

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted April 9-12, 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	12%	26%	20%	30%	12%
The economy	11%	23%	16%	42%	9%
Immigration	7%	23%	17%	38%	15%
The environment	12%	30%	17%	26%	15%
Terrorism	14%	28%	15%	31%	13%
Gay rights	13%	24%	13%	26%	24%
Education	15%	26%	19%	27%	14%
Health care	17%	21%	12%	41%	9%
Social security	11%	23%	17%	34%	15%
The budget deficit	9%	22%	16%	43%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	9%	25%	22%	31%	12%
Taxes	9%	21%	21%	37%	12%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	38%	40%	16%	5%
The economy	80%	17%	1%	2%
Immigration	45%	34%	15%	6%
The environment	45%	36%	12%	7%
Terrorism	51%	34%	11%	5%
Gay rights	21%	27%	24%	28%
Education	58%	31%	7%	4%
Health care	69%	24%	4%	3%
Social security	62%	30%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	61%	30%	5%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	40%	39%	15%	5%
Taxes	63%	29%	5%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	36%
Immigration	5%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	8%
Health care	13%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	13%
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 .....	25%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	16%
Strongly Disapprove .....	34%
Not Sure .....	9%

**5. 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 .....	53%
A little .....	37%
Nothing at all .....	10%

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

Strongly approve .....	14%
Somewhat approve .....	29%
Somewhat disapprove .....	18%
Strongly disapprove .....	26%
No opinion .....	12%

**7. 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

Enforce sanctions .....	45%
Send humanitarian aid .....	45%
Evacuate refugees .....	36%
Enforce no-fly zone over Libya .....	48%
Send ground troops into Libya .....	11%
Provide arms to rebels .....	18%
Target Colonel Gaddafi to remove him from power .....	41%
None of these .....	17%

**8. Do you think the rebels in Libya will be successful in removing Colonel Gaddafi from power or not?** Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Rebels will succeed in removing Gaddafi from power .....	27%
Gaddafi will remain in power .....	25%
Not sure .....	48%

**9. How much effort do you believe the U.S. and its allies are making to avoid casualties among Libyan civilians?** Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

A very great effort .....	28%
Some effort .....	39%
Not much effort .....	13%
No effort .....	3%
Not sure .....	17%

**10. Income taxes for 2010 are due on April 18th, 2011. Have you filed your 2010 federal income tax return?**

Already filed 2010 taxes .....	60%
Haven't yet, but plan on filing before April 18, 2011 .....	20%
Have asked for or will ask for an extension of time to file 2010 taxes .....	3%
Don't plan on filing 2010 taxes .....	17%

**11. Do you feel you pay more than your fair share in federal income taxes, less than your fair share, or is the amount you pay about right?**

More than fair share .....	41%
About right .....	42%
Less than fair share .....	4%
I don't file taxes .....	14%

**12. Do you expect the amount of taxes you must pay to increase or decrease in the next year?**  
Asked if respondent files taxes

Increase .....	50%
Stay about the same .....	44%
Decrease .....	6%

**13. Which party do you trust more to make the right decisions about taxes?**

Democrats .....	36%
Republicans .....	29%
About the same .....	34%

**14. How much have you heard or read about the federal spending agreement that was reached between Congress and the president to prevent a government shutdown?**

A lot .....	37%
A little .....	47%
Nothing at all .....	16%

**15. Who deserves the most credit for preventing a government shutdown?** Asked if respondent is aware of agreement to prevent government shutdown

President Obama .....	23%
Republicans in Congress .....	25%
Democrats in Congress .....	13%
Not sure .....	39%

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

Definitely yes .....	19%
Probably yes .....	22%
Hard to say .....	27%
Probably no .....	22%
Definitely no .....	11%

17. Would a government shutdown help or hurt the U.S. economy?

Help .....	11%
No effect .....	13%
Hurt .....	61%
Not sure .....	15%

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

Very concerned .....	52%
Somewhat concerned .....	36%
Not very concerned .....	10%
Not at all concerned .....	2%

19. 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 .....	41%
Next year .....	10%
In a few years .....	38%
Not necessary to balance the budget .....	11%

20. How much responsibility do you think President Barack Obama has for the current size of the federal budget deficit?

Most .....	27%
Some .....	31%
Only a little .....	25%
None .....	8%
Not sure .....	9%

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

Increase .....	6%
Keep the same .....	14%
Decrease .....	68%
Not sure .....	12%

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

Increase .....	23%
Keep the same .....	29%
Decrease .....	37%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Definitely yes .....	20%
Probably yes .....	27%
Probably no .....	17%
Definitely no .....	21%
Not sure .....	14%

24. 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 .....	25%
Definitely no .....	34%
Not sure .....	11%

**25. Do you currently have health insurance?**

Yes ..... 75%  
 No ..... 21%  
 Not sure ..... 4%

**26. What kind of health care coverage do you currently have?** Asked if respondent has health insurance

I have private insurance or belong to an HMO. .... 60%  
 I'm covered by a government plan, such as Medicare or Medicaid. .... 28%  
 Other ..... 8%  
 Not sure ..... 3%

**27. Do you think the cost of government entitlement programs, including Social Security and Medicare, is a major economic problem for the U.S.?**

Yes ..... 48%  
 No ..... 34%  
 Not sure ..... 18%

**28. Do you think it is possible to ensure the long-term future of government entitlement programs, like Social Security and Medicare, without either raising taxes or cutting benefits?**

Possible ..... 44%  
 Not possible ..... 33%  
 Not sure ..... 23%

**29. Do you favor or oppose reducing the benefits that the government pays out for the following programs?**

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Social Security	26%	58%	16%
Medicare	30%	53%	17%
Medicaid	35%	46%	19%



**30. Do you favor major or minor cuts to Social Security benefits?** Asked if respondent favors reducing Social Security benefits

Major .....28%  
 Minor .....72%

**31. Do you favor major or minor cuts to Medicare** Asked if respondent favors reducing Medicare benefits

Major .....30%  
 Minor .....70%

**32. Do you favor major or minor cuts to Medicaid?** Asked if respondent favors reducing Medicaid benefits

Major .....49%  
 Minor .....51%

**33. Which party do you trust more to make the right decisions about Medicare and Medicaid?**

Democrats .....37%  
 Republicans .....27%  
 About the same .....36%

**34. Would you favor or oppose replacing the federal government’s Medicare plan with a system of government-issued vouchers for seniors to purchase private insurance?**

Strongly favor .....8%  
 Somewhat favor .....14%  
 Neither favor, nor oppose .....37%  
 Somewhat oppose .....13%  
 Strongly oppose .....28%

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

Very liberal .....	29%
Liberal .....	17%
Moderate .....	28%
Conservative .....	4%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	20%

**36. Do you think Barack Obama...**

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

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

Like a lot .....	29%
Like somewhat .....	30%
Dislike .....	28%
Not sure .....	13%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	26%	50%	25%
Decisive	19%	50%	31%
Effective	19%	49%	33%
Experienced	12%	45%	43%
Honest	30%	40%	30%
In touch	23%	45%	31%
Inspiring	32%	45%	23%
Intelligent	56%	31%	13%
Partisan	25%	55%	20%
Patriotic	25%	48%	26%
Realistic	28%	43%	29%
Religious	16%	58%	26%
Sincere	32%	40%	28%
Strong	27%	49%	24%
Unifying	16%	51%	33%

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

More than usual	14%
About the same	26%
Less than usual	37%
Not sure	23%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	12%
Neither approve nor disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	34%
Not sure	13%

**41. 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	6%	10%	22%	18%	32%	10%
The Democrats in Congress	9%	11%	21%	20%	30%	10%

**42. In your opinion, do the Democrats in Congress...**

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives .....	30%
Mostly just oppose the other party .....	46%
Not sure .....	24%

**43. In your opinion, do the Republicans in Congress...**

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives .....	26%
Mostly just oppose the other party .....	53%
Not sure .....	21%

**44. In dealing with President Obama, do you think the Republicans in Congress...**

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives .....	26%
Mostly just oppose the President .....	52%
Not sure .....	22%

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

Compromises to get things done. ....	60%
Sticks to his or her principles, no matter what. ....	40%

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

A great deal .....	38%
A fair amount .....	30%
Not much .....	21%
Nothing at all .....	10%

**47. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement?** Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Yes .....	20%
No .....	80%

**48. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?** Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Strongly support .....	16%
Somewhat support .....	19%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	15%
Somewhat oppose .....	9%
Strongly oppose .....	29%
Not sure .....	12%

**49. Would you say things in this country today are...**

Generally headed in the right direction .....	23%
Off on the wrong track .....	61%
Not sure .....	16%

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

Getting better .....	19%
About the same .....	36%
Getting worse .....	38%
Not sure .....	8%

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

Higher .....	25%
About the same .....	33%
Lower .....	20%
Not sure .....	22%

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

Better off financially .....	13%
About the same as now .....	44%
Worse off financially .....	38%
Not sure .....	5%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	April 9-12, 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 3.4, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.67.
<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>	23 questions not reported.