

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted January 1-4, 2011  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.3\%$

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%              | 29%              | 21%                 | 23%                 | 13%        |
| The economy            | 12%              | 26%              | 15%                 | 39%                 | 9%         |
| Immigration            | 10%              | 24%              | 15%                 | 37%                 | 14%        |
| The environment        | 13%              | 31%              | 15%                 | 24%                 | 17%        |
| Terrorism              | 17%              | 29%              | 14%                 | 27%                 | 13%        |
| Gay rights             | 18%              | 25%              | 11%                 | 26%                 | 20%        |
| Education              | 15%              | 29%              | 16%                 | 24%                 | 16%        |
| Health care            | 22%              | 21%              | 10%                 | 40%                 | 8%         |
| Social security        | 11%              | 22%              | 16%                 | 33%                 | 17%        |
| The budget deficit     | 10%              | 22%              | 16%                 | 41%                 | 11%        |
| The war in Afghanistan | 10%              | 29%              | 23%                 | 25%                 | 13%        |
| Taxes                  | 9%               | 27%              | 22%                 | 31%                 | 11%        |

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

|                        | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not Very Important | Unimportant |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| The war in Iraq        | 40%            | 38%                | 16%                | 6%          |
| The economy            | 83%            | 14%                | 2%                 | 1%          |
| Immigration            | 47%            | 33%                | 15%                | 6%          |
| The environment        | 45%            | 37%                | 12%                | 6%          |
| Terrorism              | 53%            | 32%                | 11%                | 5%          |
| Gay rights             | 24%            | 26%                | 27%                | 24%         |
| Education              | 61%            | 28%                | 8%                 | 3%          |
| Health care            | 75%            | 18%                | 4%                 | 2%          |
| Social security        | 65%            | 26%                | 6%                 | 3%          |
| The budget deficit     | 61%            | 29%                | 7%                 | 3%          |
| The war in Afghanistan | 42%            | 39%                | 14%                | 5%          |
| Taxes                  | 62%            | 31%                | 4%                 | 3%          |

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

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| The war in Iraq        | 1%  |
| The economy            | 37% |
| Immigration            | 6%  |
| The environment        | 5%  |
| Terrorism              | 2%  |
| Gay rights             | 3%  |
| Education              | 5%  |
| Health care            | 15% |
| Social security        | 14% |
| The budget deficit     | 7%  |
| The war in Afghanistan | 1%  |
| Taxes                  | 3%  |

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

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Approve .....    | 18% |
| Somewhat Approve .....    | 28% |
| Somewhat Disapprove ..... | 14% |
| Strongly Disapprove ..... | 33% |
| Not Sure .....            | 7%  |

**5. Looking back at 2010, how would you describe the year for the world?**

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| A very good year ..... | 2%  |
| A good year .....      | 22% |
| A bad year .....       | 54% |
| A very bad year .....  | 22% |

**6. Looking back at 2010, how would you describe the year for you and your family?**

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| A very good year ..... | 6%  |
| A good year .....      | 42% |
| A bad year .....       | 38% |
| A very bad year .....  | 14% |

**7. What's your feeling about the year ahead? Generally speaking, are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2011 will be for the world?**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Very optimistic .....                     | 10% |
| Somewhat optimistic .....                 | 32% |
| Neither optimistic, nor pessimistic ..... | 31% |
| Somewhat pessimistic .....                | 20% |
| Very pessimistic .....                    | 8%  |

8. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2011 will be for you and your family?

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Very optimistic .....                     | 16% |
| Somewhat optimistic .....                 | 34% |
| Neither optimistic, nor pessimistic ..... | 29% |
| Somewhat pessimistic .....                | 15% |
| Very pessimistic .....                    | 6%  |

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

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| More than I expected .....  | 18% |
| About what I expected ..... | 37% |
| Less than I expected .....  | 37% |
| Not sure .....              | 9%  |

10. As a President, how do you think Barack Obama will go down in history?

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Outstanding .....   | 11% |
| Above Average ..... | 22% |
| Average .....       | 20% |
| Below Average ..... | 14% |
| Poor .....          | 25% |
| Not Sure .....      | 8%  |

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

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Very strong .....     | 16% |
| Somewhat strong ..... | 32% |
| Somewhat weak .....   | 26% |
| Very weak .....       | 27% |

12. How much progress has Barack Obama made in achieving the following campaign promises?

|  | A lot | Some | Only a little | None | Not sure |
|--|-------|------|---------------|------|----------|
| Changing the partisan tone in Washington | 6%    | 14%  | 19%           | 50%  | 12%      |
| Improving the U.S. image in the world    | 24%   | 20%  | 11%           | 38%  | 8%       |
| Improving the economy                    | 10%   | 24%  | 19%           | 40%  | 6%       |

13. Looking ahead to 2011, how much progress do you think Barack Obama will make in achieving these campaign promises?

|  | A lot | Some | Only a little | None | Not sure |
|--|-------|------|---------------|------|----------|
| Changing the partisan tone in Washington | 6%    | 17%  | 22%           | 41%  | 14%      |
| Improving the U.S. image in the world    | 20%   | 22%  | 13%           | 35%  | 10%      |
| Improving the economy                    | 14%   | 26%  | 20%           | 31%  | 9%       |

14. Do you think the current Congress, whose term ends on January 3rd, has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does during a two-year term?

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| More than usual ..... | 25% |
| About the same .....  | 29% |
| Less than usual ..... | 30% |
| Not sure .....        | 16% |

15. Do you think the next Congress that was elected in November will accomplish more or less than Congress usually does during a two-year term?

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| More than usual ..... | 19% |
| About the same .....  | 33% |
| Less than usual ..... | 29% |
| Not sure .....        | 18% |

16. Do you think things are better off or worse off than they were two years ago when it comes to

|                              | Much better | Somewhat better | No change | Somewhat worse | Much worse | Not sure |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|------------|----------|
| The Middle East              | 3%          | 16%             | 38%       | 19%            | 14%        | 10%      |
| The war in Afghanistan       | 3%          | 18%             | 37%       | 20%            | 13%        | 10%      |
| Energy issues                | 3%          | 16%             | 35%       | 21%            | 16%        | 9%       |
| The environment              | 3%          | 16%             | 47%       | 15%            | 10%        | 9%       |
| The economy in your area     | 3%          | 17%             | 23%       | 27%            | 24%        | 6%       |
| Job security                 | 3%          | 13%             | 22%       | 26%            | 29%        | 8%       |
| Government spending          | 2%          | 8%              | 23%       | 16%            | 42%        | 9%       |
| Health care coverage         | 9%          | 21%             | 14%       | 20%            | 27%        | 8%       |
| Education                    | 3%          | 13%             | 36%       | 23%            | 16%        | 9%       |
| Social Security and Medicare | 3%          | 10%             | 28%       | 25%            | 27%        | 8%       |
| The U.S. financial system    | 4%          | 19%             | 17%       | 21%            | 30%        | 8%       |
| Wall Street                  | 8%          | 23%             | 23%       | 17%            | 18%        | 11%      |

17. Two years from now, do you think things will be better off or worse off than they are now when it comes to...

|                              | Much better | Somewhat better | No change | Somewhat worse | Much worse | Not sure |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|------------|----------|
| The Middle East              | 3%          | 20%             | 37%       | 14%            | 10%        | 15%      |
| The war in Afghanistan       | 6%          | 25%             | 32%       | 13%            | 8%         | 15%      |
| Energy issues                | 4%          | 24%             | 33%       | 14%            | 11%        | 13%      |
| The environment              | 4%          | 23%             | 42%       | 11%            | 7%         | 13%      |
| The economy in your area     | 7%          | 34%             | 24%       | 14%            | 10%        | 11%      |
| Job security                 | 5%          | 29%             | 28%       | 14%            | 11%        | 13%      |
| Government spending          | 4%          | 23%             | 28%       | 15%            | 18%        | 12%      |
| Health care coverage         | 8%          | 24%             | 21%       | 15%            | 18%        | 13%      |
| Education                    | 4%          | 20%             | 36%       | 15%            | 10%        | 15%      |
| Social Security and Medicare | 4%          | 17%             | 29%       | 18%            | 18%        | 14%      |
| The U.S. financial system    | 4%          | 29%             | 23%       | 16%            | 15%        | 14%      |
| Wall Street                  | 5%          | 29%             | 30%       | 11%            | 10%        | 15%      |

18. In the last year, has the United States become more respected or less respected in the world?

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| More respected | 25% |
| No change      | 33% |
| Less respected | 42% |

19. At the end of 2011, do you think the United States will have more or fewer troops in Iraq than it has now?

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| More troops in Iraq than it has now                   | 5%  |
| About the same number of troops in Iraq as it has now | 36% |
| Fewer troops in Iraq than it has now                  | 59% |

20. At the end of 2011, do you think the United States will have more or fewer troops in Afghanistan than it has now?

More troops in Afghanistan than it has now ..... 14%  
 About the same number of troops in Afghanistan as it has now ..... 48%  
 Fewer troops in Afghanistan than it has now ..... 38%

21. In the next year, do you think the threat of terrorism will increase or decrease?

Increase ..... 35%  
 Stay the same ..... 57%  
 Decrease ..... 8%

22. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

|                 | Very favorable | Somewhat favorable | Somewhat unfavorable | Very unfavorable | Not sure |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------|
| Nancy Pelosi    | 10%            | 21%                | 12%                  | 38%              | 19%      |
| Harry Reid      | 6%             | 17%                | 12%                  | 30%              | 35%      |
| John Boehner    | 11%            | 16%                | 11%                  | 22%              | 40%      |
| Mitch McConnell | 6%             | 16%                | 12%                  | 22%              | 43%      |
| Hillary Clinton | 30%            | 29%                | 16%                  | 18%              | 7%       |
| Barack Obama    | 28%            | 23%                | 10%                  | 33%              | 7%       |
| Joe Biden       | 17%            | 26%                | 15%                  | 25%              | 16%      |
| Sarah Palin     | 17%            | 16%                | 14%                  | 44%              | 9%       |
| Michelle Obama  | 35%            | 20%                | 12%                  | 23%              | 10%      |



23. Of the legislation Congress has considered in the past month, 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  | 32%              | 18%              | 17%                         | 7%              | 13%             | 14%      |
| Repeal of “Don’t ask, don’t tell” to allow openly gay men and women to serve in the military  | 36%              | 11%              | 16%                         | 9%              | 19%             | 9%       |
| 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%              | 15%              | 11%                         | 9%              | 35%             | 8%       |
| A ban on Members of Congress directing spending projects to their own states or districts, known as “earmarks”  | 41%              | 19%              | 13%                         | 7%              | 8%              | 11%      |
| Increase in government regulation of food safety  | 36%              | 22%              | 15%                         | 7%              | 12%             | 8%       |
| Extending unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed  | 34%              | 20%              | 11%                         | 14%             | 14%             | 7%       |
| The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010  | 34%              | 25%              | 18%                         | 6%              | 4%              | 12%      |

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

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal .....      | 32% |
| Liberal .....           | 19% |
| Moderate .....          | 27% |
| Conservative .....      | 3%  |
| Very conservative ..... | 1%  |
| Not sure .....          | 17% |

**25. Do you think Barack Obama...**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Says what he believes .....                   | 50% |
| Says what he thinks people want to hear ..... | 50% |

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

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Like a lot .....    | 37% |
| Like somewhat ..... | 28% |
| Dislike .....       | 26% |
| Not sure .....      | 9%  |

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

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve .....               | 2%  |
| Somewhat approve .....               | 10% |
| Neither approve nor disapprove ..... | 17% |
| Somewhat disapprove .....            | 24% |
| Strongly disapprove .....            | 39% |
| Not sure .....                       | 8%  |

**28. Would you say things in this country today are...**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Generally headed in the right direction ..... | 33% |
| Off on the wrong track .....                  | 52% |
| Not sure .....                                | 15% |

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

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Getting better ..... | 23% |
| About the same ..... | 38% |
| Getting worse .....  | 34% |
| Not sure .....       | 5%  |

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

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Higher .....         | 32% |
| About the same ..... | 37% |
| Lower .....          | 12% |
| Not sure .....       | 19% |

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

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Better off financially ..... | 12% |
| About the same as now .....  | 45% |
| Worse off financially .....  | 39% |
| Not sure .....               | 5%  |

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sponsorship</b>            | <i>The Economist</i>   |
| <b>Fieldwork</b>              | YouGov   |
| <b>Interviewing Dates</b>     | January 1-4, 2011  |
| <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 0.66 to 2.04, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.32.  |
| <b>Number of respondents</b>  | 1000   |
| <b>Margin of error</b>        | ± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting)  |
| <b>Survey mode</b>            | Web-based interviews   |
| <b>Questions not reported</b> | 26 questions not reported.   |