

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted April 30-May 3, 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	12%	26%	21%	26%	15%
The economy	13%	25%	13%	39%	10%
Immigration	8%	21%	15%	38%	18%
The environment	12%	28%	16%	24%	20%
Terrorism	17%	26%	14%	27%	16%
Gay rights	15%	21%	14%	23%	27%
Education	15%	25%	17%	25%	17%
Health care	21%	19%	13%	38%	9%
Social security	13%	22%	17%	32%	16%
The budget deficit	11%	21%	14%	41%	13%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	25%	22%	28%	15%
Taxes	12%	21%	19%	37%	12%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	33%	43%	18%	6%
The economy	77%	19%	2%	2%
Immigration	44%	36%	14%	6%
The environment	42%	35%	16%	7%
Terrorism	48%	32%	13%	6%
Gay rights	22%	26%	24%	28%
Education	57%	30%	10%	3%
Health care	70%	23%	5%	2%
Social security	62%	28%	9%	1%
The budget deficit	57%	30%	8%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	35%	42%	16%	7%
Taxes	61%	29%	8%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	37%
Immigration	5%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	7%
Health care	12%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	11%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%

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

Strongly Approve .....	19%
Somewhat Approve .....	26%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	13%
Strongly Disapprove .....	33%
Not Sure .....	9%

**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	13%	19%	11%	46%	10%
John Boehner	6%	18%	16%	21%	38%
Mitch McConnell	3%	17%	13%	22%	45%
Mike Huckabee	9%	24%	18%	19%	29%
Mitt Romney	8%	29%	21%	16%	26%
Michele Bachmann	9%	12%	9%	28%	42%
Newt Gingrich	8%	18%	17%	33%	24%
Donald Trump	9%	20%	16%	44%	11%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Defense Secretary Robert Gates	13%	29%	13%	7%	37%
CIA Director Leon Panetta	8%	23%	14%	10%	46%
Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke	5%	22%	16%	20%	36%
Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner	4%	17%	14%	25%	40%
U.S. Army General David Petraeus	24%	29%	7%	6%	34%

7. How much trust do you have in the Federal Reserve Board to handle the problems of the economy?

A great deal .....	4%
Quite a bit .....	6%
Only some .....	23%
Very little .....	29%
None at all .....	22%
Not sure .....	15%

8. Thinking ahead to the 2012 presidential election, who do you think you would vote for if you had the following choices...

Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Mike Huckabee? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama .....	49%
Mike Huckabee .....	37%
Not sure .....	14%

9. Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Donald Trump? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama .....	51%
Donald Trump .....	35%
Not sure .....	13%

10. Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Newt Gingrich? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama .....	50%
Newt Gingrich .....	34%
Not sure .....	16%

11. Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Generations of slavery and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for blacks to work their way out of the lower class.	12%	20%	21%	15%	32%
Over the past few years, blacks have gotten less than they deserve.	6%	11%	31%	17%	35%
It's really a matter of some people not trying hard enough; if blacks would only try harder they could be just as well off as whites.	24%	22%	27%	12%	15%
Irish, Italians, Jewish and many other minorities overcame prejudice and worked their way up. Blacks should do the same without any special favors.	40%	21%	23%	9%	7%

12. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Iraq?

Yes .....	53%
No .....	31%
Not sure .....	16%

**13. Do you think Barack Obama has a clear plan for U.S. strategy in Iraq?**

Yes ..... 24%  
No ..... 50%  
Not sure ..... 26%

**14. Do you favor increasing or decreasing the number of U.S. troops in Iraq?**

Increase ..... 7%  
Keep the same ..... 25%  
Decrease ..... 68%

**15. What do you think will eventually happen in Iraq?**

The United States will win the war in Iraq. .... 31%  
The United States will withdraw from Iraq without winning. .... 69%

**16. 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. .... 4%  
Iraq will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two. .... 34%  
Iraq will probably never become a stable democracy. .... 42%  
Not sure ..... 19%

**17. Do you think most people in Iraq want to have U.S. troops in their country or would they like the U.S. to leave?**

Most would like U.S. troops to stay ..... 10%  
About equally divided ..... 35%  
Most would like U.S. troops to leave ..... 41%  
Not sure ..... 14%

**18. Are Iraqi civilians better off today than they were when the war in Iraq began?**

Definitely yes .....	17%
Probably yes .....	33%
Probably no .....	17%
Definitely no .....	11%
Not sure .....	22%

**19. Is Afghanistan part of the same war as Iraq, or is Afghanistan a separate military operation?**

Part of the same war .....	29%
Separate military operation .....	52%
Not sure .....	19%

**20. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Afghanistan?**

Yes .....	34%
No .....	43%
Not sure .....	23%

**21. Do you think Barack Obama has a clear plan for U.S. strategy in Afghanistan?**

Yes .....	17%
No .....	55%
Not sure .....	28%

**22. Do you favor increasing or decreasing the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan?**

Increase .....	13%
Keep the same .....	30%
Decrease .....	57%

**23. What do you think will eventually happen in Afghanistan?**

- The United States will win the war in Afghanistan. ....23%
- The United States will withdraw from Afghanistan without winning. .... 77%

**24. 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. ....3%
- Afghanistan will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two. ....20%
- Afghanistan will probably never become a stable democracy. ....56%
- Not sure .....21%

**25. Do you think most people in Afghanistan want to have U.S. troops in their country or would they like the U.S. to leave?**

- Most would like U.S. troops to stay ..... 9%
- About equally divided .....33%
- Most would like U.S. troops to leave .....41%
- Not sure ..... 18%

**26. Are Afghan civilians better off today than they were when the war in Afghanistan began?**

- Definitely yes ..... 11%
- Probably yes .....29%
- Probably no ..... 23%
- Definitely no ..... 9%
- Not sure .....28%



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

Very liberal .....	28%
Liberal .....	20%
Moderate .....	27%
Conservative .....	4%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	20%

**28. Do you think Barack Obama...**

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

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

Like a lot .....	33%
Like somewhat .....	27%
Dislike .....	28%
Not sure .....	12%

30. Please check all that apply.

	Words that describe Obama		Words that don't describe Obama
	Obama	None	Obama
Bold	28%	52%	20%
Decisive	23%	48%	29%
Effective	22%	45%	33%
Experienced	14%	45%	41%
Honest	35%	35%	30%
In touch	28%	43%	30%
Inspiring	35%	45%	21%
Intelligent	60%	28%	12%
Partisan	23%	58%	20%
Patriotic	30%	44%	26%
Realistic	31%	42%	27%
Religious	18%	54%	28%
Sincere	35%	37%	28%
Strong	31%	44%	25%
Unifying	15%	52%	33%

31. Would you say the following groups have too much or too little influence on the policies of the Obama Administration?

	About the right amount		
	Too much	amount	Too little
Big business	58%	30%	11%
Labor unions	41%	42%	17%
Wall Street	54%	36%	9%
Middle class people	5%	38%	57%
Rich people	55%	32%	13%
Poor people	13%	32%	55%
African-Americans	28%	54%	18%
Jews	11%	67%	23%
Asian-Americans	9%	66%	25%

32. Please tell us whether you think the following statements about Barack Obama are true or false.

	True	False	Not sure
Barack Obama is a socialist	32%	40%	28%
Barack Obama was born in the United States	67%	13%	20%
Barack Obama is a Muslim	22%	48%	30%
Barack Obama shares my values	36%	45%	20%
Barack Obama is a Christian	46%	25%	29%
Barack Obama is a strong leader	39%	44%	17%

33. Some people believe that President Obama was born outside of the U.S. Do you think their reason for believing this mainly has to do with his race or mainly with some other reason?

Asked if respondent believes Obama was born in the U.S.

Race .....	49%
Some other reason .....	38%
Not sure .....	13%

34. Thinking of other people who were president before President Obama, were all of them born in them United States or not?

All former presidents were born in the U.S. ....	58%
Not all former presidents were born in the U.S. ....	17%
Not sure .....	25%

35. How much have you heard or read about President Obama releasing a copy of the long-form version of his birth certificate on Wednesday?

A lot .....	46%
A little .....	43%
Nothing at all .....	11%

36. The birth certificate that President Obama released says he was born in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1961. When he was born, was Hawaii a state or not?

Was already a state .....	69%
Was not yet a state .....	5%
Not sure .....	26%

37. Do you approve or disapprove of President Obama’s decision to release the long-form version of his birth certificate?

Approve .....	41%
Neither approve, nor disapprove .....	45%
Disapprove .....	6%
Not sure .....	8%

38. The Constitution says that only a "natural born citizen" can be president of the United States. What do you think that means:

A president must be born in the U.S. ....	77%
One of the president’s parents must be born in the U.S. ....	8%
Both of the president’s parents must be born in the U.S. ....	8%
Something else .....	7%

39. What sort of information do you think all candidates for president should be required to make public? Please select all that apply.

Birth certificates .....	69%
School records and grades .....	34%
College records and grades .....	39%
Tax returns .....	63%
Passport records .....	45%
Voter registration records .....	45%
Criminal history records .....	80%
Other .....	6%
None of these .....	12%

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

A great deal .....	36%
A fair amount .....	33%
Not much .....	21%
Nothing at all .....	10%

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

Yes .....	18%
No .....	82%

**42. 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 .....	16%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	17%
Somewhat oppose .....	9%
Strongly oppose .....	30%
Not sure .....	12%

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

Strongly approve .....	1%
Somewhat approve .....	10%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	16%
Somewhat disapprove .....	26%
Strongly disapprove .....	37%
Not sure .....	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	21%
Off on the wrong track .....	61%
Not sure .....	18%

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

Getting better .....	20%
About the same .....	36%
Getting worse .....	36%
Not sure .....	8%

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

Higher .....	22%
About the same .....	37%
Lower .....	19%
Not sure .....	22%

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

Better off financially .....	11%
About the same as now .....	38%
Worse off financially .....	44%
Not sure .....	7%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	April 30-May 3, 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 4.5, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.7.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.8% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	27 questions not reported.