

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted July 30-August 2, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 3.8\%$

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	12%	29%	21%	24%	14%
The economy	12%	22%	13%	43%	10%
Immigration	7%	22%	15%	37%	18%
The environment	12%	27%	16%	25%	20%
Terrorism	19%	29%	14%	24%	13%
Gay rights	14%	24%	13%	25%	25%
Education	14%	24%	19%	26%	16%
Health care	19%	21%	13%	39%	9%
Social security	14%	17%	17%	37%	15%
The budget deficit	13%	20%	14%	42%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	26%	22%	27%	13%
Taxes	13%	21%	20%	34%	12%
Medicare	14%	20%	15%	38%	15%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	35%	42%	16%	7%
The economy	80%	17%	2%	1%
Immigration	45%	31%	16%	7%
The environment	40%	40%	13%	7%
Terrorism	50%	34%	12%	5%
Gay rights	22%	26%	24%	29%
Education	55%	31%	8%	5%
Health care	73%	20%	5%	3%
Social security	62%	26%	9%	3%
The budget deficit	64%	24%	7%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	35%	44%	15%	6%
Taxes	63%	27%	7%	3%
Medicare	58%	27%	11%	4%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	41%
Immigration	4%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	7%
Health care	8%
Social security	16%
The budget deficit	10%
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	15%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	37%
Not Sure	7%

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

Compromises to get things done.	62%
Sticks to his or her principles, no matter what.	38%

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

Very concerned	55%
Somewhat concerned	32%
Not very concerned	9%
Not at all concerned	3%

7. 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	40%
Next year	12%
In a few years	38%
Not necessary to balance the budget	11%

8. 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	47%
Both	35%
Neither	7%

9. 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%

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

A lot	55%
A little	36%
Nothing at all	10%

11. 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 the debt ceiling negotiations

The most important factor	5%
Very important	46%
Somewhat important	32%
Not very important	9%
Don't plan to vote	8%

12. 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	32%
Not sure	25%

13. 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	22%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling	43%
Not sure	36%

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

Yes	60%
No	15%
Not sure	26%

15. One proposal is to raise the debt ceiling by \$2.7 trillion, an extension that will last until 2013, and cut \$2.2 trillion in future spending. A bipartisan committee 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	10%
Somewhat favor	23%
Neither favor, nor oppose	19%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	18%
Not sure	20%

16. Another proposal is to raise the debt ceiling by \$900 billion, an extension that will last for six months, while negotiations for a larger deal continue. The plan includes \$917 billion in spending cuts and no tax increases. A bipartisan committee would be formed to come up with a deficit reduction plan. Congress would have to approve the committee plan to avoid default. Approval of a larger deal would be dependent on Congress passing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and sending it to the states for ratification. Would you favor or oppose this proposal to raise the debt ceiling?

Asked of half of respondents

Strongly favor	8%
Somewhat favor	20%
Neither favor, nor oppose	18%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	22%
Not sure	18%

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

Democrats	29%
Republicans	19%
Both are equally serious	13%
Neither are serious	23%
Not sure	15%

18. 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	8%	20%	17%	29%	26%
Mitch McConnell	3%	17%	16%	21%	43%
Barack Obama	25%	20%	11%	36%	8%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	19%	13%	37%	20%
Harry Reid	7%	21%	15%	27%	31%
Joe Biden	15%	24%	15%	26%	20%
Eric Cantor	7%	12%	12%	25%	44%

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

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	32%
Mostly just oppose the other party	44%
Not sure	24%

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

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	22%
Mostly just oppose the other party	56%
Not sure	22%

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

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

22. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Governor of your state is doing their job?

Strongly Approve	14%
Somewhat Approve	23%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	28%
Somewhat Disapprove	15%
Strongly Disapprove	21%

23. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Legislature of your state is doing its job?

Strongly Approve	6%
Somewhat Approve	20%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	34%
Somewhat Disapprove	22%
Strongly Disapprove	18%

24. Generally speaking, do you think that public officials care what people like you think?

Care a great deal	3%
Care somewhat	20%
Don't care very much	34%
Don't care at all	36%
Not sure	7%

25. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

Just about always	1%
Most of the time	6%
Some of the time	42%
Almost never	42%
Not sure	9%

26. How much of the time do you think you can trust your state government to do what is right?

Just about always	1%
Most of the time	13%
Some of the time	49%
Almost never	29%
Not sure	9%

27. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to represent your interests?

Just about always	0%
Most of the time	5%
Some of the time	39%
Almost never	47%
Not sure	8%

28. How much of the time do you think you can trust your state government to represent your interests?

Just about always	1%
Most of the time	10%
Some of the time	47%
Almost never	34%
Not sure	8%

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

Very closely	27%
Somewhat closely	32%
Not too closely	27%
Not at all	14%

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

Sarah Palin	7%
Mitt Romney	11%
Newt Gingrich	1%
Tim Pawlenty	1%
Michele Bachmann	6%
Jon Huntsman	3%
Ron Paul	8%
Rudy Giuliani	9%
Herman Cain	2%
Rick Santorum	1%
Rick Perry	6%
Other	8%
No preference	36%

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

Barack Obama	44%
Someone else	25%
Not sure	31%

32. 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	34%
Some other candidate	7%
Not sure	16%

33. 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	50%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Michele Bachmann	2%
Michele Bachmann	34%
Not sure	5%
I would not vote	8%

34. 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	46%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Ron Paul	3%
Ron Paul	37%
Not sure	7%
I would not vote	6%

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

A great deal	33%
A fair amount	32%
Not much	25%
Nothing at all	11%

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

Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Yes	16%
No	84%

37. 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	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	15%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	30%
Not sure	13%

38. 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	36%
A little	46%
Nothing at all	18%

39. 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	8%
Somewhat approve	31%
Somewhat disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	23%
No opinion	18%

40. 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	40%
Wrong	27%
Not sure	33%

41. 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	5%
Somewhat clear	22%
Not very clear	31%
Not at all clear	21%
Not sure	21%

42. How much longer do you think the enforcement of a no-fly zone over Libya will last?

Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Less than a month	3%
About a month	4%
Several months	25%
About a year	12%
Over a year	15%
Not sure	42%

43. Do you think the rebels in Libya will be successful in removing Colonel Gaddafi from power or not?

Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Rebels will succeed in removing Gaddafi from power	34%
Gaddafi will remain in power	24%
Not sure	42%

44. Do you think the military action in Libya should actively aim to remove Colonel Gaddafi from power, or do only what is necessary to protect civilians from attack?

Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Should actively attempt to remove Colonel Gaddafi from power	39%
Should do only what is necessary to protect civilians from attack	40%
Not sure	21%

45. If the chance arose for the military coalition to target Colonel Gaddafi himself in an air strike, should they attempt to kill him?

Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Colonel Gaddafi should be targeted personally if the opportunity arises ..	55%
Colonel Gaddafi should not be targeted personally	18%
Not sure	27%

46. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	28%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	19%

47. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	47%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	53%

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

Like a lot	34%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	26%
Not sure	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	30%	51%	19%
Decisive	24%	52%	25%
Effective	21%	45%	34%
Experienced	14%	46%	40%
Honest	33%	37%	30%
In touch	25%	46%	29%
Inspiring	30%	45%	25%
Intelligent	55%	32%	13%
Partisan	23%	56%	21%
Patriotic	29%	45%	26%
Realistic	28%	42%	29%
Religious	15%	62%	24%
Sincere	36%	37%	27%
Strong	28%	47%	25%
Unifying	15%	51%	34%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	25%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	10%

51. Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does during its first seven months?

More than usual	7%
About the same	42%
Less than usual	51%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	13%
Off on the wrong track	72%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	9%
About the same	32%
Getting worse	51%
Not sure	7%

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

Better off financially	12%
About the same as now	40%
Worse off financially	42%
Not sure	6%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 30-August 2, 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 3.8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.7.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.8% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	25 questions not reported.