

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted September 25-28, 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        | 19%              | 26%              | 18%                 | 27%                 | 9%         |
| The economy            | 15%              | 19%              | 14%                 | 45%                 | 8%         |
| Immigration            | 11%              | 18%              | 15%                 | 43%                 | 13%        |
| The environment        | 14%              | 28%              | 16%                 | 27%                 | 16%        |
| Terrorism              | 17%              | 23%              | 14%                 | 35%                 | 11%        |
| Gay rights             | 10%              | 24%              | 15%                 | 26%                 | 24%        |
| Education              | 18%              | 25%              | 17%                 | 26%                 | 13%        |
| Health care            | 21%              | 18%              | 10%                 | 45%                 | 7%         |
| Social security        | 15%              | 17%              | 14%                 | 37%                 | 16%        |
| The budget deficit     | 12%              | 17%              | 15%                 | 46%                 | 10%        |
| The war in Afghanistan | 12%              | 25%              | 20%                 | 32%                 | 11%        |
| Taxes                  | 18%              | 19%              | 12%                 | 41%                 | 10%        |

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

|                        | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not Very Important | Unimportant |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| The war in Iraq        | 41%            | 39%                | 14%                | 6%          |
| The economy            | 84%            | 13%                | 1%                 | 2%          |
| Immigration            | 54%            | 27%                | 14%                | 5%          |
| The environment        | 45%            | 35%                | 14%                | 6%          |
| Terrorism              | 58%            | 28%                | 10%                | 4%          |
| Gay rights             | 24%            | 26%                | 24%                | 26%         |
| Education              | 60%            | 30%                | 6%                 | 4%          |
| Health care            | 74%            | 20%                | 3%                 | 3%          |
| Social security        | 66%            | 26%                | 5%                 | 3%          |
| The budget deficit     | 60%            | 28%                | 8%                 | 3%          |
| The war in Afghanistan | 46%            | 37%                | 12%                | 6%          |
| Taxes                  | 66%            | 27%                | 4%                 | 2%          |

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

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| The war in Iraq        | 0%  |
| The economy            | 42% |
| Immigration            | 6%  |
| The environment        | 3%  |
| Terrorism              | 4%  |
| Gay rights             | 3%  |
| Education              | 6%  |
| Health care            | 14% |
| Social security        | 10% |
| The budget deficit     | 6%  |
| 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 .....    | 17% |
| Somewhat approve .....    | 24% |
| Somewhat disapprove ..... | 13% |
| Strongly disapprove ..... | 39% |
| Not sure .....            | 7%  |

**5. How satisfied are you with your health insurance coverage?**

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Very satisfied .....        | 33% |
| Somewhat satisfied .....    | 31% |
| Somewhat dissatisfied ..... | 11% |
| Very dissatisfied .....     | 14% |
| Not sure .....              | 10% |

**6. Have you personally been affected by any changes to the health care system resulting from the health care reform law that passed earlier this year in Congress?**

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes .....      | 23% |
| No .....       | 44% |
| Not sure ..... | 33% |

**7. Have the changes that you experienced as a result of the health care legislation been positive or negative?** (Asked of respondents who have been personally affected by changes in health care.)

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Positive .....                       | 25% |
| Neither positive, nor negative ..... | 11% |
| Negative .....                       | 64% |

**8. Are you in favor or opposed to repealing President Obama’s health care reform law passed earlier this year by Congress?**

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Favor .....    | 42% |
| Oppose .....   | 36% |
| Not sure ..... | 22% |

9. 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 ..... | 33% |
| Worse care .....     | 38% |
| Not sure .....       | 17% |

10. 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 .....       | 52% |
| About the same ..... | 25% |
| Pay less .....       | 5%  |
| Not sure .....       | 18% |

11. How well do you feel that you understand the health care reform bill that was recently signed into law?

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Very well .....     | 13% |
| Fairly well .....   | 43% |
| Not very well ..... | 31% |
| Not at all .....    | 12% |

12. Next, we'd like to ask you about some specific parts of the President's health care plan. Please tell us whether you are in favor or opposed to the following provisions.

|   | Favor | Oppose | Not sure |
|---|-------|--------|----------|
| Require all U.S. citizens and legal residents to have health insurance, or pay a tax penalty?                                 | 25%   | 56%    | 20%      |
| Require employers to offer their employees health insurance, or pay a tax penalty?  | 47%   | 36%    | 17%      |
| Require health plans to provide coverage for children up to age 26?   | 50%   | 32%    | 18%      |
| Prevent insurers from charging more to cover people who are in poor health?   | 65%   | 20%    | 15%      |
| Prevent insurers from imposing lifetime limits on benefits?   | 65%   | 17%    | 18%      |
| Require all insurance policies to provide a minimum package of benefits?  | 62%   | 18%    | 21%      |
| Provide a subsidy to help people with incomes of between \$22,000 and \$44,000 per year (for a family of 4) afford insurance? | 57%   | 23%    | 20%      |

13. Do you think that the benefit changes mandated by the President's health care reform plan will increase or decrease what employer's spend to provide health care for their employees?

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Increase a lot .....    | 34% |
| Increase a little ..... | 21% |
| No effect .....         | 11% |
| Decrease a little ..... | 5%  |
| Decrease a lot .....    | 7%  |
| Not sure .....          | 23% |

14. Below are the estimated costs per employee of some provisions of the President's health care plan. Please say whether you approve or disapprove of requiring these benefits to be provided if it costs this much to provide these benefits.

|  | Favor | Oppose | Not sure |
|--|-------|--------|----------|
| Coverage for children up to age 26: \$200                | 43%   | 34%    | 24%      |
| Prohibit charging more for persons in poor health: \$700 | 41%   | 32%    | 26%      |
| Remove the lifetime limit on benefits: \$100             | 51%   | 23%    | 27%      |

15. If employer health insurance costs increase as a result of the health care reform plan, do you think that the take-home pay of employees will decrease or not?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Employee pay will decrease by approximately the extra amount that employers will have to spend. ....     | 50% |
| Employee pay will decrease somewhat, but by less than the amount that employers will have to spend. .... | 31% |
| No effect on employee pay .....  | 19% |

**16. Have any of the following things ever happened to you? Please check all that apply.**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| As a young person under the age of 26, you were uninsured and not eligible to stay on your parents' health insurance .....                     | 21% |
| You hit the lifetime cap on how much health insurance coverage you could get .....   | 3%  |
| You have a child who was denied health insurance coverage while under the age of 19 due to a pre-existing condition .....                      | 3%  |
| You were dropped by a health insurer because you got sick .....  | 2%  |
| Your insurance company refused to cover preventive procedures such as routine vaccinations, blood pressure screenings and diabetes tests ..... | 12% |
| You were unable to appeal an insurer's decision to deny coverage to an outside board .....   | 6%  |
| You were denied coverage by an insurer or were offered coverage at an unaffordable rate due to a pre-existing condition .....                  | 12% |
| You were dropped by a health insurer because of an unintentional mistake in your insurance application .....                                   | 2%  |
| None of the above .....  | 62% |

**17. When deciding whom to support in the 2010 elections, how important will the candidate's position on health care reform be in your decision?**

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| The most important factor ..... | 11% |
| Very important .....            | 50% |
| Somewhat important .....        | 23% |
| Not very important .....        | 4%  |
| Don't plan to vote .....        | 12% |

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

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal .....      | 36% |
| Liberal .....           | 17% |
| Moderate .....          | 25% |
| Conservative .....      | 3%  |
| Very conservative ..... | 1%  |
| Not sure .....          | 19% |

**19. Do you think Barack Obama...**

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

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

Like a lot ..... 34%  
 Like somewhat ..... 24%  
 Dislike ..... 32%  
 Not sure ..... 11%

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

|             | Yes | No Opinion | No  |
|-------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Honest      | 30% | 34%        | 36% |
| Intelligent | 55% | 30%        | 15% |
| Religious   | 15% | 54%        | 31% |
| Inspiring   | 33% | 38%        | 29% |
| Patriotic   | 26% | 40%        | 33% |
| Strong      | 29% | 47%        | 24% |
| Bold        | 32% | 49%        | 19% |
| Experienced | 13% | 39%        | 48% |
| Sincere     | 33% | 34%        | 34% |
| Partisan    | 26% | 53%        | 21% |
| Effective   | 20% | 45%        | 35% |
| Unifying    | 15% | 47%        | 38% |
| In Touch    | 23% | 40%        | 38% |
| Realistic   | 27% | 34%        | 39% |
| Decisive    | 24% | 48%        | 27% |



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

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve .....               | 3%  |
| Somewhat approve .....               | 10% |
| Neither approve nor disapprove ..... | 10% |
| Somewhat disapprove .....            | 24% |
| Strongly disapprove .....            | 44% |
| Not sure .....                       | 9%  |

23. 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<br>(N = 721, MoE = ±4.2%) | 44%        | 3%              | 5%            | 37%      | 10%      |
| All Respondents                             | 38%        | 4%              | 7%            | 36%      | 15%      |

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Generally headed in the right direction ..... | 30% |
| Off on the wrong track .....                  | 58% |
| Not sure .....                                | 12% |

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

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Getting better ..... | 23% |
| About the same ..... | 33% |
| Getting worse .....  | 38% |
| Not sure .....       | 5%  |

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

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Higher .....         | 27% |
| About the same ..... | 31% |
| Lower .....          | 19% |
| Not sure .....       | 23% |

27. 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 ..... | 42% |
| Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....    | 43% |
| Not sure .....  | 4%  |

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sponsorship</b>            | <i>The Economist</i>   |
| <b>Fieldwork</b>              | YouGov   |
| <b>Interviewing Dates</b>     | September 25-28, 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 3.0, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.6.   |
| <b>Number of respondents</b>  | 1,000  |
| <b>Margin of error</b>        | ± 3.6% (adjusted for weighting)  |
| <b>Survey mode</b>            | Web-based interviews   |
| <b>Questions not reported</b> | 24 questions not reported.   |