

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted May 28-31, 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	16%	26%	19%	25%	14%
The economy	11%	24%	15%	40%	10%
Immigration	8%	21%	18%	37%	16%
The environment	14%	25%	20%	24%	18%
Terrorism	23%	26%	15%	23%	12%
Gay rights	13%	21%	14%	23%	29%
Education	14%	27%	17%	26%	16%
Health care	20%	18%	13%	40%	10%
Social security	14%	18%	18%	35%	15%
The budget deficit	10%	18%	18%	42%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	28%	21%	25%	13%
Taxes	13%	20%	22%	33%	12%
Medicare	16%	18%	16%	35%	15%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	38%	42%	14%	6%
The economy	79%	17%	1%	2%
Immigration	45%	35%	15%	4%
The environment	44%	37%	13%	7%
Terrorism	54%	32%	9%	5%
Gay rights	22%	22%	24%	32%
Education	56%	32%	8%	3%
Health care	71%	22%	4%	3%
Social security	65%	28%	5%	2%
The budget deficit	61%	27%	7%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	40%	42%	13%	5%
Taxes	63%	28%	6%	3%
Medicare	58%	31%	7%	4%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	37%
Immigration	4%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	7%
Health care	12%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	11%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
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 .....	14%
Strongly Disapprove .....	32%
Not Sure .....	8%

**5. Do you agree or disagree that President Obama cares about the needs and problems of people affected by recent tornadoes and flooding in the Midwest and southern U.S.?**

Strongly agree .....	30%
Somewhat agree .....	21%
Neither agree, nor disagree .....	17%
Somewhat disagree .....	8%
Strongly disagree .....	12%
Not sure .....	12%

**6. How much have you heard or read about the tornado that struck the city of Joplin, Missouri recently?**

A lot .....	60%
A little .....	32%
Nothing at all .....	8%

**7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama has responded to the tornado that hit Joplin?** Asked if respondent is aware of tornado that struck Joplin, Missouri

Strongly Approve .....	26%
Somewhat Approve .....	25%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	12%
Strongly Disapprove .....	12%
Not Sure .....	26%

8. How confident are you in the federal government's ability to respond effectively to a major natural disaster?

Very confident .....	13%
Somewhat confident .....	39%
Not so confident .....	32%
Not confident at all .....	16%

9. What is your opinion on providing federal aid to communities affected by major natural disasters, such as the recent tornadoes and floods affecting parts of the country?

The federal government should provide aid, regardless of the impact on the federal budget .....	53%
Any aid to affected communities should be offset by government spending cuts in other areas of the budget .....	29%
The federal government should not provide any aid to affected communities	4%
Not sure .....	14%

10. Do you think the severity of recent weather events, like the tornadoes and flooding that recently hit the Midwest and the South, are the result of climate change or do these kind of events just happen from time to time?

Result of climate change .....	34%
Just happen from time to time .....	47%
Not sure .....	19%

11. In six months, do you think the price of gasoline will be higher or lower than it is today?

Higher .....	46%
About the same .....	24%
Lower .....	18%
Not sure .....	13%

**12. How much of a problem has the price of gas been for you and your family lately?**

Very serious .....	33%
Somewhat serious .....	39%
No too serious .....	20%
Not at all serious .....	7%

**13. Do you drive a car?**

Yes .....	83%
No .....	17%

**14. Compared to last year, do you expect to drive more or less this summer?** Asked if respondent drives a car

More .....	9%
About the same .....	45%
Less .....	43%
Not sure .....	4%

**15. Has the price of gasoline lately caused you to change your summer vacation plans?**

Yes .....	44%
No .....	56%

**16. How has the price of gasoline affected your summer vacation plans?** Asked if respondent changed summer plans

Canceled vacation .....	59%
Changed vacation destination .....	25%
Shortened length of vacation .....	19%
Other .....	5%

**17. How big an impact do each of the following have on the price of gasoline?**

	A major impact	A minor impact	No impact	Not sure
Oil companies	70%	19%	5%	7%
Foreign countries that produce oil	67%	21%	3%	9%
Financial speculators	61%	18%	5%	16%
Consumer demand	49%	36%	7%	8%
Government taxes	44%	35%	8%	12%

**18. There has been discussion in Congress about repealing \$4 billion in tax breaks that oil companies receive annually. What is your opinion on tax breaks for oil companies?**

They are necessary to encourage domestic exploration and production ...	14%
Oil company profits are so large that they don't need tax breaks to encourage domestic exploration and production .....	68%
Not sure .....	18%

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

The Democratic Party candidate .....	42%
The Republican Party candidate .....	32%
Some other candidate .....	6%
Not sure .....	20%

**20. 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 Mitt Romney?** Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama .....	47%
Mitt Romney .....	38%
Not sure .....	16%

21. Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Sarah Palin? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama .....	54%
Sarah Palin .....	37%
Not sure .....	10%

22. Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Rudy Giuliani? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama .....	47%
Rudy Giuliani .....	39%
Not sure .....	14%

23. How confident are you that Republicans will pick a nominee for president in 2012 who will have a strong chance of defeating Barack Obama? Asked of Republicans

Very confident .....	30%
Somewhat confident .....	40%
Not too confident .....	17%
Not at all confident .....	8%
Not sure .....	5%

24. Consider each of the following people. As the Republican nominee for president in 2012, do you think he or she would beat Barack Obama in the presidential election? Asked of Republicans

	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Probably no	Definitely no	Not sure
Sarah Palin	14%	26%	27%	20%	12%
Mitt Romney	21%	43%	13%	8%	15%
Newt Gingrich	7%	23%	27%	25%	17%
Tim Pawlenty	10%	25%	27%	7%	32%
Ron Paul	5%	14%	35%	25%	20%
Michele Bachmann	12%	17%	27%	17%	27%
Rick Santorum	6%	19%	30%	14%	31%
Jon Huntsman	5%	9%	31%	17%	39%
Herman Cain	13%	15%	26%	14%	32%
Rick Perry	11%	20%	22%	12%	34%
Rudy Giuliani	18%	32%	20%	9%	21%

25. Do you feel enthusiastic about any of the Republicans who have expressed an interest in running for president in 2012? Asked of Republicans

Yes .....	54%
No .....	46%

26. Do you think the following people would have the ability to be an effective president? Asked of Republicans

	Yes	No	Not sure
Sarah Palin	50%	27%	23%
Mitt Romney	67%	12%	21%
Newt Gingrich	46%	24%	30%
Tim Pawlenty	38%	16%	46%
Ron Paul	29%	32%	39%
Michele Bachmann	40%	20%	40%
Rick Santorum	26%	22%	52%
Jon Huntsman	20%	22%	58%
Herman Cain	36%	18%	46%
Rick Perry	36%	17%	47%
Rudy Giuliani	67%	11%	21%



**27. Do the following people represent the views of most Republicans?** Asked of Republicans

	Yes	No	Not sure
Sarah Palin	60%	17%	22%
Mitt Romney	62%	11%	28%
Newt Gingrich	47%	22%	31%
Tim Pawlenty	42%	10%	48%
Ron Paul	31%	29%	40%
Michele Bachmann	45%	12%	42%
Rick Santorum	34%	12%	54%
Jon Huntsman	22%	16%	61%
Herman Cain	39%	10%	51%
Rick Perry	41%	10%	49%
Rudy Giuliani	55%	14%	30%

**28. Compared to the way the news media have treated other political figures, have they been harder or easier on Sarah Palin?** Asked of Republicans

Harder .....	75%
Same .....	11%
Easier .....	5%
Not sure .....	9%

29. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Asked of Republicans

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither agree, nor disagree	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Sarah Palin cares about people like me.	51%	21%	20%	3%	6%
Sarah Palin understands people like me.	49%	24%	16%	5%	7%
Sarah Palin shares my values.	47%	25%	17%	5%	7%
Sarah Palin understands complex issues.	36%	29%	16%	8%	10%

30. Do you support or oppose Barack Obama running for reelection in the 2012 presidential election? Asked of Democrats

Support .....	71%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	14%
Oppose .....	15%

31. Do you feel enthusiastic about Barack Obama running for reelection in the 2012 presidential election? Asked of Democrats

Yes .....	67%
No .....	33%

32. Do you think Barack Obama can beat the Republican nominee in the 2012 presidential election? Asked of Democrats

Definitely yes .....	45%
Probably yes .....	29%
Probably no .....	7%
Definitely no .....	4%
Not sure .....	15%

**33. Will you vote for President Obama if he runs for reelection in 2012?** Asked of Democrats

Yes .....	70%
No .....	13%
Not sure .....	13%
Don't plan to vote .....	4%

**34. If President Obama runs for reelection in 2012, do you think he should keep Joe Biden as his vice-presidential running mate, or should he choose someone new?** Asked of Democrats

Keep Joe Biden .....	46%
Choose someone new .....	21%
No opinion .....	34%

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

Very liberal .....	27%
Liberal .....	17%
Moderate .....	29%
Conservative .....	6%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	19%

**36. Do you think Barack Obama...**

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

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

Like a lot .....	34%
Like somewhat .....	29%
Dislike .....	22%
Not sure .....	15%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	30%	52%	18%
Decisive	27%	49%	24%
Effective	28%	45%	27%
Experienced	17%	43%	40%
Honest	34%	37%	29%
In touch	27%	45%	29%
Inspiring	35%	45%	20%
Intelligent	59%	29%	12%
Partisan	22%	56%	22%
Patriotic	32%	44%	24%
Realistic	34%	39%	27%
Religious	15%	56%	29%
Sincere	36%	37%	27%
Strong	32%	48%	20%
Unifying	17%	51%	31%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	10%
Neither approve nor disapprove	17%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	10%

**40. 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%	10%	18%	20%	34%	12%
The Democrats in Congress	7%	10%	21%	18%	32%	12%

**41. How much have you heard or read about the political movement known as the Tea Party?**

A great deal .....	37%
A fair amount .....	33%
Not much .....	22%
Nothing at all .....	9%

**42. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement?** Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party

Yes .....	19%
No .....	81%

**43. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?** Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party

Strongly support .....	15%
Somewhat support .....	19%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	16%
Somewhat oppose .....	8%
Strongly oppose .....	29%
Not sure .....	13%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	24%
Off on the wrong track .....	58%
Not sure .....	19%

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

Getting better .....	22%
About the same .....	36%
Getting worse .....	35%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Higher .....	20%
About the same .....	33%
Lower .....	21%
Not sure .....	26%

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

Better off financially .....	11%
About the same as now .....	42%
Worse off financially .....	41%
Not sure .....	7%

## ***The Economist/YouGov Poll***



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	May 28-31, 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 0.5 to 4, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.75.
<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>	23 questions not reported.