

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted March 19-22, 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	13%	29%	23%	22%	13%
The economy	11%	25%	15%	39%	10%
Immigration	8%	23%	18%	37%	14%
The environment	11%	30%	18%	25%	16%
Terrorism	17%	27%	18%	26%	12%
Gay rights	15%	24%	14%	22%	25%
Education	14%	27%	19%	25%	14%
Health care	20%	20%	12%	40%	9%
Social security	11%	22%	21%	31%	15%
The budget deficit	9%	20%	17%	43%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	31%	22%	24%	13%
Taxes	9%	24%	23%	33%	11%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	35%	42%	17%	5%
The economy	81%	17%	1%	1%
Immigration	48%	36%	13%	3%
The environment	45%	36%	13%	6%
Terrorism	53%	34%	9%	3%
Gay rights	21%	29%	25%	25%
Education	60%	31%	7%	3%
Health care	74%	20%	5%	2%
Social security	63%	28%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	61%	29%	8%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	37%	43%	15%	4%
Taxes	62%	30%	6%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	39%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	3%
Education	9%
Health care	12%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%

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

Strongly Approve	16%
Somewhat Approve	28%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	34%
Not Sure	8%

5. Generally speaking, do you think nuclear power plants are safe or not safe?

Safe	43%
Not safe	34%
Not sure	23%

6. Do you currently live within 100 miles of a nuclear power plant?

Yes	33%
No	45%
Not sure	22%

7. Would you approve or disapprove of building more nuclear power plants to generate electricity?

Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	27%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	19%
Not sure	17%

8. Would you approve or disapprove if a nuclear power plant to generate electricity were built in your community ?

Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	14%

9. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion, even if neither is exactly right:

Generating power domestically through nuclear power plants is good, because it protects against increases in the cost of oil and reduces dependence on foreign imports.	59%
The risk of an accident at a nuclear plant is too great to justify nuclear power generation, even though it would protect against increases in the cost of oil and reduce dependence on foreign imports.	41%

10. Coal mining accidents kill about 30 people in the United States each year, while there have been no deaths from commercial nuclear power production in the United States. However, a nuclear power plant accident could pose a danger to public health. Which do you think is a safer source of power:

Coal mining	18%
Nuclear power	33%
Level of safety is about the same	26%
Not sure	22%

11. How much have you heard or read about the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11th?

A lot	76%
A little	22%
Nothing at all	2%

12. Do you have any close friends or relatives who live in Japan?

Yes 9%
No 91%

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has handled the U.S. response to the earthquake and tsunami in Japan? Asked if respondent is aware of earthquake and tsunami in Japan

Strongly approve 28%
Somewhat approve 31%
Somewhat disapprove 12%
Strongly disapprove 11%
No opinion 19%

14. Do you think the Japanese government is telling the public what it knows about the nuclear reactors damaged by the earthquake and tsunami? Asked if respondent is aware of earthquake and tsunami in Japan

Yes 21%
No 45%
Not sure 34%

15. If a similar nuclear accident happened in the U.S., do you think the U.S. government would do a better or worse job than the Japanese government in responding to the disaster? Asked if respondent is aware of earthquake and tsunami in Japan

Better 21%
About the same 42%
Worse 17%
Not sure 19%

16. In the last few years, there have been a number of natural and man-made disasters throughout the world. Please rate the seriousness of each of the following events:

	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not very serious	Not sure
The 2004 Christmas tsunami in South Asia	62%	22%	4%	12%
Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast	75%	20%	2%	3%
The 2010 floods in Pakistan	43%	35%	9%	13%
The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf Coast	65%	26%	6%	3%
The 2010 Haiti earthquake	73%	19%	4%	4%
The 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami	87%	9%	1%	3%

17. Which of those events do you think did the most damage?

The 2004 Christmas tsunami in South Asia	11%
Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast	10%
The 2010 floods in Pakistan	1%
The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf Coast	10%
The 2010 Haiti earthquake	8%
The 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami	59%

18. Immediately following each of these events, how much responsibility do you think the United States government had or has for assisting those affected by each of these events?

	A great deal	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
The 2004 Christmas tsunami in South Asia	14%	41%	21%	11%	12%
Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast	78%	13%	3%	2%	4%
The 2010 floods in Pakistan	9%	38%	24%	16%	13%
The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf Coast	69%	20%	4%	2%	5%
The 2010 Haiti earthquake	23%	43%	17%	10%	8%
The 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami	23%	45%	17%	8%	7%

19. How much have you heard or read about the violent conflict in Libya between rebels and forces loyal to Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi?¹

	March 19	March 12	March 5	February 26
A lot	55%	50%	52%	46%
A little	35%	37%	32%	38%
Nothing at all	10%	14%	15%	16%

¹ On February 26 and March 5, the question was worded: "How much have you heard or read about the protests in Libya against Colonel Muammar Gaddafi?"

20. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to the uprising in Libya?² Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

	March 19	March 12	March 5	February 26
Strongly approve	19%	14%	16%	17%
Somewhat approve	28%	31%	32%	25%
Somewhat disapprove	16%	17%	20%	15%
Strongly disapprove	21%	18%	16%	20%
No opinion	16%	20%	17%	24%

² On February 26 and March 5, the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to the protests in Libya?"

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

	March 19	March 12	March 5	February 26
Enforce sanctions ³	60%	53%	54%	52%
Send humanitarian aid	48%	43%	44%	35%
Evacuate refugees	45%	42%	50%	49%
Intervene militarily	32%	15%	15%	12%
Impose a "no-fly zone" over Libya	67%	46%	42%	38%
None of these	11%	18%	15%	19%

³ On February 26 and March 5, the response was worded: "Apply sanctions."

22. Should the U.S. help Libyan rebels fighting against Muammar Gaddafi or should it stay out of the conflict? Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

	March 19	March 12
Help	29%	19%
Stay out	46%	57%
Not sure	25%	25%

23. Do you support or oppose U.S. participation in a UN-backed international force to enforce a no-fly zone over Libya and take military action to protect civilians under threat of attack? Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Strongly support	29%
Somewhat support	32%
Neither support, nor oppose	12%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	8%
Not sure	10%

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

Strongly favor	40%
Favor	28%
Oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	7%
Not sure	14%

25. In your opinion, is the death penalty imposed too often or not often enough? Asked if respondent favors or has no opinion on the death penalty

Too often	5%
About the right amount	13%
Not often enough	61%
Not sure	21%

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

Yes	43%
No	17%
Not sure	41%

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... Asked if respondent favors or has no opinion on the death penalty

	Yes	No	Not sure
Female	90%	2%	8%
Mentally ill	37%	34%	29%
Mentally retarded	25%	48%	27%
A first time offender	62%	14%	24%

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

Yes	39%
No	41%
Not sure	21%

29. Given the same crime and context, do you think that racial minorities are more likely than whites to receive the death penalty?

Yes	41%
No	36%
Not sure	24%

30. 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	13%
About the same	38%
Worse care	35%
Not sure	15%

31. 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	54%
About the same	27%
Pay less	5%
Not sure	15%

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

Strongly favor	29%
Favor	14%
Neither favor nor oppose	24%
Oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	22%

33. 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.

	Strongly favor	Favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Require all U.S. citizens and legal residents to have health insurance, or pay a tax penalty?	12%	15%	21%	17%	36%
Require employers to offer their employees health insurance, or pay a tax penalty?	22%	24%	23%	14%	17%
Require health plans to provide coverage for children up to age 26?	25%	26%	24%	13%	13%
Prevent insurers from charging more to cover people who are in poor health?	35%	26%	20%	11%	7%
Prevent insurers from imposing lifetime limits on benefits?	36%	27%	23%	9%	6%
Require all insurance policies to provide a minimum package of benefits?	31%	32%	25%	7%	5%
Provide a subsidy to help people with incomes of between \$29,000 and \$88,000 per year (for a family of 4) afford insurance?	23%	25%	31%	12%	10%
Guarantee access to insurance coverage for people with pre-existing conditions?	44%	33%	18%	2%	3%

34. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	28%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	18%

35. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	43%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	57%

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

Like a lot	34%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	24%
Not sure	14%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	32%	39%	29%
Intelligent	63%	27%	10%
Religious	16%	56%	28%
Inspiring	37%	42%	21%
Patriotic	31%	41%	28%
Strong	30%	47%	24%
Bold	31%	49%	20%
Experienced	14%	41%	45%
Sincere	35%	37%	28%
Partisan	24%	56%	20%
Effective	21%	48%	31%
Unifying	18%	48%	34%
In touch	23%	46%	30%
Realistic	29%	43%	28%
Decisive	19%	50%	31%

38. 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	16%
Somewhat disapprove	25%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	31%
Off on the wrong track	54%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	21%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	35%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	22%
About the same	33%
Lower	21%
Not sure	23%

42. 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%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	March 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 4.8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.7.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.8% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	26 questions not reported.