

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted June 4-7, 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%	31%	19%	27%	12%
The economy	10%	24%	16%	41%	9%
Immigration	8%	21%	16%	39%	15%
The environment	11%	31%	17%	25%	17%
Terrorism	21%	31%	12%	24%	12%
Gay rights	12%	25%	13%	24%	26%
Education	13%	27%	17%	29%	14%
Health care	16%	21%	13%	41%	9%
Social security	12%	21%	17%	36%	14%
The budget deficit	8%	22%	16%	43%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	29%	22%	26%	12%
Taxes	9%	25%	17%	38%	11%
Medicare	14%	21%	16%	35%	14%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	36%	37%	17%	10%
The economy	80%	14%	2%	3%
Immigration	46%	31%	15%	8%
The environment	46%	34%	14%	7%
Terrorism	51%	30%	10%	8%
Gay rights	23%	23%	25%	29%
Education	58%	27%	9%	6%
Health care	69%	22%	4%	4%
Social security	63%	26%	7%	4%
The budget deficit	61%	25%	7%	7%
The war in Afghanistan	38%	37%	16%	9%
Taxes	61%	28%	7%	4%
Medicare	57%	27%	10%	6%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	37%
Immigration	5%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	3%
Education	6%
Health care	11%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	5%

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

Strongly Approve	16%
Somewhat Approve	29%
Somewhat Disapprove	16%
Strongly Disapprove	32%
Not Sure	7%

5. When do you think abortion should be legal?

Abortion should always be legal. There should be no restrictions on abortion.	23%
Abortion should be legal, but with some restrictions (such as for minors or late-term abortions).	34%
Abortion should only be legal in special circumstances, such as when the life of the mother is in danger.	30%
Abortion should be illegal. It should never be allowed.	13%

6. Do you favor or oppose the following policies? Asked of half of respondents

	Strongly favor	Favor	Neither favor, nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Require minors to notify their parents before getting an abortion	43%	24%	18%	6%	9%
Require minors to get their parents' permission before getting an abortion	42%	20%	20%	8%	10%
Require a 'waiting period' before getting an abortion	25%	22%	24%	13%	17%
Require counseling before getting an abortion	37%	25%	20%	6%	11%
Require women be told the gestational age of the fetus	29%	22%	29%	8%	12%
Require that women be offered ultrasound images of the fetus	24%	15%	31%	10%	20%

7. Do you favor or oppose the following policies? Asked of half of respondents

	Strongly favor	Favor	Neither favor, nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Require minors to notify their parents before terminating a pregnancy	47%	19%	18%	7%	9%
Require minors to get their parents' permission before terminating a pregnancy	45%	16%	19%	11%	9%
Require a 'waiting period' before terminating a pregnancy	25%	17%	27%	12%	19%
Require counseling before terminating a pregnancy	38%	23%	17%	10%	12%
Require women be told the gestational age of the fetus	31%	20%	29%	8%	12%
Require that women be offered ultrasound images of the fetus	26%	14%	31%	12%	17%

8. What is your opinion on the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Marijuana is a "gateway drug," meaning it leads to the use of harder drugs	21%	17%	24%	15%	22%
Marijuana has medical benefits	31%	34%	22%	6%	7%
Marijuana is addictive	27%	20%	26%	13%	14%
Easing access to marijuana will harm society	20%	13%	22%	20%	25%
Marijuana should be allowed for medical purposes	41%	26%	19%	5%	9%

9. Do you think Marijuana is more of a gateway drug than tobacco or alcohol? Asked if respondent believes that marijuana is a gateway drug

Definitely yes	21%
Probably yes	28%
Not sure	28%
Probably no	16%
Definitely no	6%

10. What punishment do you think people arrested for possession of marijuana should receive?

Jail	16%
Fine	39%
Probation	13%
No punishment	32%

11. What punishment do you think people arrested for selling marijuana should receive?

Jail	33%
Fine	36%
Probation	11%
No punishment	19%

12. Do you know anyone who has tried marijuana?

Yes	83%
No	17%

13. How would you describe your relationship with this person who has tried marijuana? Asked if respondent knows someone who has tried marijuana

Myself	34%
Member of my family	47%
Close friend	49%
Co-worker	28%
Acquaintance	48%
Other	8%

14. How often do you use marijuana? Asked if respondent has tried marijuana

I tried marijuana once	11%
I tried marijuana a few times	53%
I use marijuana occasionally	14%
I use marijuana often	8%
I prefer not to say	15%

15. As you may know, the limit on the country's overall liabilities, including the federal deficit and other government debts, is called the debt ceiling. In order for the U.S. Treasury to incur debt above the ceiling, Congress needs to vote to raise the ceiling. What is your opinion?

Congress should raise the debt ceiling	26%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling	43%
Not sure	31%

16. How long do you think it will take until the economy has recovered all the ground lost during the recession?

Has already recovered	1%
Less than a year	2%
About a year	10%
Two years	17%
More than two years	69%

17. In the next few months, do you think you and your family will be more seriously hurt by unemployment or by inflation?

Unemployment	8%
Inflation	39%
Both equally	28%
Neither	12%
Not sure	13%

18. How much trust do you have in the following to handle the problems of the economy?

	A great deal	Quite a bit	Only some	Very little	None at all	Not sure
Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke	3%	11%	21%	22%	22%	21%
Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner	3%	9%	19%	18%	28%	23%
President Obama	13%	17%	15%	13%	32%	10%
Republicans in Congress	5%	11%	21%	20%	31%	12%
Democrats in Congress	8%	12%	17%	19%	30%	13%

19. Do you think things are better off or worse off than they were two years ago when it comes to:

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	3%	19%	24%	19%	23%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	5%	24%	32%	14%	14%	12%
The economy in your area	3%	21%	23%	24%	23%	7%
Job security	1%	14%	25%	22%	30%	7%
Government spending	2%	11%	23%	17%	37%	10%
The U.S. financial system	3%	18%	17%	19%	34%	9%

20. Two years from now, do you think things will be better off or worse off than they are now when it comes to:

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	5%	19%	32%	13%	14%	17%
The war in Afghanistan	6%	27%	30%	11%	10%	16%
The economy in your area	6%	32%	26%	13%	12%	12%
Job security	5%	26%	30%	13%	14%	12%
Government spending	3%	20%	29%	13%	20%	15%
The U.S. financial system	4%	27%	22%	15%	19%	14%

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

Strongly approve	10%
Somewhat approve	26%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	22%
No opinion	28%

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

Less than a month	2%
About a month	4%
Several months	23%
About a year	10%
Over a year	13%
Not sure	48%

23. So far, the coalition has been attacking Libyan targets from sea and air. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "If necessary, America should be prepared to send ground troops into Libya as part of a coalition operation to depose Colonel Gaddafi."

Strongly agree	5%
Tend to agree	13%
Tend to disagree	23%
Strongly disagree	38%
Not sure	20%

24. 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.	5%
Libya will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	26%
Libya will probably never become a stable democracy.	41%
Not sure	28%

25. When considering the President’s authority to use military force, which statement do you agree with most?

- The President must always get Congressional approval prior to the use of force 26%
- The President should get Congressional approval when feasible, but should not be restrained in emergencies 47%
- The President, as Commander in Chief, needs wide latitude with regard to foreign policy, and therefore should not be restrained by Congress 10%
- Not sure 16%

26. 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
India	14%	48%	10%	3%	24%
Japan	37%	35%	6%	3%	18%
North Korea	1%	5%	20%	55%	19%
Pakistan	2%	10%	39%	22%	27%
Russia	4%	29%	31%	9%	27%
South Korea	31%	33%	8%	5%	22%
China	4%	27%	32%	13%	23%

27. How much have you heard or read about the E. Coli breakout in Europe?

- A great deal 12%
- A fair amount 35%
- Not much 31%
- Nothing at all 21%

28. How confident are you in the safety of the food you eat?

- Very confident 17%
- Somewhat confident 57%
- Not so confident 19%
- Not confident at all 7%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	40%
The Republican Party candidate	33%
Some other candidate	7%
Not sure	19%

30. 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 Rick Santorum? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama	48%
Rick Santorum	30%
Not sure	22%

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

Barack Obama	43%
Jon Huntsman	32%
Not sure	25%

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

Barack Obama	43%
Rick Perry	33%
Not sure	24%

33. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	25%
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	34%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	25%
Not sure	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	30%	53%	17%
Decisive	27%	51%	22%
Effective	24%	45%	31%
Experienced	17%	42%	41%
Honest	30%	40%	30%
In touch	28%	42%	30%
Inspiring	35%	44%	22%
Intelligent	60%	29%	12%
Partisan	25%	57%	19%
Patriotic	33%	43%	24%
Realistic	29%	43%	28%
Religious	15%	56%	29%
Sincere	34%	40%	26%
Strong	33%	47%	20%
Unifying	19%	49%	32%

37. 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	18%
Somewhat disapprove	28%
Strongly disapprove	33%
Not sure	11%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	25%
Off on the wrong track	59%
Not sure	16%

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

Getting better	20%
About the same	33%
Getting worse	40%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	22%
About the same	33%
Lower	24%
Not sure	22%

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

Better off financially	11%
About the same as now	44%
Worse off financially	39%
Not sure	6%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	June 4-7, 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 0.5 to 4.3, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.65.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	26 questions not reported.