

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted December 6-8, 2009  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.6\%$

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

Yes .....	31%
No .....	45%
Not sure .....	24%

## 2. 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 .....	27%
Have no impact on the chances of success there .....	25%
Decrease the chances of success there .....	23%
Not sure .....	25%

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

Yes .....	35%
No .....	48%
Not sure .....	18%

## 4. 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 .....	12%
Somewhat likely .....	22%
Somewhat unlikely .....	22%
Very unlikely .....	29%
Not sure .....	15%

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

Yes ..... 15%  
No ..... 48%  
Not sure ..... 37%

**6. Do you favor increasing the number of troops in Afghanistan?**

Increase ..... 46%  
Keep the same ..... 16%  
Decrease ..... 37%

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

The United States will win the war in Afghanistan. .... 33%  
The United States will withdraw from Afghanistan without winning. .... 67%

**8. On Thursday, President Barack Obama will receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama receiving the Nobel Peace Prize?**

Approve ..... 31%  
Disapprove ..... 51%  
Not sure ..... 18%

**9. Which of these statements best describes how you feel about Barack Obama being awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize?**

I think Barack Obama deserved this year's Nobel Peace Prize ..... 18%  
I am happy Barack Obama received the prize, but the Nobel Committee really should have waited until he had been President longer and had accomplished more ..... 37%  
I think that awarding the prize to Barack Obama this year was a mistake; he does not deserve it ..... 46%

10. Since Barack Obama has been President, do you think the United States' image in the world has gotten better or worse?

Gotten better .....	43%
Obama's Presidency has had no effect on U.S. image in the world .....	15%
Gotten worse .....	30%
Not sure .....	12%

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

Yes .....	28%
No .....	51%
Not sure .....	21%

12. Do you think the stimulus bill WILL work? (Asked of respondents who are unsure or do not believe the stimulus is working)

Yes .....	11%
No .....	59%
Not sure .....	29%

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

Getting better .....	28%
About the same .....	33%
Getting worse .....	33%
Not sure .....	5%

14. How long do you think it will be before the economy starts improving? (Asked of respondents who think the economy is staying the same or getting worse)

A few months .....	5%
About a year .....	21%
More than a year .....	74%

15. How long do you think it will take until the economy has recovered all the ground lost during the recession?

Less than a year .....	1%
About a year .....	8%
Two years .....	23%
More than two years .....	69%

16. So far, which of these groups do you think has benefited most financially from Barack Obama's economic policies?

Big business .....	11%
Poor people .....	6%
Middle class people .....	7%
Banks and other financial organizations .....	51%
Wealthy people .....	7%
All equally .....	6%
None of these groups .....	12%

17. How worried are you about losing your job? (Asked of full-time, part-time, or self-employed respondents)

Very worried .....	10%
Somewhat worried .....	32%
Not very worried .....	58%

18. If you lost your job, how hard would it be for you to find a new job that paid as much as you are making now? (Asked of full-time, part-time, or self-employed respondents)

Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut. ....	40%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much. ....	36%
Not very hard .....	15%
Not sure .....	9%

19. Six months from now do you think there will be...

More jobs .....	26%
The same amount of jobs .....	33%
Fewer jobs .....	31%
Not sure .....	10%

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

Very likely .....	11%
Somewhat likely .....	32%
Somewhat unlikely .....	21%
Very unlikely .....	20%
Not sure .....	17%

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 .....	19%
Support somewhat .....	32%
Oppose somewhat .....	16%
Oppose strongly .....	33%

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 .....	38%
Worse care .....	37%
Not sure .....	11%

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 .....	55%
About the same .....	25%
Pay less .....	9%
Not sure .....	11%

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 .....	28%
Worse off .....	42%
Not sure .....	10%

25. Which of the following comes closest to describing your feeling about including the "public option," a government-administered health insurance plan, in the health care reform bill that Congress is now debating?

Congress should pass a health care reform bill with the public option, a government-administered health insurance plan available to any American who wants to sign up for it .....	45%
Congress should pass a health care reform bill with the public option, a government-administered health insurance plan, but each state should be allowed to decide on its own whether or not to participate .....	14%
Congress should pass a health care reform bill, but without a public option of a government administered health insurance plan .....	15%
Congress should not pass any health care reform bill .....	26%

26. Which of the following comes closest to describing your preferences for the health care reform bill that Congress is now debating?

Congress should pass a health care reform bill that includes coverage for abortions. ....	38%
Congress should pass a health care reform bill that does not include coverage for abortions. ....	33%
Congress should not pass any health care reform bill. ....	29%

27. If Congress passes a health care reform bill, where should most of the money to pay from it come from?

Higher taxes on wealthy Americans .....	48%
Finding cuts in Medicare spending .....	11%
Increasing the federal budget deficit .....	11%
Not sure .....	30%

28. 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%	27%	13%
The economy	16%	28%	13%	36%	7%
Immigration	9%	22%	16%	34%	20%
The environment	14%	30%	14%	26%	16%
Terrorism	17%	28%	11%	30%	14%
Gay rights	9%	23%	14%	26%	27%
Education	19%	31%	14%	20%	17%
Health care	22%	23%	12%	36%	7%
Social security	12%	23%	13%	30%	22%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	29%	20%	29%	11%

29. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	43%	40%	13%	5%
The economy	85%	13%	1%	1%
Immigration	49%	32%	13%	5%
The environment	49%	32%	14%	5%
Terrorism	58%	29%	9%	4%
Gay rights	22%	23%	23%	31%
Education	64%	27%	7%	2%
Health care	68%	24%	5%	3%
Social security	62%	29%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	59%	32%	7%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	47%	39%	10%	4%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	42%
Immigration	6%
The environment	6%
Terrorism	5%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	16%
Social security	9%
The budget deficit	5%
The war in Afghanistan	2%



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

Strongly approve .....	21%
Somewhat approve .....	27%
Somewhat disapprove .....	16%
Strongly disapprove .....	28%
Not sure .....	8%

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

Strongly approve .....	2%
Somewhat approve .....	14%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	15%
Somewhat disapprove .....	21%
Strongly disapprove .....	38%
Not sure .....	9%

**33. 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 .....	5%
Lean Democrat .....	8%
Democrat .....	38%
Not Sure .....	18%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	38%
Off on the wrong track .....	49%
Not sure .....	13%

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

Getting better .....	28%
About the same .....	33%
Getting worse .....	33%
Not sure .....	5%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	8%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	39%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	48%
Not sure .....	5%

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

Higher .....	35%
About the same .....	33%
Lower .....	14%
Not sure .....	17%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	34%	36%	30%
Intelligent	64%	25%	11%
Religious	15%	58%	28%
Inspiring	42%	37%	21%
Patriotic	33%	41%	26%
Strong	35%	43%	21%
Bold	36%	46%	19%
Experienced	14%	40%	47%
Sincere	37%	37%	26%
Partisan	24%	52%	24%
Effective	25%	47%	28%
Unifying	24%	45%	31%
In Touch	30%	42%	28%
Realistic	31%	39%	30%
Decisive	23%	50%	27%

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

Very liberal	33%
Somewhat liberal	23%
Moderate	22%
Somewhat conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	18%

**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 .....	37%
Like somewhat .....	29%
Dislike .....	22%
Not sure .....	12%