

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample            1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted        June 26-29, 2010  
Margin of Error   ±3.4%

## 1. How closely are you following the 2010 World Cup soccer tournament taking place in South Africa?

Very closely .....	7%
Somewhat closely .....	16%
Not very closely .....	26%
Not at all .....	51%

## 2. Are you more or less interested in the World Cup than you were four years ago?

Much more .....	8%
Somewhat more .....	18%
About the same .....	53%
Somewhat less .....	5%
Much less .....	16%

3. 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%	28%	19%	29%	12%
The economy	14%	24%	12%	42%	8%
Immigration	10%	21%	15%	42%	12%
The environment	13%	25%	19%	32%	12%
Terrorism	15%	26%	14%	32%	12%
Gay rights	10%	24%	14%	27%	25%
Education	14%	27%	14%	28%	16%
Health care	21%	19%	11%	41%	8%
Social security	12%	20%	17%	33%	18%
The budget deficit	11%	19%	16%	43%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	27%	21%	31%	10%
Taxes	13%	23%	14%	38%	12%

4. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	44%	42%	11%	4%
The economy	81%	15%	2%	2%
Immigration	50%	32%	13%	5%
The environment	52%	32%	11%	6%
Terrorism	58%	29%	9%	4%
Gay rights	24%	24%	23%	29%
Education	58%	32%	7%	3%
Health care	73%	20%	5%	3%
Social security	60%	29%	7%	3%
The budget deficit	60%	28%	7%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	48%	39%	9%	4%
Taxes	60%	31%	6%	3%

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

The war in Iraq .....	1%
The economy .....	35%
Immigration .....	7%
The environment .....	7%
Terrorism .....	4%
Gay rights .....	3%
Education .....	5%
Health care .....	16%
Social security .....	9%
The budget deficit .....	8%
The war in Afghanistan .....	1%
Taxes .....	3%

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

Strongly approve .....	17%
Somewhat approve .....	25%
Somewhat disapprove .....	14%
Strongly disapprove .....	35%
Not sure .....	8%

**7. How much have you heard or read about President Obama’s dismissal of General Stanley McChrystal, the U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, due to his criticism of the President and his Administration in an interview with Rolling Stone magazine?**

A great deal .....	34%
A fair amount .....	36%
Not much .....	17%
Nothing at all .....	12%

8. Do you think President Obama was right or wrong in dismissing General McChrystal? (Asked if respondent is aware of Gen. McChrystal's dismissal)

Right ..... 52%  
 Wrong ..... 26%  
 Don't know ..... 22%

9. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
Barack Obama	26%	20%	11%	35%	8%
Stanley McChrystal	12%	22%	20%	13%	33%
David Petraeus	27%	24%	8%	5%	36%
Joe Biden	14%	24%	18%	28%	16%
Richard Holbrooke	3%	9%	13%	12%	63%
Hillary Clinton	24%	27%	18%	22%	9%
Ray Odierno	3%	8%	6%	6%	76%
Hamid Karzai	1%	8%	20%	23%	47%

10. Will changing the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan help or hurt the U.S. war effort there? (Asked if respondent is aware of Gen. McChrystal's dismissal)

Help ..... 24%  
 No effect ..... 30%  
 Hurt ..... 17%  
 Not sure ..... 29%

11. Do you think Barack Obama is tough enough to make the hard choices a President has to make or not?

Yes ..... 50%  
 No ..... 50%

**12. Would you say the U.S. is winning the war in Iraq?**

Yes .....	34%
No .....	34%
Not sure .....	31%

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

More troops in Iraq than it has now .....	8%
About the same number of troops in Iraq as it has now .....	40%
Fewer troops in Iraq than it has now .....	52%

**14. Do you favor increasing or decreasing the number of U.S. troops in Iraq?**

Increase .....	13%
Keep the same .....	25%
Decrease .....	62%

**15. What do you think will eventually happen in Iraq?**

The United States will win the war in Iraq. ....	38%
The United States will withdraw from Iraq without winning. ....	62%

**16. Do you think most people in Iraq want to have U.S. troops in their country or would they like the U.S. to leave?**

Most would like U.S. troops to stay .....	15%
About equally divided .....	33%
Most would like U.S. troops to leave .....	40%
Not sure .....	11%

**17. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Iraq?**

Yes ..... 50%  
No ..... 32%  
Not sure ..... 18%

**18. How much responsibility do you think President Barack Obama has for the current situation in Iraq today?**

Most ..... 17%  
Some ..... 29%  
Only a little ..... 28%  
None ..... 19%  
Not sure ..... 7%

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

Most ..... 62%  
Some ..... 19%  
Only a little ..... 8%  
None ..... 6%  
Not sure ..... 5%

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

Yes ..... 12%  
No ..... 49%  
Not sure ..... 39%

**21. 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 ..... 27%  
About the same number of troops in Afghanistan as it has now ..... 43%  
Fewer troops in Afghanistan than it has now ..... 30%

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

Increase .....	30%
Keep the same .....	22%
Decrease .....	48%

**23. What do you think will eventually happen in Afghanistan?**

The United States will win the war in Afghanistan. ....	30%
The United States will withdraw from Afghanistan without winning. ....	70%

**24. Do you think most people in Afghanistan want to have U.S. troops in their country or would they like the U.S. to leave?**

Most would like U.S. troops to stay .....	14%
About equally divided .....	34%
Most would like U.S. troops to leave .....	38%
Not sure .....	14%

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

Yes .....	32%
No .....	46%
Not sure .....	22%

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

Most .....	28%
Some .....	34%
Only a little .....	21%
None .....	10%
Not sure .....	8%

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

Most .....	45%
Some .....	27%
Only a little .....	13%
None .....	8%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Yes .....	18%
No .....	55%
Not sure .....	26%

29. Do you think President Obama's strategy in Afghanistan will increase or decrease the chances of U.S. success there?

Increase the chances of success there .....	15%
Have no impact on the chances of success there .....	25%
Decrease the chances of success there .....	29%
Not sure .....	31%

30. Barack Obama said that he will start removing U.S. troops from Afghanistan in July 2011. How likely is it that he will be able to do this?

Very likely .....	10%
Somewhat likely .....	26%
Somewhat unlikely .....	26%
Very unlikely .....	25%
Not sure .....	13%



31. How much have you heard or read about President Obama’s nomination of Elena Kagan to replace John Paul Stevens as a Supreme Court Justice?

A lot .....	34%
A little .....	42%
Nothing at all .....	24%

32. Elena Kagan is the Solicitor General of the United States. She was appointed by President Obama. She graduated from Princeton University and then earned her law degree from the University of Chicago. She was formerly a professor of law at both the University of Chicago and Harvard, and the dean of Harvard Law School.

Do you think Elena Kagan would make a good Supreme Court Justice?

Definitely yes .....	14%
Probably yes .....	25%
Hard to say .....	32%
Probably no .....	10%
Definitely no .....	19%

33. Do you think the U.S. Senate should or should not confirm Elena Kagan as a Supreme Court Justice?

Should confirm .....	38%
Should not confirm .....	30%
Not sure .....	32%

34. How do you feel about increased drilling for oil and natural gas offshore in U.S. waters?

Strongly favor .....	29%
Mildly favor .....	19%
Mildly oppose .....	15%
Strongly oppose .....	28%
Not sure .....	10%

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 .....	81%
A little .....	14%
Nothing at all .....	5%

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 .....	11%
Somewhat approve .....	17%
Neither approve, nor disapprove .....	19%
Somewhat disapprove .....	17%
Strongly disapprove .....	36%

37. In the next few years, how likely is it that the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico will be cleaned up successfully? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

Very likely .....	14%
Somewhat likely .....	23%
Neither likely, nor unlikely .....	9%
Somewhat unlikely .....	22%
Very unlikely .....	27%
Not sure .....	4%

38. Currently, Congress is considering several proposals to change the estate tax. The estate tax usually has an *exclusion*. No tax is paid for estates below the exclusion and, if the value of the estate exceeds the exclusion, tax is only paid on the amount *above* the exclusion. For example, if the exclusion is \$1 million and the estate tax rate is 50%, then the tax on a \$3 million estate would be \$1 million (50% of the \$2 million in excess of the \$1 million exclusion).

Please tell us which of the following proposals for the estate tax you think is best and worst.

	Best proposal	Worst proposal
0% on all estates (no tax)	51%	49%
35% on estates over \$5 million	72%	28%
45% on estates over \$3.5 million with rates rising to 60% on estates over \$500 million	68%	32%
55% on estates over \$1.2 million	26%	74%

39. What do you think should be the maximum tax rate on estates? Please enter a number between zero and 100 percent. (Open-ended question grouped into categories.)

0%	26%
1-10%	16%
11-20%	9%
21-30%	14%
31-40%	10%
41-50%	13%
51-60%	6%
61-70%	2%
71-80%	1%
81-90%	0%
91-100%	1%

40. Consider families of four with the following incomes. Which would you consider to be 'poor,' 'middle class' or 'wealthy'?

	Poor	Middle Class	Wealthy
\$20,000	96%	3%	1%
\$40,000	70%	29%	1%
\$60,000	25%	73%	2%
\$80,000	6%	86%	8%
\$100,000	1%	72%	27%
\$150,000	1%	48%	51%
\$200,000	1%	25%	75%
\$250,000	1%	14%	85%

41. How would you describe your own family's income?

Poor .....	39%
Middle Class .....	57%
Wealthy .....	3%

42. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal .....	35%
Liberal .....	20%
Moderate .....	21%
Conservative .....	4%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	19%

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 .....	35%
Like somewhat .....	25%
Dislike .....	29%
Not sure .....	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	33%	34%	33%
Intelligent	60%	26%	14%
Religious	15%	53%	32%
Inspiring	36%	39%	26%
Patriotic	29%	40%	31%
Strong	32%	43%	24%
Bold	36%	43%	21%
Experienced	14%	40%	46%
Sincere	35%	35%	30%
Partisan	25%	52%	23%
Effective	22%	47%	31%
Unifying	19%	45%	35%
In Touch	27%	43%	31%
Realistic	32%	36%	32%
Decisive	27%	44%	29%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	28%
Off on the wrong track .....	58%
Not sure .....	14%

47. 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 .....	14%
Somewhat disapprove .....	21%
Strongly disapprove .....	43%
Not sure .....	9%

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 = 713, MoE = ±3.8%)	40%	4%	7%	38%	11%
All Respondents	34%	5%	7%	38%	17%

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

Getting better .....	20%
About the same .....	36%
Getting worse .....	38%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Higher .....	22%
About the same .....	37%
Lower .....	23%
Not sure .....	18%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	15%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	40%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	40%
Not sure .....	5%

<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	June 26–29, 2010
<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 2.7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.4.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1,000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	27 questions not reported.