

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample            1000 General Population Respondents  
 Conducted        August 30-September 1, 2009  
 Margin of Error   ±4.8%

1. Have you read or heard anything about the kidnapping of Jaycee Lee Dugard? She was discovered this week in California after being kidnapped 18 years ago.

Yes ..... 80%  
 No ..... 20%

2. Do you think people who commit the crime of child sexual molestation can be successfully rehabilitated to the point where they are no longer a threat to children, or not?

Yes, can be rehabilitated ..... 16%  
 No, cannot be rehabilitated ..... 84%

3. Which of the following steps should law enforcement be allowed to take in dealing with released sex offenders?

	Favor	Oppose
Conduct warrantless searches of sex offenders' homes	55%	43%
Bar sex offenders from living near parks and schools	87%	12%
Make sex offenders wear GPS devices to track their movements	73%	26%
Require sex offenders to register upon moving to a community	95%	4%
Ban sex offenders from online communities	82%	16%

4. Do you favor or oppose legislation requiring states to make a list of released sex offenders publicly available?

Favor ..... 89%  
 Oppose ..... 11%

5. How concerned are you that those laws will lead to harassment of the people whose names are on the lists?

Very concerned .....	13%
Somewhat concerned .....	29%
Not too concerned .....	27%
Not at all concerned .....	32%

6. How likely do you think it is that a convicted child molester lives in your neighborhood?

Very likely .....	32%
Somewhat likely .....	45%
Not too likely .....	17%
Not at all likely .....	6%

7. What do you think are the chances of a terrorist attack against the United States in the next 12 months?

Very likely (more than 50%) .....	16%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%) .....	37%
Not very likely (1% to 10%) .....	27%
Very unlikely (less than 1%) .....	10%
Not sure .....	10%

8. Do you think the policies of the Bush Administration made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?

More safe .....	39%
No effect .....	29%
Less safe .....	32%

9. Do you think the policies of the Obama Administration have made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?

More safe .....	24%
No effect .....	39%
Less safe .....	37%

10. The U.S. Justice department has appointed a special prosecutor to investigate some of the tactics that were used by the C.I.A when questioning suspected terrorists. Do you think appointing a special prosecutor is a good or bad idea?

A good idea .....	41%
A bad idea .....	34%
Not sure .....	25%

11. Do you think it is sometimes justified to use waterboarding and other aggressive interrogation tactics to get information from a suspected terrorist, or are these tactics never justified?

Sometimes justified .....	63%
Never justified .....	37%

12. Do you think the aggressive interrogation techniques, such as waterboarding, have resulted in information that saved American lives, or not?

Yes .....	62%
No .....	38%

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

Very concerned .....	62%
Somewhat concerned .....	32%
Not very concerned .....	6%

14. When, if ever, do you think the federal budget deficit should be balanced?

Immediately .....	38%
Next year .....	11%
In a few years .....	44%
Not necessary to balance the budget .....	7%

15. Do you favor or oppose raising taxes to reduce the size of the federal budget deficit?

Favor raising taxes .....22%  
Oppose raising taxes ..... 78%

16. Do you favor or oppose cutting government spending to reduce the size of the federal budget deficit?

Favor cutting spending .....81%  
Oppose cutting spending ..... 19%

17. About six months ago, Congress passed President Obama’s \$787 billion economic stimulus bill. Do you think the stimulus bill is working?

Yes .....22%  
No .....51%  
Not sure .....26%

18. Do you think the stimulus bill WILL work? (Asked of respondents who said the stimulus is not working or were not sure if it is working)

Yes .....13%  
No .....54%  
Not sure .....32%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
Hillary Clinton	24%	31%	16%	21%	6%
Rush Limbaugh	16%	15%	11%	39%	19%
Barack Obama	32%	19%	11%	31%	6%
George W. Bush	13%	24%	15%	39%	7%
John Boehner	5%	10%	11%	14%	57%
Nancy Pelosi	6%	18%	14%	36%	25%
Ted Kennedy	31%	23%	12%	20%	14%

20. How much have you heard or read about the health care reform plans now being considered by Congress?

A great deal	35%
A fair amount	35%
Not much	24%
Nothing at all	5%

21. Overall, given what you know about them, do you support or oppose the proposed changes to the health care system being developed by Congress and the Obama administration?

Support strongly	17%
Support somewhat	29%
Oppose somewhat	17%
Oppose strongly	37%

22. If President Obama and Congress pass a health care reform plan, do you think you personally would receive better or worse care than you receive now?

Better care	15%
About the same	33%
Worse care	38%
Not sure	14%

23. Do you think you personally would pay more, either in taxes or insurance costs, if President Obama and Congress pass a health care reform plan?

Pay more .....	50%
About the same .....	27%
Pay less .....	6%
Not sure .....	17%

24. Overall, if President Obama and Congress pass health care reform, do you think you personally would be better or worse off?

Better off .....	20%
About the same .....	27%
Worse off .....	40%
Not sure .....	13%

25. How likely is it that Congress will pass health care reform legislation this year?

Very likely .....	11%
Somewhat likely .....	31%
Somewhat unlikely .....	29%
Very unlikely .....	10%
Not sure .....	19%

26. Do you think that the death of Sen. Edward Kennedy makes the passage of health care reform this year more or less likely?

More likely .....	23%
No effect .....	59%
Less likely .....	17%

27. 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%	27%	18%	24%	15%
The economy	18%	25%	13%	35%	10%
Immigration	11%	19%	12%	34%	23%
The environment	19%	25%	14%	22%	19%
Terrorism	18%	22%	12%	32%	16%
Gay rights	10%	19%	15%	22%	33%
Education	20%	26%	14%	19%	20%
Health care	20%	21%	12%	36%	9%
Social security	13%	18%	17%	27%	24%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	30%	17%	23%	16%

28. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	48%	38%	9%	3%
The economy	86%	11%	1%	1%
Immigration	49%	31%	14%	5%
The environment	49%	34%	12%	5%
Terrorism	61%	26%	9%	3%
Gay rights	18%	25%	27%	29%
Education	62%	29%	6%	2%
Health care	74%	19%	4%	1%
Social security	67%	26%	5%	1%
The budget deficit	59%	32%	7%	2%

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

The war in Iraq .....	2%
The economy .....	39%
Immigration .....	4%
The environment .....	5%
Terrorism .....	6%
Gay rights .....	2%
Education .....	6%
Health care .....	19%
Social security .....	10%
The budget deficit .....	7%

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

Strongly approve .....	24%
Somewhat approve .....	25%
Somewhat disapprove .....	13%
Strongly disapprove .....	30%
Not sure .....	8%

**31. Overall, do you approve of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?**

Strongly approve .....	2%
Somewhat approve .....	16%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	15%
Somewhat disapprove .....	21%
Strongly disapprove .....	37%
Not sure .....	10%



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

Republican .....	31%
Lean Republican .....	6%
Lean Democrat .....	10%
Democrat .....	31%
Not Sure .....	22%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	35%
Off on the wrong track .....	51%
Not sure .....	15%

**34. What do you think is more of a threat?**

Big business .....	38%
Big government .....	62%

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

Getting better .....	25%
About the same .....	31%
Getting worse .....	38%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	10%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	36%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	51%
Not sure .....	3%

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

Higher .....	32%
About the same .....	29%
Lower .....	19%
Not sure .....	20%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	38%	32%	31%
Intelligent	65%	24%	11%
Religious	17%	57%	26%
Inspiring	41%	41%	18%
Patriotic	30%	43%	27%
Strong	39%	45%	16%
Bold	42%	47%	11%
Experienced	15%	41%	44%
Sincere	39%	35%	26%
Partisan	22%	58%	20%
Effective	29%	47%	24%
Unifying	22%	51%	27%
In Touch	33%	42%	25%
Realistic	32%	39%	29%
Decisive	29%	53%	19%

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

Very liberal .....	34%
Somewhat liberal .....	20%
Moderate .....	19%
Somewhat conservative .....	3%
Very conservative .....	4%
Not sure .....	20%

40. Do you think Barack Obama ...

Says what he believes ..... 48%  
Says what he thinks people want to hear ..... 52%

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

Like a lot ..... 39%  
Like somewhat ..... 25%  
Dislike ..... 22%  
Not sure ..... 14%