

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted October 16-19, 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	14%	27%	22%	27%	10%
The economy	13%	22%	13%	45%	7%
Immigration	10%	18%	14%	45%	13%
The environment	14%	29%	17%	26%	14%
Terrorism	16%	25%	16%	32%	10%
Gay rights	11%	24%	18%	26%	21%
Education	18%	25%	19%	27%	12%
Health care	20%	18%	12%	44%	6%
Social security	13%	19%	18%	36%	13%
The budget deficit	12%	18%	15%	47%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	9%	28%	24%	29%	10%
Taxes	16%	21%	14%	40%	9%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	38%	41%	16%	5%
The economy	82%	14%	2%	1%
Immigration	50%	31%	14%	5%
The environment	43%	37%	13%	7%
Terrorism	56%	29%	10%	4%
Gay rights	25%	28%	23%	24%
Education	58%	30%	8%	4%
Health care	70%	22%	6%	2%
Social security	61%	27%	9%	3%
The budget deficit	59%	31%	7%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	42%	41%	12%	5%
Taxes	64%	28%	6%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	40%
Immigration	5%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	8%
Health care	13%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	6%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	4%

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	38%
Not Sure	5%

5. In your opinion, how important is owning a home to achieving the American Dream?

Not at all important	5%
Not too important	11%
Somewhat important	32%
Very important	32%
Extremely important	20%

6. How much have you heard or read about the problems with foreclosure paperwork that have resulted in some mortgage lenders suspending foreclosures and state attorneys general opening a multi-state investigation into the issue.

A lot	39%
A little	44%
Nothing at all	16%

7. Do you own your home or pay rent?

Own	59%
Rent	33%
Other	8%

8. Have you or anyone you know ever had a house in foreclosure?

Yes, I have personally	8%
Yes, I know someone else who has	31%
No	61%

9. Are you currently going through the foreclosure process? (Asked if respondents have personally had a house in foreclosure)

Yes 17%
No 83%

10. Are you currently paying off a mortgage loan? (Asked if respondent is a homeowner)

Yes 64%
No 36%

11. How worried are you about losing your home to foreclosure? (Asked if respondent has a mortgage and is not currently in foreclosure)

Very worried 6%
Somewhat worried 21%
Not very worried 36%
Not at all worried 37%

12. Please tell us if you agree or disagree with the following statements about people who are in foreclosure now.

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Most are in foreclosure because they were personally irresponsible and took on too big a mortgage	30%	33%	20%	10%	8%
Most are in foreclosure because of economic factors, such as job loss, that are out of their control.	39%	41%	13%	4%	3%
Most are in foreclosure because banks and mortgage lenders encouraged homebuyers to take on mortgages they could not afford.	46%	33%	12%	5%	4%

13. Do you think the federal government should help homeowners who are having trouble making payments on their mortgages?

Should help	39%
Should not help	35%
Not sure	26%

14. What comes closest to your opinion?

It's unfair for people who didn't borrow more than they could afford to have to bail out those people who did.	69%
It's more important to stop home foreclosures, even if that means helping people who were irresponsible.	31%

15. Do you think the value of your home has increased or decreased in the last year? (Asked if respondent is a homeowner)

Increased	8%
Stayed about the same	36%
Decreased	49%
Not sure	8%

16. Do you think home prices in your area have increased or decreased in the last year? (Asked if respondent is not a homeowner)

Increased	9%
Stayed about the same	27%
Decreased	46%
Not sure	19%

17. Thinking ahead, do you think home prices in your area will increase or decrease in the next year?

Will increase a lot	2%
Will increase a little	19%
Will stay about the same	38%
Will decrease a little	20%
Will decrease a lot	8%
Not sure	12%

18. Do you think the housing market in your area is stronger or weaker than the housing market in the country overall?

Stronger	19%
About the same	39%
Weaker	30%
Not sure	12%

19. Do you plan to buy a home in the next 12 months?

Will definitely buy a home 2%
 Am considering buying a home 11%
 Not looking for a home now 88%

20. Regardless of whether you are planning to buy a house, do you think that now is a good or a bad time to buy a house?

Very good 28%
 Fairly good 37%
 Fairly bad 12%
 Very bad 9%
 Not sure 14%

21. Do the following factors make now a better or worse time to buy a home?

	Much better	Somewhat better	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
Job security	6%	13%	35%	34%	13%
Mortgage interest rates	42%	25%	8%	9%	16%
Home prices	37%	33%	9%	8%	11%
The foreclosure crisis	14%	27%	23%	18%	17%
The state of the economy now and in the near future	7%	23%	32%	25%	14%
Trends in home prices now and in the near future	19%	38%	16%	9%	18%

22. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	34%
Liberal	22%
Moderate	21%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	18%

23. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	47%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	53%

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	27%
Dislike	30%
Not sure	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	31%	34%	35%
Intelligent	59%	27%	13%
Religious	14%	56%	30%
Inspiring	34%	42%	23%
Patriotic	29%	41%	30%
Strong	30%	48%	22%
Bold	32%	52%	17%
Experienced	14%	38%	48%
Sincere	34%	35%	30%
Partisan	26%	58%	16%
Effective	20%	47%	33%
Unifying	14%	49%	38%
In Touch	23%	42%	35%
Realistic	26%	40%	35%
Decisive	24%	50%	26%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	12%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	47%
Not sure	9%

27. 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
Likely Voters					
(N = 432, MoE = ±4.6%)	49%	3%	3%	41%	5%
All Respondents	38%	4%	6%	39%	14%

28. 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	16%	23%	16%	35%	9%
The Republican Party	8%	27%	24%	32%	9%
The Tea Party movement	18%	17%	10%	34%	21%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	29%
Off on the wrong track	57%
Not sure	13%

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

Getting better	19%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	37%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	26%
About the same	36%
Lower	19%
Not sure	19%

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

Better off financially	12%
About the same as now	42%
Worse off financially	43%
Not sure	3%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	October 16-19, 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 3.8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.6.
Number of respondents	1,000
Margin of error	± 3.5% (adjusted for weighting)
Margin of error (Likely Voters)	± 4.6% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	26 questions not reported.