

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted January 22-25, 2011  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.8\%$

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	17%	30%	19%	24%	10%
The economy	17%	24%	12%	39%	7%
Immigration	12%	24%	14%	38%	13%
The environment	17%	30%	13%	25%	16%
Terrorism	20%	27%	14%	27%	11%
Gay rights	18%	23%	11%	24%	24%
Education	18%	29%	15%	24%	15%
Health care	24%	21%	8%	41%	7%
Social security	15%	21%	18%	32%	15%
The budget deficit	12%	22%	16%	41%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	31%	19%	26%	12%
Taxes	12%	23%	21%	33%	10%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	39%	42%	15%	4%
The economy	82%	15%	2%	1%
Immigration	49%	32%	14%	5%
The environment	49%	33%	12%	7%
Terrorism	57%	27%	12%	4%
Gay rights	25%	24%	27%	25%
Education	60%	31%	7%	3%
Health care	75%	20%	3%	2%
Social security	65%	26%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	59%	32%	6%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	41%	41%	13%	5%
Taxes	66%	29%	5%	1%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	36%
Immigration	6%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	4%
Education	7%
Health care	15%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	8%
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 .....	14%
Strongly Disapprove .....	32%
Not Sure .....	8%

**5. President Obama will give his State of the Union Address this Tuesday, January 25th. Do you think you will watch his speech?**

Yes .....	44%
No .....	31%
Not sure .....	25%

**6. Do you currently have health insurance?**

Yes .....	79%
No .....	19%
Not sure .....	2%

**7. What kind of health care coverage do you currently have?** (Asked if respondent currently has health insurance)

I have private insurance or belong to an HMO. ....	60%
I'm covered by a government plan, such as Medicare or Medicaid. ....	29%
Other .....	9%
Not sure .....	1%

**8. How satisfied are you with your health insurance coverage?**

Very satisfied .....	32%
Somewhat satisfied .....	33%
Somewhat dissatisfied .....	9%
Very dissatisfied .....	16%
Not sure .....	10%

9. Have you personally been affected by any changes to the health care system resulting from the health care reform law that was passed last year by Congress?

Yes .....	31%
No .....	43%
Not sure .....	26%

10. Have the changes that you experienced as a result of the health care legislation been positive or negative? (Asked if respondent has been personally affected by health care reform)

Positive .....	24%
Neither positive, nor negative .....	14%
Negative .....	62%

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

Favor .....	41%
Oppose .....	38%
Not sure .....	21%

12. Under the health care reform bill recently passed by Congress and signed by President Obama, do you think you personally will receive better or worse care than you receive now?

Better care .....	14%
About the same .....	34%
Worse care .....	35%
Not sure .....	17%

13. Do you think you personally will pay more, either in taxes or insurance costs, under the health care reform bill recently passed by Congress and signed by President Obama?

Pay more .....	53%
About the same .....	25%
Pay less .....	6%
Not sure .....	16%

14. How well do you feel that you understand the health care reform bill that was signed into law last year?

Very well .....	10%
Fairly well .....	46%
Not very well .....	34%
Not at all .....	10%

15. Next, we'd like to ask you about some specific parts of the current health care law. Please tell us whether you favor or oppose the following provisions.

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Require all U.S. citizens and legal residents to have health insurance, or pay a tax penalty?	27%	54%	19%
Require employers to offer their employees health insurance, or pay a tax penalty?	47%	34%	18%
Require health plans to provide coverage for children up to age 26?	52%	30%	19%
Prevent insurers from charging more to cover people who are in poor health?	65%	20%	14%
Prevent insurers from imposing lifetime limits on benefits?	67%	14%	19%
Require all insurance policies to provide a minimum package of benefits?	67%	14%	19%
Provide a subsidy to help people with incomes of between \$29,000 and \$88,000 per year (for a family of 4) afford insurance?	56%	23%	20%
Guarantee access to insurance coverage for people with pre-existing conditions?	80%	9%	11%

16. Do you think that the benefit changes mandated by the President's health care reform plan will increase or decrease what employer's spend to provide health care for their employees?

Increase a lot .....	30%
Increase a little .....	24%
No effect .....	9%
Decrease a little .....	7%
Decrease a lot .....	9%
Not sure .....	22%

17. Below are the estimated yearly costs per employee of some provisions of the President's health care plan. Please say whether you approve or disapprove of requiring these benefits to be provided if it costs this much to provide these benefits.

	Approve	Disapprove	Not sure
Coverage for children up to age 26: \$200	47%	31%	22%
Prohibit charging more for persons in poor health: \$700	45%	28%	27%
Remove the lifetime limit on benefits: \$100	56%	18%	26%

18. If employer health insurance costs increase as a result of the health care reform plan, do you think that the take-home pay of employees will decrease or not?

Employee pay will decrease by approximately the extra amount that employers will have to spend. ....	49%
Employee pay will decrease somewhat, but by less than the amount that employers will have to spend. ....	33%
No effect on employee pay .....	18%

19. Some people say that jobs will be lost due to the health care reform legislation that Congress passed last year. Others say the impact of the health care law on job availability will be small. Overall, what impact do you think the current health care law will have on jobs?

Jobs will be lost .....	44%
Jobs will be created .....	14%
There will be no impact on jobs .....	18%
Not sure .....	24%

20. Which party do you trust more to make the right decisions about health care?

Democrats .....	37%
Republicans .....	26%
About the same .....	6%
Neither .....	23%
Not sure .....	8%

21. Do you consider Cuba to be an enemy or an ally of the United States?

Ally of U.S. ....	2%
Friendly .....	13%
Unfriendly .....	41%
Enemy of the U.S. ....	18%
Not sure .....	26%

22. Do you think that people in Cuba have favorable or unfavorable view of the United States?

Very favorable .....	10%
Somewhat favorable .....	33%
Somewhat unfavorable .....	22%
Very unfavorable .....	9%
Don't know .....	26%



23. Do you favor or oppose having the United States re-establish diplomatic relations with Cuba?

Favor .....	52%
Oppose .....	16%
Not sure .....	32%

24. Should U.S. citizens be allowed to travel to Cuba?

Yes, they should be allowed to travel without restrictions. ....	53%
Yes, but only if they travel as part of religious, cultural, or academic groups. ....	10%
No, they should not be allowed to travel to Cuba. ....	12%
Not sure .....	25%

25. Currently, there is an embargo on U.S. trade with Cuba. Should Americans be allowed to buy products from Cuba?

Yes .....	49%
No .....	26%
Not sure .....	26%

26. Should Americans be allowed to send money to Cuban citizens who are not members of the Castro government or the Communist Party?

Yes .....	49%
No .....	25%
Not sure .....	26%

27. The U.S. has been holding suspected terrorists at a military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Do you think the U.S. should continue to operate the prison or close it down?

Continue to operate .....	50%
Close down .....	30%
Not sure .....	20%

28. Do you know whether President Obama favors or opposes closing the Guantanamo prison?

President Obama favors closing the prison .....	64%
President Obama opposes closing the prison .....	5%
Not sure .....	31%

29. Do you favor or oppose holding trials for the terrorist suspects being held at Guantanamo?

Favor strongly .....	41%
Favor somewhat .....	23%
Oppose somewhat .....	7%
Oppose strongly .....	11%
Not sure .....	18%

30. If trials are held for terrorist suspects, should they be held in U.S. courts or military tribunals?

U.S. courts .....	26%
Military tribunals .....	55%
Not sure .....	19%

31. If a terrorist suspect is tried and found innocent of the charges against him, should he be released?

Should be released .....	65%
Should continue to be held indefinitely .....	14%
Not sure .....	21%

32. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama has handled the prison at Guantanamo?

Approve strongly .....	8%
Approve somewhat .....	23%
Disapprove somewhat .....	20%
Disapprove strongly .....	19%
Not sure .....	30%

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

Very liberal .....	32%
Liberal .....	19%
Moderate .....	28%
Conservative .....	4%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	16%

**34. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	49%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	51%

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

Like a lot .....	36%
Like somewhat .....	29%
Dislike .....	24%
Not sure .....	12%

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

Strongly approve .....	3%
Somewhat approve .....	11%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	16%
Somewhat disapprove .....	25%
Strongly disapprove .....	33%
Not sure .....	12%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	35%
Off on the wrong track .....	52%
Not sure .....	14%

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

Getting better .....	27%
About the same .....	35%
Getting worse .....	32%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Higher .....	29%
About the same .....	32%
Lower .....	17%
Not sure .....	22%

**40. Would you say that you and your family are...**

Better off financially .....	13%
About the same as now .....	42%
Worse off financially .....	41%
Not sure .....	5%

## ***The Economist/YouGov Poll***



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	January 22-25, 2011
<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 0.46 to 5.15, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.40.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.8% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	37 questions not reported.