The Economist/YouGov Poll

Sample   1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted   February 19-22, 2011
Margin of Error ±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	14%	28%	20%	26%	12%
The economy	15%	21%	13%	42%	9%
Immigration	10%	19%	16%	40%	15%
The environment	14%	27%	17%	25%	16%
Terrorism	17%	27%	17%	26%	13%
Gay rights	16%	24%	12%	24%	24%
Education	17%	25%	19%	25%	14%
Health care	18%	20%	11%	43%	8%
Social security	12%	21%	18%	34%	15%
The budget deficit	12%	20%	15%	44%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	28%	22%	27%	12%
Taxes	11%	23%	19%	36%	11%

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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	82%	16%	1%	1%
Immigration	48%	35%	13%	4%
The environment	47%	35%	13%	5%
Terrorism	54%	32%	10%	3%
Gay rights	22%	26%	23%	28%
Education	58%	33%	7%	2%
Health care	68%	28%	3%	1%
Social security	63%	30%	6%	1%
The budget deficit	60%	33%	5%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	42%	40%	12%	6%
Taxes	62%	32%	5%	1%

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

The war in Iraq 1%
The economy 35%
Immigration 6%
The environment 4%
Terrorism 3%
Gay rights 3%
Education 7%
Health care 16%
Social security 12%
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 23%
Somewhat Disapprove 17%
Strongly Disapprove 33%
Not Sure 8%

5. What is your opinion about movie awards like the Oscars?

They are a good indication of what movies really are the best 23%
They are only the preference of the voters, which means that they don't mean
much for ordinary people 77%

6. How much attention do you pay to the awards a movie has won when YOU decide what to watch?

A great deal 7%
Some 18%
Not much 33%
None at all 36%
I never watch movies 5%

7. Which of the following movies have you seen?

Black Swan 9%
The Fighter 6%
Inception 32%
The Kids Are All Right 6%
The King's Speech 10%
127 Hours 2%
The Social Network 14%
Toy Story 3 .... 28%
True Grit 17%
Winter's Bone 3%
None of these 42%

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

Black Swan 5%
The Fighter 2%
Inception 7%
The Kids Are All Right 1%
The King's Speech 10%
127 Hours 0%
The Social Network 5%
Toy Story 3 . . . . 6%
True Grit 5%
Winter's Bone 0%
None of these 5%
Not sure 55%

9. Who should win the Oscar for best actor?

Javier Bardem for Biutiful 1%
Jeff Bridges for True Grit 12%
Jesse Eisenberg for The Social Network 4%
Colin Firth for The King's Speech 17%
James Franco for 127 Hours 3%
None of these 6%
Not sure 56%

10. Who should win the Oscar for best actress?

Annette Bening for The Kids Are All Right 4%
Nicole Kidman for Rabbit Hole 5%
Jennifer Lawrence for Winter's bone 2%
Natalie Portman for Black Swan 21%
Michelle Williams for Blue Valentine 1%
None of these 7%
Not sure 62%

11. Which ONE of the following best describes your feelings about recent events in Egypt?

Excited 6%
Hopeful 20%
Scared 9%
Worried 33%
Interested 25%
Bored 9%

12. After 18 days of protests, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has stepped down. Generally speaking, have President Obama's statements and actions during this period tended to...

Make matters worse 23%
Move things along toward a positive solution 30%
Not sure 47%

13. Which of the following countries do you consider to be a friend or an enemy of the United States?

	Ally of U.S.	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy of the U.S.	Not sure
Iran	1%	2%	22%	54%	20%
Israel	50%	18%	5%	5%	23%
Egypt	17%	36%	13%	3%	30%
Saudi Arabia	15%	29%	20%	10%	27%
Jordan	13%	28%	14%	7%	37%
Yemen	4%	14%	24%	16%	42%
Tunisia	2%	15%	18%	8%	56%
Iraq	6%	21%	27%	20%	26%
Bahrain	9%	20%	16%	7%	48%
Libya	2%	5%	34%	25%	34%

14. Do U.S. policies give too much or too little support to the following countries?

	Too much support	About the right amount of support	Too little support	Not sure
Israel	33%	25%	17%	25%
Egypt	32%	30%	5%	34%
Saudi Arabia	44%	21%	3%	32%
Bahrain	25%	21%	3%	51%
Palestine	34%	16%	16%	34%

15. How much have you heard about anti-government protests in the Middle Eastern country of Bahrain that were inspired by the recent uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt?

A lot 26%

A little 46%

Nothing at all 28%

16. Bahrain is the headquarters of the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, which oversees all of the naval operations in the Middle East. Should the Obama Administration publicly support the pro-democracy protesters in Bahrain? Asked of half of all respondents who have heard about protests in Bahrain

Definitely yes 14%

Probably yes 33%

Probably no 14%

Definitely no 8%

Not sure 31%

17. Should the Obama Administration publicly support the pro-democracy protesters in Bahrain? Asked of half of all respondents who have heard about protests in Bahrain

Definitely yes 19%

Probably yes 34%

Probably no 19%

Definitely no 7%

Not sure 22%

18. President Obama has submitted a budget that freezes spending on most discretionary Federal programs (not making any changes to Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security), reduces spending or even eliminates about 200 Federal programs, but protects Federal spending on a few priorities, such as education, clean energy technologies, medical research, high-speed rail transportation, and high speed internet connections to almost all U.S. households.

Looking over the list of five priorities that Obama protects from budget cuts, is there ONE area on this list that you think deserves to be severely reduced or eliminated entirely from the Federal budget as not a good use of Federal taxpayer funds?

Yes 60%
No 40%

19. Which priority should be severely reduced or eliminated Asked if respondent supports cutting budget priority

Education 7%
Clean energy technologies 7%
Medical research 1%
High-speed rail transportation 49%
High-speed internet connections to almost all U.S. households 36%

20. Is there ONE area on this list where you feel most strongly that Federal spending should be maintained or increased?

Yes 66%
No 34%

21. Which priority should be maintained or increased Asked if respondent supports preserving budget priority

Education 49%
Clean energy technologies 21%
Medical research 23%
High-speed rail transportation 3%
High-speed internet connections to almost all U.S. households 5%

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

A great deal 37%
A fair amount 34%
Not much 20%
Nothing at all 9%

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

Yes 20%
No 80%

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

Strongly support 18%
Somewhat support 17%
Neither support, nor oppose 17%
Somewhat oppose 9%
Strongly oppose 28%
Not sure 12%

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

Very concerned 54%
Somewhat concerned 33%
Not very concerned 10%
Not at all concerned 3%

26. 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 13%
In a few years 38%
Not necessary to balance the budget 12%

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

      Increase 6%
      Keep the same 10%
      Decrease 73%
      Not sure 11%

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

      Increase 20%
      Keep the same 31%
      Decrease 37%
      Not sure 11%

29. Are you willing to accept cuts to programs that benefit people like you in order to reduce the federal budget deficit?

      Definitely yes 19%
      Probably yes 33%
      Probably no 16%
      Definitely no 17%
      Not sure 16%

30. Are you willing to accept a tax increase on people like you in order to reduce the federal budget deficit?

      Definitely yes 9%
      Probably yes 21%
      Probably no 24%
      Definitely no 35%
      Not sure 11%

31. If your state needs to take steps to balance its budget this year, would you favor or oppose the following measures targeting state workers?

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Cut retirement benefits for new state employees	39%	34%	26%
Increase the amount that state employees have to contribute to their pension costs	59%	19%	22%
Increase the amount that state employees have to contribute to their health care costs	55%	23%	22%

32. Are you personally or is someone in your household a member of a labor union?

Yes, I personally belong to a union 9%
I do not belong to a union, but someone in my household does 10%
No 80%

33. Do you approve or disapprove of labor unions?

Strongly approve 18%
Somewhat approve 19%
Neither approve, nor disapprove 29%
Somewhat disapprove 15%
Strongly disapprove 19%

34. Do you favor or oppose allowing government employees to be represented by labor unions?

Strongly favor 14%
Somewhat favor 12%
Neither favor, nor oppose 30%
Somewhat oppose 16%
Strongly oppose 28%

35. Would you say labor unions have too much or too little influence on the policies of the Obama Administration?

Too much 42%
About the right amount 44%
Too little 14%

36. Have you heard, seen or read anything in the past few weeks about Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac?

Yes 42%
No 58%

As you may know, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac bought up mortgages from banks and mortgage companies, then sold bundles of mortgages on Wall Street to investors. That freed up more money for banks and mortgage companies to offer mortgages to more people, increasing the percentage of Americans who own their own home to over 69% at its peak in 2005. When the housing bubble burst, Fannie and Freddie went into government conservatorship, cost the Federal government over $150 billion on bad loans and investments, and continue to lose money. Today, with private banks and mortgage companies reluctant to grant new mortgages, the Federal government either owns or guarantees more than 90% of new mortgages and the percentage of Americans who own their own home has declined for five straight years.

37. Looking to the future of mortgages and housing, which worries you more:

The Federal government will get out of the mortgage business too quickly, and far fewer Americans will own their own homes. 28%
The Federal government will continue to monopolize the mortgage business, and almost all new mortgages will be government-backed 41%
Not sure 31%

38. Looking to the future of mortgages and housing, which approach do you support:

Phase out in 3-5 years. Right now, 90% of new mortgages are backed by the Federal government, and private banks and mortgage companies might be squeezed out of the mortgage business unless Congress acts quickly to eliminate Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Congressional Republicans would like to see Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac phased out in 3-5 years. 38%

Phase out in 8-10 years. Right now, 90% of new mortgages are backed by the Federal government, and mortgages with less than 10% down payment would disappear and interest rates on 30-year fixed rate mortgages might go up by 2 or 3 percentage points if Congress acts too quickly to eliminate Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Congressional Democrats would like to see Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac phased out in 8-10 years. 26%

Not sure 36%

39. When it comes to buying a new home, how much of an obstacle would each of the following be for you personally:

	Major obstacle	Minor obstacle	Not an obstacle at all
Having enough money for a down payment and closing costs	57%	22%	21%
Being able to find a house you like that you can afford	44%	32%	24%
Having enough confidence in your job security and future income to pay a mortgage	49%	25%	26%
Having a good enough credit rating to qualify for a mortgage	36%	20%	44%
Being able to find a bank or mortgage company willing to offer you a mortgage	42%	26%	32%

40. Last month, President Barack Obama appointed Jeffrey Immelt, CEO of General Electric, as his economic adviser. How much confidence do you have in the advice of GE CEO Immelt as a White House economic adviser?

A great deal 3%
Quite a bit 11%
Only some 18%
Very little 14%
None at all 16%
Not sure 37%

41. Do you think the minimum wage of your state should be changed?

Yes, increased significantly 24%
Yes, increased a little bit 24%
No, it should not be changed 30%
Yes, decreased a little bit 4%
Yes, decreased significantly 5%
Not sure 12%

42. Which do you prefer: a representative who...

Supports policies in line with his or her principles, regardless of how their constituents feel about those policies. 29%
Supports policies that their constituents want, regardless of his or her own personal beliefs. 71%

43. Do you think that voters are generally able to evaluate candidates and make competent vote choices?

Certainly yes 11%
Probably yes 25%
Probably not 38%
Certainly not 13%
Not sure 12%

44. Do you think that voters are generally able to evaluate <u>policies</u> and make competent vote choices?

        Certainly yes 13%
        Probably yes 29%
        Probably not 34%
        Certainly not 9%
        Not sure 14%

45. Some states have direct democracy through which people can directly vote on legislation. Do you favor or oppose direct democracy? Half of respondents saw the phrase "initiatives and referendums" instead of "direct democracy"

        Strongly favor 22%
        Favor 29%
        Neither favor, nor oppose 38%
        Oppose 7%
        Strongly oppose 3%

46. Would you support establishing a national referendum system to allow people to vote directly on national laws?

        Strongly support 24%
        Support 29%
        Neither support, nor oppose 32%
        Oppose 10%
        Strongly Oppose 6%

47. Do you think it is acceptable for a legislature to overturn policies which were established by direct democracy? Half of respondents saw the phrase "initiatives and referendums" instead of "direct democracy"

        Certainly yes 7%
        Probably yes 14%
        Probably not 25%
        Certainly not 25%
        Not sure 28%

48. Would you be less likely to vote for a legislator who votes to overturn legislation established by direct democracy? Half of respondents saw the phrase "initiatives and referendums" instead of "direct democracy"

Certainly yes 23%
Probably yes 25%
Probably not 15%
Certainly not 4%
Not sure 34%

49. Do you think direct democracy makes policies more representative of citizen demands?
Half of respondents saw the phrase "initiatives and referendums" instead of "direct democracy"

Certainly yes 18%
Probably yes 38%
Probably not 12%
Certainly not 3%
Not sure 30%

50. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal 30%
Liberal 21%
Moderate 28%
Conservative 5%
Very conservative 2%
Not sure 15%

51. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

Like a lot 34%
Like somewhat 30%
Dislike 23%
Not sure 13%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	33%	36%	31%
Intelligent	61%	27%	11%
Religious	16%	56%	29%
Inspiring	37%	43%	21%
Patriotic	28%	46%	26%
Strong	30%	49%	20%
Bold	31%	51%	19%
Experienced	14%	44%	42%
Sincere	36%	38%	26%
Partisan	27%	57%	16%
Effective	22%	48%	30%
Unifying	16%	52%	32%
In Touch	26%	45%	29%
Realistic	28%	42%	30%
Decisive	21%	54%	25%

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

Strongly approve 2%
Somewhat approve 13%
Neither approve nor disapprove 18%
Somewhat disapprove 26%
Strongly disapprove 32%
Not sure 9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 28%
Off on the wrong track 57%
Not sure 15%

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

Getting better 24%
About the same 34%
Getting worse 34%
Not sure 8%

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

Higher 28%
About the same 34%
Lower 16%
Not sure 22%

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

Better off financially 17%
About the same as now 42%
Worse off financially 35%
Not sure 6%

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Sponsorship   *The Economist*

Fieldwork   YouGov

Interviewing Dates   February 19-22, 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 0.5 to 6.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.79.

Number of respondents 1000

Margin of error $\pm$ 4% (adjusted for weighting)

Survey mode   Web-based interviews

Questions not reported 26 questions not reported.