

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted October 22-25, 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	24%	22%	16%	26%	12%
The economy	10%	20%	16%	45%	9%
Immigration	7%	20%	18%	37%	17%
The environment	11%	29%	17%	26%	17%
Terrorism	21%	30%	14%	22%	12%
Gay rights	14%	24%	12%	26%	24%
Education	14%	25%	17%	28%	16%
Health care	15%	21%	12%	43%	9%
Social security	11%	22%	18%	35%	14%
The budget deficit	8%	20%	16%	44%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	29%	18%	28%	13%
Taxes	13%	20%	17%	38%	12%
Medicare	12%	22%	16%	36%	15%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	35%	38%	19%	7%
The economy	80%	15%	3%	2%
Immigration	45%	31%	17%	7%
The environment	41%	40%	13%	6%
Terrorism	51%	34%	11%	4%
Gay rights	20%	24%	24%	31%
Education	56%	31%	9%	4%
Health care	70%	23%	5%	3%
Social security	64%	27%	8%	2%
The budget deficit	58%	31%	8%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	36%	39%	17%	7%
Taxes	65%	27%	6%	2%
Medicare	57%	29%	11%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	44%
Immigration	4%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	1%
Gay rights	2%
Education	7%
Health care	9%
Social security	15%
The budget deficit	8%
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	16%
Somewhat Approve	26%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	35%
Not Sure	9%

5. Recently, President Obama proposed a variety of measures to stimulate the economy and create jobs. Do you think his jobs plan would create a substantial number of new jobs in the U.S. or not?

Would create a substantial number of new jobs	26%
Would not create a substantial number of new jobs	40%
Haven't heard about his plan	14%
Not sure	21%

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

Democrats	33%
Republicans	24%
About the same	21%
Not sure	22%

7. Which approach on taxes do you prefer:

Instead of the current U.S. tax code, adopt a 9% flat-rate personal income tax for all families above poverty level; a 9% flat-rate tax on net business profits; and a new 9% national tax on retail sales.	16%
Instead of the current U.S. tax code, adopt a roughly 15-20% flat-rate personal income tax for all families above a certain low income level.	17%
Keep the current U.S. tax code but implement reforms and improvements.	27%
Keep the current tax code without making any changes.	3%
Something else	14%
Not sure	24%

8. Do you think the current U.S. tax code needs major or minor reforms and improvements?

Asked if respondent supports reforming the current tax code

Major	62%
Minor	28%
Not sure	10%

9. Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain proposes a plan to replace the current tax code with a 9% flat-rate personal income tax for all families above poverty level; a 9% flat-rate tax on net business profits; and a new 9% national tax on retail sales. Does hearing that make you more or less likely to support Herman Cain?

More likely	18%
Makes no difference	23%
Less likely	35%
Not sure	23%

10. Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry proposes a plan to replace the current tax code with a roughly 15-20% flat-rate personal income tax for all families above a certain low income level. Does hearing that make you more or less likely to support Rick Perry?

More likely	13%
Makes no difference	31%
Less likely	31%
Not sure	24%

11. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney proposes a plan to keep the basic structure of the current tax code but implement reforms, such as cutting the corporate tax rate, eliminating the estate tax, and eliminating capital gains taxes for those making \$200,000 or less. He would also extend the Bush-era tax cuts. Does hearing that make you more or less likely to support Mitt Romney?

More likely	18%
Makes no difference	28%
Less likely	30%
Not sure	24%

12. How much have you heard or read about the death of former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi following months of violent conflict between rebels and forces loyal to Gaddafi?

A lot	45%
A little	43%
Nothing at all	12%

13. Do you think Britain, France, the U.S. and other countries were right or wrong to take military action in Libya?

Asked if respondent is aware of unrest in Libya

Right	52%
Wrong	18%
Not sure	30%

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

Libya will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	6%
Libya will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	30%
Libya will probably never become a stable democracy.	36%
Not sure	27%

15. Next, we would like to ask you about the war in Iraq. Which of these do you think is most likely?

Iraq will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	5%
Iraq will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	23%
Iraq will probably never become a stable democracy.	48%
Not sure	24%

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

Most	11%
Some	34%
Only a little	30%
None	12%
Not sure	14%

17. President Obama announced that all U.S. military forces will leave Iraq by the end of December 2011. Do you support or oppose this decision?

Strongly favor	46%
Somewhat favor	17%
Neither favor, nor oppose	9%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	6%
Not sure	10%

18. Since September 11, 2001, the United States has fought against the threat of terrorism through military operations abroad and increased security and surveillance inside of the United States. How would you rate these aspects of the war on terrorism?

	Very successful	Somewhat successful	Not very successful	Not at all successful	Not sure
Military operations abroad	20%	41%	17%	7%	15%
Domestic security and surveillance efforts	26%	39%	13%	6%	16%

19. How much have you heard or read about the USA Patriot Act, which became law in 2001?

A lot	31%
A little	41%
Nothing at all	27%

20. Which of the following statements comes closer to your view of the Patriot Act?

Asked if respondent is aware of Patriot Act

It is a necessary tool to help the government find terrorists.	38%
It goes too far and is a threat to civil liberties.	45%
Not sure	17%

21. Do you think the Patriot Act has prevented terrorist attacks in the United States?

Asked if respondent is aware of Patriot Act

Definitely yes	17%
Probably yes	38%
Probably no	22%
Definitely no	10%
Not sure	13%

22. How much have you heard, seen or read about the incident in Zanesville, Ohio involving exotic animals, including dangerous lions and tigers, that escaped or were set free deliberately, and were shot dead by local law enforcement?

A lot	42%
A little	38%
Nothing at all	20%

23. There is currently no federal law, and no law in Ohio or Zanesville, that makes keeping exotic animals on private property a crime. Which of the following statements comes closer to your own personal view:

It's a free country, and anyone following all the laws and regulations has the right keep exotic animals on their land.	29%
It's cruel and dangerous to operate a private zoo with exotic animals and doing so should be illegal.	52%
Not sure	19%

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

Very closely	29%
Somewhat closely	32%
Not too closely	25%
Not at all	14%

25. 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	41%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all	19%

26. 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%

27. 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	24%
Newt Gingrich	7%
Michele Bachmann	4%
Jon Huntsman	3%
Ron Paul	9%
Herman Cain	28%
Rick Santorum	2%
Rick Perry	9%
Gary Johnson	1%
Other	5%
No preference	7%

28. 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	13%
Newt Gingrich	16%
Michele Bachmann	8%
Jon Huntsman	4%
Ron Paul	8%
Herman Cain	17%
Rick Santorum	6%
Rick Perry	13%
Gary Johnson	3%
Other	1%
No preference	12%

29. 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	75%
Someone else	11%
Not sure	14%

30. 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	46%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Rick Perry	2%
Rick Perry	36%
Other	7%
Not sure	7%

31. 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	40%
Other	7%
Not sure	6%

32. 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	46%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Herman Cain	2%
Herman Cain	38%
Other	5%
Not sure	6%

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

A great deal	35%
A fair amount	30%
Not much	23%
Nothing at all	12%

34. 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%

35. 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	18%
Somewhat support	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	19%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	27%
Not sure	11%

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

A great deal	34%
A fair amount	32%
Not much	17%
Nothing at all	17%

37. 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	21%
No	79%

38. 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	22%
Somewhat support	20%
Neither support, nor oppose	22%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	16%
Not sure	10%

39. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	28%
Liberal	19%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	22%

40. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	45%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	55%

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	24%
Not sure	15%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	28%	52%	20%
Decisive	22%	52%	26%
Effective	18%	44%	38%
Experienced	14%	48%	38%
Honest	34%	37%	29%
In touch	22%	46%	31%
Inspiring	32%	44%	24%
Intelligent	55%	32%	13%
Partisan	26%	56%	18%
Patriotic	30%	45%	26%
Realistic	25%	43%	31%
Religious	12%	61%	27%
Sincere	34%	39%	28%
Strong	24%	51%	25%
Unifying	14%	51%	35%

43. 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	14%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	17%
Off on the wrong track	68%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	10%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	47%
Not sure	8%

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

Higher	14%
About the same	35%
Lower	29%
Not sure	22%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	10%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	40%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	44%
Not sure	5%

48. 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	39%
Other	3%
Not sure	12%
I would not vote	3%

49. 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	39%
Other	2%
Not sure	17%
I would not vote	3%

50. Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%

51. Education

No high school	13%
High school graduate	34%
Some college	25%
2-year college	5%
4-year college	15%
Post-graduate	9%

52. Age

18-29	22%
30-44	27%
45-64	36%
65+	15%

53. Race

White	73%
Black	11%
Hispanic	7%
Other	8%

54. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	24%
South	35%
West	22%

55. Party Identification

Democrat	33%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	25%
Lean Republican	9%
Republican	23%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	October 22-25, 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 4.5, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.71.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.8% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	25 questions not reported.