

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted July 31-August 3, 2010
Margin of Error $\pm 3.6\%$

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%	25%	23%	25%	15%
The economy	15%	22%	14%	39%	10%
Immigration	10%	20%	14%	41%	15%
The environment	13%	25%	15%	29%	17%
Terrorism	15%	25%	16%	29%	16%
Gay rights	10%	22%	14%	23%	31%
Education	17%	25%	17%	22%	19%
Health care	21%	20%	11%	38%	9%
Social security	11%	19%	15%	33%	22%
The budget deficit	12%	19%	14%	42%	13%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	23%	24%	29%	14%
Taxes	14%	20%	12%	39%	15%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	41%	40%	13%	5%
The economy	81%	17%	1%	1%
Immigration	49%	32%	12%	6%
The environment	48%	35%	10%	7%
Terrorism	54%	30%	11%	5%
Gay rights	22%	24%	24%	30%
Education	60%	30%	7%	4%
Health care	73%	21%	4%	2%
Social security	62%	28%	6%	3%
The budget deficit	58%	30%	8%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	44%	38%	13%	5%
Taxes	62%	27%	8%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	36%
Immigration	6%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	3%
Education	6%
Health care	16%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	4%

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

Strongly approve	19%
Somewhat approve	26%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	8%

5. Would you say the U.S. is winning the war in Afghanistan?

Yes	9%
No	49%
Not sure	42%

6. At the end of 2012, do you think the United States will have more or fewer troops in Afghanistan than it has now?

More troops in Afghanistan than it has now	21%
About the same number of troops in Afghanistan as it has now	43%
Fewer troops in Afghanistan than it has now	37%

7. Do you favor increasing or decreasing the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan?

Increase	23%
Keep the same	22%
Decrease	55%

8. What do you think will eventually happen in Afghanistan?

The United States will win the war in Afghanistan.	27%
The United States will withdraw from Afghanistan without winning.	73%

9. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Afghanistan?

Yes	41%
No	38%
Not sure	21%

10. Do you think Barack Obama has a clear plan for U.S. strategy in Afghanistan?

Yes	17%
No	53%
Not sure	29%

11. How much responsibility do you think President Barack Obama has for the current situation in Afghanistan today?

Most	24%
Some	36%
Only a little	22%
None	9%
Not sure	9%

12. How much responsibility do you think former President George W. Bush has for the current situation in Afghanistan today?

Most	51%
Some	27%
Only a little	9%
None	6%
Not sure	7%

13. How much have you heard or read about classified U.S. military documents on the Afghanistan war that were released by the Web site called WikiLeaks?

A great deal	23%
A little	45%
Nothing at all	32%

14. Have you read any leaked documents posted by WikiLeaks, or have you only learned about the WikiLeaks story from news reports? (Asked if respondent is aware of WikiLeaks's release of classified documents)

Read leaked documents	7%
Have not read leaked documents, but learned about story from news reports	83%
Neither	10%

15. Do you approve or disapprove of the decision by the Web site WikiLeaks to release classified documents relating to the war in Afghanistan? (Asked if respondent is aware of WikiLeaks's release of classified documents)

Strongly approve	10%
Somewhat approve	10%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	20%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	48%

16. Will the release of leaked documents through WikiLeaks help or hurt the U.S. war effort in Afghanistan? (Asked if respondent is aware of WikiLeaks's release of classified documents)

Hurt	56%
No effect	19%
Help	4%
Not sure	20%

17. Will the release of leaked documents through WikiLeaks help or hurt Afghanistan and its civilian population? (Asked if respondent is aware of WikiLeaks's release of classified documents)

Hurt	50%
No effect	18%
Help	6%
Not sure	26%

18. Do you consider the government of Afghanistan, headed by Hamid Karzai, to be an ally or an enemy of the United States?

Ally of U.S.	4%
Friendly	15%
Unfriendly	29%
Enemy of the U.S.	12%
Not sure	39%

19. Do you consider Pakistan to be an ally or an enemy of the United States?

Ally of U.S.	3%
Friendly	12%
Unfriendly	32%
Enemy of the U.S.	18%
Not sure	34%

20. Do you think that people in Pakistan consider the United States to be an ally or an enemy of their country?

Ally	3%
Friendly	10%
Unfriendly	27%
Enemy	28%
Not sure	32%

21. How much can the United States count on Pakistan to help stop terrorism?

A lot	2%
Somewhat	28%
Not at all	43%
Not sure	27%

22. How much have you heard or read about Arizona’s new immigration legislation, recently signed into law by the Governor of Arizona?

A lot	53%
A little	35%
Nothing at all	12%

23. Arizona’s new immigration law requires immigrants to have proof of their immigration status and requires police officers to attempt to determine the immigration status of persons suspected to be illegal immigrants. Do you approve or disapprove this new law?

Strongly approve	46%
Somewhat approve	12%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	12%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	22%

24. How much have you heard or read about the decision by a federal judge to block parts of Arizona’s new immigration law before it took effect? (Not asked of respondents who have not heard about Arizona’s new immigration law)

A great deal	41%
A little	48%
Nothing at all	11%

25. As you may have heard, a federal judge’s ruling blocked parts of the Arizona immigration law that called for police officers to check a person’s immigration status while enforcing other laws and required immigrants to prove their legal status or risk state charges. The judge blocked these provisions, saying that they raised the possibility of wrongful arrest and placed too great a burden on legal residents. Does the judge’s decision increase or decrease your support for Arizona’s new immigration law?

Increase	30%
No effect	57%
Decrease	12%

26. Should states be permitted to set their own policies when it comes to immigration, or is this something that should only be handled by the federal government?

States should be permitted	48%
Should only be handled by federal government	35%
Not sure	17%

27. Which party is closer to you on the issue of immigration?

The Democratic Party	30%
The Republican Party	33%
Don't know	37%

28. When deciding whom to support in the 2010 elections, how important will the candidate's position on immigration be in your decision?

The most important factor	6%
Very important	34%
Somewhat important	33%
Not very important	14%
Don't plan to vote	13%

29. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree, nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
Arizona's new immigration law interferes with federal law	16%	10%	17%	9%	35%	12%
People should be required to carry documents that prove they are in the country legally	38%	20%	11%	8%	20%	3%
Police should routinely check a person's immigration status when they interact with them	32%	18%	12%	10%	25%	3%
Every person should be required to carry a national ID card proving their citizenship	30%	19%	14%	7%	26%	4%

30. Thinking about the country as a whole, are you generally satisfied with the quality of public schools in this country?

Very satisfied	3%
Somewhat satisfied	30%
Somewhat dissatisfied	38%
Very dissatisfied	28%

31. Do you favor or oppose a \$4 billion initiative - also known as Race to the Top - in which federal funds are awarded on a competitive basis to states based on their commitment to education reform and innovation?

Strongly favor	17%
Somewhat favor	30%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	16%
Not sure	24%

32. Which statement comes closer to your opinion?

The federal government should set national education standards for schools.	40%
Each state should set its own education standards.	40%
Not sure	20%

33. Would you favor or oppose making teachers' salaries be based on their students' performance, such as gains on standardized tests?

Favor strongly	17%
Favor somewhat	27%
Oppose somewhat	22%
Oppose strongly	22%
No opinion	12%

34. Do you think that teachers unions help or hurt the quality of public schools in this country?

Help	11%
Neither help, nor hurt	26%
Hurt	39%
Not sure	24%

35. How much have you heard or read about the recent explosion on an offshore oil rig off the coast of Louisiana that killed 11 workers and resulted in an oil spill of thousands of barrels a day?

A lot	72%
A little	20%
Nothing at all	8%

36. Do you approve or disapprove of how President Obama has responded to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	18%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	19%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	27%

37. How much trust do you have in BP to do the right thing in stopping the oil spill? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

A great deal	7%
Quite a bit	18%
Only some	28%
Very little	24%
None at all	19%
Not sure	4%

38. How much trust do you have in BP to do the right thing in cleaning up the oil spill? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

A great deal	7%
Quite a bit	18%
Only some	27%
Very little	25%
None at all	19%
Not sure	3%

39. How much trust do you have in the federal government to make sure the oil spill is stopped?

(Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

A great deal	11%
Quite a bit	20%
Only some	29%
Very little	22%
None at all	15%
Not sure	4%

40. How much trust do you have in the federal government to make sure the oil spill is cleaned up?

(Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

A great deal	11%
Quite a bit	19%
Only some	31%
Very little	21%
None at all	14%
Not sure	3%

41. In the next few years, how likely is it that: (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Neither likely, nor unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	Not sure
BP will go bankrupt	10%	18%	17%	21%	27%	7%
Off shore oil drilling will resume at previous levels or more	35%	29%	13%	13%	5%	5%
The spill will be cleaned up successfully	16%	31%	12%	20%	17%	4%

42. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	21%

43. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	47%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	53%

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

Like a lot	38%
Like somewhat	27%
Dislike	24%
Not sure	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	33%	35%	33%
Intelligent	62%	26%	11%
Religious	17%	55%	28%
Inspiring	37%	41%	21%
Patriotic	30%	43%	27%
Strong	34%	46%	20%
Bold	33%	49%	19%
Experienced	13%	41%	46%
Sincere	37%	33%	30%
Partisan	26%	55%	19%
Effective	22%	49%	29%
Unifying	17%	50%	34%
In Touch	27%	44%	29%
Realistic	30%	41%	29%
Decisive	23%	52%	25%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	29%
Off on the wrong track	56%
Not sure	15%

47. 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	15%
Somewhat disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	11%

48. If the 2010 elections for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?

	Republican	Lean Republican	Lean Democrat	Democrat	Not Sure
Registered Voters (N = 711, MoE = ±4%)	35%	6%	6%	42%	11%
All Respondents	29%	7%	7%	39%	18%

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

Getting better	19%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	36%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	24%
About the same	33%
Lower	22%
Not sure	21%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	13%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	36%
Not sure	5%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 31-August 3, 2010
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 2.6, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.6.
Number of respondents	1,000
Margin of error	± 3.6% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	30 questions not reported.