

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents

Conducted October 29-November 1, 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	22%	25%	13%	25%	14%
The economy	10%	21%	15%	43%	11%
Immigration	7%	20%	15%	40%	18%
The environment	9%	27%	16%	25%	23%
Terrorism	21%	30%	12%	22%	14%
Gay rights	15%	24%	11%	23%	27%
Education	14%	27%	13%	28%	19%
Health care	15%	21%	13%	39%	11%
Social security	14%	22%	14%	34%	16%
The budget deficit	10%	21%	13%	43%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	26%	18%	27%	16%
Taxes	13%	20%	15%	37%	15%
Medicare	13%	21%	15%	33%	17%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	38%	40%	15%	6%
The economy	80%	15%	2%	2%
Immigration	46%	31%	15%	7%
The environment	43%	35%	13%	8%
Terrorism	50%	33%	10%	6%
Gay rights	23%	26%	23%	27%
Education	57%	29%	9%	4%
Health care	73%	20%	4%	3%
Social security	66%	24%	7%	3%
The budget deficit	60%	25%	9%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	36%	40%	16%	7%
Taxes	64%	27%	5%	3%
Medicare	58%	29%	9%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	44%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	1%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	11%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	2%
Medicare	3%

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

Strongly Approve	16%
Somewhat Approve	25%
Somewhat Disapprove	15%
Strongly Disapprove	37%
Not Sure	8%

5. Do you think President Obama should keep Joe Biden as his vice presidential running mate in 2012, or should he choose someone new?

Keep Joe Biden	30%
Choose someone new	20%
No opinion	50%

6. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Joe Biden	18%	23%	17%	25%	16%
Hillary Clinton	33%	24%	14%	20%	9%

7. In your opinion, would Hillary Clinton be a good or a bad choice as President Obama's vice presidential running mate in 2012?

Very good	25%
Good	17%
Neither good, nor bad	22%
Bad	10%
Very bad	9%
Not sure	17%

8. How likely is it that Hillary Clinton will be President Obama’s vice presidential running mate in the next election?

Very likely	5%
Somewhat likely	11%
Somewhat unlikely	21%
Very unlikely	31%
Not sure	32%

9. Some people have proposed changing the federal income tax system to a flat tax system. Under one proposed flat tax plan, all but low-income Americans would pay 19% of their income in taxes, regardless of how much money they make. Do you favor or oppose that proposal?

Favor	28%
Oppose	39%
Not Sure	33%

10. Suppose that under a flat tax plan, everyone got a tax cut, but people who earn the highest incomes saw the largest reductions in their tax bills. Would this make you more or less supportive of a flat tax?

Much more supportive of a flat tax	5%
A little more supportive of a flat tax	9%
A little more opposed to a flat tax	10%
Much more opposed to a flat tax	37%
My opinion on a flat tax would be unchanged	39%

11. Recently, President Obama proposed a variety of measures to stimulate the economy and create jobs. If Congress passes these measures, 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	37%
Haven’t heard about his plan	13%
Not sure	23%

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

Democrats	33%
Republicans	26%
About the same	20%
Not sure	20%

13. How much have you heard or read about President Obama’s plan to help qualified homeowners refinance their mortgages?

A great deal	20%
A little	53%
Nothing at all	27%

14. As you may know, President Obama announced an initiative to expand a federal program that helps homeowners who owe more than their homes are worth to refinance their mortgages to lower interest rates. Homeowners must have loans backed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac and must be current on their payments in order to qualify. Will this program help or hurt...

	Help a lot	Help a little	No effect	Hurt a little	Hurt a lot	Not sure
The U.S. economy	11%	25%	22%	7%	15%	19%
The housing market	12%	29%	22%	6%	12%	19%

15. Do you support or oppose President Obama’s plan to help homeowners who owe more than their homes are worth but are current on their payments to refinance their mortgages to lower interest rates?

Strongly support	25%
Somewhat support	30%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	13%
Not sure	23%

16. In the past week, President Obama announced executive actions to help homeowners facing foreclosure, borrowers with heavy student loan debt, and unemployed veterans. He said his Administration will look for more opportunities to take executive actions to help the economy without consulting Congress. Do you support or oppose President Obama's decision to take executive action to implement economic measures?

Strongly support	28%
Somewhat support	18%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	23%
Not sure	23%

17. How much have you heard or read about the so-called "super committee," a bi-partisan group of members of Congress that is currently working on a deficit reduction plan?

A great deal	27%
A little	31%
Nothing at all	42%

18. 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 on November 23rd. 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	5%
Somewhat approve	26%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	25%
No opinion	28%

19. 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	25%
Very unlikely	35%
Not sure	21%

20. 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	16%
Somewhat unlikely	25%
Very unlikely	29%
Not sure	25%

21. 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?	46%	33%	19%
NOT decrease defense spending?	27%	51%	22%
NOT increase taxes?	35%	44%	20%
NOT pass a balanced budget amendment?	32%	38%	28%
NOT decrease education spending and/or student aid	42%	33%	24%

22. 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	13%	15%	60%	11%
Increased taxes	24%	18%	47%	11%
Cuts to defense spending	42%	20%	23%	13%
Balanced budget amendment to the Constitution	39%	21%	18%	20%
Cuts to education spending and/or student aid	20%	18%	50%	11%

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

Very closely	26%
Somewhat closely	32%
Not too closely	26%
Not at all	16%

24. 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	39%
Republican primary or caucus	41%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all	20%

25. 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	25%
Not sure	24%

26. 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	17%
Newt Gingrich	15%
Michele Bachmann	4%
Jon Huntsman	4%
Ron Paul	10%
Herman Cain	26%
Rick Santorum	1%
Rick Perry	6%
Gary Johnson	1%
Other	4%
No preference	11%

27. 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	15%
Newt Gingrich	14%
Michele Bachmann	8%
Jon Huntsman	6%
Ron Paul	6%
Herman Cain	20%
Rick Santorum	5%
Rick Perry	13%
Gary Johnson	3%
Other	3%
No preference	7%

28. 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	78%
Someone else	13%
Not sure	9%

29. 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	48%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Rick Perry	3%
Rick Perry	33%
Other	7%
Not sure	7%

30. 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	2%
Mitt Romney	37%
Other	7%
Not sure	8%

31. 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	47%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Herman Cain	3%
Herman Cain	37%
Other	5%
Not sure	8%

32. We'd like to know how you feel about people of different religious groups. Please tell us how you feel about each of the following groups.

	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Neutral	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Muslims	5%	10%	46%	19%	21%
Jews	23%	17%	51%	7%	2%
Catholics	21%	15%	49%	10%	5%
Mormons	13%	11%	54%	14%	8%

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

A great deal	37%
A fair amount	29%
Not much	20%
Nothing at all	13%

34. 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%

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	16%
Somewhat support	15%
Neither support, nor oppose	17%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	28%
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	36%
A fair amount	31%
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	20%
No	80%

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	20%
Somewhat support	21%
Neither support, nor oppose	21%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	21%
Not sure	9%

39. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	28%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	19%

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	34%
Like somewhat	25%
Dislike	26%
Not sure	14%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	30%	50%	20%
Decisive	19%	53%	28%
Effective	19%	46%	35%
Experienced	14%	45%	41%
Honest	31%	40%	29%
In touch	24%	45%	31%
Inspiring	32%	46%	23%
Intelligent	56%	32%	13%
Partisan	23%	56%	21%
Patriotic	31%	45%	25%
Realistic	27%	42%	32%
Religious	14%	58%	28%
Sincere	33%	39%	28%
Strong	28%	49%	23%
Unifying	13%	52%	35%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	11%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	12%

44. 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%

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

Getting better	12%
About the same	39%
Getting worse	40%
Not sure	9%

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

Higher	18%
About the same	34%
Lower	23%
Not sure	24%

47. 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	45%
Not sure	7%

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	37%
Other	3%
Not sure	14%
I would not vote	4%

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	39%
The Republican Party candidate	36%
Other	2%
Not sure	19%
I would not vote	4%

50. Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%

51. Education

No high school	14%
High school graduate	31%
Some college	22%
2-year college	8%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	9%

52. Age

18-29	21%
30-44	26%
45-64	36%
65+	16%

53. Race

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

54. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	22%
South	37%
West	22%

55. Party Identification

Democrat	33%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	26%
Lean Republican	7%
Republican	25%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	October 29-November 1, 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 0.74.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	27 questions not reported.