

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted September 13-15, 2009  
Margin of Error  $\pm 4.8\%$

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

A great deal .....	41%
A fair amount .....	35%
Not much .....	20%
Nothing at all .....	5%

## 2. 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 .....	23%
Support somewhat .....	29%
Oppose somewhat .....	12%
Oppose strongly .....	36%

## 3. Do you think Barack Obama has clearly explained what his plans for health care reform would mean?

Yes .....	33%
No .....	46%
Not sure .....	20%

## 4. 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 .....	21%
About the same .....	30%
Worse care .....	38%
Not sure .....	12%

5. 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 .....	48%
About the same .....	25%
Pay less .....	11%
Not sure .....	16%

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

Better off .....	25%
About the same .....	23%
Worse off .....	39%
Not sure .....	13%

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

Very likely .....	13%
Somewhat likely .....	36%
Somewhat unlikely .....	25%
Very unlikely .....	9%
Not sure .....	17%

**8. If Congress passes and the President signs a health care reform bill, do you think...**

	Yes	No
there will be long-term savings in health care costs?	46%	52%
health care will be rationed?	55%	43%
there will be limits to medical care for the elderly and people with disabilities?	55%	43%
you would be able to keep your health care coverage even if you became seriously ill?	62%	36%
you would be able to keep your current doctors if you wished?	61%	37%
the plan will give health care coverage to illegal immigrants?	51%	47%
there will be cuts in Medicare coverage?	58%	40%
the deficit would increase by billions of dollars?	63%	35%
you might lose your own health care coverage?	42%	57%

**9. Do you favor or oppose...**

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
having a "public option" which would allow individuals to purchase health care insurance coverage from the government?	47%	32%	21%
requiring everyone to have health insurance coverage (with those who cannot afford it being subsidized by the government)?	42%	37%	20%
fining people who refuse to purchase health insurance?	14%	66%	19%
taxing the health care benefits of those who get the most expensive insurance coverage plans from their employers?	16%	59%	25%

**10. Which of the following would you prefer:**

Adopting one of the health care reform plans proposed by President Obama .....	52%
No change in the current health care system .....	48%

**11. When it comes to health care, what scares you more?**

The government making decisions about medical coverage and treatment .....	23%
Insurance companies making decisions about medical coverage and treatment .....	25%
Both equally .....	45%
Neither .....	8%

**12. Do you think the majority of the public favors or opposes health care reform?**

Favors .....	25%
Evenly split .....	37%
Opposes .....	38%

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

Yes .....	55%
No .....	45%

**14. Did you watch the President's address to Congress on health care Wednesday night?**

Yes .....	48%
No .....	52%

**15. Do you currently have health insurance?**

Yes .....77%  
 No .....20%  
 Don't know .....2%

**16. 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	18%	28%	18%	23%	13%
The economy	20%	24%	9%	37%	9%
Immigration	10%	21%	13%	35%	20%
The environment	16%	29%	13%	24%	17%
Terrorism	19%	25%	12%	28%	14%
Gay rights	11%	22%	13%	23%	30%
Education	26%	26%	11%	19%	16%
Health care	24%	20%	9%	36%	9%
Social security	17%	20%	12%	27%	22%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	30%	21%	21%	14%

**17. How important are the following issues to you?**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	48%	38%	10%	3%
The economy	85%	13%	1%	1%
Immigration	52%	30%	14%	4%
The environment	48%	36%	11%	4%
Terrorism	60%	28%	9%	2%
Gay rights	22%	25%	24%	28%
Education	68%	24%	6%	2%
Health care	75%	19%	4%	1%
Social security	65%	28%	5%	1%
The budget deficit	65%	28%	5%	2%

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

The war in Iraq .....	2%
The economy .....	41%
Immigration .....	5%
The environment .....	3%
Terrorism .....	4%
Gay rights .....	2%
Education .....	7%
Health care .....	18%
Social security .....	9%
The budget deficit .....	8%

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

Strongly approve .....	28%
Somewhat approve .....	21%
Somewhat disapprove .....	11%
Strongly disapprove .....	31%
Not sure .....	9%

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

Strongly approve .....	2%
Somewhat approve .....	12%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	17%
Somewhat disapprove .....	20%
Strongly disapprove .....	40%
Not sure .....	8%

21. 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 .....	7%
Lean Democrat .....	10%
Democrat .....	36%
Not Sure .....	17%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	35%
Off on the wrong track .....	52%
Not sure .....	13%

23. What do you think is more of a threat?

Big business .....	41%
Big government .....	59%

24. 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 .....	49%
Not sure .....	5%

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

Higher .....	37%
About the same .....	32%
Lower .....	16%
Not sure .....	15%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	39%	30%	32%
Intelligent	67%	24%	9%
Religious	16%	55%	30%
Inspiring	45%	37%	18%
Patriotic	31%	41%	28%
Strong	39%	43%	18%
Bold	40%	45%	15%
Experienced	15%	40%	45%
Sincere	39%	36%	25%
Partisan	24%	50%	25%
Effective	30%	47%	22%
Unifying	25%	45%	30%
In Touch	34%	39%	27%
Realistic	35%	35%	30%
Decisive	28%	49%	22%

27. Would you say Barack Obama is ...

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

28. Do you think Barack Obama ...

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



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

Like a lot .....	41%
Like somewhat .....	25%
Dislike .....	20%
Not sure .....	13%