

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted July 2-5, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 4.1\%$

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	12%	31%	20%	25%	11%
The economy	10%	22%	16%	43%	9%
Immigration	10%	20%	17%	38%	15%
The environment	12%	27%	19%	24%	18%
Terrorism	20%	27%	15%	25%	12%
Gay rights	13%	24%	13%	27%	23%
Education	14%	25%	21%	27%	14%
Health care	17%	21%	13%	41%	8%
Social security	12%	22%	17%	34%	15%
The budget deficit	10%	21%	15%	44%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	31%	21%	26%	11%
Taxes	14%	22%	17%	36%	12%
Medicare	14%	21%	15%	36%	14%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	38%	40%	16%	5%
The economy	79%	17%	3%	2%
Immigration	46%	31%	17%	6%
The environment	42%	36%	15%	7%
Terrorism	52%	31%	12%	5%
Gay rights	25%	24%	27%	24%
Education	56%	29%	10%	5%
Health care	72%	21%	5%	2%
Social security	61%	27%	9%	3%
The budget deficit	61%	27%	8%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	40%	40%	14%	5%
Taxes	63%	27%	7%	3%
Medicare	56%	30%	11%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	37%
Immigration	5%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	3%
Education	5%
Health care	13%
Social security	12%
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	25%
Somewhat Disapprove	15%
Strongly Disapprove	36%
Not Sure	5%

5. Which of the following sports do you follow on a regular basis and/or consider yourself to be a fan of? (Please select all that apply)

Basketball	23%
Football	42%
Golf	11%
Baseball	29%
Ice Hockey	12%
Cycling	3%
I do not follow/am not a fan of any of these sports	40%

6. How closely do you follow the National Basketball Association (NBA)?

Very closely	7%
Somewhat closely	16%
Not very closely	22%
Not at all	56%

7. How much have you heard or read about the NBA lockout after its collective bargaining agreement expired?

A lot	11%
A little	44%
Nothing at all	46%

8. How likely is it that all or some of the of next season’s NBA games will be canceled due to an inability of NBA owners and the players’ union to reach an agreement?

Asked if respondent is aware of NBA lockout

Very likely	16%
Somewhat likely	35%
Not too likely	17%
Not at all likely	6%
Not sure	26%

9. When it comes to the NBA labor dispute, how much sympathy do you have for the...

Asked if respondent is aware of NBA lockout

	A lot	Some	Not too much	None at all
Players	11%	18%	26%	45%
Owners	6%	21%	24%	49%

10. Do you think that NBA players are paid too much or too little?

Too much	71%
About the right amount	9%
Too little	1%
Not sure	18%

11. Do you think that NFL players are paid too much or too little?

Too much	63%
About the right amount	16%
Too little	6%
Not sure	16%

12. How closely have you been following news about the 2012 presidential election campaign?

Very closely	33%
Somewhat closely	29%
Not too closely	26%
Not at all	11%

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

Yes	29%
No	71%

14. If you had to choose one, which of these individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

Sarah Palin	8%
Mitt Romney	11%
Newt Gingrich	2%
Tim Pawlenty	1%
Michele Bachmann	11%
Jon Huntsman	3%
Ron Paul	10%
Rudy Giuliani	7%
Herman Cain	4%
Rick Santorum	1%
Rick Perry	5%
Other	6%
No preference	32%

15. Do you feel enthusiastic about Barack Obama running for reelection in the 2012 presidential election?

Yes	39%
No	61%

16. In the 2012 presidential election, would you prefer that Barack Obama or someone else run as the Democratic nominee for president?

Barack Obama	43%
Someone else	28%
Not sure	29%

17. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for...

Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	46%
The Republican Party candidate	35%
Some other candidate	4%
Not sure	15%

18. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Michele Bachmann, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Michele Bachmann?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	49%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Michele Bachmann	2%
Michele Bachmann	37%
Not sure	5%
I would not vote	5%

19. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Sarah Palin, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Sarah Palin?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	53%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Sarah Palin	1%
Sarah Palin	33%
Not sure	4%
I would not vote	8%

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

A great deal	32%
A fair amount	36%
Not much	23%
Nothing at all	9%

21. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement?

Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Yes	18%
No	82%

22. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?

Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Strongly support	17%
Somewhat support	17%
Neither support, nor oppose	18%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	27%
Not sure	13%

23. 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	3%	9%	22%	22%	36%	7%
The Democrats in Congress	8%	9%	22%	21%	33%	6%

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

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	30%
Mostly just oppose the other party	48%
Not sure	22%

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

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	22%
Mostly just oppose the other party	60%
Not sure	19%

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

Mostly provide constructive policy alternatives	30%
Mostly just oppose the President	52%
Not sure	18%

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

Compromises to get things done.	53%
Sticks to his or her principles, no matter what.	47%

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

Very concerned	56%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Not very concerned	11%
Not at all concerned	5%

29. When, if ever, do you think the federal budget should be balanced, so that the amount the government spends is equal to the amount it collects in taxes?

Immediately	38%
Next year	11%
In a few years	38%
Not necessary to balance the budget	13%

30. Which party do you trust more to handle the problem of the federal budget deficit?

Democrats	34%
Republicans	33%
About the same	33%

31. If you had to choose, which of the following measures would you prefer in order to balance the federal budget deficit?

Increase taxes	10%
Decrease government spending	53%
Both	29%
Neither	8%

32. If taxes are raised, should they be raised on everyone or just some groups?

Raised for everyone	34%
Raised only for the wealthy	54%
Other	12%

33. Do you think the cost of government entitlement programs, including Social Security and Medicare, is a major economic problem for the U.S.?

Yes	47%
No	36%
Not sure	18%

34. Should the government raise taxes or cut entitlements in order to address the economic problem caused by the cost of major entitlement programs?

Asked if respondent thinks the cost of entitlement programs is a major economic problem

Raise taxes	11%
Cut benefits	41%
Both	24%
Neither	24%

35. Last year Congress extended the tax cuts enacted in 2001 under President George W. Bush for two more years. Do you favor making the tax cuts permanent or letting them expire after two years?

Make tax cuts permanent	35%
Let tax cuts expire	40%
Not sure	24%

36. As you may know, the debt ceiling refers to the cap set by Congress on the amount of debt the federal government can legally borrow, including the debt owed to the public and the debt owed to federal government trust funds such as those for Social Security and Medicare. In order for the U.S. Treasury to borrow money above the ceiling, Congress needs to vote to raise the ceiling. What is your opinion?

Congress should raise the debt ceiling	29%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling	45%
Not sure	26%

37. How serious a problem would it be for the economy if the U.S. government defaulted on its debt?

Very serious	56%
Somewhat serious	21%
No too serious	5%
Not at all serious	1%
Not sure	16%

38. How likely is it that Congress and the president will reach an agreement to raise the debt ceiling before the U.S. reaches its borrowing limit on August 2nd?

Very likely	17%
Somewhat likely	29%
Somewhat unlikely	19%
Very unlikely	13%
Not sure	21%

39. Which of the following things do you think will happen if Congress does not raise the debt ceiling? (Please check all that apply.)

Some government services will be canceled	60%
Interest rates will go up	51%
There will be a panic in financial markets	49%
The government will start selling off its gold reserves	16%
The government will default on its current debt payments	44%
Social Security payments will be delayed	36%
The U.S. dollar will lose its position as the world's reserve currency	50%
None of the above	15%

40. Would you support or oppose an agreement to raise the debt ceiling if it were tied to a deficit reduction plan that included the following measures...?

	Support	Neither support, nor oppose	Oppose	Not sure
Tax increases	33%	16%	40%	12%
Spending cuts	65%	16%	7%	12%
Entitlement cuts	34%	20%	25%	20%
Ending tax breaks for the wealthy	56%	15%	20%	9%

41. Would you support or oppose a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution that requires Congress to balance its budget every year, imposes hard spending caps as a percent of gross domestic product, and requires a two-thirds vote to approve any tax increases?

Strongly support	29%
Somewhat support	24%
Neither support, nor oppose	14%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	9%
Not sure	17%

42. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	30%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	17%

43. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	46%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	54%

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

Like a lot	34%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	24%
Not sure	13%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	30%	48%	22%
Decisive	24%	50%	26%
Effective	22%	45%	34%
Experienced	15%	44%	41%
Honest	34%	35%	31%
In touch	26%	42%	32%
Inspiring	31%	45%	24%
Intelligent	58%	29%	13%
Partisan	24%	57%	19%
Patriotic	31%	44%	25%
Realistic	30%	40%	30%
Religious	14%	58%	28%
Sincere	36%	36%	29%
Strong	30%	47%	23%
Unifying	16%	52%	33%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	29%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	8%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	18%
Off on the wrong track	67%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	14%
About the same	35%
Getting worse	43%
Not sure	8%

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

Higher	16%
About the same	35%
Lower	23%
Not sure	25%

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

Better off financially	11%
About the same as now	37%
Worse off financially	44%
Not sure	8%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 2-5, 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 0.5 to 6.7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.86.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.1% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	24 questions not reported.