

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted January 8-11, 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	13%	31%	20%	25%	11%
The economy	15%	24%	15%	39%	6%
Immigration	7%	24%	16%	38%	14%
The environment	13%	32%	16%	24%	15%
Terrorism	17%	27%	13%	30%	12%
Gay rights	16%	27%	11%	25%	20%
Education	15%	28%	18%	23%	16%
Health care	21%	21%	11%	41%	7%
Social security	13%	22%	17%	33%	15%
The budget deficit	11%	21%	16%	42%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	31%	23%	24%	11%
Taxes	10%	25%	23%	33%	9%

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	83%	14%	2%	1%
Immigration	51%	33%	12%	5%
The environment	46%	35%	13%	6%
Terrorism	57%	29%	11%	4%
Gay rights	23%	26%	26%	24%
Education	59%	30%	7%	4%
Health care	75%	19%	5%	1%
Social security	65%	26%	7%	1%
The budget deficit	62%	28%	7%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	43%	41%	11%	5%
Taxes	66%	27%	6%	1%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	37%
Immigration	6%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	3%
Education	6%
Health care	14%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	8%
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	21%
Somewhat Approve	25%
Somewhat Disapprove	15%
Strongly Disapprove	33%
Not Sure	6%

5. Do you think homosexual couples should be allowed to form civil unions, so that partners have the same legal rights and financial benefits as married couples in areas such as health insurance, inheritance, and pension coverage?

Definitely should	40%
Probably should	19%
Probably should not	9%
Definitely should not	23%
Not sure	9%

6. Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

Favor allowing same-sex marriage	38%
Oppose allowing same-sex marriage, but favor allowing civil unions instead	21%
Oppose legal recognition of same-sex relationships	31%
Not sure	9%

7. What would be the impact of legalizing same-sex marriages on the institution of traditional male-female marriages?

Benefit	8%
Have no impact	55%
Threaten	37%

8. Do laws prohibiting gay marriage violate the constitutional rights of homosexuals?

Yes 37%
No 41%
Not sure 23%

9. Do you think same sex marriages are moral or immoral?

Moral 43%
Immoral 57%

10. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion:

Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society. 58%
Homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society. 42%

11. Do you think being homosexual is something a person chooses to be, or do you think it is something a person cannot change?

Homosexuality is a choice 45%
Homosexuality is not a choice 55%

12. A valid marriage requires that a couple file a marriage license, signed by both spouses and the marriage officiant, with the proper state authorities. Do you think that the government should be involved in the certification of marriages?

Definitely should 22%
Probably should 25%
Probably should not 17%
Definitely should not 22%
Not sure 15%

13. Would you approve or disapprove of allowing clergy or other religious officials to perform legally binding marriages without requiring marriage licenses to be issued by the government?

Strongly approve	12%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	22%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	28%
Not sure	14%

14. Would you approve or disapprove of allowing people who are NOT clergy or other religious officials to perform legally binding marriages without requiring marriage licenses to be issued by the government?

Strongly approve	7%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	20%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	15%

15. Some people think that marriage is a religious institution that should not require government recognition. Instead, governments should allow any committed couple, whether heterosexual or homosexual, to enter into a civil union, giving all couples the same legal rights and responsibilities. Do you agree or disagree with this point of view?

Strongly agree	21%
Somewhat agree	18%
Neither agree, nor disagree	13%
Somewhat disagree	12%
Strongly disagree	26%
Not sure	10%

16. When considering how you evaluate politicians, how important is it that the person is...

	Very Important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not at all important	Not sure
Strong	64%	24%	5%	3%	4%
Manly (if male)	17%	21%	26%	31%	5%
Feminine (if female)	14%	19%	28%	33%	5%
In touch with their feelings	31%	34%	19%	10%	6%
Dedicated	85%	9%	1%	1%	4%
Emotionally stable	81%	11%	2%	2%	4%

17. Would you have a more or less favorable opinion of a politician after learning that the politician had cried in public?

More	14%
About the same	66%
Less	8%
Not sure	13%

18. Is it acceptable for the following types of people to cry in public?

	Yes	No	Not sure
Male politicians	69%	18%	13%
Female politicians	72%	15%	13%
The Speaker of the House of Representatives	67%	19%	14%
The President of the United States	65%	21%	14%
Men in general	76%	13%	11%
Women in general	84%	6%	9%

19. 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	14%	17%	10%	37%	22%
Harry Reid	9%	18%	9%	29%	35%
John Boehner	14%	19%	12%	15%	39%
Mitch McConnell	8%	19%	10%	18%	46%
Hillary Clinton	31%	24%	18%	19%	8%
Barack Obama	30%	19%	9%	36%	7%
Joe Biden	20%	22%	13%	30%	15%
Sarah Palin	15%	20%	15%	40%	10%
Michelle Obama	33%	20%	12%	24%	11%

20. Do you think the current Congress, whose term began on January 3rd, will accomplish more or less than Congress usually does during a two-year term?

More than usual	19%
About the same	38%
Less than usual	27%
Not sure	15%

21. In your opinion, do the Democrats in Congress...

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	32%
Mostly just oppose the other party	46%
Not sure	22%

22. In your opinion, do the Republicans in Congress...

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	27%
Mostly just oppose the other party	52%
Not sure	21%

23. In dealing with President Obama, do you think the Republicans in Congress...

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives32%
 Mostly just oppose the President50%
 Not sure 19%

24. 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	8%	17%	22%	19%	26%	9%
The Democrats in Congress	11%	14%	19%	19%	28%	9%

25. Do you think that the interests of your state are well represented in Congress?

Yes, my state is well represented in Congress 16%
 My state is somewhat well represented in Congress31%
 My state is somewhat poorly represented in Congress 18%
 No, my state is poorly represented in Congress 16%
 Not sure 19%

26. In the Senate, it takes the votes of 60 out of 100 Senators to stop debate and force a vote on a bill. This allows 40 Senators to block passage of a bill. What comes closest to you opinion?

It's unfair for a minority in the Senate to be able to block passage of a bill. 39%
 Requiring a majority of 60 votes keeps the Senate from passing bills without the support of moderates. 61%

27. There has been discussion about reducing the number of votes necessary to stop debate and force a vote on a bill from 60 Senators to a simple majority of 51. This would prevent a minority of Senators from staging a filibuster - a practice used to block passage of a bill. What do you think? Should the number of votes needed to end a filibuster be reduced to 51?

Definitely yes	15%
Probably yes	25%
Probably not	16%
Definitely not	18%
Not sure	26%

28. Do you think personal income taxes are too high or too low?

Too high	56%
About right	22%
Too low	9%
Not sure	13%

29. What do you think the maximum personal income tax rate should be? This would be, for example, the percentage of each additional dollar of income someone would pay to the federal government if they earned over \$200,000 per year.

0% to 10%	21%
10% to 20%	22%
20% to 30%	17%
30% to 40%	12%
40% to 50%	4%
More than 50%	4%
Not sure	20%

30. Do you think corporate income taxes are too high or too low?

Too high	22%
About right	14%
Too low	38%
Not sure	27%

31. What do you think the maximum corporate tax rate should be? This is the percentage of a large corporation's profits that it pays to the federal government.

0% to 10%	9%
10% to 20%	14%
20% to 30%	18%
30% to 40%	15%
40% to 50%	8%
More than 50%	6%
Not sure	30%

32. 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%	15%	6%	15%	14%
Repeal of “Don’t ask, don’t tell” to allow openly gay men and women to serve in the military	37%	10%	16%	7%	21%	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%	16%	9%	9%	34%	10%
A ban on Members of Congress directing spending projects to their own states or districts, known as “earmarks”	36%	18%	14%	8%	11%	13%
Increase in government regulation of food safety	39%	21%	13%	8%	12%	8%
Extending unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed	29%	23%	10%	15%	15%	8%
The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 to improve protections and services to individuals impacted by 9/11 attacks	37%	21%	19%	6%	6%	12%

33. Do you favor or oppose repealing President Obama’s health care reform law passed earlier this year by Congress?

Favor	41%
Oppose	40%
Not sure	19%

34. Do you think that vaccinations can cause autism?

Definitely	4%
Probably	5%
Possibly	18%
Probably not	27%
Definitely not	22%
Not sure	25%

35. With certain exceptions, children must be vaccinated to attend public school. Which of the following do you think justifies exempting a child from getting immunizations?

A medical condition	60%
Religious beliefs	22%
Philosophical beliefs	10%
Concern for the side-effects	28%
Parents do not need a reason	16%
To avoid painful injections	3%
None of the above	22%

36. How much have you heard or read about the theory that autism can be caused by vaccinations?

A great deal	27%
A little	50%
Nothing at all	23%

37. How much have you heard or read about the evidence refuting the theory that autism can be caused by vaccinations?

A great deal	23%
A little	48%
Nothing at all	29%

38. In general, do you or don't you believe in the following things...

	Believe	Don't believe	Not sure
Extra-sensory perception or ESP	48%	29%	23%
Ghosts	36%	42%	21%
Deja vu	56%	24%	20%
Reincarnation	21%	52%	27%

39. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	33%
Liberal	19%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	16%

40. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	48%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	52%

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

Like a lot	36%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	25%
Not sure	10%

42. 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	18%
Somewhat disapprove	28%
Strongly disapprove	32%
Not sure	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	31%
Off on the wrong track	56%
Not sure	12%

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

Getting better	25%
About the same	40%
Getting worse	31%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	31%
About the same	35%
Lower	15%
Not sure	20%

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

Better off financially	14%
About the same as now	39%
Worse off financially	43%
Not sure	3%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	January 8-11, 2011
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 0.75 to 2.86, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.40.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	22 questions not reported.