

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents

Conducted June 18-21, 2011

Margin of Error  $\pm 3.9\%$

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	13%	30%	22%	26%	9%
The economy	12%	22%	17%	43%	7%
Immigration	10%	20%	18%	41%	12%
The environment	12%	29%	18%	27%	13%
Terrorism	20%	32%	14%	25%	9%
Gay rights	13%	24%	15%	27%	22%
Education	16%	23%	20%	29%	12%
Health care	19%	20%	11%	43%	7%
Social security	13%	21%	18%	37%	11%
The budget deficit	9%	21%	17%	45%	8%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	30%	23%	28%	9%
Taxes	9%	23%	18%	41%	9%
Medicare	14%	21%	16%	38%	11%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	37%	41%	14%	7%
The economy	81%	16%	2%	2%
Immigration	48%	32%	13%	7%
The environment	45%	35%	13%	8%
Terrorism	53%	31%	11%	5%
Gay rights	22%	26%	26%	26%
Education	57%	31%	9%	3%
Health care	75%	19%	4%	2%
Social security	67%	23%	8%	2%
The budget deficit	63%	26%	8%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	39%	41%	13%	6%
Taxes	66%	24%	7%	2%
Medicare	61%	29%	7%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	39%
Immigration	5%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	7%
Health care	11%
Social security	9%
The budget deficit	12%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	3%

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

Strongly Approve .....	16%
Somewhat Approve .....	28%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	15%
Strongly Disapprove .....	35%
Not Sure .....	6%

**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 .....	43%
A little .....	44%
Nothing at all .....	13%

**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 .....	13%
Somewhat approve .....	27%
Somewhat disapprove .....	21%
Strongly disapprove .....	25%
No opinion .....	14%

**7. 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 .....	39%
Wrong .....	27%
Not sure .....	34%

8. Do you think the goals of the NATO-led military mission in Libya are clear or not? Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Very clear .....	6%
Somewhat clear .....	19%
Not very clear .....	35%
Not at all clear .....	21%
Not sure .....	19%

9. Do you support or oppose Barack Obama’s decision not to ask Congress for approval before committing U.S. troops and resources to the NATO mission in Libya? Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Support .....	19%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	28%
Oppose .....	43%
Not sure .....	10%

10. Some members of Congress would like to end U.S. military involvement in Libya by withholding funding for the mission. Do you support or oppose withholding funding for the Libya mission? Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Support .....	36%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	22%
Oppose .....	25%
Not sure .....	16%

11. 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	22%
The President should get Congressional approval when possible, but should not be required to get approval in emergencies .....	56%
The President, as Commander in Chief, needs broad authority with regard to foreign policy, and therefore should not need approval from Congress ....	10%
Not sure .....	11%

**12. How much confidence do you have in the military capabilities of NATO?**

A great deal .....	9%
A fair amount .....	48%
Not much .....	31%
None at all .....	11%

**13. Do you support or oppose U.S. membership in NATO?**

Strongly support .....	24%
Somewhat support .....	26%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	20%
Somewhat oppose .....	8%
Strongly oppose .....	8%
Not sure .....	15%

**14. How much have you heard or read about Congressman Anthony Weiner’s resignation following news about sexual messages that he sent to social media followers on Facebook and Twitter?**

A lot .....	60%
A little .....	28%
Nothing at all .....	13%

**15. How likely is it that Anthony Weiner will be elected if he ever runs for political office again?**  
Asked if respondent is aware of Weiner controversy

Very likely .....	7%
Somewhat likely .....	18%
Somewhat unlikely .....	21%
Very unlikely .....	46%
Not sure .....	7%

16. Which of the following sports do you follow on a regular basis and/or consider yourself to be a fan of? (Please select all that apply)

Basketball .....	19%
Football .....	44%
Golf .....	10%
Baseball .....	31%
Ice Hockey .....	15%
Cycling .....	3%
I do not follow/am not a fan of any of these sports .....	36%

17. Do you think the use of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs by professional athletes is a major problem or not?

Major problem .....	44%
Minor problem .....	38%
Not a problem at all .....	6%
Not sure .....	12%

18. If you had to guess, what proportion of professional athletes in the following sports would you say use steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs?

	A majority	About half	A minority	Almost none	Not sure
Cycling	18%	18%	30%	10%	24%
Baseball	18%	26%	32%	7%	18%
Football	24%	28%	26%	6%	16%
Track and Field	14%	23%	31%	8%	24%
Swimming	10%	16%	33%	14%	27%

19. How much have you heard or read about allegations that the American cyclist, Lance Armstrong, used illegal performance-enhancing drugs?

A lot .....	27%
A little .....	51%
Nothing at all .....	22%

20. Do you think that Lance Armstrong is guilty of using performance-enhancing drugs while competing as a professional cyclist? Asked if respondent is aware of allegations against Lance Armstrong

Definitely yes .....	10%
Probably yes .....	38%
Probably no .....	18%
Definitely no .....	4%
Not sure .....	29%

21. If you had to choose one, which of these individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

Sarah Palin .....	8%
Mitt Romney .....	12%
Newt Gingrich .....	3%
Tim Pawlenty .....	2%
Michele Bachmann .....	7%
Jon Huntsman .....	2%
Ron Paul .....	6%
Rudy Giuliani .....	6%
Herman Cain .....	4%
Rick Santorum .....	1%
Rick Perry .....	4%
Gary Johnson .....	0%
Fred Karger .....	0%
Buddy Roemer .....	1%
Other .....	6%
No preference .....	37%

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

The Democratic Party candidate .....	43%
The Republican Party candidate .....	39%
Some other candidate .....	4%
Not sure .....	15%

23. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Jon Huntsman, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Jon Huntsman? Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama .....	45%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Jon Huntsman .....	1%
Jon Huntsman .....	35%
Other/Not sure .....	20%

24. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Michele Bachmann, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Michele Bachmann? Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama .....	47%
Lean Barack Obama .....	0%
Lean Michele Bachmann .....	0%
Michele Bachmann .....	39%
Other/Not sure .....	15%

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

A great deal .....	36%
A fair amount .....	31%
Not much .....	24%
Nothing at all .....	9%

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

Yes .....	22%
No .....	78%



**27. 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 .....	21%
Somewhat support .....	16%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	18%
Somewhat oppose .....	8%
Strongly oppose .....	26%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Very liberal .....	31%
Liberal .....	16%
Moderate .....	30%
Conservative .....	5%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	16%

**29. Do you think Barack Obama...**

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

**30. 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 .....	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	30%	52%	18%
Decisive	26%	49%	26%
Effective	24%	45%	31%
Experienced	18%	42%	40%
Honest	34%	36%	31%
In touch	23%	46%	31%
Inspiring	34%	44%	22%
Intelligent	59%	27%	14%
Partisan	24%	58%	19%
Patriotic	31%	43%	27%
Realistic	29%	41%	30%
Religious	16%	56%	29%
Sincere	32%	39%	29%
Strong	31%	46%	23%
Unifying	17%	50%	34%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	13%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	28%
Strongly disapprove	33%
Not sure	7%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	22%
Off on the wrong track	62%
Not sure	16%

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

Getting better .....	17%
About the same .....	37%
Getting worse .....	40%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Higher .....	23%
About the same .....	31%
Lower .....	26%
Not sure .....	20%

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

Better off financially .....	12%
About the same as now .....	43%
Worse off financially .....	40%
Not sure .....	5%

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<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	June 18-21, 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 5.6, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.78.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	27 questions not reported.