

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted December 18-21, 2010
Margin of Error $\pm 3.4\%$

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%	30%	20%	24%	12%
The economy	13%	24%	15%	40%	8%
Immigration	10%	21%	15%	42%	12%
The environment	13%	30%	14%	25%	17%
Terrorism	17%	28%	13%	31%	12%
Gay rights	17%	24%	13%	26%	21%
Education	15%	30%	16%	24%	16%
Health care	21%	19%	10%	42%	8%
Social security	10%	24%	19%	32%	16%
The budget deficit	9%	21%	17%	43%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	28%	22%	28%	12%
Taxes	11%	25%	20%	33%	10%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	41%	40%	14%	5%
The economy	80%	16%	2%	2%
Immigration	49%	34%	13%	4%
The environment	41%	38%	15%	7%
Terrorism	56%	29%	11%	4%
Gay rights	20%	30%	25%	25%
Education	57%	32%	8%	3%
Health care	71%	23%	4%	3%
Social security	61%	29%	7%	3%
The budget deficit	61%	29%	7%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	44%	39%	12%	5%
Taxes	67%	26%	5%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	38%
Immigration	6%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	6%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	12%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	5%

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

Strongly Approve	15%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	15%
Strongly Disapprove	35%
Not Sure	7%

5. The founder and CEO of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, was named Time magazine’s 2010 Person of the Year. The title goes to the man or woman who, for better or for worse, has had the most influence on the year’s events. Do you agree or disagree with Time’s decision?

Agree	30%
Disagree	37%
Not sure	33%

6. Past Time magazine Persons of the Year include people like George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Mikhail Gorbachev, Newt Gingrich, and Ted Turner. In general, do you think Time magazine makes good decisions about who it designates as Person of the Year? Asked of 50% of respondents

Good decisions	44%
Bad decisions	25%
Not sure	31%

7. In general, do you think Time magazine makes good decisions about who it designates as Person of the Year? Asked of 50% of respondents

Good decisions	29%
Bad decisions	25%
Not sure	46%

8. These individuals or groups were finalists for the title of Person of the Year. Who do you think deserves the title the most?

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg	17%
The Tea Party	23%
WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange	8%
Afghan President Hamid Karzai	1%
The Chilean Miners	12%
Apple CEO Steve Jobs	6%
Other	7%
Not sure	27%

9. In general, how comfortable do you feel...

	Very uncom- fortable	Somewhat uncom- fortable	Neither com- fortable, nor uncom- fortable	Somewhat com- fortable	Very com- fortable
Using computers	4%	3%	6%	22%	65%
Using email	4%	3%	5%	16%	71%
Using the internet	5%	4%	6%	21%	65%

10. How often do use online social networking Web sites like Facebook or MySpace?

Very often	33%
Somewhat often	19%
Not very often	23%
Never	25%

11. Have social networking Web sites like Facebook and MySpace had a positive or negative effect on your life?

Very positive	12%
Somewhat positive	23%
Neither positive, nor negative	50%
Somewhat negative	6%
Very negative	3%
Not sure	7%

12. Thinking about society in general, has the effect of social networking Web sites like Facebook and MySpace been positive or negative?

Very positive	11%
Somewhat positive	26%
Neither positive, nor negative	25%
Somewhat negative	23%
Very negative	8%
Not sure	7%

13. Should companies be allowed to pay Internet Service Providers so that the transmission times for Web content are faster for companies who pay and slower for companies who don't pay?

Yes	16%
No	54%
Not sure	30%

14. How much do you trust the following organizations to decide how access to the Internet is controlled?

	A great deal	Some	Only a little	Not at all	Not sure
Internet Service Providers like AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon	14%	23%	19%	30%	14%
Software companies like Microsoft or Apple	15%	25%	22%	23%	14%
Web site companies like Google or Yahoo	16%	25%	23%	23%	14%
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	16%	19%	19%	32%	15%
Republicans in Congress	5%	13%	13%	55%	14%
Democrats in Congress	7%	14%	15%	50%	15%
Independent Internet experts	16%	28%	16%	20%	20%

15. Are you familiar with the term “net neutrality”?

Yes, I am familiar with "net neutrality."	25%
Yes, I've heard of it, but I don't understand it.	22%
No, I have not heard of it.	53%

16. “Net neutrality” is the principle that all Internet traffic should be treated equally. Supporters believe that it is necessary to ensure that the Internet remains free and open and that there is an even playing field for competition and innovation. Opponents believe that the ability to charge for priority Internet service will encourage investment in more advanced infrastructure for the Internet and could prevent the transmission of e-mail spam. Do you support or oppose the principle of “net neutrality”?

Strongly support	35%
Somewhat support	22%
Neither support, nor oppose	16%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	8%
Not sure	13%

17. 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%	19%	16%	8%	13%	13%
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	21%	17%	9%	11%	34%	8%
A ban on Members of Congress directing spending projects to their own states or districts, known as “earmarks”	42%	19%	12%	9%	9%	10%
Increase in government regulation of food safety	36%	24%	14%	8%	13%	6%
Repeal of the ban on internet gambling	14%	14%	32%	11%	19%	10%
Repeal of “Don’t ask, don’t tell” to allow openly gay men and women to serve in the military	35%	13%	17%	7%	20%	8%

18. 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	4%
About a year	8%
Two years	18%
More than two years	69%

19. Recently, Congress passed a bill with \$801 billion in tax-cuts and \$57 billion for extended unemployment insurance. Do you favor or oppose this bill?

Favor	45%
Oppose	28%
Not sure	27%

20. Regardless of whether you favor or oppose the \$858 billion tax-cut bill passed by Congress, do you think it will help the economy?

Yes	40%
No	32%
Not sure	28%

21. Do you think the tax-cut bill will create new jobs in the U.S.?

Yes	23%
No	45%
Not sure	32%

22. 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	27%	31%	12%	20%	11%
The Republican Party	13%	23%	18%	33%	12%
The Democratic Party	24%	33%	15%	17%	11%

23. 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%	28%	18%	20%	10%
The Republican Party	20%	23%	20%	26%	11%
The Democratic Party	23%	30%	20%	17%	10%

24. 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	21%	28%	19%	21%	11%
The Republican Party	57%	21%	6%	6%	10%
The Democratic Party	20%	28%	21%	21%	10%

25. 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%	20%	32%	8%
The Democrats in Congress	8%	10%	21%	17%	36%	8%

26. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of John Boehner? Asked of respondents shown an unemotional picture of John Boehner (see appendix)

Very favorable	10%
Somewhat favorable	20%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%
Very unfavorable	22%
Not sure	36%

27. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of John Boehner? Asked of respondents shown an emotional picture of John Boehner (see appendix)

Very favorable	9%
Somewhat favorable	16%
Somewhat unfavorable	15%
Very unfavorable	21%
Not sure	38%

28. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of George W. Bush? Asked of respondents shown an unemotional picture of George W. Bush (see appendix)

Very favorable	18%
Somewhat favorable	21%
Somewhat unfavorable	17%
Very unfavorable	37%
Not sure	7%

29. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of George W. Bush? Asked of respondents shown an emotional picture of George W. Bush (see appendix)

Very favorable	18%
Somewhat favorable	24%
Somewhat unfavorable	16%
Very unfavorable	38%
Not sure	4%

30. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Bill Clinton? Asked of respondents shown an unemotional picture of Bill Clinton (see appendix)

Very favorable	33%
Somewhat favorable	27%
Somewhat unfavorable	18%
Very unfavorable	17%
Not sure	5%

31. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Bill Clinton? Asked of respondents shown an emotional picture of Bill Clinton (see appendix)

Very favorable	29%
Somewhat favorable	32%
Somewhat unfavorable	15%
Very unfavorable	18%
Not sure	6%

32. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Hillary Clinton? Asked of respondents shown an unemotional picture of Hillary Clinton (see appendix)

Very favorable	26%
Somewhat favorable	29%
Somewhat unfavorable	18%
Very unfavorable	21%
Not sure	6%

33. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Hillary Clinton? Asked of respondents shown an emotional picture of Hillary Clinton (see appendix)

Very favorable	22%
Somewhat favorable	33%
Somewhat unfavorable	16%
Very unfavorable	20%
Not sure	8%

34. When considering how you evaluate elected officials, how important is it that the person is...

	Very Important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important	Not sure
Strong	64%	24%	4%	2%	5%
Manly (if male)	17%	22%	25%	29%	7%
Feminine (if female)	11%	21%	30%	32%	7%
In touch with their feelings	27%	37%	20%	9%	7%
Dedicated	82%	12%	1%	1%	4%
Emotionally stable	74%	17%	3%	1%	5%

35. Do you think it reflects negatively on an elected official if they cry in public?

Yes	18%
No	65%
Not sure	17%

36. Do you think female elected officials are treated more harshly than males if they cry in public?

Yes	49%
No	34%
Not sure	16%

37. If you had to choose, would you rather have a congressperson who...

- Compromises to get things done. 51%
- Sticks to his or her principles, no matter what. 49%

38. If you had to choose, would you rather have a congressperson who...

- Supports policies in line with his or her principles, regardless of how constituents feel about those policies. 38%
- Supports policies that constituents want, regardless of his or her own beliefs. 62%

39. Would you say Barack Obama is...

- Very liberal 34%
- Liberal 19%
- Moderate 25%
- Conservative 4%
- Very conservative 1%
- Not sure 17%

40. Do you think Barack Obama...

- Says what he believes 44%
- Says what he thinks people want to hear 56%

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

- Like a lot 33%
- Like somewhat 29%
- Dislike 27%
- Not sure 11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	33%	35%	32%
Intelligent	60%	28%	12%
Religious	15%	54%	31%
Inspiring	32%	44%	24%
Patriotic	29%	41%	30%
Strong	28%	47%	25%
Bold	29%	51%	20%
Experienced	15%	38%	47%
Sincere	34%	37%	30%
Partisan	26%	53%	21%
Effective	22%	45%	33%
Unifying	15%	48%	37%
In Touch	24%	42%	34%
Realistic	30%	40%	31%
Decisive	22%	48%	30%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	10%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	8%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	27%
Off on the wrong track	59%
Not sure	14%

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

Getting better	20%
About the same	46%
Getting worse	27%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	27%
About the same	34%
Lower	16%
Not sure	23%

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

Better off financially	13%
About the same as now	39%
Worse off financially	44%
Not sure	5%

Emotional and unemotional pictures shown to respondents

Unemotional

Emotional

John Boehner



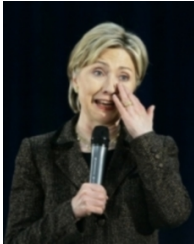
George W. Bush



Bill Clinton



Hillary Clinton



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 18-21, 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 3.5, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.5.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Margin of error (Registered Voters)	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	23 questions not reported.