

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted August 6-9, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 3.7\%$

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	11%	26%	22%	29%	12%
The economy	8%	20%	18%	45%	9%
Immigration	8%	21%	14%	39%	18%
The environment	11%	31%	16%	26%	16%
Terrorism	18%	28%	14%	27%	12%
Gay rights	14%	24%	13%	25%	24%
Education	13%	25%	19%	29%	15%
Health care	18%	20%	12%	42%	8%
Social security	12%	20%	18%	37%	14%
The budget deficit	9%	17%	17%	47%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	24%	24%	30%	12%
Taxes	10%	18%	18%	42%	12%
Medicare	13%	21%	16%	37%	13%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	37%	40%	16%	8%
The economy	81%	16%	1%	2%
Immigration	47%	29%	16%	8%
The environment	42%	36%	15%	7%
Terrorism	51%	31%	13%	5%
Gay rights	22%	22%	24%	31%
Education	57%	28%	10%	5%
Health care	71%	20%	6%	3%
Social security	64%	26%	7%	4%
The budget deficit	62%	26%	7%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	40%	39%	15%	7%
Taxes	67%	26%	4%	2%
Medicare	55%	30%	12%	4%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	44%
Immigration	3%
The environment	2%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	3%
Education	7%
Health care	7%
Social security	14%
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	14%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	15%
Strongly Disapprove	38%
Not Sure	6%

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

Very concerned	54%
Somewhat concerned	30%
Not very concerned	10%
Not at all concerned	6%

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

Increase taxes	12%
Decrease government spending	49%
Both	33%
Neither	6%

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

The most important factor	9%
Very important	43%
Somewhat important	30%
Not very important	8%
Don't plan to vote	10%

8. Recently, Congress increased the federal government's debt ceiling and agreed to a set of budget cuts over the next ten years. Do you expect federal spending to increase or decrease over the next ten years?

Increase a lot	21%
Increase somewhat	27%
Stay about the same	18%
Decrease somewhat	16%
Decrease a lot	3%
Not sure	14%

9. How successful were each of the following in achieving their goals when it came to the debt limit agreement?

	Achieved almost all of what they wanted	Achieved most of what they wanted	Came out about the compromise agreement	Lost most of what they wanted	Lost almost all of what they wanted	Not sure
Democrats	5%	10%	22%	28%	10%	25%
Republicans	9%	19%	26%	15%	4%	25%
The Tea Party	9%	16%	19%	16%	8%	32%
President Obama	5%	11%	23%	25%	12%	24%

10. Do you think the budget cuts passed by Congress are likely to help or hurt the following groups?

	Help a lot	Help a little	No effect	Hurt a little	Hurt a lot	Not sure
Seniors	2%	5%	11%	23%	46%	14%
The poor	3%	4%	15%	16%	49%	13%
The rich	28%	8%	34%	10%	6%	14%
Taxpayers	2%	5%	13%	24%	41%	15%
Students	1%	4%	14%	24%	41%	15%

11. Do you expect federal income taxes to be increased in 2012 or 2013?

Yes	59%
No	12%
Not sure	29%

12. The rules of the U.S. Congress require a majority of those present to pass most legislation. However, certain actions require a "super-majority" (typically three-fifths or two-thirds) to vote in favor, so that a minority can block these actions. What size majority do you think should be needed before Congress should take these actions?

	Majority	Three-Fifths	Two-Thirds	Three-Quarters	Not sure
Raise taxes	33%	13%	16%	16%	22%
Enact a budget	37%	12%	18%	10%	23%
Raise the debt ceiling	31%	12%	16%	17%	23%
Cut off debate in the Senate	30%	15%	18%	10%	27%
Override a Presidential veto	23%	10%	28%	17%	23%
Pass a Constitutional amendment	20%	9%	21%	26%	23%

13. Now, thinking about your state legislature. What size majority do you think should be needed before it can take these actions?

	Majority	Three-Fifths	Two-Thirds	Three-Quarters	Not sure
Raise taxes	33%	11%	18%	18%	20%
Enact a budget	39%	12%	18%	11%	21%
Borrow money	33%	12%	17%	17%	21%
Override a Gubernatorial veto	23%	10%	29%	14%	24%

14. 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%	19%	17%	26%	29%
Mitch McConnell	4%	17%	16%	20%	43%
Barack Obama	21%	20%	13%	36%	10%
Nancy Pelosi	9%	18%	14%	37%	21%
Harry Reid	6%	17%	13%	31%	34%
Joe Biden	13%	22%	17%	28%	20%
Eric Cantor	6%	10%	14%	21%	49%
Michele Bachmann	11%	16%	11%	31%	31%

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

Very closely	25%
Somewhat closely	33%
Not too closely	29%
Not at all	14%

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

Sarah Palin	9%
Mitt Romney	10%
Newt Gingrich	2%
Tim Pawlenty	2%
Michele Bachmann	5%
Jon Huntsman	4%
Ron Paul	8%
Rudy Giuliani	7%
Herman Cain	4%
Rick Santorum	2%
Rick Perry	6%
Other	6%
No preference	36%

17. 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	23%
Not sure	33%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	41%
The Republican Party candidate	35%
Some other candidate	7%
Not sure	16%

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

A great deal	29%
A fair amount	37%
Not much	23%
Nothing at all	10%

20. 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%

21. 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	8%
Strongly oppose	30%
Not sure	11%

22. 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	37%
A little	46%
Nothing at all	17%

23. 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	11%
Somewhat approve	28%
Somewhat disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	22%
No opinion	19%

24. 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	23%
Not sure	43%

25. Which of these do you think is most likely to happen in Libya?

Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Libya will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	3%
Libya will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	26%
Libya will probably never become a stable democracy.	41%
Not sure	31%

26. Do you think most people in Iraq want to have U.S. troops in their country or would they like the U.S. to leave?

Most would like U.S. troops to stay	7%
About equally divided	31%
Most would like U.S. troops to leave	48%
Not sure	14%

27. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Iraq?

Yes	52%
No	29%
Not sure	19%

28. How much responsibility do you think President Barack Obama has for the current situation in Iraq today?

Most	18%
Some	32%
Only a little	29%
None	12%
Not sure	9%

29. Do you think Barack Obama has a clear plan for U.S. strategy in Iraq?

Yes	26%
No	48%
Not sure	27%

30. Which of these do you think is most likely?

Iraq will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	3%
Iraq will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	31%
Iraq will probably never become a stable democracy.	44%
Not sure	22%

31. Do you think most people in Afghanistan want to have U.S. troops in their country or would they like the U.S. to leave?

Most would like U.S. troops to stay	7%
About equally divided	26%
Most would like U.S. troops to leave	52%
Not sure	16%

32. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Afghanistan?

Yes	38%
No	41%
Not sure	22%

33. How much responsibility do you think President Barack Obama has for the current situation in Afghanistan today?

Most	27%
Some	36%
Only a little	20%
None	7%
Not sure	11%

34. Do you think Barack Obama has a clear plan for U.S. strategy in Afghanistan?

Yes	21%
No	50%
Not sure	29%

35. Which of these do you think is most likely?

Afghanistan will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	2%
Afghanistan will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	17%
Afghanistan will probably never become a stable democracy.	56%
Not sure	25%

36. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to the protests in Egypt?

Strongly approve	10%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	16%
No opinion	38%

37. Do you think America’s relationship with the Muslim world is getting better or worse?

Getting better	10%
About the same	35%
Getting worse	37%
Not sure	18%

38. Have U.S. policies in recent years given too much or too little support to Egypt?

Too much support	28%
About the right amount of support	26%
Too little support	6%
Not sure	41%

39. Which of these do you think is most likely to happen in Egypt?

Egypt will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	13%
Egypt will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	32%
Egypt will probably never become a stable democracy.	23%
Not sure	32%

40. In its relations toward foreign countries, is it better for the U.S. government to...?

Support a non-democratic government that is a steady ally of the U.S. . . . 33%
 Support a democratically elected government regardless of its attitude toward
 the U.S. 26%
 Not sure 41%

41. Do you think the U.S. should only give foreign aid to countries with democratically elected governments?

Yes 26%
 No 40%
 Not sure 34%

42. Which of these statements comes closest to your opinion:

The United States should help all countries who need foreign aid, whatever their
 government’s political views 32%
 The United States should limit its foreign aid to countries where its help may
 provide political benefits to the U.S. in return 68%

43. Please indicate whether you have done any of the following in the past year. (Check all that apply)

Written or called a politician 34%
 Made a speech 7%
 Donated money to a political party 15%
 Been an active member of a group trying to influence public policy/government
 12%
 Written something that’s been published 7%
 Written letter to paper/magazine or called a radio/TV show 11%
 Written an article for a magazine or newspaper 5%
 Worked for a political party 7%
 None of the above 55%

44. Do you favor or oppose limiting the amount of money the following groups can spend in support of a political campaign?

	Strongly favor	Favor	Neither favor, nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Individuals	20%	22%	39%	10%	10%
Labor Unions	27%	18%	30%	10%	15%
Corporations	31%	15%	30%	10%	14%
Foreign corporations	37%	10%	26%	9%	18%
Special interest groups	29%	16%	31%	12%	13%
Candidates spending their own money on their own campaign	25%	18%	35%	10%	12%

45. Do you favor or oppose public financing of political campaigns?

Strongly favor	9%
Favor	11%
Neither favor, nor oppose	39%
Oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	22%

46. How much of the time do you think you can trust Congress to do what is right?

Mean	33
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47. How much of the time do you think you can trust the President to do what is right?

Mean	46
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48. How much of the time do you think you can trust most people to do what is right?

Mean	53
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49. How much of the time do you think you can trust your Governor to do what is right?

Mean 44

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

Mean 42

51. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal 29%
Liberal 17%
Moderate 27%
Conservative 6%
Very conservative 2%
Not sure 18%

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 31%
Like somewhat 30%
Dislike 25%
Not sure 14%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	27%	51%	22%
Decisive	24%	46%	30%
Effective	21%	43%	36%
Experienced	16%	45%	39%
Honest	31%	37%	31%
In touch	24%	42%	34%
Inspiring	31%	45%	24%
Intelligent	57%	27%	16%
Partisan	26%	54%	20%
Patriotic	30%	43%	27%
Realistic	30%	40%	30%
Religious	15%	59%	26%
Sincere	33%	36%	31%
Strong	28%	46%	26%
Unifying	16%	48%	35%

55. 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	14%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	8%

56. 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	40%
Less than usual	52%

57. Six months from now do you think there will be...

More jobs	14%
The same amount of jobs	34%
Fewer jobs	39%
Not sure	13%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	13%
Off on the wrong track	71%
Not sure	16%

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

Getting better	9%
About the same	27%
Getting worse	56%
Not sure	8%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	11%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	37%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	46%
Not sure	7%

61. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and John Huntsman, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or John Huntsman?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	41%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean John Huntsman	7%
John Huntsman	28%
Not sure	11%
I would not vote	11%

62. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	43%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Mitt Romney	3%
Mitt Romney	38%
Not sure	7%
I would not vote	8%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	August 6-9, 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 4.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.65.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	25 questions not reported.