

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted July 16-19, 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	16%	28%	19%	27%	10%
The economy	13%	22%	16%	41%	7%
Immigration	11%	21%	16%	38%	13%
The environment	14%	27%	18%	25%	16%
Terrorism	22%	25%	16%	26%	11%
Gay rights	14%	26%	13%	25%	23%
Education	15%	28%	16%	27%	14%
Health care	17%	22%	13%	41%	7%
Social security	13%	22%	19%	36%	10%
The budget deficit	14%	22%	13%	42%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	27%	21%	28%	10%
Taxes	16%	20%	17%	38%	10%
Medicare	14%	20%	19%	36%	10%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	36%	41%	16%	6%
The economy	83%	14%	2%	1%
Immigration	44%	33%	17%	6%
The environment	43%	37%	14%	7%
Terrorism	51%	32%	12%	5%
Gay rights	22%	25%	26%	27%
Education	57%	31%	9%	3%
Health care	71%	23%	5%	2%
Social security	64%	26%	8%	2%
The budget deficit	63%	27%	6%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	38%	40%	15%	6%
Taxes	64%	28%	5%	2%
Medicare	58%	28%	11%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	38%
Immigration	2%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	1%
Education	5%
Health care	11%
Social security	17%
The budget deficit	12%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	3%

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

Strongly Approve .....	18%
Somewhat Approve .....	26%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	14%
Strongly Disapprove .....	36%
Not Sure .....	6%

**5. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Rupert Murdoch?**

Very favorable .....	5%
Somewhat favorable .....	10%
Somewhat unfavorable .....	14%
Very unfavorable .....	30%
Don't know .....	41%

**6. How much confidence do you have in the traditional news media - such as newspapers, news magazines, TV and radio news - to present news in a fair and accurate manner?**

A great deal .....	5%
Quite a bit .....	12%
Only some .....	33%
Very little .....	29%
None at all .....	16%
Not sure .....	6%

**7. How would you rate the honesty and ethical standards of journalists working in the traditional news media?**

Very high .....	3%
High .....	8%
Average .....	38%
Low .....	24%
Very low .....	20%
No opinion .....	7%

8. How much have you heard or read about the allegations of phone-hacking by Rupert Murdoch's UK paper, The News of the World?

A lot .....	28%
A little .....	48%
Nothing at all .....	24%

9. Do you think that illegally accessing voice mails is a common practice in journalism?

*Asked if respondent is aware of phone-hacking scandal*

Definitely yes .....	10%
Probably yes .....	44%
Probably no .....	27%
Definitely no .....	8%
Not sure .....	12%

10. How likely is it that Murdoch's U.S.-based news outlets illegally accessed voice mails as part of their reporting practices?

*Asked if respondent is aware of phone-hacking scandal*

Very likely .....	36%
Somewhat likely .....	34%
Somewhat unlikely .....	11%
Very unlikely .....	6%
Not sure .....	13%

11. Do you support or oppose allowing women in the military to serve in ground units that engage in close combat?

Strongly support .....	25%
Somewhat support .....	20%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	23%
Somewhat oppose .....	13%
Strongly oppose .....	12%
Not sure .....	7%

12. Should the military only assign women to ground combat units if they volunteer, or should they assign women to ground combat units on an involuntary basis?

*Asked if respondent favors allowing women to serve in ground combat units*

Voluntary basis .....	51%
Involuntary basis .....	32%
Not sure .....	17%

13. Do you think financial markets need more or less regulation by the federal government?

More .....	40%
About the same .....	21%
Less .....	22%
Not sure .....	18%

14. Do you think that the financial regulation bill passed last year by Congress has increased or decreased the likelihood of a future financial crisis?

Increased .....	20%
No effect .....	30%
Decreased .....	11%
Haven't heard of bill .....	13%
Not sure .....	27%

15. Do you think the problems with banks have been fixed?

Most problems have been fixed .....	11%
Most problems have not been fixed .....	60%
Not sure .....	29%

16. Do you think that the U.S. banking system can survive an economic crisis?

Definitely can .....	6%
Probably can .....	36%
Probably cannot .....	32%
Definitely cannot .....	11%
Not sure .....	16%

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

Compromises to get things done. ....	61%
Sticks to his or her principles, no matter what. ....	39%

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

Increase taxes .....	10%
Decrease government spending .....	48%
Both .....	34%
Neither .....	7%

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

Raised for everyone .....	31%
Raised only for the wealthy .....	57%
Other .....	12%

20. How much have you heard or read about the negotiations in Congress on whether or not to raise the debt ceiling?

A lot .....	47%
A little .....	38%
Nothing at all .....	15%

21. When deciding whom to support in the 2012 elections, how important will the candidate's position on the debt ceiling be in your decision?

*Asked if respondent is aware of debt ceiling negotiations*

The most important factor .....	7%
Very important .....	44%
Somewhat important .....	35%
Not very important .....	10%
Don't plan to vote .....	4%

22. 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 .....	43%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling .....	35%
Not sure .....	22%

23. 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 .....	20%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling .....	46%
Not sure .....	33%

24. 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 .....	10%
Stop all federal spending above what the government collects in taxes ...	58%
Not sure .....	31%

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

Yes .....	63%
No .....	15%
Not sure .....	22%

26. Would a decision not to raise the debt ceiling help or hurt your own personal investments and savings?

Help .....	2%
No effect .....	25%
Hurt .....	44%
Not sure .....	28%

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

Very serious .....	56%
Somewhat serious .....	26%
Not too serious .....	5%
Not at all serious .....	1%
Not sure .....	12%

28. Which group would be hurt the most if the U.S. government defaulted on its debt?

Lower-income Americans .....	30%
Middle-income Americans .....	18%
High-income Americans .....	4%
All hurt equally .....	33%
None would be hurt .....	2%
Not sure .....	13%

29. 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 .....	19%
Somewhat likely .....	37%
Somewhat unlikely .....	15%
Very unlikely .....	9%
Not sure .....	20%



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

Democrats .....	33%
Republicans .....	21%
Both are equally serious .....	15%
Neither are serious .....	16%
Not sure .....	15%

31. Are the following things likely to happen if Congress does not raise the debt ceiling?

	Likely	Unlikely	Not sure
Some government services will be canceled	79%	8%	13%
Interest rates will go up	72%	8%	20%
There will be a panic in financial markets	70%	12%	18%
The government will start selling off its gold reserves	27%	37%	36%
The government will default on its current debt payments	57%	23%	20%
Social Security payments will be delayed	60%	23%	17%
The U.S. dollar will lose its position as the world's reserve currency	61%	17%	21%

32. 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	33%	19%	37%	11%
Current spending cuts	61%	17%	8%	14%
Entitlement cuts	40%	17%	21%	21%
Ending tax breaks for the wealthy	61%	14%	14%	10%
Capping future spending	62%	17%	8%	13%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
John Boehner	10%	19%	16%	25%	31%
Mitch McConnell	5%	17%	17%	22%	39%
Barack Obama	26%	19%	13%	34%	8%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	19%	15%	37%	19%
Harry Reid	7%	16%	14%	29%	34%
Joe Biden	14%	26%	16%	26%	17%
Eric Cantor	8%	10%	13%	25%	44%

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

Very closely	25%
Somewhat closely	31%
Not too closely	30%
Not at all	13%

35. 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 .....	2%
Tim Pawlenty .....	2%
Michele Bachmann .....	8%
Jon Huntsman .....	4%
Ron Paul .....	9%
Rudy Giuliani .....	7%
Herman Cain .....	3%
Rick Santorum .....	1%
Rick Perry .....	7%
Other .....	7%
No preference .....	32%

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

Barack Obama .....	46%
Someone else .....	24%
Not sure .....	29%

37. 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 .....	6%
Not sure .....	15%

38. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Newt Gingrich, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Newt Gingrich?

*Asked of registered voters*

Barack Obama .....	49%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich .....	2%
Newt Gingrich .....	30%
Not sure .....	6%
I would not vote .....	12%

39. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Ron Paul, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Ron Paul?

*Asked of registered voters*

Barack Obama .....	44%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Ron Paul .....	3%
Ron Paul .....	36%
Not sure .....	8%
I would not vote .....	8%

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

A great deal .....	34%
A fair amount .....	37%
Not much .....	20%
Nothing at all .....	9%

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	17%
Somewhat support	17%
Neither support, nor oppose	17%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	26%
Not sure	11%

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

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	19%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	14%

**44. Do you think Barack Obama...**

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

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

Like a lot	34%
Like somewhat	30%
Dislike	24%
Not sure	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	30%	48%	22%
Decisive	27%	45%	28%
Effective	22%	41%	37%
Experienced	17%	44%	39%
Honest	32%	39%	29%
In touch	27%	40%	32%
Inspiring	34%	41%	25%
Intelligent	60%	26%	14%
Partisan	24%	53%	23%
Patriotic	31%	45%	24%
Realistic	31%	38%	32%
Religious	14%	58%	28%
Sincere	34%	37%	29%
Strong	31%	45%	24%
Unifying	20%	44%	36%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	30%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Not sure	6%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	18%
Off on the wrong track	66%
Not sure	16%

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

Getting better	11%
About the same	34%
Getting worse	48%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	14%
About the same	31%
Lower	31%
Not sure	24%

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

Better off financially	11%
About the same as now	41%
Worse off financially	43%
Not sure	5%

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



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	July 16-19, 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 5.3, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.79.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	23 questions not reported.