

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted May 15-18, 2010  
Margin of Error ±3.6%

## 1. 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 .....	39%
A little .....	46%
Nothing at all .....	15%

## 2. 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 .....	12%
Probably yes .....	29%
Hard to say .....	30%
Probably no .....	14%
Definitely no .....	15%

## 3. Would you say that Elena Kagan is . . .

Very liberal .....	22%
Somewhat liberal .....	22%
Moderate .....	19%
Somewhat conservative .....	4%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	32%

4. 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 .....	28%
Not sure .....	34%

5. In your opinion, how important is it that a Supreme Court nominee have prior experience serving as a judge?

The most important factor .....	14%
Very important .....	33%
Somewhat important .....	29%
Not very important .....	18%
Not at all important .....	6%

6. Can someone with a lot of legal experience who has never served as a judge be a good Supreme Court Justice?

Definitely yes .....	19%
Probably yes .....	28%
Hard to say .....	29%
Probably no .....	17%
Definitely no .....	7%

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

Yes .....	29%
No .....	43%
Not sure .....	28%

8. 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 .....	7%
About the same number of troops in Iraq as it has now .....	39%
Fewer troops in Iraq than it has now .....	55%

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

The United States will win the war in Iraq. .... 32%  
The United States will withdraw from Iraq without winning. .... 68%

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

Yes ..... 26%  
No ..... 50%  
Not sure ..... 24%

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

Yes ..... 17%  
No ..... 47%  
Not sure ..... 36%

**12. 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 ..... 23%  
About the same number of troops in Afghanistan as it has now ..... 50%  
Fewer troops in Afghanistan than it has now ..... 28%

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

The United States will win the war in Afghanistan. .... 31%  
The United States will withdraw from Afghanistan without winning. .... 69%

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

Yes ..... 22%  
No ..... 53%  
Not sure ..... 25%

15. 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 .....	13%
Somewhat likely .....	28%
Somewhat unlikely .....	26%
Very unlikely .....	22%
Not sure .....	11%

16. Do you consider the government of Afghanistan to be an ally or an enemy of the U.S. government?

Ally of U.S. ....	7%
Friendly .....	21%
Unfriendly .....	33%
Enemy of the U.S. ....	11%
Not sure .....	28%

17. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) charges that some major banks deceived investors by not disclosing important information to investors about risky mortgage investments, such as that hedge funds or the banks themselves were placing financial bets that those investments would fail. Do you think that MOST banks intentionally withheld important information about the financial products they were selling?

Definitely yes .....	34%
Probably yes .....	33%
Hard to say .....	22%
Probably no .....	9%
Definitely no .....	2%

18. If you had to choose, which of the following measures would you prefer in order to balance the federal budget deficit?

Increase taxes .....	5%
Decrease government spending .....	61%
Both .....	27%
Neither .....	7%

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

Very concerned .....	52%
Somewhat concerned .....	35%
Not very concerned .....	10%
Not at all concerned .....	3%

**20. When, if ever, do you think the federal budget should be balanced?**

Immediately .....	34%
Next year .....	11%
In a few years .....	45%
Not necessary to balance the budget .....	10%

**21. 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	11%	26%	26%	26%	11%
The economy	15%	25%	15%	37%	8%
Immigration	9%	19%	17%	41%	14%
The environment	13%	27%	20%	26%	14%
Terrorism	20%	22%	15%	32%	12%
Gay rights	11%	24%	15%	25%	24%
Education	15%	26%	19%	24%	16%
Health care	24%	18%	12%	38%	8%
Social security	13%	22%	19%	26%	20%
The budget deficit	9%	23%	17%	39%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	25%	26%	28%	12%
Taxes	12%	23%	18%	35%	12%

22. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	38%	43%	14%	6%
The economy	79%	18%	1%	2%
Immigration	52%	30%	12%	6%
The environment	42%	35%	15%	8%
Terrorism	59%	27%	9%	5%
Gay rights	24%	23%	23%	31%
Education	62%	27%	8%	3%
Health care	70%	21%	6%	3%
Social security	61%	26%	11%	2%
The budget deficit	52%	34%	9%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	38%	42%	14%	6%
Taxes	61%	30%	6%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	33%
Immigration	9%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	5%
Gay rights	2%
Education	9%
Health care	13%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%

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

Strongly approve .....	21%
Somewhat approve .....	25%
Somewhat disapprove .....	13%
Strongly disapprove .....	34%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Strongly approve .....	2%
Somewhat approve .....	12%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	16%
Somewhat disapprove .....	22%
Strongly disapprove .....	41%
Not sure .....	7%

26. 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 = 747)	39%	5%	8%	43%	6%
All Respondents	35%	6%	10%	39%	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	33%
Off on the wrong track .....	54%
Not sure .....	13%

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

Getting better .....	29%
About the same .....	37%
Getting worse .....	29%
Not sure .....	5%

**29. 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 .....	44%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	39%
Not sure .....	4%

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

Higher .....	30%
About the same .....	32%
Lower .....	20%
Not sure .....	18%



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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	35%	32%	33%
Intelligent	62%	28%	10%
Religious	13%	56%	31%
Inspiring	39%	39%	22%
Patriotic	32%	39%	29%
Strong	36%	45%	19%
Bold	38%	47%	16%
Experienced	15%	38%	48%
Sincere	38%	34%	29%
Partisan	26%	51%	24%
Effective	27%	44%	29%
Unifying	19%	49%	33%
In Touch	27%	42%	31%
Realistic	30%	38%	32%
Decisive	30%	49%	21%

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

Very liberal	35%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	14%

**33. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes	49%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	51%

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

Like a lot .....	38%
Like somewhat .....	27%
Dislike .....	25%
Not sure .....	10%