

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted September 18-21, 2010  
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	20%	29%	17%	27%	8%
The economy	14%	22%	15%	43%	5%
Immigration	11%	19%	15%	44%	10%
The environment	17%	28%	16%	28%	11%
Terrorism	17%	27%	13%	34%	9%
Gay rights	12%	23%	16%	27%	21%
Education	20%	25%	16%	27%	12%
Health care	21%	20%	11%	44%	4%
Social security	15%	19%	16%	35%	14%
The budget deficit	13%	19%	14%	49%	7%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	29%	22%	28%	8%
Taxes	18%	20%	14%	40%	7%

**2. How important are the following issues to you?**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	38%	40%	16%	5%
The economy	83%	15%	1%	1%
Immigration	51%	32%	12%	5%
The environment	48%	34%	13%	5%
Terrorism	62%	26%	9%	3%
Gay rights	28%	25%	26%	22%
Education	62%	29%	7%	2%
Health care	76%	19%	3%	2%
Social security	65%	25%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	62%	29%	6%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	45%	38%	14%	3%
Taxes	67%	26%	6%	1%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	41%
Immigration	7%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	4%
Education	7%
Health care	11%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%

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

Strongly approve .....	19%
Somewhat approve .....	26%
Somewhat disapprove .....	14%
Strongly disapprove .....	37%
Not sure .....	5%

**5. 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	15%	23%	18%	34%	10%
The Republican Party	11%	24%	22%	33%	10%
The Tea Party movement	19%	18%	8%	35%	20%

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

Congress controlled by Republicans .....	34%
Congress controlled by Democrats .....	32%
Congress divided between both parties .....	20%
No preference .....	13%

**7. What do you think is the likely outcome of the November 2010 congressional elections, regardless of your own personal preference?**

Congress controlled by Republicans .....	34%
Congress controlled by Democrats .....	15%
Congress divided between both parties .....	29%
Not sure .....	22%

**8. Compared to previous elections, are you more or less enthusiastic than usual about voting?**

More .....	30%
About the same .....	48%
Less .....	22%

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

A great deal .....	32%
A fair amount .....	37%
Not much .....	22%
Nothing at all .....	9%

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

Yes .....	23%
No .....	77%

**11. Do you think that most Republicans consider themselves a part of the Tea Party movement?** (Asked if respondent is aware of the Tea Party movement)

Yes .....	37%
No .....	63%

**12. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?** (Asked if respondent is aware of the Tea Party movement)

Strongly support .....	23%
Somewhat support .....	15%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	14%
Somewhat oppose .....	10%
Strongly oppose .....	26%
Not sure .....	12%

13. Do you think that the Tea Party movement will help or hurt the Republican effort to gain control of Congress after the November 2010 elections? (Asked if respondent is aware of the Tea Party movement)

Help .....	29%
No effect .....	11%
Hurt .....	33%
Not sure .....	26%

14. Do you think that the emergence of the Tea Party movement is good or bad for the Republican Party? (Asked if respondent is a Republican or leans Republican and is aware of the Tea Party)

Good .....	55%
Neither good, nor bad .....	22%
Bad .....	7%
Not sure .....	16%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Sarah Palin	19%	18%	10%	44%	9%
Mitt Romney	12%	27%	22%	16%	23%
Newt Gingrich	14%	21%	13%	31%	21%
John Boehner	10%	15%	12%	22%	42%
Mitch McConnell	5%	16%	14%	19%	45%
Glenn Beck	18%	14%	10%	36%	22%
Rush Limbaugh	15%	15%	12%	43%	16%
Rand Paul	9%	15%	15%	21%	40%
Christine O'Donnell	9%	15%	11%	23%	42%

16. In your opinion, did your parents have more or less opportunities to succeed financially than you have had?

Much more .....	13%
Somewhat more .....	20%
About the same .....	27%
Somewhat fewer .....	23%
Much fewer .....	17%

17. Do you think the next generation of Americans will have a higher or lower standard of living than people today?

Much higher .....	5%
Somewhat higher .....	17%
About the same .....	30%
Somewhat lower .....	36%
Much lower .....	13%

18. If a poor person in the U.S. works hard, how likely is it that he or she will be able to earn a good standard of living?

Very likely .....	18%
Somewhat likely .....	53%
Not likely .....	29%

19. Do you think that the gap between the rich and poor is increasing or decreasing in the U.S.?

Increasing .....	67%
Staying about the same .....	18%
Decreasing .....	7%
Not sure .....	8%

**20. How concerned are the following groups about issues that affect POOR people?**

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
The Obama Administration	31%	26%	14%	20%	9%
The Republican Party	12%	22%	22%	34%	10%
The Democratic Party	23%	32%	17%	18%	10%

**21. How concerned are the following groups about issues that affect MIDDLE CLASS people?**

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
The Obama Administration	31%	23%	17%	22%	8%
The Republican Party	20%	26%	20%	25%	9%
The Democratic Party	22%	31%	20%	18%	9%

**22. How concerned are the following groups about issues that affect WEALTHY people?**

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
The Obama Administration	20%	27%	21%	22%	10%
The Republican Party	55%	24%	6%	5%	9%
The Democratic Party	21%	29%	20%	20%	10%

23. The tax cuts enacted in 2001 under President George W. Bush will expire at the end of this year unless Congress makes changes. Which of the following best describes what Congress should do about the tax cuts?

Keep all tax cuts in place .....	33%
Keep tax cuts only for those earning under \$250,000 .....	43%
Let all tax cuts expire .....	10%
Not sure .....	14%

24. Do you favor increasing taxes on families making over \$250,000 per year?

Favor .....	53%
Oppose .....	31%
Not sure .....	16%

25. Next, please tell us which of two statements comes closer to your own opinion. You might agree to some extent with both, but we want to know which one is closer to your views.

Which statement comes closer to your opinion?

We need a strong government to handle today's complex economic problems. ....	55%
The free market can handle these problems without government being involved. ....	45%

26. Which statement comes closer to your opinion?

Most poor people are poor because they don't work hard enough. ....	31%
Most poor people are poor because of circumstances beyond their control. ....	69%

27. Which statement comes closer to your opinion?

The less government the better. ....	53%
There are more things that government should be doing. ....	47%



**28. Which statement comes closer to your opinion?**

The main reason government has become bigger over the years is because it has gotten involved in things that people should do for themselves. . . . .59%  
Government has become bigger because the problems we face have become bigger. . . . .41%

**29. Would you say Barack Obama is...**

Very liberal . . . . .33%  
Liberal . . . . .21%  
Moderate . . . . .24%  
Conservative . . . . .5%  
Very conservative . . . . .1%  
Not sure . . . . .17%

**30. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes . . . . .48%  
Says what he thinks people want to hear . . . . .52%

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

Like a lot . . . . .36%  
Like somewhat . . . . .29%  
Dislike . . . . .26%  
Not sure . . . . .9%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	32%	35%	33%
Intelligent	62%	26%	12%
Religious	16%	53%	31%
Inspiring	38%	39%	23%
Patriotic	29%	40%	31%
Strong	32%	45%	23%
Bold	38%	44%	18%
Experienced	15%	39%	47%
Sincere	36%	33%	31%
Partisan	26%	52%	22%
Effective	22%	43%	35%
Unifying	17%	44%	39%
In Touch	24%	41%	36%
Realistic	30%	36%	33%
Decisive	25%	46%	29%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	12%
Neither approve nor disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	25%
Strongly disapprove	42%
Not sure	7%

**34. 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 = 706, MoE = ±4.4%)	42%	5%	5%	42%	7%
All Respondents	38%	6%	5%	38%	13%

**35. Would you say things in this country today are...**

Generally headed in the right direction .....	25%
Off on the wrong track .....	61%
Not sure .....	14%

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

Getting better .....	17%
About the same .....	33%
Getting worse .....	44%
Not sure .....	5%

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

Higher .....	24%
About the same .....	36%
Lower .....	23%
Not sure .....	17%

**38. 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 .....	42%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	44%
Not sure .....	4%

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<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	September 18-21, 2010
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	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.
<b>Weighting</b>	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 0.4 to 6.4, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.7.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1,000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.8% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	27 questions not reported.