

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted March 26-29, 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%	26%	20%	27%	13%
The economy	11%	22%	17%	41%	8%
Immigration	8%	21%	17%	38%	15%
The environment	11%	28%	19%	23%	19%
Terrorism	16%	27%	14%	30%	13%
Gay rights	12%	23%	12%	27%	27%
Education	14%	27%	19%	26%	15%
Health care	19%	18%	12%	42%	9%
Social security	11%	22%	18%	33%	17%
The budget deficit	9%	21%	18%	41%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	26%	22%	30%	13%
Taxes	9%	21%	23%	36%	12%

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	80%	17%	2%	1%
Immigration	48%	34%	13%	5%
The environment	46%	37%	11%	7%
Terrorism	53%	33%	10%	5%
Gay rights	21%	27%	23%	28%
Education	62%	28%	8%	3%
Health care	74%	21%	4%	2%
Social security	65%	27%	6%	2%
The budget deficit	57%	31%	7%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	38%	41%	16%	5%
Taxes	64%	28%	6%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	37%
Immigration	4%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	8%
Health care	16%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	7%
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	15%
Somewhat Approve	25%
Somewhat Disapprove	18%
Strongly Disapprove	32%
Not Sure	9%

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

A lot	73%
A little	23%
Nothing at all	3%

6. 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	26%
Somewhat approve	32%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	8%
No opinion	20%

7. 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	44%
Not sure	35%

8. 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	19%
Not sure	18%

9. Do you think the United States has a responsibility to provide humanitarian assistance when people in other countries need help, or don't you think the U.S. has that responsibility?

Has responsibility to assist	35%
Has no responsibility to assist	12%
Depends on circumstances	53%

10. In today's world, does the United States have a responsibility to intervene militarily in trouble spots around the globe, or is this not a responsibility of the United States?

Has responsibility to intervene	12%
Has no responsibility to intervene	22%
Depends on circumstances	65%

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

A lot	58%
A little	33%
Nothing at all	10%

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to the uprising in Libya?

Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	24%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	23%
Don't know	21%

13. How should the international community respond to events in Libya? Please check all options that you support.

Enforce sanctions	50%
Send humanitarian aid	48%
Evacuate refugees	36%
Enforce no-fly zone over Libya	52%
Send ground troops into Libya	15%
None of these	14%
Don't know	10%

14. Do you think Britain, France, the U.S. and other countries are right or wrong to take military action in Libya?

Right	44%
Wrong	17%
Don't know	39%

15. Do you think the goals of the UN-backed military mission in Libya are clear or not?

Very clear	8%
Somewhat clear	22%
Not very clear	28%
Not at all clear	18%
Don't know	25%

16. How long do you think the enforcement of a no-fly zone over Libya will last?

Less than a month	4%
About a month	9%
Several months	29%
About a year	5%
Over a year	10%
Don't know	43%

17. How much effort do you believe the U.S. and its allies are making to avoid casualties among Libyan civilians?

A very great effort	32%
Some effort	31%
Not much effort	8%
No effort	2%
Don't know	27%

18. From what you know, which of these statements do you think probably comes nearest the truth?

Most Libyans support Gaddafi and wish him to remain in power	2%
Most Libyans wish to see Gaddafi removed from power and therefore welcome the coalition forces' military action	40%
Most Libyans wish to see Gaddafi removed from power but nevertheless regard the coalition forces as enemies of the Libyan people	29%
Don't know	30%

19. How much do you trust the following to tell the truth about what is happening in the military action against Libya?

	Trust a great deal	Trust a fair amount	Do not trust much	Do not trust at all	Don't know
The British military	15%	38%	16%	6%	26%
The American military	22%	36%	17%	6%	20%
President Obama	20%	25%	17%	21%	18%

20. Do you think the military action in Libya should actively aim to remove Colonel Gaddafi from power, or do only what is necessary to protect civilians from attack?

Should actively attempt to remove Colonel Gaddafi from power	34%
Should do only what is necessary to protect civilians from attack	39%
Don't know	27%

21. If the chance arose for the military coalition to target Colonel Gaddafi himself in an air strike, should they attempt to kill him?

Colonel Gaddafi should be targeted personally if the opportunity arises	46%
Colonel Gaddafi should not be targeted personally	17%
Don't know	36%

22. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
"Improved relations with Libya over the last decade were a case of putting economic interests before human rights."	17%	30%	10%	6%	36%
"Improved relations with Libya over the last decade were a genuine attempt to encourage reform in Libya, that ultimately failed."	8%	30%	16%	11%	35%
"If necessary, America should be prepared to send ground troops into Libya as part of a coalition operation to depose Colonel Gaddafi."	8%	13%	18%	36%	25%

23. Which of these do you think is most likely to happen in Libya?

Libya will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	6%
Libya will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	27%
Libya will probably never become a stable democracy.	38%
Not sure	30%

24. Which of these do you think is most likely to happen in Egypt?

Egypt will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	12%
Egypt will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	33%
Egypt will probably never become a stable democracy.	26%
Not sure	29%

25. Which of these do you think is most likely to happen in Iraq?

Iraq will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	6%
Iraq will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	28%
Iraq will probably never become a stable democracy.	44%
Not sure	22%

26. Which of these do you think is most likely to happen in Afghanistan?

Afghanistan will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	2%
Afghanistan will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	16%
Afghanistan will probably never become a stable democracy.	59%
Not sure	23%

27. 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
- High-speed internet connections to almost all U.S. households

Which if any, should have their budgets cut? Please check all that apply.

Education	16%
Clean energy technologies	24%
Medical research	14%
High-speed rail transportation	63%
High-speed internet connections to almost all U.S. households	53%
None of the above	13%

28. Which if any, should have their budgets maintained or increased? Please check all that apply.

Education	60%
Clean energy technologies	40%
Medical research	53%
High-speed rail transportation	13%
High-speed internet connections to almost all U.S. households	14%
None of the above	7%

29. 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	47%
Favor cutting less than \$100 billion in government spending	37%
Oppose any cuts in government spending	16%

30. 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 cuts in government spending

Community health centers	17%
Rebuilding highways, bridges, and roads	15%
High-speed rail	68%
Federal financial aid to low-income college students	26%
Low-income heating assistance	19%
Public broadcasting	49%
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	44%
National Endowment for the Arts	63%
National Endowment for the Humanities	52%
Renewable energy programs	29%
Clean air and water programs	20%
International food aid	48%
Maternal and child nutrition programs	19%
None of these	10%

31. How important is the issue of immigration in your LOCAL community?

Very important	34%
Somewhat important	30%
Not very important	25%
Unimportant	11%

32. Should LEGAL immigration be increased, decreased, or kept at the current level?

Increased	22%
Decreased	36%
Kept at the current level	42%

33. Here are some policies that have been proposed to deal with illegal immigration. Which do you support?

	Support	Oppose	Not sure
Increasing fines for employers who hire illegal immigrants	75%	11%	14%
Making it a crime to hire illegal immigrants	70%	14%	15%
Not allowing illegal immigrants to send their children to public school	49%	30%	21%
Building more border fences	54%	24%	21%
Using the National Guard to patrol the Mexican Border	67%	14%	19%
Requiring police to report illegal immigrants to federal government	71%	16%	13%
Requiring churches to report illegal immigrants	35%	44%	21%
Allowing police to ask anyone they think might be an illegal immigrant to prove they are in the United States legally	52%	32%	16%

34. Would you favor a program allowing people from other countries to be guest workers in the U.S. for a temporary period of time, and then be required to return to their home country?

Favor	46%
Oppose	30%
Not sure	24%

35. In general, do you feel the laws covering the sale of handguns should be...

More strict	45%
Kept as they are	34%
Less strict	13%
Not sure	8%

36. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	19%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	19%

37. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	25%
Not sure	14%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	34%	36%	30%
Intelligent	60%	28%	12%
Religious	17%	57%	26%
Inspiring	35%	43%	22%
Patriotic	31%	41%	28%
Strong	32%	44%	24%
Bold	29%	53%	19%
Experienced	15%	44%	41%
Sincere	35%	37%	28%
Partisan	27%	55%	18%
Effective	23%	47%	31%
Unifying	18%	48%	34%
In touch	25%	45%	31%
Realistic	29%	41%	30%
Decisive	24%	50%	26%

40. Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does during its first three months?

More than usual	11%
About the same	31%
Less than usual	36%
Not sure	23%

41. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of John Boehner?

Very favorable	7%
Somewhat favorable	16%
Somewhat unfavorable	14%
Very unfavorable	17%
Not sure	46%

42. 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%	12%	24%	19%	28%	12%
The Democrats in Congress	8%	10%	25%	17%	28%	12%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	11%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	28%
Not sure	14%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	26%
Off on the wrong track	56%
Not sure	18%

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

Getting better	22%
About the same	35%
Getting worse	35%
Not sure	8%

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

Higher	28%
About the same	32%
Lower	17%
Not sure	24%

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

Better off financially	12%
About the same as now	44%
Worse off financially	38%
Not sure	6%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	March 26-29, 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 0.4 to 4.8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.71.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.8% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	22 questions not reported.