

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted April 16-19, 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%	26%	24%	27%	13%
The economy	14%	22%	17%	39%	8%
Immigration	8%	21%	17%	38%	16%
The environment	12%	28%	18%	25%	17%
Terrorism	14%	31%	16%	26%	13%
Gay rights	12%	26%	12%	24%	26%
Education	14%	25%	19%	26%	14%
Health care	19%	20%	12%	42%	7%
Social security	15%	20%	18%	34%	13%
The budget deficit	11%	24%	15%	40%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	7%	27%	24%	30%	12%
Taxes	11%	23%	18%	37%	10%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	34%	41%	17%	8%
The economy	79%	18%	2%	1%
Immigration	46%	34%	13%	7%
The environment	42%	38%	14%	6%
Terrorism	48%	34%	12%	5%
Gay rights	21%	28%	22%	30%
Education	55%	32%	10%	3%
Health care	71%	23%	4%	2%
Social security	62%	29%	6%	2%
The budget deficit	60%	27%	9%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	37%	40%	15%	8%
Taxes	62%	31%	5%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	35%
Immigration	3%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	8%
Health care	14%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	13%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	4%

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

Strongly Approve	16%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	34%
Not Sure	8%

5. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Sarah Palin	16%	18%	13%	46%	8%
John Boehner	10%	20%	16%	23%	31%
Mitch McConnell	4%	18%	16%	20%	42%
Barack Obama	24%	23%	12%	36%	6%
Mike Huckabee	12%	25%	18%	19%	26%
Harry Reid	6%	17%	14%	32%	31%
Joe Biden	15%	26%	17%	28%	14%
Mitt Romney	11%	25%	23%	18%	24%
Michele Bachmann	11%	13%	10%	27%	38%
Newt Gingrich	8%	20%	17%	33%	22%
Donald Trump	11%	26%	20%	31%	10%
Nancy Pelosi	9%	20%	13%	41%	17%

6. Thinking ahead to the 2012 presidential election, who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney? Among registered voters only

Barack Obama	45%
Mitt Romney	41%
Not sure	14%

7. How do you feel about increased drilling for oil and natural gas offshore in U.S. waters?

Strongly favor	39%
Mildly favor	18%
Mildly oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	15%
Not sure	13%

8. How much have you heard or read about last year's explosion on an offshore oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico that killed 11 workers and resulted in an oil spill of thousands of barrels a day?

A lot	72%
A little	20%
Nothing at all	8%

9. Which of these two statements comes closer to your own personal point of view? Asked if respondent is aware of Deepwater Horizon accident

The technology for offshore oil drilling generally works well. Last year's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was an unusual accident.	64%
The technology for offshore oil drilling is generally risky and not reliable. An accident like the one in the Gulf of Mexico was inevitable.	36%

10. Do you support or oppose the government issuing permits to drill offshore in the Gulf of Mexico to oil companies that meet new safety standards?

Support issuing permits to any oil company	47%
Support issuing permits to any oil company except BP	13%
Oppose issuing permits	17%
Not sure	23%

11. From what you have heard or read, how much progress has been made so far in cleaning up the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico following the explosion on an offshore oil rig?

A lot	30%
Some	40%
Not much	13%
None at all	2%
Not sure	14%

12. Would you say the oil spill has been successfully cleaned up or is there still work that needs to be done to clean it up? Asked of respondent believes a lot of progress has been made toward cleaning up the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico

Yes, has been successfully cleaned up	28%
No, more work still needs to be done	63%
Not sure	9%

13. How would you rate the job BP has done to make sure the oil spill is cleaned up?

Excellent	5%
Good	31%
Only Fair	31%
Poor	21%
Not sure	12%

14. How would you rate the job the federal government has done to make sure the oil spill is cleaned up?

Excellent	4%
Good	25%
Only Fair	35%
Poor	21%
Not sure	14%

15. 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	32%
Nothing at all	10%

16. 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	56%
Send humanitarian aid	48%
Evacuate refugees	39%
Enforce no-fly zone over Libya	52%
Send ground troops into Libya	9%
Provide arms to rebels	17%
Target Colonel Gaddafi to remove him from power	49%
None of these	15%

17. 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	24%
Not sure	49%

18. How long do you think the enforcement of a no-fly zone over Libya will last? Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Less than a month	2%
About a month	6%
Several months	41%
About a year	8%
Over a year	9%
Not sure	33%

19. 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	46%
A little	40%
Nothing at all	13%

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

President Obama	26%
Republicans in Congress	29%
Democrats in Congress	8%
Not sure	36%

21. Do you approve or disapprove of the 2011 budget bill that was passed by Congress on Thursday?

Strongly approve	5%
Somewhat approve	26%
Somewhat disapprove	25%
Strongly disapprove	16%
No opinion	29%

22. How much trust do you have in each of the following to make the right decisions about the federal budget?

	A great deal	Quite a bit	Only some	Very little	None at all	Not sure
President Obama	15%	17%	17%	10%	35%	7%
Republicans in Congress	8%	11%	24%	19%	30%	8%
Democrats in Congress	7%	13%	24%	18%	31%	8%

23. If you had to choose, which approach would you prefer that members of Congress take when negotiating a federal budget agreement?

- Lawmakers should compromise to reach a budget agreement, even if it means sacrificing some priorities that they believe in 66%
- Lawmakers should fight for the priorities that they believe in, even if it means risking a government shutdown 34%

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

- Definitely yes 17%
- Probably yes 23%
- Hard to say 33%
- Probably no 20%
- Definitely no 7%

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

- Very concerned 52%
- Somewhat concerned 32%
- Not very concerned 11%
- Not at all concerned 5%

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 10%
- In a few years 39%
- Not necessary to balance the budget 13%

27. Here are some proposals to increase government revenue or decrease government spending. Do you favor or oppose...

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support, nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Charging admission to federal monuments and museums in Washington, DC	16%	25%	20%	15%	17%	6%
Imposing a sales tax on soda and other sweetened beverages	18%	19%	17%	12%	28%	5%
Raising the Social Security retirement age from 67 to 70	13%	15%	15%	19%	32%	5%
Eliminating the practice of lawmakers directing spending projects to their own states or districts, known as "earmarks"	51%	15%	11%	5%	9%	9%
Eliminating farm subsidies	24%	18%	18%	16%	13%	11%
Eliminating NASA's human flight program	12%	14%	26%	21%	20%	7%

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

Increase	4%
Keep the same	13%
Decrease	73%
Not sure	10%

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

Increase	26%
Keep the same	31%
Decrease	30%
Not sure	13%

30. Do you think federal spending on the following programs should be increased or decreased?

	Increase	Keep the same	Decrease	Not sure
Social Security	29%	51%	12%	8%
National Defense	16%	42%	36%	6%
Medicare	26%	51%	16%	7%
Aid to the Poor	22%	45%	25%	8%
Medicaid	22%	49%	23%	6%
Veterans' Benefits	33%	54%	6%	6%
Health research	29%	47%	18%	7%
Education	42%	34%	20%	5%
Highways	26%	52%	15%	7%
Mass Transit	25%	36%	30%	9%
Foreign Aid	4%	17%	73%	7%
Unemployment benefits	15%	51%	27%	6%
Science and Technology	28%	45%	19%	8%
Agriculture	12%	41%	38%	9%
Housing	14%	39%	38%	9%
The Environment	24%	37%	33%	7%

31. Which ONE of the following approaches for reducing the federal budget deficit comes closest to your own opinion:

- Focus solely on reducing spending on federal programs AND on reducing benefits to individuals, with no tax increases 26%
- Focus mainly on reducing spending on federal programs (but no reductions on benefits to individuals) and also raise taxes on the wealthiest individuals . 26%
- Reduce spending on federal programs (but no reductions on benefits to individuals) and raise taxes on everyone, with an equal focus on both 9%
- Focus mainly on increasing taxes on the wealthy, with some reductions in spending on federal programs but no reductions on benefits to individuals 26%
- Not sure 13%

32. In 2012, tax cuts initiated under President Bush and extended under President Obama are scheduled to expire. Which of the following would you support:

- Retain the tax cuts for everyone25%
- Retain the tax cuts for most individuals, but let the tax cuts expire and raise taxes to former levels for those who make more than \$200,000 and couples who make more than \$250,000 50%
- Let the tax cuts expire and raise taxes to former levels for most Americans 12%
- Not sure 13%

33. Would you say Barack Obama is...

- Very liberal 31%
- Liberal 18%
- Moderate 27%
- Conservative 4%
- Very conservative 1%
- Not sure 18%

34. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

Like a lot	35%
Like somewhat	26%
Dislike	28%
Not sure	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	26%	51%	23%
Decisive	22%	48%	30%
Effective	21%	42%	36%
Experienced	14%	42%	45%
Honest	33%	36%	31%
In touch	27%	40%	33%
Inspiring	34%	41%	25%
Intelligent	59%	28%	13%
Partisan	25%	55%	20%
Patriotic	31%	42%	27%
Realistic	30%	40%	30%
Religious	14%	56%	30%
Sincere	35%	36%	30%
Strong	27%	48%	25%
Unifying	16%	46%	38%

37. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about President Obama's approach to issues facing African-Americans?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree, nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
He's too close to the old-fashioned approach of older African-American leaders	7%	7%	33%	14%	18%	22%
He's too quick to give up on African-American concerns to win broader support	5%	8%	35%	13%	18%	21%
He has more insight into the real issues facing African-Americans than any president in my lifetime	14%	20%	23%	9%	18%	16%
He represents a creative, new approach to addressing issues facing African-Americans	8%	15%	31%	10%	17%	21%

38. Which of these words or phrases would you use to describe your impression of Barack Obama's leadership style?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Creative	23%	52%	25%
Disengaged	29%	43%	28%
Engaging	26%	53%	20%
Hard-working	39%	41%	21%
Lazy	16%	45%	39%
Lectures people	35%	51%	13%
Lets Congress run things	26%	55%	19%
On top of it	24%	43%	33%
Sells out to big business	24%	53%	23%
The adult in the room	26%	47%	27%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	26%
Off on the wrong track	58%
Not sure	16%

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

More than usual	15%
About the same	28%
Less than usual	35%
Not sure	22%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	13%
Neither approve nor disapprove	12%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	12%

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

A great deal	41%
A fair amount	31%
Not much	19%
Nothing at all	9%

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

Yes	19%
No	81%

44. 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	19%
Somewhat support	17%
Neither support, nor oppose	16%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	30%
Not sure	10%

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

Getting better	20%
About the same	35%
Getting worse	37%
Not sure	8%

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

Higher	25%
About the same	31%
Lower	21%
Not sure	23%

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

Better off financially	15%
About the same as now	43%
Worse off financially	36%
Not sure	6%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	April 16-19, 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 4.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.63.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	25 questions not reported.