

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted July 9-12, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 4\%$

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	14%	27%	19%	25%	15%
The economy	12%	20%	16%	42%	10%
Immigration	8%	19%	17%	38%	18%
The environment	11%	27%	18%	26%	18%
Terrorism	21%	25%	15%	25%	14%
Gay rights	13%	24%	11%	24%	28%
Education	13%	24%	19%	29%	16%
Health care	19%	17%	12%	41%	10%
Social security	13%	19%	19%	35%	14%
The budget deficit	12%	18%	18%	41%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	28%	22%	28%	13%
Taxes	13%	19%	15%	41%	13%
Medicare	13%	20%	17%	36%	13%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	37%	41%	16%	5%
The economy	81%	14%	2%	2%
Immigration	45%	31%	17%	6%
The environment	48%	33%	12%	7%
Terrorism	54%	30%	12%	4%
Gay rights	23%	25%	23%	29%
Education	60%	27%	7%	5%
Health care	72%	20%	5%	3%
Social security	65%	24%	9%	2%
The budget deficit	59%	28%	9%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	39%	41%	14%	6%
Taxes	65%	26%	5%	3%
Medicare	56%	30%	12%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	41%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	1%
Gay rights	3%
Education	6%
Health care	12%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	9%
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	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	36%
Not Sure	10%

5. How would you rate the job being done by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), the United States space agency?

Excellent	20%
Good	45%
Fair	28%
Poor	8%

6. Friday marked NASA's final space shuttle launch. Do you support or oppose the decision to end NASA's space shuttle program?

Strongly support	13%
Somewhat support	14%
Neither support, nor oppose	22%
Somewhat oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	21%
Not sure	11%

7. Given the costs and risks involved in space exploration, would you favor or oppose the United States...

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor, nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Sending astronauts to explore Mars?	22%	23%	31%	13%	11%
Sending astronauts back to explore the moon?	18%	21%	34%	15%	11%
Awarding federal grants to encourage private companies to build, launch and operate spacecraft for NASA?	16%	25%	29%	14%	15%
Ending NASA's human space flight program?	9%	10%	30%	18%	34%

8. Are we spending too much or too little on space exploration programs?

Too much	30%
About the right amount	24%
Too little	20%
Not sure	25%

9. 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	21%
Football	44%
Golf	12%
Baseball	31%
Ice Hockey	10%
Cycling	3%
I do not follow/am not a fan of any of these sports	42%

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

Major problem	46%
Minor problem	34%
Not a problem at all	5%
Not sure	15%

11. 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	17%	21%	29%	8%	25%
Baseball	21%	24%	31%	6%	19%
Football	21%	25%	28%	4%	21%
Track and Field	14%	23%	31%	7%	25%
Swimming	9%	14%	34%	15%	28%

12. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following professional sports leagues?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
Major League Baseball (MLB)	20%	33%	14%	10%	23%
National Football League (NFL)	24%	28%	17%	10%	20%
National Basketball Association (NBA)	14%	27%	18%	15%	26%
National Hockey League (NHL)	12%	29%	13%	11%	35%

13. Should the government be involved in investigating the use of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs in professional sports?

Yes24%
 No56%
 Not sure20%

14. How would you rate Major League Baseball's efforts to prevent the use of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs by its players?

Very good9%
 Somewhat good30%
 Somewhat poor21%
 Very poor12%
 Not sure28%

15. How much have you heard or read about the following news stories?

	A lot	A little	Nothing at all
The perjury trial of former baseball player Roger Clemens	16%	43%	41%
The charges against Dominique Strauss-Kahn, former head of the IMF, that he sexually assaulted a hotel maid	36%	37%	27%
The murder trial of Casey Anthony on charges that she killed her daughter	60%	32%	8%

16. If you were a member of the jury in the trial of Roger Clemens, how would you vote on the charge of perjury?

Asked if respondent is aware of Clemens case

Guilty	43%
Not guilty	12%
Not sure	45%

17. If the case against Dominique Strauss-Kahn went to trial and you were a member of the jury, how would you vote on the charge of sexual assault?

Asked if respondent is aware of Strauss-Kahn case

Guilty	30%
Not guilty	13%
Not sure	57%

18. If you were a member of the jury in the trial of Casey Anthony, how would you vote on the charge of murder?

Asked if respondent is aware of Anthony case

Guilty	54%
Not guilty	13%
Not sure	33%

19. How closely have you been following news about the 2012 presidential election campaign?

Very closely	24%
Somewhat closely	32%
Not too closely	27%
Not at all	17%

20. Do you feel enthusiastic about any of the Republicans who have expressed an interest in running for president in 2012?

Yes	28%
No	72%

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	11%
Newt Gingrich	2%
Tim Pawlenty	1%
Michele Bachmann	7%
Jon Huntsman	4%
Ron Paul	9%
Rudy Giuliani	5%
Herman Cain	4%
Rick Santorum	2%
Rick Perry	5%
Other	6%
No preference	37%

22. Do you feel enthusiastic about Barack Obama running for reelection in the 2012 presidential election?

Yes	37%
No	63%

23. In the 2012 presidential election, would you prefer that Barack Obama or someone else run as the Democratic nominee for president?

Barack Obama	39%
Someone else	28%
Not sure	33%

24. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for...

Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	42%
The Republican Party candidate	37%
Some other candidate	5%
Not sure	16%

25. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Herman Cain, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Herman Cain?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	46%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Herman Cain	2%
Herman Cain	35%
Not sure	8%
I would not vote	7%

26. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Rick Perry, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Rick Perry?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	46%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Rick Perry	2%
Rick Perry	36%
Not sure	9%
I would not vote	5%

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

A great deal	33%
A fair amount	35%
Not much	20%
Nothing at all	11%

28. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement?

Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Yes	17%
No	83%

29. 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	18%
Somewhat support	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	19%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	28%
Not sure	11%

30. If you had to choose, would you rather have a congressperson who...

Compromises to get things done.	52%
Sticks to his or her principles, no matter what.	48%

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

Very concerned	52%
Somewhat concerned	32%
Not very concerned	12%
Not at all concerned	5%

32. 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	42%
Next year	10%
In a few years	35%
Not necessary to balance the budget	13%

33. Which party do you trust more to handle the problem of the federal budget deficit?

Democrats	31%
Republicans	34%
About the same	35%

34. If you had to choose, which of the following measures would you prefer in order to balance the federal budget deficit?

Increase taxes	9%
Decrease government spending	50%
Both	33%
Neither	8%

35. If taxes are raised, should they be raised on everyone or just some groups?

Raised for everyone	32%
Raised only for the wealthy	53%
Other	14%

36. Do you think the cost of government entitlement programs, including Social Security and Medicare, is a major economic problem for the U.S.?

Yes	48%
No	35%
Not sure	17%

37. Should the government raise taxes or cut entitlements in order to address the economic problem caused by the cost of major entitlement programs?

Asked if respondent thinks the cost of entitlement programs is a major economic problem

Raise taxes	15%
Cut benefits	38%
Both	24%
Neither	23%

38. Last year Congress extended the tax cuts enacted in 2001 under President George W. Bush for two more years. Do you favor making the tax cuts permanent or letting them expire after two years?

Make tax cuts permanent	35%
Let tax cuts expire	40%
Not sure	25%

39. As you may know, the debt ceiling refers to the cap set by Congress on the amount of debt the federal government can legally borrow, including the debt owed to the public and the debt owed to federal government trust funds such as those for Social Security and Medicare. In order for the U.S. Treasury to borrow money above the ceiling, Congress needs to vote to raise the ceiling. What is your opinion?

Congress should raise the debt ceiling	33%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling	42%
Not sure	25%

40. If there is no agreement on raising the debt ceiling, several things might occur, including the U.S. government not being able to pay its debts or meet other obligations, including Social Security and Medicare costs. If this were likely to happen, do you think:

Asked if respondent opposes raising the debt ceiling or has no opinion

Congress should raise the debt ceiling	19%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling	46%
Not sure	35%

41. If Congress does not raise the debt ceiling by August 2nd, the Treasury must either default on its debt payments and stop paying its creditors or stop all federal spending above what the government collects in taxes, a spending cut of about 40 percent. If it became necessary, which of the two options would you prefer?

Default on debt payments and stop paying creditors	9%
Stop all federal spending above what the government collects in taxes ...	57%
Not sure	35%

42. If Congress does not raise the debt ceiling, do you think that you or anyone in your immediate family would be affected?

Yes	51%
No	18%
Not sure	31%

43. How serious a problem would it be for the economy if the U.S. government defaulted on its debt?

Very serious	56%
Somewhat serious	21%
No too serious	5%
Not at all serious	1%
Not sure	16%

44. How likely is it that Congress and the president will reach an agreement to raise the debt ceiling before the U.S. reaches its borrowing limit on August 2nd?

Very likely	20%
Somewhat likely	31%
Somewhat unlikely	18%
Very unlikely	11%
Not sure	21%

45. Which party is more serious about resolving their differences on the issue of whether or not to raise the debt ceiling?

Democrats	26%
Republicans	20%
Both are equally serious	16%
Neither are serious	18%
Not sure	20%

46. Which of the following things do you think will happen if Congress does not raise the debt ceiling? (Please check all that apply.)

Some government services will be canceled	69%
Interest rates will go up	58%
There will be a panic in financial markets	59%
The government will start selling off its gold reserves	19%
The government will default on its current debt payments	51%
Social Security payments will be delayed	48%
The U.S. dollar will lose its position as the world's reserve currency	53%
None of the above	11%

47. Would you support or oppose an agreement to raise the debt ceiling if it were tied to a deficit reduction plan that included the following measures...?

	Support	Neither support, nor oppose	Oppose	Not sure
Tax increases	32%	20%	37%	11%
Spending cuts	66%	16%	7%	12%
Entitlement cuts	35%	21%	26%	19%
Ending tax breaks for the wealthy	57%	16%	16%	10%

48. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	18%

49. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	44%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	56%

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

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	27%
Dislike	26%
Not sure	14%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	32%	47%	21%
Decisive	21%	50%	29%
Effective	20%	45%	35%
Experienced	13%	47%	39%
Honest	33%	36%	31%
In touch	24%	45%	31%
Inspiring	33%	42%	25%
Intelligent	59%	30%	12%
Partisan	22%	59%	19%
Patriotic	31%	43%	26%
Realistic	30%	38%	32%
Religious	15%	60%	25%
Sincere	34%	38%	28%
Strong	28%	47%	25%
Unifying	14%	52%	34%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	17%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	11%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	17%
Off on the wrong track	68%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	13%
About the same	34%
Getting worse	45%
Not sure	9%

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

Higher	16%
About the same	32%
Lower	28%
Not sure	24%

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

Better off financially	11%
About the same as now	41%
Worse off financially	41%
Not sure	7%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 9-12, 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 7.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.83.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	23 questions not reported.