

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted August 7-10, 2010
Margin of Error $\pm 3.6\%$

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	15%	29%	20%	26%	11%
The economy	15%	22%	14%	41%	8%
Immigration	12%	19%	16%	42%	11%
The environment	14%	26%	16%	28%	16%
Terrorism	16%	28%	13%	31%	12%
Gay rights	11%	23%	17%	26%	24%
Education	17%	26%	18%	24%	16%
Health care	22%	20%	10%	41%	7%
Social security	14%	20%	15%	33%	17%
The budget deficit	11%	21%	16%	42%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	27%	23%	28%	11%
Taxes	15%	22%	14%	38%	11%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	46%	36%	12%	6%
The economy	83%	15%	1%	2%
Immigration	53%	30%	12%	4%
The environment	50%	35%	12%	4%
Terrorism	60%	28%	8%	4%
Gay rights	27%	23%	25%	26%
Education	62%	29%	7%	2%
Health care	75%	19%	4%	2%
Social security	65%	24%	9%	2%
The budget deficit	60%	28%	9%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	48%	38%	10%	4%
Taxes	66%	27%	5%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	39%
Immigration	6%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	3%
Education	6%
Health care	15%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	5%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	3%

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

Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	25%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	7%

5. Different people feel differently about voting. For some, voting is a duty. For others, voting is a choice. For you personally, voting is FIRST AND FOREMOST a:

Duty	53%
Choice	47%

6. How strongly do you feel personally that voting is a duty? (Asked if respondent thinks voting is a duty)

Very strongly	72%
Somewhat strongly	25%
Not very strongly	3%

7. How much do you personally care about who wins the 2010 congressional elections?

A lot	57%
Somewhat	21%
A little	12%
Not at all	10%

8. Have you discussed this November's elections with any friends or family in the past few days?

Yes	47%
No	53%

9. How closely have you been following news about the 2010 congressional elections?

Very closely	29%
Somewhat closely	33%
Not too closely	22%
Not at all	16%

10. Where do you get most of your information about the political campaigns? (Asked if respondent has been following news about the 2010 congressional elections)

Local TV newscasts	22%
Cable news networks	30%
General Web sites like Yahoo or Google	9%
News Web sites	17%
Radio	6%
Newspapers and magazines	9%
Blogs	3%
Other	4%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	10%
Neither approve nor disapprove	17%
Somewhat disapprove	19%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Not sure	7%

12. If the 2010 elections for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?

	Republican	Lean Republican	Lean Democrat	Democrat	Not Sure
Registered Voters (N = 716, MoE = ±4%)	38%	4%	5%	44%	9%
All Respondents	33%	3%	7%	40%	18%

13. What is your preference for the outcome of the November 2010 congressional elections?

Congress controlled by Republicans	29%
Congress controlled by Democrats	35%
Congress divided between both parties	21%
No preference	15%

14. In general, do you think it is better for the same political party to control both the Congress and the presidency, so they can work together more closely, or do you think it is better to have different political parties controlling the Congress and the presidency to prevent either one from going too far?

Better for the same party to control Congress and presidency	27%
Better for different parties to control Congress and the presidency	40%
Not sure	33%

15. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

Just about always	2%
Most of the time	9%
Some of the time	40%
Almost never	41%
Not sure	8%

16. Which party is closer to you on the following issues?

	The Democratic Party	The Republican Party	Both the same	Not sure
Taxes	34%	35%	11%	20%
Government spending	29%	34%	16%	22%
Regulating business	32%	31%	14%	23%
The environment	39%	21%	16%	24%
Immigration	29%	33%	15%	24%
Gun control	27%	37%	10%	26%
Abortion	34%	30%	12%	24%
Gay marriage	34%	25%	14%	27%
National defense	26%	36%	17%	22%
The economy	34%	32%	13%	20%
Terrorism	27%	34%	18%	21%
Health Care	39%	32%	8%	21%
Energy policy	35%	25%	15%	25%

17. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following groups?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
The Democratic Party	18%	25%	13%	32%	11%
The Republican Party	11%	25%	22%	30%	11%
The Tea Party movement	20%	13%	8%	33%	26%

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

A great deal	29%
A fair amount	37%
Not much	23%
Nothing at all	12%

19. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement? (Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement)

Yes 20%
No 80%

20. 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 20%
Somewhat support 15%
Neither support, nor oppose 16%
Somewhat oppose 6%
Strongly oppose 27%
Not sure 15%

21. How much have you heard or read about the decision by a federal judge to overturn Proposition 8, the voter-approved measure that banned same-sex marriage in California?

A lot 41%
A little 42%
Nothing at all 17%

22. How do you feel about the court's decision that same sex marriages are constitutional? (Asked if respondent is aware of decision against Proposition 8)

Enthusiastic 21%
Satisfied, but not enthusiastic 22%
Dissatisfied, but not angry 23%
Angry 21%
No opinion 13%

23. Should states be permitted to set their own policies when it comes to same-sex marriage, or is this something that should only be handled by the federal government?

States should be permitted	47%
Should only be handled by federal government	29%
Not sure	25%

24. Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

Favor allowing same-sex marriage	36%
Oppose allowing same-sex marriage, but favor allowing civil unions instead	25%
Oppose legal recognition of same-sex relationships	25%
Not sure	14%

25. Do you think same sex marriages are moral or immoral?

Moral	43%
Immoral	57%

26. What would be the impact of legalizing same sex marriages on the institution of traditional male-female marriages?

Benefit	9%
Have no impact	60%
Threaten	30%

27. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion:

Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society.	59%
Homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society	41%

28. Do you think being homosexual is something a person chooses to be, or do you think it is something a person cannot change?

Homosexuality is a choice	47%
Homosexuality is not a choice	53%

29. Overall, given what you know about them, do you support or oppose the changes to the health care system recently passed by Congress and signed by President Obama?

Support strongly	16%
Support somewhat	32%
Oppose somewhat	17%
Oppose strongly	35%

30. Do you currently have health insurance?

Yes	75%
No	22%
Not sure	3%

31. How satisfied are you with your health insurance coverage?

Very satisfied	29%
Somewhat satisfied	32%
Somewhat dissatisfied	13%
Very dissatisfied	16%
Not sure	10%

32. Under the health care reform bill recently passed by Congress and signed by President Obama, do you think you personally will receive better or worse care than you receive now?

Better care	12%
About the same	37%
Worse care	36%
Not sure	15%

33. Do you think you personally will pay more, either in taxes or insurance costs, under the health care reform bill recently passed by Congress and signed by President Obama?

Pay more	53%
About the same	26%
Pay less	5%
Not sure	16%

34. Are you in favor of repealing the Obama health care plan?

Yes	42%
No	36%
Not sure	21%

35. Do you support or oppose the "individual mandate," which requires everyone who does not receive health insurance through their employer or a public program and who can afford it to purchase health insurance coverage (with those who cannot afford it being subsidized by the government)?

Strongly support	17%
Somewhat support	22%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	30%
Not sure	17%

36. Would you still favor repealing the Obama health care plan if it did not include the individual mandate to purchase health insurance? (Asked if respondent is in favor of repealing the Obama health care plan)

Yes	63%
No	14%
Not sure	23%

37. Would you say the U.S. is winning the war in Iraq?

Yes 26%
No 42%
Not sure 32%

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

The United States will win the war in Iraq. 29%
The United States will withdraw from Iraq without winning. 71%

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

Yes 55%
No 29%
Not sure 16%

40. Which of these do you think is most likely?

Iraq will become a stable democracy in the next year or two. 2%
Iraq will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than
a year or two. 32%
Iraq will probably never become a stable democracy. 51%
Not sure 15%

41. Do you think Barack Obama has a clear plan for U.S. strategy in Iraq?

Yes 23%
No 54%
Not sure 24%

42. Barack Obama said that he will withdraw all U.S. combat troops from Iraq by August 31, 2010. How likely is it that he will be able to do this?

Very likely	10%
Somewhat likely	19%
Somewhat unlikely	22%
Very unlikely	37%
Not sure	11%

43. And how likely is it that Barack Obama will be able to remove all U.S. non-combat troops from Iraq by December 31, 2011?

Very likely	10%
Somewhat likely	23%
Somewhat unlikely	27%
Very unlikely	28%
Not sure	13%

44. If President Obama fulfills his pledge to end the combat mission in Iraq by August 31, 2010, is the war in Iraq likely to be considered a win or a loss for the U.S.?

Win	13%
Tie	14%
Loss	39%
Not sure	33%

45. Should the U.S. keep combat troops fighting in Iraq past August 31, 2010, or bring them home without a victory? (Asked if respondent thinks August, 2010 combat-troop withdrawal will result in a tie or a loss)

Keep combat troops in Iraq	29%
Bring combat troops home	56%
Not sure	14%

46. Should the U.S. keep thousands of non-combat troops in Iraq after August 31, 2010, or reassign most of the non-combat troops currently in Iraq?

Keep non-combat troops in Iraq	22%
Reassign non-combat troops currently in Iraq	46%
Not sure	32%

47. Is Afghanistan part of the same war as Iraq, or is Afghanistan a separate military operation?

Part of the same war	28%
Separate military operation	53%
Not sure	19%

48. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	32%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	19%

49. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	46%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	54%

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

Like a lot	35%
Like somewhat	25%
Dislike	28%
Not sure	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	29%	35%	36%
Intelligent	61%	26%	13%
Religious	14%	55%	31%
Inspiring	37%	39%	24%
Patriotic	29%	43%	28%
Strong	32%	44%	23%
Bold	36%	49%	15%
Experienced	14%	39%	46%
Sincere	35%	33%	32%
Partisan	27%	53%	21%
Effective	23%	47%	31%
Unifying	16%	50%	34%
In Touch	25%	44%	32%
Realistic	28%	41%	31%
Decisive	26%	47%	27%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	30%
Off on the wrong track	56%
Not sure	14%

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

Getting better	19%
About the same	37%
Getting worse	38%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	40%
Lower	20%
Not sure	19%

55. 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	40%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	44%
Not sure	5%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	August 7-10, 2010
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 3.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.6.
Number of respondents	1,000
Margin of error	± 3.6% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	23 questions not reported.