

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted October 1-4, 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 | 12% | 28% | 22% | 26% | 13% |
| The economy | 10% | 20% | 16% | 44% | 10% |
| Immigration | 9% | 21% | 17% | 38% | 15% |
| The environment | 12% | 24% | 18% | 28% | 18% |
| Terrorism | 23% | 29% | 13% | 24% | 12% |
| Gay rights | 18% | 21% | 11% | 24% | 26% |
| Education | 16% | 24% | 18% | 26% | 17% |
| Health care | 18% | 19% | 13% | 41% | 10% |
| Social security | 14% | 20% | 17% | 35% | 15% |
| The budget deficit | 11% | 18% | 16% | 44% | 11% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 10% | 26% | 23% | 27% | 13% |
| Taxes | 16% | 18% | 17% | 37% | 12% |
| Medicare | 15% | 20% | 16% | 35% | 14% |

2. How important are the following issues to you?

| | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not very Important | Unimportant |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| The war in Iraq | 37% | 42% | 16% | 6% |
| The economy | 80% | 15% | 3% | 2% |
| Immigration | 48% | 31% | 14% | 6% |
| The environment | 44% | 33% | 17% | 6% |
| Terrorism | 56% | 28% | 11% | 4% |
| Gay rights | 24% | 27% | 25% | 24% |
| Education | 55% | 30% | 10% | 5% |
| Health care | 72% | 19% | 7% | 2% |
| Social security | 67% | 22% | 8% | 3% |
| The budget deficit | 64% | 25% | 8% | 3% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 37% | 42% | 15% | 6% |
| Taxes | 68% | 23% | 7% | 2% |
| Medicare | 59% | 27% | 11% | 3% |

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 | 6% |
| Health care | 10% |
| Social security | 14% |
| The budget deficit | 10% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 1% |
| Taxes | 3% |
| Medicare | 4% |

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

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Approve | 14% |
| Somewhat Approve | 25% |
| Somewhat Disapprove | 17% |
| Strongly Disapprove | 36% |
| Not Sure | 8% |

5. How much have you heard or read about the trial of Conrad Murray, Michael Jackson’s doctor, who is charged with involuntary manslaughter in the singer’s death?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| A lot | 23% |
| A little | 59% |
| Nothing at all | 18% |

6. If you were a member of the jury in the trial of Conrad Murray, how would you vote on the charge of involuntary manslaughter?

Asked if respondent is aware of Conrad Murray trial

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Guilty | 38% |
| Not guilty | 18% |
| Not sure | 45% |

7. In the past, winners of the Nobel Peace Prize have included people like the Dalai Lama, Jimmy Carter, Mikhail Gorbachev, Barack Obama and Nelson Mandela. In general, do you think the Nobel Peace Prize Committee makes good decisions about who wins the prize?

Asked of half of respondents

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Good decisions | 35% |
| Bad decisions | 33% |
| Not sure | 32% |

8. In general, do you think the Nobel Peace Prize Committee makes good decisions about who wins the prize?

Asked of half of respondents

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Good decisions | 27% |
| Bad decisions | 30% |
| Not sure | 43% |

9. In 2009, President Barack Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama receiving the Nobel Peace Prize?

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Approve | 26% |
| Disapprove | 51% |
| Not sure | 22% |

10. Which of these statements best describes how you feel about Barack Obama being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009?

| | |
|--|-----|
| I think Barack Obama deserved the Nobel Peace Prize | 16% |
| I am happy Barack Obama received the prize, but the Nobel Committee really should have waited until he had been president longer and had accomplished more | 35% |
| I think that awarding the prize to Barack Obama was a mistake; he did not deserve it | 48% |

11. Why do you think Barack Obama was awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize?

| | |
|---|-----|
| The award committee believed he had improved the chance of peace in the world | 27% |
| The award committee wanted to encourage global support for some Obama initiatives | 18% |
| The award committee wanted to make a statement critical of President George W. Bush | 21% |
| Not sure | 34% |

12. Are we safer from terrorist attacks now than we were in 2001?

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Much more safe | 14% |
| Somewhat more safe | 32% |
| About the same | 30% |
| Somewhat less safe | 7% |
| Much less safe | 6% |
| Not sure | 12% |

13. What do you think are the chances of a terrorist attack against the United States in the next 12 months?

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Very likely (more than 50%) | 14% |
| Somewhat likely (10% to 50%) | 39% |
| Not very likely (1% to 10%) | 24% |
| Very unlikely (less than 1%) | 8% |
| Not sure | 15% |

14. Do you think the policies of the Obama Administration have made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| More safe | 31% |
| No effect | 30% |
| Less safe | 20% |
| Not sure | 20% |

15. How serious a threat do you think Al Qaeda poses to the United States?

| | |
|--|-----|
| An immediate and serious threat to the United States | 21% |
| A somewhat serious threat to the United States | 43% |
| A minor threat to the United States | 20% |
| Not a threat to the United States | 4% |
| Not sure | 12% |

16. Should terror suspects who are U.S. citizens be deliberately killed by U.S. military forces or should they be granted the constitutional right given to U.S. citizens to be tried in a court of law?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Should be targeted for killing | 43% |
| Should be tried in a court of law | 36% |
| Not sure | 21% |

17. When the U.S. arrests terror suspects who are U.S. citizens, should they be treated as U.S. citizens, with the rights the Constitution gives citizens, or should they be treated as enemy combatants, without any of those rights?

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Should be treated as U.S. citizens | 21% |
| Should be treated as enemy combatants | 42% |
| Depends on the case | 25% |
| Not sure | 12% |

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

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Yes | 50% |
| No | 31% |
| Not sure | 19% |

19. Do you favor increasing or decreasing the number of U.S. troops in Iraq?

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Increase | 6% |
| Keep the same | 25% |
| Decrease | 69% |

20. What do you think will eventually happen in Iraq?

| | |
|--|-----|
| The United States will win the war in Iraq. | 33% |
| The United States will withdraw from Iraq without winning. | 67% |

21. 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 | 9% |
| About equally divided | 35% |
| Most would like U.S. troops to leave | 43% |
| Not sure | 14% |

22. Are Iraqi civilians better off today than they were when the war in Iraq began?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Definitely yes | 20% |
| Probably yes | 32% |
| Probably no | 18% |
| Definitely no | 7% |
| Not sure | 23% |

23. Next, we would like to ask you about the war in Afghanistan.

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

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 33% |
| No | 45% |
| Not sure | 22% |

24. Do you favor increasing or decreasing the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan?

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Increase | 11% |
| Keep the same | 30% |
| Decrease | 59% |

25. If U.S. troops were removed from Afghanistan, do you think the Taliban would return to power?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 51% |
| No | 10% |
| Not sure | 39% |

26. What do you think will eventually happen in Afghanistan?

- The United States will win the war in Afghanistan. 25%
- The United States will withdraw from Afghanistan without winning. 75%

27. 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 10%
- About equally divided 35%
- Most would like U.S. troops to leave 37%
- Not sure 18%

28. Are Afghan civilians better off today than they were when the war in Afghanistan began?

- Definitely yes 12%
- Probably yes 33%
- Probably no 23%
- Definitely no 6%
- Not sure 26%

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

- Very closely 27%
- Somewhat closely 33%
- Not too closely 25%
- Not at all 15%

30. In the upcoming primary elections, are you more likely to vote in a Democratic presidential primary or caucus, or a Republican primary or caucus, or aren't you likely to vote in a primary or caucus at all?

Asked of registered voters

- Democratic primary or caucus 40%
- Republican primary or caucus 42%
- Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all 19%

31. Are you satisfied with the field of Republicans who have declared their candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination or would you like someone else to enter the race?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

| | |
|--|-----|
| Satisfied with current field | 45% |
| Would like someone else to enter | 23% |
| Not sure | 33% |

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

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Sarah Palin | 5% |
| Mitt Romney | 17% |
| Newt Gingrich | 7% |
| Michele Bachmann | 3% |
| Jon Huntsman | 3% |
| Ron Paul | 8% |
| Rudy Giuliani | 5% |
| Herman Cain | 21% |
| Rick Santorum | 1% |
| Rick Perry | 10% |
| Chris Christie | 9% |
| Other | 3% |
| No preference | 8% |

33. And which of these individuals would be your SECOND choice to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Sarah Palin | 6% |
| Mitt Romney | 15% |
| Newt Gingrich | 14% |
| Michele Bachmann | 5% |
| Jon Huntsman | 2% |
| Ron Paul | 4% |
| Rudy Giuliani | 7% |
| Herman Cain | 16% |
| Rick Santorum | 4% |
| Rick Perry | 8% |
| Chris Christie | 10% |
| Other | 6% |
| No preference | 4% |

34. Preferred Republican nominee for President (announced candidates only): Displaying second choice when first choice is an unannounced candidate

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Mitt Romney | 21% |
| Newt Gingrich | 10% |
| Michele Bachmann | 5% |
| Jon Huntsman | 3% |
| Ron Paul | 9% |
| Herman Cain | 26% |
| Rick Santorum | 1% |
| Rick Perry | 12% |
| Other | 4% |
| No preference | 9% |

35. Who would you prefer as the Republican nominee for president in 2012 if the choice were between Rick Perry and Mitt Romney?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Mitt Romney | 45% |
| Rick Perry | 35% |
| No preference | 20% |

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

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Democratic primary or caucus

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Barack Obama | 73% |
| Someone else | 14% |
| Not sure | 13% |

37. 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 | 1% |
| Rick Perry | 37% |
| Other | 8% |
| Not sure | 7% |

38. 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 | 42% |
| Lean Barack Obama | 2% |
| Lean Mitt Romney | 1% |
| Mitt Romney | 42% |
| Other | 6% |
| Not sure | 7% |

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

Asked of registered voters

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Barack Obama | 43% |
| Lean Barack Obama | 2% |
| Lean Chris Christie | 2% |
| Chris Christie | 39% |
| Other | 7% |
| Not sure | 8% |

40. In the presidential election next year, if the Democratic candidate were Barack Obama and the Republican candidate were Rick Perry, who do you think would be more likely to win?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Obama | 38% |
| Equally likely | 10% |
| Perry | 27% |
| Not sure | 24% |

41. In the presidential election next year, if the Democratic candidate were Barack Obama and the Republican candidate were Mitt Romney, who do you think would be more likely to win?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Obama | 29% |
| Equally likely | 15% |
| Romney | 32% |
| Not sure | 24% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| A great deal | 30% |
| A fair amount | 35% |
| Not much | 20% |
| Nothing at all | 14% |

43. 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% |

44. 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 | 15% |
| Somewhat support | 17% |
| Neither support, nor oppose | 18% |
| Somewhat oppose | 10% |
| Strongly oppose | 31% |
| Not sure | 10% |

45. Would you say Barack Obama is...

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal | 29% |
| Liberal | 22% |
| Moderate | 24% |
| Conservative | 5% |
| Very conservative | 3% |
| Not sure | 18% |

46. Do you think Barack Obama...

| | |
|---|-----|
| Says what he believes | 43% |
| Says what he thinks people want to hear | 57% |

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

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Like a lot | 30% |
| Like somewhat | 31% |
| Dislike | 24% |
| Not sure | 15% |

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

| | Yes | No Opinion | No |
|-------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Bold | 27% | 53% | 20% |
| Decisive | 20% | 54% | 26% |
| Effective | 16% | 46% | 37% |
| Experienced | 13% | 42% | 45% |
| Honest | 30% | 40% | 30% |
| In touch | 22% | 48% | 30% |
| Inspiring | 33% | 45% | 22% |
| Intelligent | 54% | 31% | 15% |
| Partisan | 24% | 59% | 17% |
| Patriotic | 30% | 45% | 25% |
| Realistic | 25% | 44% | 30% |
| Religious | 15% | 58% | 28% |
| Sincere | 33% | 39% | 28% |
| Strong | 27% | 47% | 26% |
| Unifying | 14% | 53% | 33% |

49. 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 | 16% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 24% |
| Strongly disapprove | 45% |
| Not sure | 8% |

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

| | |
|---|-----|
| Generally headed in the right direction | 15% |
| Off on the wrong track | 70% |
| Not sure | 14% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Getting better | 9% |
| About the same | 33% |
| Getting worse | 50% |
| Not sure | 8% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Higher | 13% |
| About the same | 34% |
| Lower | 31% |
| Not sure | 22% |

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

| | |
|---|-----|
| Better off financially than you were a year ago | 7% |
| About the same financially as you were a year ago | 41% |
| Worse off financially than you were a year ago | 44% |
| Not sure | 8% |

54. 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 | 39% |
| Other | 4% |
| Not sure | 15% |
| I would not vote | 2% |

55. If an election for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?

Asked of registered voters

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| The Democratic Party candidate | 40% |
| The Republican Party candidate | 38% |
| Other | 2% |
| Not sure | 18% |
| I would not vote | 2% |

56. Gender

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Male | 49% |
| Female | 51% |

57. Age

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| 18-29 | 23% |
| 30-64 | 60% |
| 65+ | 17% |

58. Education

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| High school or less | 47% |
| Some college | 29% |
| College graduate | 23% |

59. Race

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| White | 72% |
| Black | 11% |
| Hispanic | 9% |
| Other | 8% |

60. Region

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Northeast | 17% |
| Midwest | 22% |
| South | 37% |
| West | 23% |

61. Party Identification

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Democrat | 37% |
| Republican | 27% |
| Independent | 36% |

The Economist/YouGov Poll



| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Sponsorship | <i>The Economist</i> |
| Fieldwork | YouGov |
| Interviewing Dates | October 1-4, 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 3.4, 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. |