

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted August 13-16, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 3.9\%$

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%	29%	18%	28%	15%
The economy	7%	21%	15%	46%	11%
Immigration	7%	20%	17%	37%	18%
The environment	10%	29%	16%	24%	20%
Terrorism	20%	26%	15%	24%	15%
Gay rights	13%	23%	10%	25%	28%
Education	11%	26%	19%	25%	19%
Health care	16%	20%	13%	41%	10%
Social security	11%	19%	22%	36%	13%
The budget deficit	9%	18%	17%	45%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	25%	20%	28%	15%
Taxes	10%	18%	18%	40%	13%
Medicare	11%	19%	19%	36%	14%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	36%	41%	16%	8%
The economy	78%	17%	2%	3%
Immigration	44%	31%	16%	8%
The environment	44%	35%	14%	8%
Terrorism	51%	31%	11%	7%
Gay rights	21%	22%	27%	30%
Education	54%	32%	8%	6%
Health care	70%	23%	4%	4%
Social security	65%	24%	8%	4%
The budget deficit	65%	23%	7%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	37%	41%	15%	8%
Taxes	63%	27%	6%	4%
Medicare	57%	29%	9%	4%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	42%
Immigration	4%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	5%
Health care	9%
Social security	15%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	3%

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

Strongly Approve	14%
Somewhat Approve	26%
Somewhat Disapprove	15%
Strongly Disapprove	39%
Not Sure	7%

5. Do you think that so far the policies of the Obama Administration have helped or hurt...

	Helped	No effect	Hurt	Not sure
The Economy	17%	13%	55%	15%
The Stock Market	14%	19%	46%	21%
Major Corporations	33%	21%	26%	20%
Banks and other financial organizations	38%	16%	27%	19%
Labor Unions	29%	23%	22%	26%
The Middle Class	14%	14%	56%	15%
The Rich	34%	29%	19%	17%
The Poor	20%	15%	50%	16%

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

Very concerned	53%
Somewhat concerned	30%
Not very concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	4%

7. 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	49%
Both	34%
Neither	6%

8. 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%	28%	29%
Eric Cantor	7%	12%	11%	25%	45%
Nancy Pelosi	9%	17%	12%	41%	21%
Harry Reid	5%	19%	13%	34%	30%
Barack Obama	21%	21%	14%	37%	8%
Joe Biden	13%	23%	18%	27%	19%
George W. Bush	12%	21%	18%	40%	9%

9. As part of the debt ceiling increase legislation, Congress created a 12-person committee equally divided between members of the House and the Senate and between Republicans and Democrats, They are to report their recommendations in November. If they do not, or if their recommendations are not enacted, there will automatically be large across-the-board budget cuts, including for defense, Social Security and Medicare. Do you approve or disapprove the creation of this "Super Committee"?

Strongly approve	7%
Somewhat approve	24%
Somewhat disapprove	19%
Strongly disapprove	31%
No opinion	18%

10. How likely do you think it is that the committee will be able to agree on its recommendations?

Very likely	3%
Somewhat likely	16%
Somewhat unlikely	26%
Very unlikely	40%
Not sure	15%

11. If this committee does come to an agreement, how likely do you think it is that the Congress will support its recommendations?

Very likely	5%
Somewhat likely	23%
Somewhat unlikely	30%
Very unlikely	24%
Not sure	17%

12. Do you think it is possible to make large reductions in the budget deficit and...

	Yes	No	Not sure
NOT decrease Social Security and Medicare?	56%	24%	21%
NOT decrease defense spending?	28%	49%	22%
NOT increase taxes?	40%	39%	21%
NOT pass a balanced budget amendment?	32%	35%	33%
NOT decrease education spending and/or student aid	46%	28%	27%

13. Would you support or oppose a deficit reduction plan that included the following measures...?

	Support	Neither support, nor oppose	Oppose	Not sure
Cuts to Social Security and Medicare	14%	14%	64%	8%
Increased taxes	34%	14%	43%	9%
Cuts to defense spending	47%	17%	26%	10%
Balanced budget amendment to the Constitution	42%	18%	19%	20%
Cuts to education spending and/or student aid	22%	17%	52%	9%

14. How do you feel about the following things?

	Enthusiastic	Satisfied but not enthusiastic	Dissatisfied but not angry	Angry	No opinion
Congress	1%	8%	28%	51%	12%
The Obama Administration	8%	23%	20%	39%	10%
Health care reform passed by Congress	6%	21%	21%	38%	14%
The handling of the financial crisis	1%	9%	29%	51%	10%
The Supreme Court	2%	26%	30%	21%	21%
The debt ceiling agreement	1%	13%	33%	36%	16%

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

Very closely	28%
Somewhat closely	33%
Not too closely	23%
Not at all	16%

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	9%
Newt Gingrich	3%
Tim Pawlenty	1%
Michele Bachmann	8%
Jon Huntsman	3%
Ron Paul	8%
Rudy Giuliani	6%
Herman Cain	2%
Rick Santorum	1%
Rick Perry	10%
Other	6%
No preference	34%

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

Barack Obama	42%
Someone else	26%
Not sure	32%

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%
Other	4%
Not sure	17%
I would not vote	3%

19. 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	47%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Rick Perry	4%
Rick Perry	35%
Other	0%
Not sure	7%
I would not vote	5%

20. 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	45%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Mitt Romney	5%
Mitt Romney	37%
Other	0%
Not sure	7%
I would not vote	5%

21. 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 (With Bachman's Newsweek picture)

Barack Obama	42%
Michele Bachmann	35%
Other	5%
Not sure	11%
I would not vote	7%

22. 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 (No picture)

Barack Obama	52%
Michele Bachmann	33%
Other	3%
Not sure	9%
I would not vote	3%

23. 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 (With Bachman's official House portrait)

Barack Obama	51%
Michele Bachmann	35%
Other	6%
Not sure	5%
I would not vote	3%

24. 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 (All treatments combined with followup)

Barack Obama	50%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Michele Bachmann	4%
Michele Bachmann	35%
Other	0%
Not sure	5%
I would not vote	4%

25. 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	19%
Nothing at all	12%

26. 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%

27. 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	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	15%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	30%
Not sure	12%

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

Written or called a politician	33%
Made a speech	5%
Donated money to a political party	16%
Been an active member of a group trying to influence public policy/government	13%
Written something that's been published	6%
Written letter to paper/magazine or called a radio/TV show	10%
Written an article for a magazine or newspaper	2%
Worked for a political party	4%
None of the above	56%

29. Which do you prefer: a representative who...

Supports policies in line with his or her principles, regardless of how their constituents feel about those policies.	36%
Supports policies that their constituents want, regardless of his or her own personal beliefs.	64%

30. Do you think that voters are generally able to evaluate candidates and make competent vote choices?

Certainly yes	11%
Probably yes	30%
Probably not	31%
Certainly not	13%
Not sure	15%

31. Do you think that voters are generally able to evaluate policies and make competent vote choices?

Certainly yes	12%
Probably yes	30%
Probably not	32%
Certainly not	11%
Not sure	15%

32. Some states have direct democracy through which people can directly vote on legislation. Do you favor or oppose direct democracy?

Strongly favor	18%
Favor	32%
Neither favor, nor oppose	41%
Oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	2%

33. Would you support establishing a national referendum system to allow people to vote directly on national laws?

Strongly support	19%
Support	35%
Neither support, nor oppose	32%
Oppose	11%
Strongly Oppose	4%

34. Do you think the minimum wage of your state should be changed?

Yes, increased significantly	26%
Yes, increased a little bit	25%
No, it should not be changed	23%
Yes, decreased a little bit	4%
Yes, decreased significantly	4%
Not sure	17%

35. Do you think that prostitution should be legal?

Definitely yes	15%
Probably yes	24%
Probably not	16%
Definitely not	36%
Not sure	10%

36. Do you think that gambling should be legal?

Definitely yes	33%
Probably yes	35%
Probably not	12%
Definitely not	10%
Not sure	10%

37. There has been much talk about school vouchers, where the government gives parents in low-income families money to help pay for their children to attend a private or religious school instead of their local public school. Do you approve or disapprove of a voucher program in your community?

Strongly approve	21%
Somewhat approve	19%
Somewhat disapprove	19%
Strongly disapprove	28%
Not sure	14%

38. In six months, do you think the price of gasoline will be higher or lower than it is today?

Higher	50%
About the same	28%
Lower	11%
Not sure	11%

39. How serious a problem is the increase in the price of gasoline in recent months for you and your family?

Very serious	32%
Somewhat serious	39%
No too serious	22%
Not at all serious	7%

40. Who do you think is more responsible for the current state of the economy?

George W. Bush	40%
Barack Obama	34%
Equally responsible	26%

41. Who do you think is more responsible for the current size of the federal budget deficit?

George W. Bush	39%
Barack Obama	36%
Equally responsible	25%

42. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	30%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	19%

43. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	42%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	58%

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

Like a lot	31%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	28%
Not sure	13%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	26%	55%	19%
Decisive	16%	51%	32%
Effective	14%	48%	38%
Experienced	14%	46%	40%
Honest	28%	41%	30%
In touch	20%	47%	33%
Inspiring	29%	46%	25%
Intelligent	53%	35%	12%
Partisan	25%	59%	17%
Patriotic	25%	49%	25%
Realistic	25%	45%	31%
Religious	12%	63%	25%
Sincere	32%	39%	29%
Strong	23%	52%	25%
Unifying	11%	52%	36%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	12%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	9%

47. 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	39%
Less than usual	54%

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

More jobs	13%
The same amount of jobs	35%
Fewer jobs	36%
Not sure	16%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	12%
Off on the wrong track	74%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	9%
About the same	25%
Getting worse	57%
Not sure	9%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	9%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	39%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	46%
Not sure	6%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	August 13-16, 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 5.9, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.77.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	25 questions not reported.