

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted February 26-March 1, 2011  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.7\%$

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	11%	28%	21%	26%	13%
The economy	14%	22%	14%	42%	8%
Immigration	8%	22%	14%	40%	17%
The environment	13%	28%	16%	24%	18%
Terrorism	17%	25%	14%	31%	13%
Gay rights	17%	23%	11%	26%	23%
Education	17%	25%	17%	28%	14%
Health care	18%	22%	10%	42%	8%
Social security	13%	20%	18%	35%	14%
The budget deficit	10%	19%	16%	45%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	8%	26%	22%	31%	14%
Taxes	9%	22%	19%	39%	11%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	39%	40%	15%	6%
The economy	83%	14%	2%	2%
Immigration	49%	31%	14%	7%
The environment	45%	36%	12%	6%
Terrorism	56%	31%	8%	5%
Gay rights	24%	25%	26%	25%
Education	59%	31%	7%	3%
Health care	73%	21%	4%	2%
Social security	68%	25%	5%	1%
The budget deficit	63%	28%	6%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	42%	38%	14%	6%
Taxes	65%	27%	5%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	36%
Immigration	5%
The environment	2%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	7%
Health care	14%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	11%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	3%

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

Strongly Approve .....	17%
Somewhat Approve .....	27%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	14%
Strongly Disapprove .....	34%
Not Sure .....	8%

**5. 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%	23%	52%	22%
Israel	44%	21%	6%	4%	24%
Egypt	12%	30%	14%	6%	38%
Saudi Arabia	14%	29%	19%	10%	29%
Jordan	11%	29%	15%	6%	39%
Yemen	1%	13%	26%	15%	45%
Tunisia	1%	15%	20%	6%	57%
Iraq	4%	21%	29%	20%	27%
Bahrain	7%	22%	16%	6%	49%
Libya	0%	6%	32%	28%	34%

6. 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
Iran	2%	7%	19%	46%	25%
Israel	26%	31%	10%	9%	25%
Egypt	5%	28%	22%	16%	29%
Saudi Arabia	4%	20%	27%	20%	28%
Jordan	6%	22%	23%	15%	35%
Yemen	2%	8%	25%	27%	38%
Tunisia	2%	12%	21%	17%	47%
Iraq	2%	18%	25%	31%	23%
Bahrain	4%	14%	24%	16%	43%
Libya	3%	10%	24%	32%	31%

7. How much have you heard or read about the protests in Libya against Colonel Muammar Gaddafi?

A lot .....	46%
A little .....	38%
Nothing at all .....	16%

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to the protests in Libya? Asked if respondent is aware of protests in Libya

Strongly approve .....	17%
Somewhat approve .....	25%
Somewhat disapprove .....	15%
Strongly disapprove .....	20%
No opinion .....	24%

**9. How should the international community respond to events in Libya? Please check all options that you support. Asked if respondent is aware of protests in Libya**

Apply sanctions .....	52%
Send humanitarian aid .....	35%
Evacuate refugees .....	49%
Intervene militarily .....	12%
Impose a "no-fly zone" over Libya .....	38%
None of these .....	19%

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

Yes, I personally belong to a union .....	7%
I do not belong to a union, but someone in my household does .....	11%
No .....	82%

**11. Are you personally or is someone in your household a public sector employee?**

Yes, I am a public employee .....	9%
I am not a public employee, but someone in my household is .....	7%
No .....	84%

**12. Do you think that public sector employees get paid more or less than private sector employees with similar qualifications?**

More .....	30%
About the same .....	20%
Less .....	25%
Not sure .....	26%

13. On average, do you think that public sector employees devote more or less effort to their jobs than private sector employees?

More .....	10%
About the same .....	31%
Less .....	34%
Not sure .....	25%

14. Are the pension benefits of public sector employees too high or too low?

Too high .....	35%
About right .....	23%
Too low .....	10%
Not sure .....	32%

15. Do public sector employees have better or worse job security than private sector employees?

Better .....	46%
About the same .....	20%
Worse .....	8%
Not sure .....	25%

16. Do you approve or disapprove of labor unions?

Strongly approve .....	18%
Somewhat approve .....	19%
Neither approve, nor disapprove .....	32%
Somewhat disapprove .....	15%
Strongly disapprove .....	15%

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

Too much .....	39%
About the right amount .....	45%
Too little .....	16%

18. Should the following types of public sector employees be allowed to join unions?

	Yes	No	Not sure
Teachers	56%	28%	16%
Police	56%	27%	17%
Firefighters	57%	25%	18%
Clerical workers	49%	28%	22%
Sanitation workers	58%	25%	17%
Nurses	56%	27%	17%

19. How much have you heard or read about the possibility of a shutdown of the federal government if Congress and the president can't reach an agreement on federal spending?

A lot .....	34%
A little .....	36%
Nothing at all .....	30%

20. How likely is it that a budget agreement will not be reached, resulting in a shutdown of the federal government? Asked if respondent has heard about possible government shutdown

Very likely .....	13%
Somewhat likely .....	38%
Not too likely .....	33%
Not at all likely .....	8%
Not sure .....	9%

21. Do you think that you would be personally affected by a shutdown of the federal government?

Definitely yes .....	19%
Probably yes .....	24%
Hard to say .....	35%
Probably no .....	16%
Definitely no .....	6%

22. How closely do you follow the National Football League (NFL)?

Very closely .....	20%
Somewhat closely .....	23%
Not very closely .....	23%
Not at all .....	34%

23. How much have you heard or read about negotiations between NFL owners and the players' union to reach a new collective bargaining agreement?

A lot .....	16%
A little .....	36%
Nothing at all .....	48%

24. How likely is it that all or some of the of next season's NFL games will be canceled due to an inability of NFL owners and the players' union to reach an agreement? Asked if respondent is aware of NFL labor dispute

Very likely .....	13%
Somewhat likely .....	38%
Not too likely .....	28%
Not at all likely .....	9%
Not sure .....	13%



25. When it comes to the NFL labor dispute, how much sympathy do you have for the... Asked if respondent is aware of NFL labor dispute

	A lot	Some	Not too much	None at all
Players	14%	28%	26%	32%
Owners	5%	18%	29%	48%

26. Do you think that NFL players are paid too much or too little? Asked if respondent is aware of NFL labor dispute

Too much	62%
About the right amount	27%
Too little	5%
Not sure	6%

27. Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

Favor allowing same-sex marriage	38%
Oppose allowing same-sex marriage, but favor allowing civil unions instead	24%
Oppose legal recognition of same-sex relationships	26%
Not sure	13%

28. Should states be permitted to set their own policies when it comes to same-sex marriage, or is this something that should only be handled by the federal government?

States should be permitted	45%
Should only be handled by federal government	32%
Not sure	23%

29. What would be the impact of legalizing same-sex marriages on the institution of traditional male-female marriages?

Benefit	8%
Have no impact	61%
Threaten	31%

**30. Do laws prohibiting gay marriage violate the constitutional rights of homosexuals?**

Yes ..... 38%  
No ..... 40%  
Not sure ..... 22%

**31. Do you think same sex marriages are moral or immoral?**

Moral ..... 45%  
Immoral ..... 55%

**32. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion:**

Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society. .... 57%  
Homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society. .... 43%

**33. Do you think being homosexual is something a person chooses to be, or do you think it is something a person cannot change?**

Homosexuality is a choice ..... 42%  
Homosexuality is not a choice ..... 58%

**34. Do you think people who are openly gay or homosexual should be allowed to serve in the U.S. military?**

Yes ..... 62%  
No ..... 21%  
Not sure ..... 16%

**35. Do you think people who are openly gay or homosexual are currently allowed to serve in the U.S. military?**

Yes ..... 45%  
No ..... 33%  
Not sure ..... 22%

36. Please indicate whether you have done any of the following in the past year. (Check all that apply)

Written or called a politician .....	35%
Made a speech .....	5%
Donated money to a political party .....	20%
Been an active member of a group trying to influence public policy/government .....	16%
Written something that's been published .....	7%
Written letter to paper/magazine or called a radio/TV show .....	14%
Written an article for a magazine or newspaper .....	3%
Worked for a political party .....	7%
None of the above .....	54%

37. How important an issue is campaign finance reform to you?

Very important .....	32%
Somewhat important .....	36%
Not very important .....	19%
Not important at all .....	13%

38. Do you agree or disagree with the following: "Special interests have too much influence in Washington"

Strongly agree .....	56%
Somewhat agree .....	17%
Neither agree, nor disagree .....	21%
Somewhat disagree .....	3%
Strongly disagree .....	3%

**39. Do you agree or disagree with the following: "Members of Congress are controlled by those who fund their campaigns"**

Strongly agree .....	44%
Somewhat agree .....	31%
Neither agree, nor disagree .....	17%
Somewhat disagree .....	4%
Strongly disagree .....	4%

**40. What do you think is more of a threat?**

Big business .....	37%
Big government .....	63%

**41. Do you favor or oppose limiting the amount of money the following groups can spend in support of a political campaign?**

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor, nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Individuals	27%	20%	29%	11%	14%
Labor Unions	36%	17%	25%	8%	14%
Corporations	40%	13%	23%	9%	16%
Foreign corporations	47%	6%	20%	5%	22%
Special interest groups	38%	12%	24%	9%	17%
Candidates spending their own money on their own campaign	28%	14%	34%	10%	15%

**42. Do you think that political donations should be tax deductible?**

Definitely yes .....	13%
Probably yes .....	15%
Probably no .....	16%
Definitely no .....	40%
Not sure .....	16%

**43. Do you favor or oppose public financing of political campaigns?**

Strongly favor .....	10%
Somewhat favor .....	14%
Neither favor, nor oppose .....	34%
Somewhat oppose .....	14%
Strongly oppose .....	28%

**44. Do you think that prostitution should be legal?**

Definitely yes .....	15%
Probably yes .....	24%
Probably no .....	14%
Definitely no .....	37%
Not sure .....	10%

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

Very liberal .....	30%
Liberal .....	20%
Moderate .....	25%
Conservative .....	5%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	20%

**46. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	44%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	56%

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

Like a lot .....	36%
Like somewhat .....	28%
Dislike .....	25%
Not sure .....	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	34%	34%	32%
Intelligent	63%	24%	13%
Religious	18%	55%	28%
Inspiring	35%	42%	22%
Patriotic	30%	41%	29%
Strong	30%	47%	23%
Bold	31%	50%	20%
Experienced	17%	42%	41%
Sincere	35%	35%	29%
Partisan	25%	55%	20%
Effective	24%	45%	31%
Unifying	18%	49%	33%
In Touch	26%	44%	30%
Realistic	30%	40%	29%
Decisive	23%	49%	28%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	11%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	7%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	27%
Off on the wrong track	57%
Not sure	16%

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

Getting better .....	24%
About the same .....	33%
Getting worse .....	37%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Higher .....	25%
About the same .....	35%
Lower .....	21%
Not sure .....	20%

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

Better off financially .....	13%
About the same as now .....	41%
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>	February 26-March 1, 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 0.5 to 4, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.66.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	24 questions not reported.