

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted February 5-8, 2011  
Margin of Error  $\pm 4.2\%$

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	14%	31%	19%	27%	9%
The economy	14%	23%	17%	40%	6%
Immigration	10%	22%	17%	39%	12%
The environment	13%	28%	19%	26%	14%
Terrorism	17%	28%	13%	32%	10%
Gay rights	16%	28%	13%	22%	21%
Education	17%	27%	17%	26%	12%
Health care	22%	19%	9%	44%	6%
Social security	12%	24%	19%	34%	12%
The budget deficit	10%	20%	19%	42%	8%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	29%	23%	27%	10%
Taxes	11%	25%	21%	36%	8%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	37%	42%	17%	5%
The economy	84%	14%	2%	1%
Immigration	51%	30%	14%	4%
The environment	43%	36%	15%	6%
Terrorism	58%	27%	12%	4%
Gay rights	25%	25%	24%	25%
Education	58%	32%	8%	1%
Health care	73%	20%	6%	2%
Social security	66%	27%	6%	2%
The budget deficit	63%	30%	5%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	41%	40%	13%	5%
Taxes	64%	27%	7%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	40%
Immigration	5%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	3%
Education	6%
Health care	12%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	4%

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

Strongly Approve .....	19%
Somewhat Approve .....	27%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	14%
Strongly Disapprove .....	34%
Not Sure .....	6%

**5. Which of the following movies have you seen?**

Black Swan .....	10%
The Fighter .....	7%
Inception .....	27%
The Kids Are All Right .....	7%
The King's Speech .....	7%
127 Hours .....	1%
The Social Network .....	12%
Toy Story .....	39%
True Grit .....	22%
Winter's Bone .....	2%
None of these .....	40%

**6. Which movie should win the Oscar for best picture this year?**

Black Swan .....	5%
The Fighter .....	3%
Inception .....	5%
The Kids Are All Right .....	1%
The King's Speech .....	10%
127 Hours .....	1%
The Social Network .....	5%
Toy Story .....	4%
True Grit .....	7%
Winter's Bone .....	0%
None of these .....	5%
Not sure .....	55%

**7. Who should win the Oscar for best actor?**

Javier Bardem for Biutiful .....	1%
Jeff Bridges for True Grit .....	15%
Jesse Eisenberg for The Social Network .....	5%
Colin Firth for The King's Speech .....	15%
James Franco for 127 Hours .....	3%
None of these .....	8%
Not sure .....	54%

**8. Who should win the Oscar for best actress?**

Annette Bening for The Kids Are All Right .....	4%
Nicole Kidman for Rabbit Hole .....	4%
Jennifer Lawrence for Winter's bone .....	1%
Natalie Portman for Black Swan .....	22%
Michelle Williams for Blue Valentine .....	1%
None of these .....	8%
Not sure .....	60%

**9. Do you think the severity of recent weather events, like the snowstorms that hit the Midwest and East Coast this winter, are the result of climate change or do these kind of events just happen from time to time?**

Result of climate change .....	33%
Just happen from time to time .....	57%
Not sure .....	10%

**10. Some people say that global temperatures have been going up slowly over the past 100 years - the phenomenon called "global warming." Do you think that global warming is happening?**

Definitely is happening .....	32%
Probably is happening .....	28%
Probably is not happening .....	12%
Definitely is not happening .....	17%
Not sure .....	11%

11. How serious a problem do you think global warming is? Not asked of respondents who definitely don't believe in global warming

Very serious .....	42%
Somewhat serious .....	31%
Not very serious .....	18%
Not sure .....	9%

12. Do you think global warming has been caused by pollution from human activities (such as emissions from cars and factories) or by natural causes? Not asked of respondents who definitely don't believe in global warming

Pollution from human activities .....	57%
Natural causes not related to human activities .....	20%
Not sure .....	23%

13. How much have you heard or read about the protests in Egypt against President Mubarak and the violent clashes between government supporters and opponents?

A lot .....	59%
A little .....	33%
Nothing at all .....	8%

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to the protests in Egypt?

Strongly approve .....	18%
Somewhat approve .....	25%
Somewhat disapprove .....	17%
Strongly disapprove .....	16%
No opinion .....	24%

15. Which of the following countries do you consider to be an ally or an enemy of the United States?

	Ally of U.S.	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy of the U.S.	Not Sure
Pakistan	5%	18%	36%	18%	23%
Russia	7%	34%	28%	11%	19%
Iran	1%	4%	27%	54%	15%
China	6%	31%	30%	14%	20%
Israel	55%	16%	6%	5%	17%
Egypt	22%	36%	14%	4%	24%
Saudi Arabia	12%	33%	22%	10%	22%
Jordan	13%	34%	17%	5%	31%
Yemen	2%	14%	30%	18%	35%
Tunisia	2%	17%	23%	7%	51%

16. Do you think that people in these countries have a favorable or an unfavorable view of the United States?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not Sure
Pakistan	2%	10%	35%	33%	20%
Russia	5%	33%	29%	14%	19%
Iran	2%	9%	23%	49%	17%
China	6%	32%	28%	15%	19%
Israel	29%	35%	11%	7%	18%
Egypt	5%	27%	31%	15%	22%
Saudi Arabia	3%	22%	34%	21%	21%
Jordan	4%	23%	28%	16%	29%
Yemen	2%	9%	27%	32%	30%
Tunisia	3%	10%	26%	18%	42%

**17. Do you think America's relationship with the Muslim world is getting better or worse?**

Getting better .....	9%
About the same .....	40%
Getting worse .....	39%
Not sure .....	12%

**18. Have U.S. policies in recent years given too much or too little support to Egypt?**

Too much support .....	28%
Too little support .....	6%
About the right amount of support .....	32%
Not sure .....	34%

**19. Which of these do you think is most likely?**

Egypt will become a stable democracy in the next year or two. ....	10%
Egypt will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two. ....	35%
Egypt will probably never become a stable democracy. ....	31%
Not sure .....	24%

**20. In its relations toward foreign countries, is it better for the U.S. government to...?**

Support a non-democratic government that is a steady ally of the U.S. ....	33%
Support a democratically elected government regardless of its attitude toward the U.S. ....	36%
Not sure .....	32%

**21. Do you think the U.S. should only give foreign aid to countries with democratically elected governments?**

Yes .....	31%
No .....	38%
Not sure .....	31%

**22. Which of these statements comes closest to your opinion:**

- The United States should help all countries who need foreign aid, whatever their government's political views .....31%
- The United States should limit its foreign aid to countries where its help may provide political benefits to the U.S. in return ..... 69%

**23. Thinking about U.S. foreign policy, how important is the promotion of internet freedom worldwide compared to other foreign policy goals?**

- Very important .....39%
- Somewhat important .....33%
- Not very important ..... 9%
- Not at all important .....3%
- Not sure ..... 16%

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

- Strongly favor .....38%
- Favor .....30%
- Oppose .....14%
- Strongly oppose ..... 9%
- Not sure ..... 10%

**25. In your opinion, is the death penalty imposed too often or not often enough?** Not asked of respondents who oppose the death penalty

- Too often ..... 7%
- About the right amount .....18%
- Not often enough .....58%
- Not sure ..... 17%



26. Do you think that any innocent persons have been executed in the U.S. during the last five years?

Yes ..... 54%  
 No ..... 17%  
 Not sure ..... 29%

27. If a person is convicted of a serious crime for which the death penalty is a possible punishment, should that person still be eligible for the death penalty if they are... Not asked of respondents who oppose the death penalty

	Yes	No	Not sure
Female	91%	2%	7%
Mentally ill	39%	40%	22%
Mentally retarded	26%	58%	17%
A first time offender	63%	15%	22%

28. Do you think that executing murderers deters others from committing murder?

Yes ..... 39%  
 No ..... 47%  
 Not sure ..... 14%

29. Do you think that the death penalty is disproportionately applied to racial minorities?

Yes ..... 29%  
 No ..... 49%  
 Not sure ..... 22%

30. Some people say marijuana should be treated like alcohol and tobacco. They say it should be regulated and taxed and made illegal for minors. Do you agree?

Strongly agree ..... 34%  
 Agree ..... 24%  
 Neither agree, nor disagree ..... 19%  
 Disagree ..... 7%  
 Strongly disagree ..... 16%

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

Favor .....	43%
Oppose .....	38%
Not sure .....	18%

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

Very liberal .....	32%
Liberal .....	22%
Moderate .....	25%
Conservative .....	4%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	16%

**33. Do you think Barack Obama...**

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

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

Like a lot .....	34%
Like somewhat .....	28%
Dislike .....	25%
Not sure .....	13%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	33%	39%	28%
Intelligent	64%	23%	13%
Religious	14%	57%	29%
Inspiring	40%	38%	22%
Patriotic	32%	40%	27%
Strong	29%	48%	24%
Bold	30%	49%	21%
Experienced	15%	42%	43%
Sincere	37%	37%	26%
Partisan	31%	49%	20%
Effective	23%	45%	32%
Unifying	16%	46%	38%
In Touch	24%	41%	35%
Realistic	28%	40%	31%
Decisive	20%	53%	27%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	12%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	29%
Strongly disapprove	34%
Not sure	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	33%
Off on the wrong track	55%
Not sure	12%

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

Getting better .....	28%
About the same .....	37%
Getting worse .....	31%
Not sure .....	4%

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

Higher .....	34%
About the same .....	32%
Lower .....	17%
Not sure .....	17%

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

Better off financially .....	13%
About the same as now .....	48%
Worse off financially .....	35%
Not sure .....	3%

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<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	February 5-8, 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 0.3 to 6.8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.93.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.2% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	24 questions not reported.