

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted February 12-15, 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	14%	31%	20%	23%	12%
The economy	14%	20%	14%	43%	8%
Immigration	8%	21%	16%	40%	15%
The environment	13%	29%	16%	25%	17%
Terrorism	17%	27%	14%	28%	13%
Gay rights	16%	22%	13%	25%	25%
Education	15%	28%	17%	25%	14%
Health care	20%	18%	10%	44%	8%
Social security	12%	19%	16%	35%	18%
The budget deficit	9%	21%	15%	45%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	29%	20%	26%	13%
Taxes	10%	22%	18%	37%	13%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	37%	43%	13%	7%
The economy	83%	14%	2%	1%
Immigration	46%	34%	14%	5%
The environment	44%	36%	15%	5%
Terrorism	56%	28%	13%	3%
Gay rights	24%	23%	25%	28%
Education	56%	31%	8%	5%
Health care	75%	19%	3%	2%
Social security	66%	22%	9%	3%
The budget deficit	61%	27%	9%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	42%	41%	12%	5%
Taxes	64%	29%	6%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	33%
Immigration	6%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	5%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	15%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	5%

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

Strongly Approve .....	19%
Somewhat Approve .....	24%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	13%
Strongly Disapprove .....	36%
Not Sure .....	8%

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

Strongly approve .....	21%
Somewhat approve .....	25%
Somewhat disapprove .....	13%
Strongly disapprove .....	15%
No opinion .....	26%

**6. Do you consider Egypt to be a friend or an enemy of the United States?**

Ally of U.S. ....	21%
Friendly .....	37%
Unfriendly .....	10%
Enemy of the U.S. ....	2%
Not sure .....	30%

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

Egypt will become a stable democracy in the next year or two. ....	11%
Egypt will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two. ....	36%
Egypt will probably never become a stable democracy. ....	29%
Not sure .....	24%

8. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable view of the following car companies?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
Toyota	24%	35%	17%	13%	11%
Honda	30%	39%	12%	7%	13%
Volkswagen	19%	45%	13%	8%	16%
General Motors	20%	36%	18%	14%	12%
Ford	40%	34%	10%	7%	9%
Chrysler	14%	33%	23%	16%	14%

9. How much have you heard or read about last year's recall of some Toyota car models due to problems resulting in unintended acceleration?

A lot .....	56%
A little .....	34%
Nothing at all .....	10%

10. There are different explanations for what may have caused the problems with unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles. Which of the following do you believe caused or contributed to the problem? Please check all that apply. Not asked if respondent is unaware of the Toyota recall

Driver error .....	32%
Improperly installed floor mats .....	40%
Sticky gas pedals .....	44%
Electronic flaws .....	36%
Other .....	6%
Not sure .....	18%

11. In your opinion, what was the main cause of unwanted acceleration in Toyota vehicles?  
Asked if respondent identified more than one cause of the Toyota recall

Driver error .....	18%
Improperly installed floor mats .....	15%
Sticky gas pedals .....	24%
Electronic flaws .....	24%
Other .....	1%
Not sure .....	17%

12. 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	17%	17%	13%	42%	10%
Mitt Romney	14%	25%	18%	18%	25%
Mike Huckabee	18%	25%	16%	16%	26%
Newt Gingrich	14%	20%	14%	28%	24%
Tim Pawlenty	8%	14%	12%	12%	53%
Mike Pence	5%	11%	7%	10%	67%
Haley Barbour	5%	14%	11%	14%	56%
Mitch Daniels	4%	11%	9%	9%	68%
John Thune	4%	11%	8%	9%	68%
Michele Bachmann	12%	10%	8%	23%	46%
Jon Huntsman	4%	8%	7%	6%	75%
John Boehner	12%	16%	13%	21%	38%
Mitch McConnell	6%	17%	12%	20%	45%
Ron Paul	14%	22%	17%	17%	31%

13. If you had to choose one, which of these individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

Sarah Palin .....	11%
Mitt Romney .....	13%
Mike Huckabee .....	12%
Newt Gingrich .....	6%
Tim Pawlenty .....	2%
Mike Pence .....	2%
Haley Barbour .....	1%
Mitch Daniels .....	1%
John Thune .....	1%
Michele Bachmann .....	2%
Jon Huntsman .....	1%
Ron Paul .....	11%
No preference .....	37%

14. How much confidence do you have in the leaders of...

	A great deal	Quite a bit	Only some	Very little	None at all	No opinion
The Republicans in Congress	5%	14%	22%	21%	30%	8%
The Democrats in Congress	6%	14%	20%	20%	33%	8%

15. Do you think the current Congress will accomplish more or less than Congress usually does during a two-year term?

More than usual .....	14%
About the same .....	40%
Less than usual .....	30%
Not sure .....	16%

16. If you had to choose, would you rather have a congressperson who...

Compromises to get things done. ....	58%
Sticks to his or her principles, no matter what. ....	42%

17. If you had to choose, would you rather have a congressperson who...

Supports policies in line with his or her principles, regardless of how constituents feel about those policies. ....	32%
Supports policies that constituents want, regardless of his or her own beliefs. ....	68%

18. Of the legislation that Congress has considered or may consider shortly, which do you support?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support, nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Increasing the government's legal borrowing limit, also known as the debt ceiling	10%	11%	12%	19%	34%	13%
Cutting \$58 billion in domestic spending and foreign aid from President Obama's proposed budget	35%	16%	17%	8%	10%	14%
Withdrawing \$179 million that the U.S. has already paid to the United Nations intended for upgrades to the UN complex in New York	33%	13%	17%	9%	15%	14%
Repealing the health care reform law passed last year by Congress	36%	8%	8%	7%	28%	12%
Extending the Patriot Act, passed soon after September 11, 2001, to give the government expanded surveillance powers and increase cooperation between intelligence agencies	20%	20%	14%	12%	22%	13%
Extending the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, which helps workers who lost their jobs because of outsourcing or foreign competition	25%	25%	16%	11%	8%	15% <sup>8</sup>



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

Very concerned .....	56%
Somewhat concerned .....	33%
Not very concerned .....	9%
Not at all concerned .....	3%

**20. 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 .....	36%
Next year .....	11%
In a few years .....	40%
Not necessary to balance the budget .....	12%

**21. Overall, do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease the amount it spends?**

Increase .....	5%
Keep the same .....	11%
Decrease .....	72%
Not sure .....	12%

**22. Do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease taxes?**

Increase .....	20%
Keep the same .....	28%
Decrease .....	38%
Not sure .....	14%

**23. Do you favor or oppose the goal of some Republicans to cut \$100 billion from the Obama administration's proposed federal budget?**

Favor cutting \$100 billion in government spending .....	52%
Favor cutting less than \$100 billion in government spending .....	33%
Oppose any cuts in government spending .....	15%

24. Would you rather cut more from defense spending or domestic spending? Asked if respondent favors cutting government spending

Entirely from defense spending .....	8%
More from defense .....	21%
About equally from both .....	33%
More from domestic .....	26%
Entirely from domestic spending .....	12%

25. Here are some of the many programs that could be targeted for spending cuts in order to reduce the size of the federal budget. Would you support spending cuts for any of these programs or agencies? Please check all that apply. Asked if respondent favors cutting government spending

Community health centers .....	20%
Rebuilding highways, bridges, and roads .....	12%
High-speed rail .....	53%
Federal financial aid to low-income college students .....	26%
Low-income heating assistance .....	18%
Public broadcasting .....	50%
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) .....	41%
National Endowment for the Arts .....	60%
National Endowment for the Humanities .....	52%
Renewable energy programs .....	28%
Clean air and water programs .....	23%
International food aid .....	50%
Maternal and child nutrition programs .....	21%
None of these .....	14%

26. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

Just about always .....	1%
Most of the time .....	6%
Some of the time .....	43%
Almost never .....	41%
Not sure .....	8%

**27. How much of the time do you think you can trust your state government to do what is right?**

Just about always .....	2%
Most of the time .....	10%
Some of the time .....	49%
Almost never .....	31%
Not sure .....	9%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
The Democratic Party	12%	27%	16%	34%	11%
The Republican Party	10%	28%	21%	30%	11%
The Tea Party movement	17%	18%	9%	36%	21%

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

A great deal .....	38%
A fair amount .....	33%
Not much .....	21%
Nothing at all .....	8%

**30. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement?** Not asked respondent is unaware of the Tea Party movement

Yes .....	18%
No .....	82%

31. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement? Not asked respondent is unaware of the Tea Party movement

Strongly support	17%
Somewhat support	19%
Neither support, nor oppose	15%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	28%
Not sure	12%

32. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	32%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	15%

33. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	45%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	55%

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

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	26%
Not sure	12%

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

Strongly approve .....	1%
Somewhat approve .....	13%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	21%
Somewhat disapprove .....	28%
Strongly disapprove .....	27%
Not sure .....	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	30%
Off on the wrong track .....	54%
Not sure .....	17%

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

Getting better .....	27%
About the same .....	36%
Getting worse .....	29%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Higher .....	32%
About the same .....	31%
Lower .....	15%
Not sure .....	21%

39. 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 .....	4%

<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	February 12-15, 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 0.4 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.72.
<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>	32 questions not reported.