

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted October 15-18, 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	13%	25%	20%	30%	13%
The economy	11%	21%	13%	46%	9%
Immigration	9%	18%	18%	39%	16%
The environment	12%	26%	16%	30%	16%
Terrorism	23%	25%	16%	23%	13%
Gay rights	15%	23%	13%	26%	23%
Education	13%	25%	18%	28%	15%
Health care	18%	20%	12%	41%	10%
Social security	15%	19%	17%	35%	13%
The budget deficit	11%	19%	14%	45%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	24%	20%	31%	13%
Taxes	14%	19%	16%	38%	12%
Medicare	15%	20%	16%	36%	13%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	39%	39%	16%	5%
The economy	81%	15%	2%	2%
Immigration	49%	29%	16%	6%
The environment	44%	34%	14%	8%
Terrorism	54%	29%	12%	5%
Gay rights	20%	23%	29%	27%
Education	56%	29%	11%	4%
Health care	70%	21%	5%	4%
Social security	65%	25%	7%	3%
The budget deficit	60%	27%	9%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	40%	39%	16%	6%
Taxes	67%	25%	5%	3%
Medicare	58%	27%	12%	4%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	42%
Immigration	4%
The environment	2%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	10%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	2%

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

Strongly Approve	14%
Somewhat Approve	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	15%
Strongly Disapprove	38%
Not Sure	8%

5. Do you favor or oppose the following measures to stimulate the economy and create jobs?
Asked of half of respondents

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Extending and expanding the Social Security payroll tax cut for workers	41%	22%	37%
Reducing the Social Security taxes paid by businesses on the first \$5 million in wages paid in 2012	24%	40%	35%
Funding highways, transit, rail and aviation improvements	52%	21%	26%
Funding school construction	48%	27%	24%
Extending unemployment benefits	41%	32%	24%
Offering tax credits for businesses that hire the long-term unemployed	54%	20%	24%
Providing aid to local governments to save and create jobs for teachers, police and firefighters	52%	26%	20%
Funding job creation measures through a 5.6% surtax on annual incomes over \$1 million	49%	27%	22%
Offering tax credits for businesses hiring military veterans with service-related disabilities who have been unemployed more than six months	63%	13%	24%
Extending tax provisions allowing companies to more quickly write off the cost of new equipment	41%	22%	37%

6. Do you favor or oppose the following measures that President Obama has proposed to stimulate the economy and create jobs?

Asked of half of respondents

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Extending and expanding the Social Security payroll tax cut for workers	42%	21%	33%
Reducing the Social Security taxes paid by businesses on the first \$5 million in wages paid in 2012	26%	37%	35%
Funding highways, transit, rail and aviation improvements	57%	19%	22%
Funding school construction	49%	24%	25%
Extending unemployment benefits	45%	31%	21%
Offering tax credits for businesses that hire the long-term unemployed	57%	19%	22%
Providing aid to local governments to save and create jobs for teachers, police and firefighters	57%	24%	18%
Funding job creation measures through a 5.6% surtax on annual incomes over \$1 million	52%	24%	21%
Offering tax credits for businesses hiring military veterans with service-related disabilities who have been unemployed more than six months	64%	13%	20%
Extending tax provisions allowing companies to more quickly write off the cost of new equipment	39%	26%	33%

7. The measures just described are a part of President Obama's jobs plan. Taken together, do you think the plan would create a substantial number of new jobs in the U.S. or not?

Would create a substantial number of new jobs	32%
Would not create a substantial number of new jobs	39%
Not sure	29%

8. Over the next year, do you think President Obama’s handling of the economy will cause the unemployment rate to go up or down?

Up	31%
No effect	20%
Down	26%
Not sure	23%

9. Which party do you trust more to handle the issue of job creation?

Democrats	33%
Republicans	27%
About the same	23%
Not sure	17%

10. Do you support or oppose additional government spending to create jobs and stimulate the economy?

Strongly support	22%
Somewhat support	18%
Neither support, nor oppose	13%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	24%
Not sure	11%

11. In February 2009, Congress passed President Obama’s \$787 billion economic stimulus bill. Overall, do you think that the 2009 stimulus bill helped or hurt the economy?

Helped	25%
No effect	23%
Hurt	35%
Not sure	16%

12. Do you feel you pay more than your fair share in federal income taxes, less than your fair share, or is the amount you pay about right?

More than fair share	37%
About right	48%
Less than fair share	4%
I don't file taxes	11%

13. Do you feel the following groups pay more than their fair share in federal income taxes, less than their fair share, or is the amount they pay about right?

	More than fair share	About right	Less than fair share	Not sure
Poor people	35%	27%	23%	15%
Middle class people	49%	39%	4%	9%
Wealthy people	14%	13%	63%	10%

14. How would you describe your own family's income?

Poor	33%
Middle Class	66%
Wealthy	2%

15. How much have you heard or read about Herman Cain's 9-9-9 plan for reforming the U.S. tax code?

A lot	23%
A little	41%
Nothing at all	36%

16. Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain has proposed replacing the current U.S. tax code with a 9 percent federal business tax, a 9 percent federal payroll tax, and a 9 percent federal sales tax. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

Strongly favor	8%
Somewhat favor	16%
Neither favor, nor oppose	15%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	25%
Not sure	26%

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

Very closely	27%
Somewhat closely	33%
Not too closely	24%
Not at all	16%

18. 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%

19. 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	51%
Would like someone else to enter	22%
Not sure	27%

20. 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

Mitt Romney	21%
Newt Gingrich	11%
Michele Bachmann	4%
Jon Huntsman	3%
Ron Paul	10%
Herman Cain	31%
Rick Santorum	3%
Rick Perry	8%
Gary Johnson	0%
Other	5%
No preference	6%

21. 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

Mitt Romney	18%
Newt Gingrich	14%
Michele Bachmann	12%
Jon Huntsman	3%
Ron Paul	4%
Herman Cain	19%
Rick Santorum	5%
Rick Perry	12%
Gary Johnson	2%
Other	1%
No preference	9%

22. 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	76%
Someone else	12%
Not sure	12%

23. 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	45%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Rick Perry	3%
Rick Perry	36%
Other	8%
Not sure	7%

24. 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	2%
Lean Mitt Romney	2%
Mitt Romney	39%
Other	8%
Not sure	6%

25. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Herman Cain, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Herman Cain?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	43%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Herman Cain	1%
Herman Cain	41%
Other	6%
Not sure	7%

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

Obama	40%
Equally likely	9%
Cain	27%
Not sure	24%

27. 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	32%
Equally likely	15%
Romney	30%
Not sure	23%

28. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Mitt Romney.

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither agree, nor disagree	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Mitt Romney cares about people like me.	8%	17%	39%	11%	24%
Mitt Romney understands people like me.	7%	17%	38%	13%	25%
Mitt Romney shares my values.	8%	15%	37%	15%	25%
Mitt Romney understands complex issues.	16%	23%	38%	10%	13%
Mitt Romney is tough enough for the job of president.	15%	23%	38%	10%	13%
Mitt Romney has the qualifications to be a good President.	16%	24%	37%	9%	14%

29. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Herman Cain.

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither agree, nor disagree	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Herman Cain cares about people like me.	16%	12%	38%	11%	24%
Herman Cain understands people like me.	15%	13%	39%	9%	24%
Herman Cain shares my values.	15%	12%	38%	10%	24%
Herman Cain understands complex issues.	14%	16%	39%	11%	20%
Herman Cain is tough enough for the job of president.	19%	15%	41%	8%	17%
Herman Cain has the qualifications to be a good President.	14%	14%	42%	9%	21%

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

A great deal	35%
A fair amount	36%
Not much	16%
Nothing at all	12%

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

Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Yes	19%
No	81%

32. 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	19%
Somewhat support	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	15%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	29%
Not sure	11%

33. How much have you heard or read about the protest movement known as the Occupy Wall Street movement?

A great deal	31%
A fair amount	31%
Not much	19%
Nothing at all	18%

34. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Occupy Wall Street movement?
Asked if respondent is aware of Occupy Wall Street movement

Yes	25%
No	75%

35. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Occupy Wall Street movement?
Asked if respondent is aware of Occupy Wall Street movement

Strongly support	23%
Somewhat support	20%
Neither support, nor oppose	16%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	20%
Not sure	11%

36. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	28%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	19%

37. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	30%
Dislike	25%
Not sure	14%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	28%	51%	20%
Decisive	21%	51%	28%
Effective	17%	45%	38%
Experienced	19%	43%	38%
Honest	32%	39%	30%
In touch	23%	45%	32%
Inspiring	32%	46%	22%
Intelligent	57%	31%	13%
Partisan	25%	55%	19%
Patriotic	32%	44%	24%
Realistic	26%	42%	31%
Religious	16%	58%	26%
Sincere	34%	39%	27%
Strong	28%	46%	26%
Unifying	15%	51%	35%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	14%
Off on the wrong track	72%
Not sure	14%

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

Getting better	10%
About the same	34%
Getting worse	49%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	17%
About the same	32%
Lower	27%
Not sure	24%

44. 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	43%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	45%
Not sure	5%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	42%
The Republican Party candidate	38%
Other	3%
Not sure	14%
I would not vote	2%

46. 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	41%
The Republican Party candidate	37%
Other	2%
Not sure	17%
I would not vote	3%

47. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

48. Age

18-29	21%
30-64	63%
65+	16%

49. Education

High school or less	45%
Some college	30%
College graduate	26%

50. Race

White	74%
Black	11%
Hispanic	8%
Other	7%

51. Region

Northeast	18%
Midwest	23%
South	37%
West	22%

52. Party Identification

Democrat	38%
Republican	27%
Independent	35%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	October 15-18, 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 0.6 to 3.7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.63.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	25 questions not reported.