

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted July 23-26, 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	13%	31%	20%	23%	13%
The economy	11%	23%	16%	41%	9%
Immigration	8%	22%	18%	37%	15%
The environment	10%	32%	17%	25%	16%
Terrorism	19%	27%	16%	22%	15%
Gay rights	14%	26%	13%	24%	23%
Education	13%	27%	21%	24%	15%
Health care	16%	22%	11%	39%	11%
Social security	12%	19%	19%	35%	15%
The budget deficit	13%	21%	13%	43%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	27%	23%	25%	12%
Taxes	13%	23%	14%	37%	13%
Medicare	11%	20%	19%	35%	15%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	34%	47%	13%	5%
The economy	81%	15%	2%	2%
Immigration	42%	37%	15%	6%
The environment	45%	33%	16%	6%
Terrorism	53%	31%	11%	5%
Gay rights	27%	23%	26%	25%
Education	56%	30%	10%	3%
Health care	71%	23%	4%	2%
Social security	62%	29%	8%	1%
The budget deficit	61%	29%	8%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	37%	44%	14%	5%
Taxes	63%	28%	8%	2%
Medicare	58%	29%	11%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	34%
Immigration	4%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	7%
Health care	9%
Social security	18%
The budget deficit	11%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	2%

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

Strongly Approve	16%
Somewhat Approve	26%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	34%
Not Sure	10%

5. How closely did you follow the 2011 women’s World Cup soccer tournament that recently took place in Germany?

Very closely	6%
Somewhat closely	20%
Not very closely	21%
Not at all	53%

6. Were you more or less interested in the women’s World Cup than you were four years ago?

Much more	8%
Somewhat more	12%
About the same	61%
Somewhat less	4%
Much less	14%

7. How closely do you follow the National Football League (NFL)?

Very closely	21%
Somewhat closely	22%
Not very closely	24%
Not at all	33%

8. How much have you heard or read about negotiations between NFL owners and the players' union to reach a new collective bargaining agreement?

A lot 21%
 A little 50%
 Nothing at all 30%

9. When it comes to the NFL labor dispute, how much sympathy do you have for the...

Asked if respondent is aware of NFL labor dispute

	A lot	Some	Not too much	None at all
Players	14%	26%	26%	34%
Owners	5%	20%	34%	40%

10. Do you think that NFL players are paid too much or too little?

Too much 62%
 About the right amount 17%
 Too little 4%
 Not sure 17%

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

Very favorable 6%
 Somewhat favorable 12%
 Somewhat unfavorable 17%
 Very unfavorable 28%
 Don't know 37%

12. 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 34%
 A little 44%
 Nothing at all 22%

13. Do you think people who are openly gay or homosexual should be allowed to serve in the U.S. military?

Yes 63%
No 23%
Not sure 14%

14. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion:

Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society. 63%
Homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society 37%

15. Do you think being homosexual is something a person chooses to be, or do you think it is something a person cannot change?

Homosexuality is a choice 42%
Homosexuality is not a choice 58%

16. Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

Favor allowing same-sex marriage 38%
Oppose allowing same-sex marriage, but favor allowing civil unions instead 24%
Oppose legal recognition of same-sex relationships 28%
Not sure 9%

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

Compromises to get things done. 55%
Sticks to his or her principles, no matter what. 45%

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

Increase taxes	6%
Decrease government spending	49%
Both	38%
Neither	8%

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

Raised for everyone	30%
Raised only for the wealthy	55%
Other	15%

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

A lot	53%
A little	36%
Nothing at all	12%

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	8%
Very important	43%
Somewhat important	34%
Not very important	9%
Don't plan to vote	6%

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	40%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling	36%
Not sure	25%

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	19%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling	43%
Not sure	37%

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

Yes	57%
No	16%
Not sure	27%

25. 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	32%
Somewhat unlikely	21%
Very unlikely	9%
Not sure	18%

26. One proposal is to raise the debt ceiling and include \$3 trillion in savings from future spending cuts, as well as changes in revenue by revising the tax codes to eliminate some loopholes and deductions. Would you favor or oppose this proposal to increase the debt ceiling?

Asked of half of respondents

Strongly favor	19%
Somewhat favor	27%
Neither favor, nor oppose	14%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	11%
Not sure	20%

27. One proposal which has been discussed by President Obama and Congressman Boehner is to raise the debt ceiling and include \$3 trillion in savings from future spending cuts, as well as changes in revenue by revising the tax codes to eliminate some loopholes and deductions. Would you favor or oppose this proposal to increase the debt ceiling?

Asked of half of respondents

Strongly favor	18%
Somewhat favor	29%
Neither favor, nor oppose	16%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	11%
Not sure	16%

28. Another proposal is to raise the debt ceiling and cut \$5.8 trillion in future spending, cap future spending at 18% of GDP and pass an amendment to the Constitution requiring a balanced federal budget. Would you favor or oppose this proposal to raise the debt ceiling?

Asked of half of respondents

Strongly favor	16%
Somewhat favor	20%
Neither favor, nor oppose	15%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	16%
Not sure	24%

29. Another proposal developed by tea-party backed House Republicans is to raise the debt ceiling and cut \$5.8 trillion in future spending, cap future spending at 18% of GDP and pass an amendment to the Constitution requiring a balanced federal budget. Would you favor or oppose this proposal to raise the debt ceiling?

Asked of half of respondents

Strongly favor	18%
Somewhat favor	23%
Neither favor, nor oppose	14%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	21%
Not sure	15%

30. Another proposal is to give the President the power raise the debt ceiling by up to \$2.5 trillion and cut \$1.5 trillion in future spending. A bipartisan commission would be formed to come up with additional ways to reduce the deficit. Would you favor or oppose this proposal to raise the debt ceiling?

Asked of half of respondents

Strongly favor	8%
Somewhat favor	21%
Neither favor, nor oppose	14%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	22%
Not sure	21%

31. Another proposal developed by Senator McConnell and Senator Reid is to give the President the power raise the debt ceiling by up to \$2.5 trillion and cut \$1.5 trillion in future spending. A bipartisan commission would be formed to come up with additional ways to reduce the deficit. Would you favor or oppose this proposal to raise the debt ceiling?

Asked of half of respondents

Strongly favor	7%
Somewhat favor	27%
Neither favor, nor oppose	17%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	20%
Not sure	15%

32. Another proposal is to raise the debt ceiling and make future spending cuts, along with modifications to entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare, and changes in revenue by revising the tax codes to eliminate loopholes and some deductions. Would you favor or oppose this proposal to raise the debt ceiling?

Asked of half of respondents

Strongly favor	5%
Somewhat favor	21%
Neither favor, nor oppose	15%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	25%
Not sure	18%

33. Another proposal developed by a bipartisan group of six Senators is to raise the debt ceiling and make future spending cuts, along with modifications to entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare, and changes in revenue by revising the tax codes to eliminate loopholes and some deductions. Would you favor or oppose this proposal to raise the debt ceiling?

Asked of half of respondents

Strongly favor	9%
Somewhat favor	18%
Neither favor, nor oppose	19%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	25%
Not sure	12%

34. Another proposal is to approve a short-term extension of the debt ceiling with spending cuts and no tax increases while negotiations for a larger deal continue. Would you favor or oppose this proposal to raise the debt ceiling?

Asked of half of respondents

Strongly favor	10%
Somewhat favor	20%
Neither favor, nor oppose	18%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	20%
Not sure	18%

35. Another proposal supported by some Republicans and Democrats is to approve a short-term extension of the debt ceiling with spending cuts and no tax increases while negotiations for a larger deal continue. Would you favor or oppose this proposal to raise the debt ceiling?

Asked of half of respondents

Strongly favor	10%
Somewhat favor	24%
Neither favor, nor oppose	20%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	19%
Not sure	13%

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

Democrats	28%
Republicans	19%
Both are equally serious	17%
Neither are serious	21%
Not sure	16%

37. 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	74%	10%	16%
Interest rates will go up	70%	7%	23%
There will be a panic in financial markets	61%	17%	22%
The government will start selling off its gold reserves	22%	40%	38%
The government will default on its current debt payments	52%	27%	21%
Social Security payments will be delayed	53%	28%	19%
The U.S. dollar will lose its position as the world's reserve currency	55%	21%	24%

38. 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%	20%	17%	25%	28%
Mitch McConnell	4%	19%	18%	20%	40%
Barack Obama	23%	22%	13%	34%	8%
Nancy Pelosi	10%	18%	14%	36%	21%
Harry Reid	7%	18%	15%	30%	30%
Joe Biden	15%	23%	17%	25%	20%
Eric Cantor	7%	13%	15%	22%	43%

39. In your opinion, do the Democrats in Congress...

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	32%
Mostly just oppose the other party	45%
Not sure	23%

40. In your opinion, do the Republicans in Congress...

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	26%
Mostly just oppose the other party	53%
Not sure	21%

41. In dealing with President Obama, do you think the Republicans in Congress...

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	26%
Mostly just oppose the President	54%
Not sure	20%

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

Very closely	25%
Somewhat closely	35%
Not too closely	24%
Not at all	15%

43. 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	13%
Newt Gingrich	3%
Tim Pawlenty	2%
Michele Bachmann	7%
Jon Huntsman	2%
Ron Paul	7%
Rudy Giuliani	7%
Herman Cain	4%
Rick Santorum	1%
Rick Perry	5%
Other	7%
No preference	35%

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

Barack Obama	48%
Someone else	21%
Not sure	31%

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

Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	44%
The Republican Party candidate	34%
Some other candidate	5%
Not sure	17%

46. 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	49%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Michele Bachmann	3%
Michele Bachmann	35%
Not sure	6%
I would not vote	6%

47. 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	49%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Rick Perry	3%
Rick Perry	33%
Not sure	8%
I would not vote	6%

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

A great deal	34%
A fair amount	36%
Not much	20%
Nothing at all	10%

49. 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%

50. 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	16%
Somewhat support	18%
Neither support, nor oppose	17%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	28%
Not sure	12%

51. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	28%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	16%

52. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	31%
Dislike	27%
Not sure	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	26%	56%	18%
Decisive	19%	52%	28%
Effective	18%	49%	33%
Experienced	16%	45%	39%
Honest	30%	40%	30%
In touch	24%	43%	32%
Inspiring	30%	46%	24%
Intelligent	56%	32%	13%
Partisan	23%	57%	20%
Patriotic	31%	43%	25%
Realistic	31%	42%	28%
Religious	13%	61%	26%
Sincere	34%	37%	30%
Strong	28%	49%	23%
Unifying	17%	47%	35%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	10%
Neither approve nor disapprove	14%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	16%
Off on the wrong track	70%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	11%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	46%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	15%
About the same	33%
Lower	28%
Not sure	23%

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

Better off financially	11%
About the same as now	42%
Worse off financially	40%
Not sure	6%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 23-26, 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 5.6, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.82.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	22 questions not reported.