

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted May 14-17, 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%	29%	20%	25%	14%
The economy	11%	23%	15%	40%	11%
Immigration	10%	21%	15%	38%	16%
The environment	10%	30%	18%	23%	18%
Terrorism	25%	29%	12%	21%	12%
Gay rights	13%	22%	13%	23%	29%
Education	14%	26%	19%	26%	15%
Health care	19%	18%	13%	39%	10%
Social security	13%	20%	16%	35%	16%
The budget deficit	9%	21%	15%	42%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	30%	21%	23%	13%
Taxes	10%	22%	19%	37%	12%
Medicare	13%	20%	18%	33%	16%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	32%	43%	16%	8%
The economy	78%	18%	2%	2%
Immigration	42%	33%	17%	9%
The environment	40%	38%	14%	8%
Terrorism	51%	34%	11%	4%
Gay rights	22%	24%	23%	31%
Education	54%	32%	9%	6%
Health care	70%	22%	6%	3%
Social security	63%	26%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	59%	29%	8%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	36%	43%	15%	7%
Taxes	59%	31%	7%	3%
Medicare	56%	30%	10%	4%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	37%
Immigration	5%
The environment	2%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	3%
Education	7%
Health care	11%
Social security	15%
The budget deficit	11%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	3%

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

Strongly Approve .....	19%
Somewhat Approve .....	25%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	14%
Strongly Disapprove .....	32%
Not Sure .....	9%

**5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?**

Strongly approve .....	18%
Somewhat approve .....	27%
Somewhat disapprove .....	14%
Strongly disapprove .....	25%
No opinion .....	16%

**6. In general, do you think leaders of other countries around the world have respect for Barack Obama or not?**

A great deal of respect .....	18%
A fair amount of respect .....	35%
Not much respect .....	29%
No respect .....	18%

**7. 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, even when other foreign allies do not .....	9%
Has responsibility to intervene, but only as part of an international coalition .....	47%
Has no responsibility to intervene .....	28%
Not sure .....	16%

8. In its relations toward foreign countries, is it better for the U.S. government to...?

Support a non-democratic government that is a steady ally of the U.S. . . . .26%  
 Support a democratically elected government regardless of its attitude toward  
 the U.S. . . . . 28%  
 Not sure . . . . . 46%

9. Which of the following countries do you consider to be a friend or an enemy of the United States?

	Ally of U.S.	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy of the U.S.	Not sure
Iran	1%	4%	23%	52%	20%
Israel	46%	18%	8%	4%	25%
Egypt	8%	30%	24%	6%	32%
Saudi Arabia	10%	27%	23%	13%	28%
Jordan	9%	28%	18%	9%	37%
Yemen	1%	9%	31%	21%	38%
Tunisia	1%	13%	22%	9%	54%
Iraq	3%	18%	32%	24%	23%
Bahrain	5%	17%	20%	10%	48%
Libya	1%	6%	32%	34%	27%
Afghanistan	2%	11%	37%	27%	23%
Syria	1%	6%	32%	28%	32%
Pakistan	2%	11%	38%	23%	26%

10. Do you think that people in these countries have a favorable or an unfavorable view of the United States?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
Iran	3%	8%	20%	47%	23%
Israel	25%	30%	12%	8%	25%
Egypt	5%	25%	27%	15%	28%
Saudi Arabia	4%	22%	27%	20%	27%
Jordan	4%	21%	25%	17%	32%
Yemen	1%	7%	25%	31%	36%
Tunisia	2%	14%	20%	18%	46%
Iraq	2%	18%	25%	32%	23%
Bahrain	2%	16%	21%	18%	42%
Libya	2%	13%	24%	32%	28%
Afghanistan	2%	13%	27%	35%	24%
Syria	2%	8%	24%	35%	32%
Pakistan	1%	9%	29%	35%	25%

11. Do you think America's relationship with the Muslim world is getting better or worse?

Getting better	10%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	37%
Not sure	16%

12. Do you think Barack Obama has a clear plan for U.S. policy in the Middle East?

Yes	20%
No	53%
Not sure	27%

13. In recent weeks there have been anti-government protests or uprisings in several countries in the Middle East and North Africa. How important are each of these countries to America’s interests?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant	Not sure
Bahrain	14%	25%	16%	9%	37%
Egypt	29%	30%	7%	8%	26%
Libya	16%	32%	15%	10%	28%
Syria	14%	28%	16%	11%	31%
Tunisia	8%	23%	20%	11%	38%
Yemen	13%	26%	17%	11%	33%

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to anti-government uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa?

Strongly approve	11%
Somewhat approve	27%
Somewhat disapprove	19%
Strongly disapprove	19%
No opinion	24%

15. Do you think that democracy will take hold in the following countries?

	Will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	Will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	Will probably never become a stable democracy.	Not sure
Iraq	7%	26%	41%	26%
Afghanistan	2%	17%	52%	28%
Egypt	14%	32%	25%	29%
Libya	4%	20%	44%	32%
Yemen	2%	13%	44%	41%
Syria	2%	15%	46%	37%
Bahrain	3%	17%	35%	45%
Tunisia	6%	19%	31%	44%

16. 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	40%
A little	45%
Nothing at all	16%

17. Do you think Britain, France, the U.S. and other countries are right or wrong to take military action in Libya? Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Right	45%
Wrong	25%
Not sure	29%

**18. Do you think the goals of the UN-backed military mission in Libya are clear or not?** Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Very clear .....	6%
Somewhat clear .....	27%
Not very clear .....	29%
Not at all clear .....	22%
Not sure .....	16%

**19. 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?** Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Should actively attempt to remove Colonel Gaddafi from power .....	44%
Should do only what is necessary to protect civilians from attack .....	36%
Not sure .....	20%

**20. If the chance arose for the military coalition to target Colonel Gaddafi himself in an air strike, should they attempt to kill him?** Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Colonel Gaddafi should be targeted personally if the opportunity arises ...	52%
Colonel Gaddafi should not be targeted personally .....	23%
Not sure .....	24%

**21. 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 .....	34%
Gaddafi will remain in power .....	26%
Not sure .....	40%

**22. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, are your sympathies more with...?**

Israelis .....	34%
About equal .....	26%
Palestinians .....	8%
Not sure .....	33%



**23. Do U.S. policies in the Middle East give too much or too little support to Israel?**

Too much support .....	25%
About the right amount of support .....	22%
Too little support .....	23%
Not sure .....	30%

**24. Do you favor or oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza strip?**

Strongly favor .....	15%
Somewhat favor .....	21%
Somewhat oppose .....	10%
Strongly oppose .....	14%
Not sure .....	41%

**25. When, if ever, do you think Israel and Palestine will reach a lasting agreement that will end the conflict there?**

This year .....	1%
Next year .....	1%
In a few years .....	7%
In the future, but not in the next few years .....	24%
Never .....	42%
Not sure .....	25%

**26. Has the Obama Administration had a positive or negative effect on efforts to reach an agreement to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?**

Positive .....	7%
No effect .....	42%
Negative .....	22%
Not sure .....	30%

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

Yes ..... 51%  
No ..... 32%  
Not sure ..... 16%

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

Increase ..... 4%  
Keep the same ..... 28%  
Decrease ..... 68%

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

The United States will win the war in Iraq. .... 36%  
The United States will withdraw from Iraq without winning. .... 64%

**30. 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 ..... 11%  
About equally divided ..... 30%  
Most would like U.S. troops to leave ..... 46%  
Not sure ..... 13%

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

Definitely yes ..... 17%  
Probably yes ..... 33%  
Probably no ..... 20%  
Definitely no ..... 8%  
Not sure ..... 22%

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

Yes .....	32%
No .....	47%
Not sure .....	21%

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

Increase .....	12%
Keep the same .....	28%
Decrease .....	60%

**34. If U.S. troops were removed from Afghanistan, do you think the Taliban would return to power?**

Yes .....	52%
No .....	12%
Not sure .....	36%

**35. Barack Obama said that he will start removing U.S. troops from Afghanistan in July 2011. How likely is it that he will be able to do this?**

Very likely .....	10%
Somewhat likely .....	30%
Somewhat unlikely .....	25%
Very unlikely .....	19%
Not sure .....	16%

**36. At the end of 2012, do you think the United States will have more or fewer troops in Afghanistan than it has now?**

More troops in Afghanistan than it has now .....	9%
About the same number of troops in Afghanistan as it has now .....	40%
Fewer troops in Afghanistan than it has now .....	51%

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

- The United States will win the war in Afghanistan. ....26%
- The United States will withdraw from Afghanistan without winning. .... 74%

**38. 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 ..... 8%
- About equally divided .....30%
- Most would like U.S. troops to leave .....43%
- Not sure ..... 19%

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

- Definitely yes ..... 11%
- Probably yes .....33%
- Probably no ..... 24%
- Definitely no ..... 6%
- Not sure .....27%

**40. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for...** Asked of registered voters

- The Democratic Party candidate ..... 41%
- The Republican Party candidate .....32%
- Some other candidate .....8%
- Not sure ..... 19%

**41. 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 Mitt Romney?** Asked of one third of registered voters

- Barack Obama ..... 45%
- Mitt Romney .....42%
- Not sure ..... 13%

**42. Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Ron Paul?** Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama .....	48%
Ron Paul .....	36%
Not sure .....	16%

**43. 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 .....	51%
Newt Gingrich .....	35%
Not sure .....	15%

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

Very liberal .....	29%
Liberal .....	17%
Moderate .....	28%
Conservative .....	4%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	21%

**45. Do you think Barack Obama...**

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

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

Like a lot .....	33%
Like somewhat .....	28%
Dislike .....	26%
Not sure .....	13%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	32%	49%	19%
Decisive	28%	44%	28%
Effective	25%	46%	28%
Experienced	15%	42%	43%
Honest	31%	38%	31%
In touch	26%	42%	32%
Inspiring	34%	43%	23%
Intelligent	56%	31%	13%
Partisan	22%	55%	23%
Patriotic	29%	46%	25%
Realistic	31%	41%	29%
Religious	14%	58%	28%
Sincere	33%	38%	29%
Strong	32%	43%	25%
Unifying	18%	49%	33%

**48. 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	17%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	11%

**49. How would you describe yourself?**

Very patriotic	51%
Somewhat patriotic	34%
Not very patriotic	11%
Not at all patriotic	4%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	25%
Off on the wrong track .....	58%
Not sure .....	17%

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

Getting better .....	20%
About the same .....	35%
Getting worse .....	37%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Higher .....	23%
About the same .....	32%
Lower .....	21%
Not sure .....	23%

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

Better off financially .....	12%
About the same as now .....	42%
Worse off financially .....	39%
Not sure .....	7%

## ***The Economist/YouGov Poll***



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	May 14-17, 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 3.8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.64.
<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>	21 questions not reported.