

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted December 11-14, 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	13%	29%	23%	23%	12%
The economy	12%	19%	19%	42%	8%
Immigration	7%	20%	18%	41%	14%
The environment	10%	28%	21%	24%	18%
Terrorism	13%	28%	17%	30%	11%
Gay rights	8%	21%	21%	26%	24%
Education	13%	29%	19%	24%	15%
Health care	17%	21%	12%	43%	7%
Social security	11%	19%	22%	34%	14%
The budget deficit	9%	18%	21%	43%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	9%	28%	27%	25%	11%
Taxes	9%	22%	24%	35%	10%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	38%	43%	14%	5%
The economy	80%	17%	2%	1%
Immigration	47%	33%	14%	5%
The environment	42%	38%	15%	6%
Terrorism	58%	27%	12%	3%
Gay rights	22%	28%	25%	26%
Education	60%	29%	8%	3%
Health care	71%	22%	5%	2%
Social security	62%	30%	7%	1%
The budget deficit	61%	29%	7%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	42%	41%	11%	5%
Taxes	64%	29%	6%	1%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	38%
Immigration	6%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	2%
Education	5%
Health care	13%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	6%

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

Strongly Approve	16%
Somewhat Approve	23%
Somewhat Disapprove	18%
Strongly Disapprove	35%
Not Sure	9%

5. Has your opinion of President Obama grown more or less favorable since he was elected?

Much more favorable	6%
Somewhat more favorable	7%
Stayed about the same	31%
Somewhat less favorable	25%
Much less favorable	32%

6. Was there a time when you approved of the way Barack Obama was handling his job as President? Asked if respondent disapproves of or has no opinion about President Obama

Yes	32%
No	68%

7. When did you change your opinion? Asked if respondent disapproves of or has no opinion about President Obama, but used to approve of him

In the last few weeks	14%
Earlier this year	47%
Last year	40%

8. Since taking office, do you think Barack Obama has accomplished...

More than I expected	15%
About what I expected	36%
Less than I expected	39%
Not sure	10%

9. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Barack Obama cares about people like me.

Agree strongly	23%
Agree somewhat	23%
Disagree somewhat	18%
Disagree strongly	35%

10. Would you say Barack Obama is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	13%
Somewhat strong	27%
Somewhat weak	29%
Very weak	31%

11. Would you say that Barack Obama is more or less liberal than you would like?

More liberal than you would like	39%
About as liberal as you would like	23%
Not as liberal as you would like	14%
Not sure	23%

12. In general, do you think Barack Obama is...

Leading the country in the right direction	31%
Taking the country down the wrong track	48%
Not sure	21%

13. The tax cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003 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	46%
Let all tax cuts expire	7%
Not sure	14%

14. Do you support or oppose temporarily extending the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for ALL Americans for the next two years?

Strongly support	28%
Somewhat support	18%
Neither support, nor oppose	11%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	17%
Not sure	11%

15. President Obama proposed a compromise with Republicans to extend the Bush-era tax cuts for ALL income levels for two years AND extend unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed in order to prevent Senate Republicans from blocking all new legislation until the Senate had voted on tax cuts. The deal is expected to add \$700 billion to the federal budget deficit in the next two years. Do you think this deal will help or hurt the economy?

Help a lot	11%
Help a little	20%
Neither help, nor hurt	16%
Hurt a little	17%
Hurt a lot	21%
Not sure	15%

16. If Congress does nothing, the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts are scheduled to expire at the end of the year and extended unemployment benefits for those who have been collecting for more than 26 weeks expired at the end of November. If you had to choose, would you prefer to stimulate the economy by extending tax cuts for ALL income levels or by extending the period of time people can collect unemployment benefits?

Extend tax cuts	30%
Extend unemployment benefits	28%
Both	21%
Neither	8%
Not sure	13%

17. Some people say that if the tax cuts are NOT extended for those earning more than \$250,000 a year that jobs will be lost. What do you think? If the tax cuts are NOT extended for those earning more than \$250,000 a year:

Jobs will be lost	30%
Jobs will be created	8%
There will be no impact on jobs	40%
Not sure	21%

18. What if the tax cuts for those making more than \$250,000 a year are extended? If they are extended, do you think:

Jobs will be lost	10%
Jobs will be created	22%
There will be no impact on jobs	45%
Not sure	22%

19. 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	26%	27%	17%	17%	12%
The Republican Party	15%	21%	18%	34%	12%
The Democratic Party	24%	32%	16%	16%	12%

20. 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	26%	25%	20%	19%	10%
The Republican Party	18%	23%	22%	26%	11%
The Democratic Party	23%	31%	21%	16%	10%

21. 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	18%	30%	20%	20%	12%
The Republican Party	58%	20%	8%	4%	10%
The Democratic Party	18%	28%	24%	19%	11%

22. How much confidence do you have in the leaders of...

	A great deal	Quite a bit	Only some	Very little	None at all	No opinion
The Republicans in Congress	5%	14%	21%	18%	32%	9%
The Democrats in Congress	6%	11%	19%	22%	33%	9%

23. Congress is considering some of the following policies. Which do you support?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support, nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Ratification of the START treaty to reduce American and Russian nuclear stockpiles	31%	20%	17%	8%	8%	15%
The DREAM Act, to allow immigrant students who arrived illegally as minors to apply for temporary legal status if enrolled in college or the military	18%	19%	10%	10%	34%	8%
Extending unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed	32%	23%	9%	16%	13%	7%
A ban on Members of Congress directing spending projects to their own states or districts, known as “earmarks”	42%	17%	13%	7%	10%	10%
Increase in government regulation of food safety	37%	23%	14%	9%	11%	7%
Repeal of the ban on internet gambling	13%	11%	28%	9%	23%	16%

24. Currently, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law forbids openly gay men and women from serving in the military. Congress is considering repealing the law. How do you feel about the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy?

Should be ended immediately	39%
Should be phased out gradually	15%
Should be kept in place	31%
Not sure	15%

25. Governments often must balance a need for secrecy against society's right to know. Do you think the U.S. government keeps too many secrets, or is too open with information?

The government keeps too many secrets	35%
The government probably keeps too many secrets, but often with good reason	32%
The current balance between secrecy and openness is about right	13%
The government probably is too open with information, but often with good reason	3%
The government is too open with information	5%
Not sure	12%

26. Which of the following do you think justifies government secrecy?

	Justifies secrecy	Does not justify secrecy	Not sure
The President decrees that release of the information would harm national security	63%	16%	21%
Release of the information would disclose trade secrets that could harm individual businesses	49%	26%	25%
The information is personal and would violate an individual's right to privacy	57%	19%	24%
The information is embarrassing to government diplomats and could harm their standing in the international community	25%	54%	21%
Releasing the information would be time consuming and burdensome to the agency that must prepare the data	9%	71%	20%
Releasing the information would reveal illegal actions on the part of the government	11%	71%	18%

27. How much have you heard or read about secret U.S. State Department communications that were released by the Web site called WikiLeaks?

A great deal	38%
A little	44%
Nothing at all	18%

28. As you may know, the Web site WikiLeaks recently began releasing leaked U.S. State Department communications, called cables, many of which are classified as secret. Do you approve or disapprove of the decision by WikiLeaks to release these cables?

Strongly approve	9%
Somewhat approve	12%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Not sure	10%

29. Should the press be allowed to publish truthful and newsworthy government secrets that it obtains through ordinary reporting?

Definitely yes	26%
Probably yes	24%
Hard to say	29%
Probably no	11%
Definitely no	10%

30. Do you support or oppose the following actions?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support, nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Amazon.com's decision to stop hosting the WikiLeaks Web site	41%	13%	20%	7%	9%	10%
Computer hackers trying to disrupt access to the WikiLeaks Web site	15%	10%	21%	14%	28%	12%
The decision by major media outlets to publish the leaks	17%	17%	18%	17%	21%	9%
Prosecution of Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks	32%	14%	19%	10%	12%	12%
Prosecution of individuals who leak information to WikiLeaks	43%	17%	15%	7%	8%	11%
The decision by Visa and MasterCard to halt donations to WikiLeaks	41%	15%	17%	6%	12%	9%

31. Should WikiLeaks be allowed to continue leaking secret documents?

Yes, the public has a right to know	14%
Yes, but only documents that don't harm national security	35%
No, some things are better left undisclosed	39%
Not sure	12%

32. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	33%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	22%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	18%

33. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	30%
Dislike	25%
Not sure	13%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	31%	36%	33%
Intelligent	58%	30%	12%
Religious	15%	55%	29%
Inspiring	30%	44%	26%
Patriotic	28%	42%	29%
Strong	25%	43%	32%
Bold	28%	50%	22%
Experienced	13%	41%	46%
Sincere	34%	36%	30%
Partisan	26%	53%	21%
Effective	18%	47%	35%
Unifying	13%	48%	39%
In Touch	22%	44%	34%
Realistic	29%	40%	31%
Decisive	21%	48%	31%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	29%
Strongly disapprove	42%
Not sure	8%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	26%
Off on the wrong track	60%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	20%
About the same	41%
Getting worse	33%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	28%
About the same	36%
Lower	16%
Not sure	20%

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

Better off financially	12%
About the same as now	42%
Worse off financially	40%
Not sure	5%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 11-14, 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 5.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.6.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.6% (adjusted for weighting)
Margin of error (Registered Voters)	± 4.12% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	22 questions not reported.