

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted November 13-16, 2010
Margin of Error $\pm 3.5\%$

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	13%	29%	20%	26%	12%
The economy	11%	21%	15%	45%	7%
Immigration	6%	23%	15%	44%	12%
The environment	12%	28%	18%	27%	16%
Terrorism	15%	28%	15%	31%	11%
Gay rights	7%	24%	17%	27%	25%
Education	15%	28%	17%	26%	14%
Health care	18%	19%	12%	44%	7%
Social security	11%	18%	19%	38%	14%
The budget deficit	8%	20%	17%	45%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	29%	22%	28%	11%
Taxes	11%	22%	16%	41%	9%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	39%	44%	13%	3%
The economy	83%	14%	1%	2%
Immigration	50%	33%	13%	4%
The environment	43%	38%	13%	6%
Terrorism	60%	28%	9%	2%
Gay rights	24%	28%	25%	23%
Education	58%	32%	7%	3%
Health care	74%	20%	3%	2%
Social security	65%	26%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	62%	28%	7%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	42%	44%	11%	3%
Taxes	65%	28%	6%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	39%
Immigration	5%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	3%
Education	5%
Health care	14%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	8%
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	13%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	17%
Strongly Disapprove	38%
Not Sure	5%

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

Strongly approve	14%
Somewhat approve	23%
Somewhat disapprove	18%
Strongly disapprove	30%
No opinion	14%

6. In general, do you think leaders of other countries around the world have respect for Barack Obama or not?

A great deal of respect	16%
A fair amount of respect	35%
Not much respect	33%
No respect	16%

7. How long do you think it will take until the economy has recovered all the ground lost during the recession?

Has already recovered	1%
Less than a year	3%
About a year	8%
Two years	18%
More than two years	71%

8. In the next few months, do you think you and your family will be more seriously hurt by inflation or by unemployment?

Unemployment	10%
Inflation	35%
Both equally	32%
Neither	10%
Not sure	13%

9. How familiar are you with the Federal Reserve Board?

Very familiar	10%
Somewhat familiar	40%
Not very familiar	33%
Not sure what it is	18%

10. Who do you trust MOST to handle the problems of the economy? Asked of respondents who know what the Federal Reserve Board is

Congress	31%
The President	33%
The Federal Reserve Board	36%

11. Who do you trust LEAST to handle the problems of the economy? Asked of respondents who know what the Federal Reserve Board is

Congress	47%
The President	36%
The Federal Reserve Board	17%

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the current and former heads of the Federal Reserve Board? If you aren't familiar with them or are unsure, please select don't know.

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't Know
Alan Greenspan	31%	27%	42%
Ben Bernanke	19%	33%	48%

13. How concerned are you about the size of the federal budget deficit?

Very concerned	57%
Somewhat concerned	31%
Not very concerned	9%
Not at all concerned	3%

14. When, if ever, do you think the federal budget should be balanced, so that the amount the government spends is equal to the amount it collects in taxes?

Immediately	39%
Next year	13%
In a few years	39%
Not necessary to balance the budget	9%

15. 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	34%
Keep tax cuts only for those earning under \$250,000	41%
Let all tax cuts expire	10%
Not sure	16%

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

Favor	51%
Oppose	33%
Not sure	17%

17. How would you describe your own family's income?

Poor	33%
Middle Class	64%
Wealthy	3%

18. Do you feel you pay more than your fair share in federal income taxes, less than your fair share, or is the amount you pay about right?

More than fair share	43%
Less than fair share	5%
About right	42%
I don't file taxes	10%

19. Do you expect the amount of taxes you must pay to increase or decrease in the next year?
Asked if respondent files taxes

Increase	53%
Stay about the same	42%
Decrease	5%

20. Which party do you trust more to make the right decisions about taxes?

Democrats	34%
Republicans	40%
About the same	27%

21. Should the tax system be simplified by reducing the number of tax deductions, even if it means that some deductions for which you are currently eligible will be eliminated?

Yes	35%
No	28%
Not sure	36%

22. Do you think it is possible to balance the budget by 2037, simply by making the government more efficient, or are tax increases or government spending cuts necessary to meet this goal?

Goal can be met simply by making the government more efficient	37%
Tax increases or spending cuts are necessary to meet goal	32%
Goal cannot be met regardless of what government does	10%
Not sure	21%

23. Do you favor or oppose the following measures to reduce the federal deficit, or the amount by which federal expenditures exceed revenues each year?

	Favor	Neither favor, nor oppose	Oppose	Not sure
Gradually raising the retirement age for full Social Security benefits to 69 by 2075	30%	18%	41%	11%
Eliminating the tax deduction to homeowners for interest paid on their mortgages	18%	17%	50%	14%
Eliminating the tax deduction that companies take for providing health insurance to their employees	16%	19%	51%	14%
Cutting defense spending by \$100 billion	44%	17%	27%	12%
Gradually raising the gas tax by 15 cents per gallon starting in 2013	19%	13%	60%	8%
Reducing the size of the federal work force by 10%	53%	18%	15%	13%
Reducing Medicare payments to doctors, other health care providers, and drug companies	21%	17%	49%	13%
Limiting the ability of people to sue for damages in cases of medical malpractice	41%	20%	26%	13%
Reducing cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security benefits by changing the inflation measurement used to calculate adjustments	17%	18%	46%	18%

24. Members of Congress sometimes add provisions to legislation that include government spending projects for their own states or districts. Such spending projects are known as ‘earmarks’ or ‘pork.’ Do you approve or disapprove of this practice?

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	12%
Somewhat disapprove	19%
Strongly disapprove	48%
Not sure	14%

25. Do you think the cost of government entitlement programs, including Social Security and Medicare, will create major economic problems for the U.S. in the next 25 years if no changes are made to them?

Yes	59%
No	18%
Not sure	23%

26. Should the government cut benefits or raise taxes if the cost of major entitlement programs create major economic problems for the U.S.?

Raise taxes	19%
Cut benefits	21%
Both	24%
Neither	36%

27. How confident are you about the following things?

	Confident	Not confident
You will have sufficient income throughout your retirement	25%	75%
You will be able to retire when you want	40%	60%
Social Security will be able to pay your full benefits throughout your retirement	24%	76%
Throughout your retirement, Social Security will provide benefits of at least equal value to what it pays out today	24%	76%

28. Currently, Social Security taxes are paid on earnings up to \$106,000. Would you favor or oppose lifting that cap so that Social Security taxes are paid on all income, not just income under \$106,000?

Strongly favor	34%
Somewhat favor	20%
Neither favor, nor oppose	12%
Somewhat oppose	6%
Strongly oppose	11%
Not sure	17%

29. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	36%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	22%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	17%

30. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

Like a lot	31%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	30%
Not sure	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	33%	33%	34%
Intelligent	60%	26%	14%
Religious	14%	55%	31%
Inspiring	35%	40%	24%
Patriotic	28%	40%	32%
Strong	29%	47%	25%
Bold	34%	48%	18%
Experienced	14%	38%	48%
Sincere	37%	31%	31%
Partisan	27%	51%	22%
Effective	18%	44%	37%
Unifying	13%	48%	39%
In Touch	20%	41%	38%
Realistic	26%	38%	36%
Decisive	21%	51%	28%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	23%
Off on the wrong track	61%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	21%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	37%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	26%
About the same	32%
Lower	18%
Not sure	24%

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

Better off financially	12%
About the same as now	41%
Worse off financially	43%
Not sure	4%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	November 13-16, 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 0.3 to 3.5, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.5.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.5% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	22 questions not reported.