the Arizona shooting or not?

Very important	19%
Somewhat important	34%
Not very important	19%
Not at all important	27%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
Sarah Palin	17%	20%	14%	41%	7%
John Boehner	14%	18%	14%	16%	38%
Mitch McConnell	5%	17%	15%	15%	48%
Barack Obama	31%	19%	14%	31%	6%
Hillary Clinton	30%	30%	17%	16%	7%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	19%	13%	41%	17%
Harry Reid	6%	17%	13%	30%	35%
Joe Biden	19%	26%	17%	23%	15%
Glenn Beck	15%	18%	12%	30%	26%

29. 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	15%	26%	18%	31%	10%
The Republican Party	10%	29%	24%	25%	11%
The Tea Party	17%	21%	10%	36%	17%

30. How much have you heard or read about the political movement known as the Tea Party?

A great deal	33%
A fair amount	37%
Not much	21%
Nothing at all	9%

31. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement? Asked if respondent has heard something about the Tea Party

Yes	20%
No	80%

32. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement? Asked if respondent has heard something about the Tea Party

Strongly support	18%
Somewhat support	20%
Neither support, nor oppose	15%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	28%
Not sure	11%

33. What do you think the symbols on the map are? See appendix to view map shown to respondents

Gun cross-hairs	67%
Surveyor's marks	19%
Something else	15%

34. Have you seen this map before? See appendix to view map shown to respondents

Yes	35%
No	65%

35. The map has caused some controversy, because the district of Congresswoman Giffords, who was shot and critically wounded by Jared Loughner, is listed on the map. Some believe that the map implies a call for violence, while others believe it is harmless. What do you think? See appendix to view map shown to respondents

There is nothing violent about this map	42%
This map hints at violent rhetoric	26%
This map uses violent rhetoric	20%
This map is a call to violence	12%

36. Do you favor or oppose repealing President Obama's health care reform law passed earlier this year by Congress?

Favor	42%
Oppose	37%
Not sure	22%

37. Do you own your own home or pay rent?

Owned by you (or another family member) with a mortgage	43%
Owned by you (or another family member) without a mortgage	23%
Rented	30%
Other	4%

38. How does the amount you still owe on your mortgage compare to the value of your home?
Asked if respondent is a home owner and has a mortgage

Mortgage exceeds current home value	17%
More than 75% of home value	14%
Between 51% and 75% of home value	20%
Between 26% and 50% of home value	17%
Less than 25% of home value	10%
Not sure	22%

39. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	34%
Liberal	24%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	15%

40. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

Like a lot	37%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	25%
Not sure	10%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	36%	35%	30%
Intelligent	63%	26%	11%
Religious	18%	52%	29%
Inspiring	40%	38%	23%
Patriotic	32%	39%	29%
Strong	32%	42%	25%
Bold	33%	49%	18%
Experienced	15%	41%	43%
Sincere	39%	33%	28%
Partisan	26%	53%	21%
Effective	25%	48%	28%
Unifying	22%	45%	33%
In Touch	26%	44%	30%
Realistic	32%	42%	26%
Decisive	26%	50%	25%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	32%
Off on the wrong track	54%
Not sure	13%

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

Getting better	28%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	31%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	32%
About the same	34%
Lower	15%
Not sure	19%

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

Better off financially	14%
About the same as now	41%
Worse off financially	41%
Not sure	4%

Appendix

IT'S TIME TO TAKE A STAND.



Vic Snyder — AR-2	Earl Pomeroy — ND-AL
Ann Kirkpatrick — AZ-1	Charlie Wilson — OH-6
Harry E. Mitchell — AZ-5	John Bocchieri — OH-16
Gabrielle Giffords — AZ-8	Kathy Dahlkemper — PA-3
John Salazar — CO-3	Christopher Carney — PA-10
Betsy Markey — CO-4	John M. Spratt Jr. — SC-5
Allen Boyd — FL-2	Bart Gordon — TN-6
Suzanne M. Kosmas — FL-24	Tom Perriello — VA-5
Brad Ellsworth — IN-8	Alan B. Mollohan — WV-1
Baron P. Hill — IN-9	Nick J. Rahall II — WV-2

■ Already retiring at the end of their terms. 17 more to go!

Let's take back the 20, together!
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The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	January 15-18, 2011
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 0.39 to 4.76, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.52.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.5% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	24 questions not reported.