

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted September 17-20, 2011  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.7\%$

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%              | 24%              | 21%                 | 28%                 | 14%        |
| The economy            | 10%              | 18%              | 17%                 | 47%                 | 9%         |
| Immigration            | 9%               | 19%              | 15%                 | 41%                 | 16%        |
| The environment        | 10%              | 25%              | 17%                 | 30%                 | 18%        |
| Terrorism              | 20%              | 26%              | 15%                 | 25%                 | 14%        |
| Gay rights             | 12%              | 21%              | 13%                 | 26%                 | 28%        |
| Education              | 13%              | 24%              | 18%                 | 29%                 | 16%        |
| Health care            | 16%              | 17%              | 14%                 | 43%                 | 9%         |
| Social security        | 12%              | 18%              | 18%                 | 38%                 | 14%        |
| The budget deficit     | 11%              | 17%              | 16%                 | 45%                 | 11%        |
| The war in Afghanistan | 11%              | 26%              | 20%                 | 28%                 | 15%        |
| Taxes                  | 14%              | 17%              | 17%                 | 39%                 | 13%        |
| Medicare               | 14%              | 18%              | 16%                 | 38%                 | 14%        |

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

|                        | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not very Important | Unimportant |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| The war in Iraq        | 37%            | 40%                | 16%                | 7%          |
| The economy            | 83%            | 14%                | 2%                 | 2%          |
| Immigration            | 47%            | 29%                | 17%                | 7%          |
| The environment        | 43%            | 34%                | 16%                | 7%          |
| Terrorism              | 52%            | 29%                | 13%                | 5%          |
| Gay rights             | 22%            | 24%                | 21%                | 32%         |
| Education              | 58%            | 29%                | 8%                 | 4%          |
| Health care            | 70%            | 21%                | 5%                 | 4%          |
| Social security        | 63%            | 26%                | 7%                 | 3%          |
| The budget deficit     | 62%            | 26%                | 8%                 | 4%          |
| The war in Afghanistan | 39%            | 40%                | 14%                | 7%          |
| Taxes                  | 66%            | 26%                | 6%                 | 2%          |
| Medicare               | 57%            | 28%                | 10%                | 4%          |

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

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| The war in Iraq        | 1%  |
| The economy            | 42% |
| Immigration            | 4%  |
| The environment        | 2%  |
| Terrorism              | 2%  |
| Gay rights             | 2%  |
| Education              | 8%  |
| Health care            | 8%  |
| Social security        | 16% |
| The budget deficit     | 8%  |
| The war in Afghanistan | 1%  |
| Taxes                  | 4%  |
| Medicare               | 2%  |

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

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Approve .....    | 14% |
| Somewhat Approve .....    | 22% |
| Somewhat Disapprove ..... | 16% |
| Strongly Disapprove ..... | 40% |
| Not Sure .....            | 9%  |

**5. 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 .....          | 55% |
| Religious beliefs .....            | 21% |
| Philosophical beliefs .....        | 11% |
| Concern for the side-effects ..... | 27% |
| Parents do not need a reason ..... | 15% |
| To avoid painful injections .....  | 4%  |
| None of the above .....            | 27% |

**6. In 2007, Texas Governor Rick Perry passed an executive order requiring middle-school girls in Texas to receive a vaccination against the HPV virus, a sexually transmitted infection that is linked to cervical cancer. Parents had the option of opting-out of the requirement for their daughters. Do you support or oppose Governor Perry’s decision to require that girls receive vaccinations against HPV?**

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly support .....            | 17% |
| Somewhat support .....            | 17% |
| Neither support, nor oppose ..... | 31% |
| Somewhat oppose .....             | 12% |
| Strongly oppose .....             | 23% |

**7. Do you think that vaccinations can cause developmental disabilities?**

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Definitely     | 4%  |
| Probably       | 4%  |
| Possibly       | 24% |
| Probably not   | 26% |
| Definitely not | 15% |
| Not sure       | 26% |

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

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| A great deal   | 21% |
| A little       | 45% |
| Nothing at all | 34% |

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

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| A great deal   | 18% |
| A little       | 42% |
| Nothing at all | 40% |

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

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve    | 13% |
| Somewhat approve    | 23% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 14% |
| Strongly disapprove | 32% |
| No opinion          | 17% |

**11. Do you think America’s relationship with the Muslim world is getting better or worse?**

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Getting better ..... | 10% |
| About the same ..... | 37% |
| Getting worse .....  | 35% |
| Not sure .....       | 18% |

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

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Israelis .....     | 34% |
| About equal .....  | 23% |
| Palestinians ..... | 10% |
| Not sure .....     | 33% |

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Too much support .....                  | 24% |
| About the right amount of support ..... | 20% |
| Too little support .....                | 26% |
| Not sure .....                          | 29% |

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

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Israelis .....     | 14% |
| About equal .....  | 22% |
| Palestinians ..... | 28% |
| Not sure .....     | 36% |

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

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Strongly favor .....  | 12% |
| Somewhat favor .....  | 21% |
| Somewhat oppose ..... | 11% |
| Strongly oppose ..... | 17% |
| Not sure .....        | 39% |

16. 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 .....                                    | 3%  |
| In a few years .....                               | 6%  |
| In the future, but not in the next few years ..... | 21% |
| Never .....  | 42% |
| Not sure .....                                     | 26% |

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

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Positive .....  | 11% |
| No effect ..... | 30% |
| Negative .....  | 28% |
| Not sure .....  | 31% |

18. The Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, plans to seek Palestine’s admission to the United Nations as a full member state. Do you support or oppose full UN membership for a Palestinian state?

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Strongly support ..... | 9%  |
| Somewhat support ..... | 15% |
| Somewhat oppose .....  | 14% |
| Strongly oppose .....  | 24% |
| Not sure .....         | 37% |

19. The United States says it will veto a Palestinian bid for statehood if the issue is brought before the United Nations Security Council. Do you support or oppose the United States vetoing a Palestinian resolution?

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Strongly support ..... | 25% |
| Somewhat support ..... | 13% |
| Somewhat oppose .....  | 16% |
| Strongly oppose .....  | 9%  |
| Not sure .....         | 37% |

20. If the Congress were to pass President Obama's 'American Jobs Act,' which he described in a speech recently, do you think it would create a substantial number of new jobs in the U.S. or not?

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Would create a substantial number of new jobs .....     | 27% |
| Would not create a substantial number of new jobs ..... | 45% |
| Not sure .....  | 28% |

21. Over the next year, do you think President Obama's handling of the economy will cause the unemployment rate to go up or down?

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Up .....        | 36% |
| No effect ..... | 21% |
| Down .....      | 22% |
| Not sure .....  | 21% |

22. Which party do you trust more to handle the issue of job creation?

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Democrats .....      | 32% |
| Republicans .....    | 29% |
| About the same ..... | 22% |
| Not sure .....       | 18% |

23. Do you support or oppose additional government spending to create jobs and stimulate the economy?

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly support .....            | 19% |
| Somewhat support .....            | 19% |
| Neither support, nor oppose ..... | 16% |
| Somewhat oppose .....             | 9%  |
| Strongly oppose .....             | 25% |
| Not sure .....                    | 12% |

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

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Very closely .....     | 28% |
| Somewhat closely ..... | 31% |
| Not too closely .....  | 25% |
| Not at all .....       | 15% |

**25. In the upcoming primary elections, are you more likely to vote in a Democratic presidential primary or caucus, or a Republican primary or caucus, or aren't you likely to vote in a primary or caucus at all?**

*Asked of registered voters*

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Democratic primary or caucus .....                     | 39% |
| Republican primary or caucus .....                     | 41% |
| Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all ..... | 20% |

**26. Are you satisfied with the field of Republicans who have declared their candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination or would you like someone else to enter the race?**

*Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus*

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Satisfied with current field .....     | 52% |
| Would like someone else to enter ..... | 20% |
| Not sure .....                         | 28% |



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

*Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus*

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Sarah Palin .....      | 6%  |
| Mitt Romney .....      | 15% |
| Newt Gingrich .....    | 7%  |
| Michele Bachmann ..... | 4%  |
| Jon Huntsman .....     | 2%  |
| Ron Paul .....         | 11% |
| Rudy Giuliani .....    | 7%  |
| Herman Cain .....      | 8%  |
| Rick Santorum .....    | 4%  |
| Rick Perry .....       | 23% |
| Other .....            | 5%  |
| No preference .....    | 9%  |

**28. And which of these individuals would be your SECOND choice to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?**

*Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus*

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Sarah Palin .....      | 7%  |
| Mitt Romney .....      | 17% |
| Newt Gingrich .....    | 8%  |
| Michele Bachmann ..... | 8%  |
| Jon Huntsman .....     | 2%  |
| Ron Paul .....         | 7%  |
| Rudy Giuliani .....    | 10% |
| Herman Cain .....      | 7%  |
| Rick Santorum .....    | 4%  |
| Rick Perry .....       | 17% |
| Other .....            | 2%  |
| No preference .....    | 12% |

**29. Who would you prefer as the Republican nominee for president in 2012 if the choice were between Rick Perry and Mitt Romney?**

*Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus*

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Mitt Romney .....   | 31% |
| Rick Perry .....    | 48% |
| No preference ..... | 21% |

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

*Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Democratic primary or caucus*

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Barack Obama ..... | 65% |
| Someone else ..... | 20% |
| Not sure .....     | 15% |

**31. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Rick Perry, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Rick Perry?**

*Asked of registered voters*

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Barack Obama .....      | 45% |
| Lean Barack Obama ..... | 1%  |
| Lean Rick Perry .....   | 2%  |
| Rick Perry .....        | 40% |
| Other .....             | 6%  |
| Not sure .....          | 6%  |

**32. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?**

*Asked of registered voters*

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Barack Obama .....      | 42% |
| Lean Barack Obama ..... | 2%  |
| Lean Mitt Romney .....  | 1%  |
| Mitt Romney .....       | 42% |
| Other .....             | 6%  |
| Not sure .....          | 6%  |

**33. 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 half of registered voters*

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Barack Obama .....          | 47% |
| Lean Barack Obama .....     | 1%  |
| Lean Michele Bachmann ..... | 2%  |
| Michele Bachmann .....      | 36% |
| Other .....                 | 7%  |
| Not sure .....              | 7%  |

**34. 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 half of registered voters*

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Barack Obama .....      | 45% |
| Lean Barack Obama ..... | 2%  |
| Lean Sarah Palin .....  | 2%  |
| Sarah Palin .....       | 35% |
| Other .....             | 11% |
| Not sure .....          | 5%  |

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

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| A great deal .....   | 34% |
| A fair amount .....  | 35% |
| Not much .....       | 20% |
| Nothing at all ..... | 11% |

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

*Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement*

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes ..... | 19% |
| No .....  | 81% |

**37. 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 .....            | 18% |
| Neither support, nor oppose ..... | 16% |
| Somewhat oppose .....             | 8%  |
| Strongly oppose .....             | 29% |
| Not sure .....                    | 11% |

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

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal .....      | 30% |
| Liberal .....           | 17% |
| Moderate .....          | 28% |
| Conservative .....      | 4%  |
| Very conservative ..... | 2%  |
| Not sure .....          | 20% |

**39. Do you think Barack Obama...**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Says what he believes .....                   | 43% |
| Says what he thinks people want to hear ..... | 57% |

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

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Like a lot .....    | 28% |
| Like somewhat ..... | 29% |
| Dislike .....       | 27% |
| Not sure .....      | 16% |

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

|             | Yes | No Opinion | No  |
|-------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Bold        | 27% | 53%        | 21% |
| Decisive    | 18% | 53%        | 29% |
| Effective   | 15% | 45%        | 40% |
| Experienced | 14% | 44%        | 42% |
| Honest      | 30% | 37%        | 33% |
| In touch    | 21% | 44%        | 35% |
| Inspiring   | 29% | 47%        | 24% |
| Intelligent | 55% | 30%        | 15% |
| Partisan    | 29% | 55%        | 17% |
| Patriotic   | 27% | 44%        | 28% |
| Realistic   | 25% | 45%        | 29% |
| Religious   | 14% | 59%        | 27% |
| Sincere     | 30% | 40%        | 30% |
| Strong      | 24% | 49%        | 27% |
| Unifying    | 13% | 50%        | 37% |

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

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve               | 2%  |
| Somewhat approve               | 9%  |
| Neither approve nor disapprove | 16% |
| Somewhat disapprove            | 21% |
| Strongly disapprove            | 44% |
| Not sure                       | 9%  |

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Generally headed in the right direction | 14% |
| Off on the wrong track                  | 72% |
| Not sure                                | 15% |

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

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Getting better ..... | 8%  |
| About the same ..... | 36% |
| Getting worse .....  | 49% |
| Not sure .....       | 8%  |

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

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Higher .....         | 15% |
| About the same ..... | 34% |
| Lower .....          | 29% |
| Not sure .....       | 23% |

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Better off financially than you were a year ago .....   | 11% |
| About the same financially as you were a year ago ..... | 40% |
| Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....    | 43% |
| Not sure .....  | 6%  |

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

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| The Democratic Party candidate ..... | 40% |
| The Republican Party candidate ..... | 40% |
| Other .....                          | 5%  |
| Not sure .....                       | 12% |
| I would not vote .....               | 3%  |

**48. If an election for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?**

*Asked of registered voters*

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| The Democratic Party candidate ..... | 40% |
| The Republican Party candidate ..... | 41% |
| Other .....                          | 3%  |
| Not sure .....                       | 13% |
| I would not vote .....               | 3%  |

**49. Gender**

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Male .....   | 48% |
| Female ..... | 52% |

**50. Age**

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| 18-29 ..... | 25% |
| 30-64 ..... | 59% |
| 65+ .....   | 16% |

**51. Education**

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| High school or less ..... | 45% |
| Some college .....        | 29% |
| College graduate .....    | 25% |

**52. Race**

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| White .....    | 74% |
| Black .....    | 11% |
| Hispanic ..... | 8%  |
| Other .....    | 8%  |

**53. Region**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Northeast ..... | 18% |
| Midwest .....   | 25% |
| South .....     | 36% |
| West .....      | 21% |

**54. Party Identification**

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Democrat .....    | 37% |
| Republican .....  | 29% |
| Independent ..... | 34% |



# The Economist/YouGov Poll



|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sponsorship</b>            | <i>The Economist</i>   |
| <b>Fieldwork</b>              | YouGov   |
| <b>Interviewing Dates</b>     | September 17-20, 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 3.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.65.  |
| <b>Number of respondents</b>  | 1000   |
| <b>Margin of error</b>        | ± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)  |
| <b>Survey mode</b>            | Web-based interviews   |
| <b>Questions not reported</b> | 27 questions not reported.   |