

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted May 21-24, 2011  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.9\%$

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	13%	24%	16%	42%	6%
Immigration	9%	24%	14%	39%	14%
The environment	12%	31%	17%	25%	15%
Terrorism	26%	26%	15%	23%	9%
Gay rights	12%	26%	12%	28%	22%
Education	15%	27%	17%	28%	13%
Health care	17%	21%	13%	42%	7%
Social security	12%	21%	18%	36%	13%
The budget deficit	11%	21%	17%	43%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	31%	22%	25%	10%
Taxes	9%	23%	21%	40%	9%
Medicare	15%	21%	16%	36%	13%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	34%	45%	15%	6%
The economy	80%	17%	2%	1%
Immigration	46%	34%	14%	6%
The environment	43%	36%	15%	6%
Terrorism	55%	30%	10%	5%
Gay rights	23%	24%	25%	28%
Education	58%	32%	7%	4%
Health care	73%	22%	3%	2%
Social security	64%	27%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	62%	27%	7%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	38%	44%	12%	5%
Taxes	64%	27%	7%	2%
Medicare	59%	28%	9%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	2%
The economy	34%
Immigration	5%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	3%
Education	8%
Health care	12%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	11%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	4%

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

Strongly Approve .....	18%
Somewhat Approve .....	27%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	15%
Strongly Disapprove .....	34%
Not Sure .....	6%

**5. Did you listen to the President's speech on Thursday on recent events in the Middle East?**

Yes, listened to all of it .....	14%
Yes, listened to part of it .....	26%
No, did not listen to it .....	61%

**6. How would you rate President Obama's speech on events in the Middle East?** Asked if respondent listened to Obama's speech on the Middle East

Very good .....	19%
Good .....	24%
Fair .....	17%
Poor .....	40%

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

Strongly approve .....	13%
Somewhat approve .....	27%
Somewhat disapprove .....	14%
Strongly disapprove .....	30%
No opinion .....	17%

8. In today's world, does the United States have a responsibility to intervene militarily in trouble spots around the globe, or is this not a responsibility of the United States?

Has responsibility to intervene, even when other foreign allies do not . . . . .	11%
Has responsibility to intervene, but only as part of an international coalition	51%
Has no responsibility to intervene . . . . .	24%
Not sure . . . . .	14%

9. In its relations toward foreign countries, is it better for the U.S. government to...?

Support a non-democratic government that is a steady ally of the U.S. . . . .	28%
Support a democratically elected government regardless of its attitude toward the U.S. . . . .	29%
Not sure . . . . .	43%

10. Do you think America's relationship with the Muslim world is getting better or worse?

Getting better . . . . .	11%
About the same . . . . .	34%
Getting worse . . . . .	40%
Not sure . . . . .	15%

11. Do you think Barack Obama has a clear plan for U.S. policy in the Middle East?

Yes . . . . .	21%
No . . . . .	49%
Not sure . . . . .	29%

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to anti-government uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa?

Strongly approve . . . . .	9%
Somewhat approve . . . . .	27%
Somewhat disapprove . . . . .	18%
Strongly disapprove . . . . .	22%
No opinion . . . . .	24%

**13. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, are your sympathies more with...?**

Israelis .....	38%
About equal .....	29%
Palestinians .....	9%
Not sure .....	23%

**14. Do U.S. policies in the Middle East give too much or too little support to Israel?**

Too much support .....	25%
About the right amount of support .....	21%
Too little support .....	29%
Not sure .....	26%

**15. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, do you think President Obama's sympathies more with...?**

Israelis .....	11%
About equal .....	27%
Palestinians .....	33%
Not sure .....	30%

**16. Do you favor or oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza strip?**

Strongly favor .....	13%
Somewhat favor .....	20%
Somewhat oppose .....	11%
Strongly oppose .....	16%
Not sure .....	40%

17. When, if ever, do you think Israel and Palestine will reach a lasting agreement that will end the conflict there?

This year .....	1%
Next year .....	1%
In a few years .....	5%
In the future, but not in the next few years .....	24%
Never .....	44%
Not sure .....	25%

18. Has the Obama Administration had a positive or negative effect on efforts to reach an agreement to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Positive .....	14%
No effect .....	29%
Negative .....	29%
Not sure .....	28%

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

Very concerned .....	59%
Somewhat concerned .....	30%
Not very concerned .....	8%
Not at all concerned .....	3%

20. As you may know, the limit on the country’s overall liabilities, including the federal deficit and other government debts, is called the debt ceiling. In order for the U.S. Treasury to incur debt above the ceiling, Congress needs to vote to raise the ceiling. The current limit was reached last week and Congress is currently considering whether to raise the debt ceiling. What is your opinion?

Congress should raise the debt ceiling .....	28%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling .....	49%
Not sure .....	22%

21. Do you think that Congress *will* raise the debt ceiling?

Yes ..... 68%  
No ..... 7%  
Not sure ..... 25%

22. If you had to guess, do you think that Congress will raise the debt ceiling? Asked if respondent is unsure if Congress will raise debt ceiling

Yes ..... 70%  
No ..... 30%

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

Compromises to get things done. .... 57%  
Sticks to his or her principles, no matter what. .... 43%

24. 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. .... 34%  
Supports policies that constituents want, regardless of his or her own beliefs. .... 66%

25. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Governor of your state is doing their job?

Strongly Approve ..... 11%  
Somewhat Approve ..... 23%  
Neither approve, nor disapprove ..... 28%  
Somewhat Disapprove ..... 14%  
Strongly Disapprove ..... 23%

**26. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Legislature of your state is doing its job?**

Strongly Approve .....	4%
Somewhat Approve .....	18%
Neither approve, nor disapprove .....	32%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	22%
Strongly Disapprove .....	23%

**27. Generally speaking, do you think that public officials care what people like you think?**

Care a great deal .....	3%
Care somewhat .....	19%
Don't care very much .....	37%
Don't care at all .....	37%
Not sure .....	5%

**28. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?**

Just about always .....	1%
Most of the time .....	6%
Some of the time .....	45%
Almost never .....	41%
Not sure .....	7%

**29. How much of the time do you think you can trust your state government to do what is right?**

Just about always .....	2%
Most of the time .....	10%
Some of the time .....	51%
Almost never .....	31%
Not sure .....	6%



30. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to represent your interests?

Just about always .....	1%
Most of the time .....	5%
Some of the time .....	39%
Almost never .....	49%
Not sure .....	6%

31. How much of the time do you think you can trust your state government to represent your interests?

Just about always .....	2%
Most of the time .....	9%
Some of the time .....	46%
Almost never .....	38%
Not sure .....	6%

32. Do you favor or oppose limiting the amount of money the following groups can spend in support of a political campaign?

	Strongly favor	Favor	Neither favor, nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Individuals	26%	21%	29%	13%	11%
Labor Unions	36%	14%	25%	12%	13%
Corporations	34%	16%	25%	12%	13%
Foreign corporations	43%	9%	20%	11%	18%
Special interest groups	35%	16%	25%	11%	14%
Candidates spending their own money on their own campaign	29%	18%	30%	10%	12%

**33. Do you favor the death penalty for serious crimes such as murder and rape?**

Strongly favor .....	41%
Favor .....	26%
Oppose .....	10%
Strongly oppose .....	10%
Not sure .....	13%

**34. Some states have [direct democracy]/[initiatives and referendums] through which people can directly vote on legislation. Do you favor or oppose [direct democracy]/[initiatives and referendums]?** Half of respondents randomly assigned to first version of wording, half of respondents assigned to second version

Strongly favor .....	24%
Favor .....	33%
Neither favor, nor oppose .....	33%
Oppose .....	6%
Strongly oppose .....	4%

**35. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for...** Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate .....	41%
The Republican Party candidate .....	39%
Some other candidate .....	6%
Not sure .....	15%

**36. Thinking ahead to the 2012 presidential election, who do you think you would vote for if you had the following choices...**

**Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Michele Bachmann?** Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama .....	50%
Michele Bachmann .....	35%
Not sure .....	15%

**37. Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Tim Pawlenty?** Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama .....	45%
Tim Pawlenty .....	40%
Not sure .....	16%

**38. Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Mitch Daniels?** Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama .....	46%
Mitch Daniels .....	36%
Not sure .....	18%

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

Very liberal .....	32%
Liberal .....	20%
Moderate .....	27%
Conservative .....	3%
Very conservative .....	3%
Not sure .....	15%

**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 .....	34%
Like somewhat .....	30%
Dislike .....	25%
Not sure .....	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	34%	48%	19%
Decisive	27%	48%	25%
Effective	25%	42%	33%
Experienced	15%	44%	41%
Honest	33%	35%	32%
In touch	27%	42%	31%
Inspiring	37%	41%	22%
Intelligent	60%	27%	13%
Partisan	25%	53%	22%
Patriotic	30%	40%	30%
Realistic	32%	36%	31%
Religious	16%	50%	34%
Sincere	34%	34%	31%
Strong	33%	45%	22%
Unifying	19%	48%	33%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	11%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	29%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	6%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	24%
Off on the wrong track	62%
Not sure	14%

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

Getting better .....	22%
About the same .....	34%
Getting worse .....	40%
Not sure .....	5%

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

Higher .....	23%
About the same .....	32%
Lower .....	23%
Not sure .....	22%

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

Better off financially .....	12%
About the same as now .....	40%
Worse off financially .....	43%
Not sure .....	5%

**48. How would you describe yourself?**

Very patriotic .....	50%
Somewhat patriotic .....	37%
Not very patriotic .....	9%
Not at all patriotic .....	4%

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<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	May 21-24, 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 0.4 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.76.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	25 questions not reported.