

# The Economist/YouGov Poll

Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted July 17-20, 2010  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.5\%$

1. 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%	27%	19%	28%	13%
The economy	14%	20%	15%	41%	10%
Immigration	11%	19%	15%	40%	14%
The environment	13%	28%	17%	28%	14%
Terrorism	18%	24%	13%	32%	13%
Gay rights	12%	23%	13%	24%	28%
Education	17%	25%	15%	25%	18%
Health care	22%	20%	9%	40%	9%
Social security	12%	20%	17%	33%	18%
The budget deficit	12%	19%	15%	42%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	27%	20%	29%	13%
Taxes	14%	20%	15%	38%	13%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	46%	35%	14%	5%
The economy	83%	14%	1%	1%
Immigration	52%	32%	12%	5%
The environment	51%	34%	10%	4%
Terrorism	60%	26%	10%	4%
Gay rights	23%	26%	25%	26%
Education	58%	32%	7%	3%
Health care	75%	20%	3%	3%
Social security	65%	25%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	62%	29%	7%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	49%	35%	12%	4%
Taxes	65%	27%	6%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	39%
Immigration	8%
The environment	6%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	3%
Education	5%
Health care	14%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	6%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	4%

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

Strongly approve .....	19%
Somewhat approve .....	26%
Somewhat disapprove .....	14%
Strongly disapprove .....	34%
Not sure .....	8%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Sarah Palin	19%	18%	12%	39%	12%
Mitt Romney	13%	22%	18%	17%	30%
Mike Huckabee	16%	24%	16%	16%	27%
Newt Gingrich	13%	20%	12%	27%	27%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	13%	10%	10%	63%
Mike Pence	5%	9%	6%	8%	72%
Haley Barbour	4%	10%	7%	11%	67%
Mitch Daniels	3%	9%	6%	7%	75%
John Thune	3%	9%	7%	8%	73%

**6. Was there a time when you had a favorable opinion of Sarah Palin?** (Asked if respondent has an unfavorable view or has no opinion on Sarah Palin)

Yes .....	17%
No .....	83%

**7. When did you change your opinion?** (Asked if respondent used to have a favorable opinion of Sarah Palin, but does not now)

In the last few weeks .....	3%
Earlier this year .....	24%
Last year .....	30%
Before the 2008 elections .....	43%

8. If you had to choose one, which of these individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

Sarah Palin .....	16%
Mitt Romney .....	14%
Mike Huckabee .....	11%
Newt Gingrich .....	8%
Tim Pawlenty .....	3%
Mike Pence .....	1%
Haley Barbour .....	1%
Mitch Daniels .....	2%
John Thune .....	1%
No preference .....	43%

9. Do you think Sarah Palin will run for president of the United States in 2012?

Very likely .....	18%
Somewhat likely .....	34%
Somewhat unlikely .....	15%
Very unlikely .....	15%
Not sure .....	18%

10. If Sarah Palin were the Republican nominee for president in 2012, who would you vote for in the presidential election?

Sarah Palin .....	31%
Barack Obama .....	41%
Don't plan to vote .....	9%
Not sure .....	18%

11. If Sarah Palin were the Republican nominee for president in 2012, do you think she would beat Barack Obama in the presidential election?

Definitely yes .....	11%
Probably yes .....	19%
Probably no .....	20%
Definitely no .....	34%
Not sure .....	16%

12. Do you think Sarah Palin would have the ability to be an effective president?

Yes .....	28%
No .....	51%
Not sure .....	20%

13. Does Sarah Palin represent the views of most Republicans?

Yes .....	34%
No .....	30%
Not sure .....	35%

14. Compared to the way the news media have treated other political figures, have they been harder or easier on these individuals?

	Harder	Same	Easier	Not sure
Sarah Palin	47%	18%	22%	12%
Barack Obama	32%	21%	37%	10%
Hillary Clinton	27%	34%	28%	11%

15. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither agree, nor disagree	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Sarah Palin cares about people like me.	22%	14%	24%	9%	30%
Sarah Palin understands people like me.	21%	13%	23%	10%	33%
Sarah Palin respects people like me.	23%	14%	24%	8%	30%
Sarah Palin looks down on people like me.	18%	13%	28%	11%	30%
Sarah Palin shares my values.	20%	14%	21%	8%	37%
Sarah Palin understands complex issues.	15%	15%	22%	11%	38%

16. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither agree, nor disagree	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Barack Obama cares about people like me.	25%	19%	18%	9%	29%
Barack Obama understands people like me.	22%	18%	20%	10%	31%
Barack Obama respects people like me.	26%	19%	19%	8%	28%
Barack Obama looks down on people like me.	21%	10%	20%	13%	36%
Barack Obama shares my values.	19%	18%	20%	8%	35%
Barack Obama understands complex issues.	29%	20%	17%	8%	25%

17. How much have you heard or read about the engagement of Bristol Palin, Sarah Palin's daughter, to Levi Johnston, with whom Bristol has a child?

A lot .....	21%
A little .....	59%
Nothing at all .....	21%

18. What do you think is Sarah Palin's main priority?

What's best for the country .....	23%
What's best for her family .....	18%
What's best for her career .....	49%
Something else .....	9%

19. Do you think that Sarah Palin does a good job of balancing the demands of her public and private life?

Very good job .....	19%
Somewhat good job .....	21%
Somewhat poor job .....	15%
Very poor job .....	20%
Not sure .....	26%

20. How much have you heard or read about the political movement known as the Tea Party?

A great deal .....	32%
A fair amount .....	35%
Not much .....	21%
Nothing at all .....	12%

21. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement? (Asked if respondent is aware of the Tea Party movement)

Yes .....	29%
No .....	71%

22. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement? (Asked if respondent is aware of the Tea Party movement)

Strongly support .....	25%
Somewhat support .....	14%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	14%
Somewhat oppose .....	9%
Strongly oppose .....	23%
Not sure .....	14%



23. 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 .....	12%
Nothing at all .....	8%

24. 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 .....	16%
Somewhat approve .....	19%
Neither approve, nor disapprove .....	16%
Somewhat disapprove .....	18%
Strongly disapprove .....	32%

25. How much trust do you have in BP to do the right thing in stopping the oil spill? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

A great deal .....	8%
Quite a bit .....	19%
Only some .....	27%
Very little .....	22%
None at all .....	20%
Not sure .....	5%

26. How much trust do you have in BP to do the right thing in cleaning up the oil spill? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

A great deal .....	8%
Quite a bit .....	17%
Only some .....	26%
Very little .....	25%
None at all .....	19%
Not sure .....	5%

27. What is the main reason that you do not trust BP to do the right thing to clean up the oil spill? (Asked if respondent has little or no trust in BP to clean up the oil spill)

BP is not technologically capable of doing it .....	27%
BP does not want to do it .....	38%
Some other reason .....	34%

28. How much trust do you have in the federal government to make sure the oil spill is stopped? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

A great deal .....	12%
Quite a bit .....	17%
Only some .....	26%
Very little .....	25%
None at all .....	16%
Not sure .....	4%

29. How much trust do you have in the federal government to make sure the oil spill is cleaned up? (Asked if respondent is aware of oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico)

A great deal .....	12%
Quite a bit .....	20%
Only some .....	28%
Very little .....	23%
None at all .....	14%
Not sure .....	3%

30. 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 .....	13%
Somewhat likely .....	33%
Neither likely, nor unlikely .....	11%
Somewhat unlikely .....	22%
Very unlikely .....	15%
Not sure .....	5%

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 .....	37%
A little .....	43%
Nothing at all .....	20%

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 .....	13%
Probably yes .....	24%
Hard to say .....	34%
Probably no .....	11%
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 .....	41%
Should not confirm .....	29%
Not sure .....	31%

34. Which of these comes closest to your view?

Abortion should be generally available to those who want it .....	39%
Abortion should be available, but under stricter limits than it is now .....	30%
Abortion should not be permitted .....	21%
Not sure .....	9%

**35. Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?**

Favor allowing same-sex marriage .....	37%
Oppose allowing same-sex marriage, but favor allowing civil unions instead .....	21%
Oppose legal recognition of same-sex relationships .....	29%
Not sure .....	13%

**36. Do you think people who are openly gay or homosexual should be allowed to serve in the U.S. military?**

Yes .....	63%
No .....	21%
Not sure .....	15%

**37. When it comes to preparedness, unit cohesion and morale in the military today, which do you think has MORE of a negative impact:**

The current policy that requires gay and lesbian soldiers to conceal their sexual preferences from other members of their unit .....	52%
The proposed policy that allows gay and lesbian soldiers to be open about their sexual preferences .....	48%

**38. This month, the Department of Defense sent a 91-question survey to members of the military, asking their opinions about the effect of repealing the current policies, called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Just your best guess, thinking about the attitudes of young Americans such as those serving in active duty today, which of the following two statements comes closer to what you expect the Department of Defense will learn from this survey:**

Soldiers are more supportive of repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" than some of their leaders expect because soldiers are comfortable in serving with openly gay or lesbian members of their unit and prefer to end the secrecy required by "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policies. ....	54%
Soldiers will be so resistant to repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" that the decision to allow openly gay and lesbian soldiers to serve in the military will have to be reversed, and "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policies will be continued in order to keep most gays and lesbians out of the military. ....	46%

39. In February 2009, Congress passed President Obama’s \$787 billion economic stimulus bill. Do you think the stimulus bill has helped the economy?

Yes .....	29%
No .....	52%
Not sure .....	19%

40. Do you think the stimulus bill WILL help the economy? (Asked of respondents who are unsure or don’t think the stimulus bill has helped the economy)

Yes .....	7%
No .....	68%
Not Sure .....	25%

41. From what you know so far, which comes closest to your own view about the economic stimulus package?

It has already created a substantial number of new jobs in the U.S. ....	13%
It will create a substantial number of new jobs in the U.S. but hasn’t done that yet. ....	32%
It will not create a substantial number of new jobs. ....	55%

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

Has already recovered .....	2%
Less than a year .....	3%
About a year .....	8%
Two years .....	21%
More than two years .....	66%

43. Do you support or oppose additional government spending to create jobs and stimulate the economy?

Strongly support .....	18%
Somewhat support .....	21%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	14%
Somewhat oppose .....	11%
Strongly oppose .....	27%
Not sure .....	9%

44. A congressional measure to extend the length of time that people can receive unemployment benefits recently expired, and Congress is considering re-authorizing it. An extension will help the unemployed during the economic downturn, but it will cost the government about \$34 billion. Do you support or oppose Congress extending unemployment benefits?

Strongly support .....	28%
Somewhat support .....	23%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	12%
Somewhat oppose .....	13%
Strongly oppose .....	14%
Not sure .....	9%

45. Have you read or heard anything about the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010?

Yes .....	34%
No .....	54%
Not sure .....	12%

46. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 was recently passed by the U.S. Senate. It creates new regulations for the financial industry. Do you favor or oppose the Dodd-Frank bill? (Asked if respondent is not sure or has heard about the Wall Street reform bill)

Favor .....	41%
Oppose .....	34%
Not sure .....	25%

**47. Do you think that the U.S. banking system can survive an economic crisis?**

Definitely can .....	15%
Probably can .....	42%
Probably cannot .....	21%
Definitely cannot .....	6%
Not sure .....	16%

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

Very liberal .....	31%
Liberal .....	20%
Moderate .....	24%
Conservative .....	4%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	19%

**49. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	46%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	54%

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

Like a lot .....	36%
Like somewhat .....	28%
Dislike .....	25%
Not sure .....	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	33%	36%	31%
Intelligent	60%	28%	12%
Religious	18%	55%	27%
Inspiring	37%	40%	23%
Patriotic	30%	42%	28%
Strong	36%	42%	22%
Bold	36%	47%	17%
Experienced	18%	40%	41%
Sincere	37%	35%	28%
Partisan	26%	54%	20%
Effective	26%	43%	31%
Unifying	17%	51%	32%
In Touch	29%	39%	31%
Realistic	32%	38%	31%
Decisive	27%	49%	24%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	32%
Off on the wrong track .....	52%
Not sure .....	16%

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

Strongly approve .....	3%
Somewhat approve .....	12%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	17%
Somewhat disapprove .....	20%
Strongly disapprove .....	39%
Not sure .....	9%



54. 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 = 705, MoE = ±3.8%)	40%	4%	6%	42%	9%
All Respondents	35%	5%	6%	37%	16%

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

Getting better .....	24%
About the same .....	37%
Getting worse .....	34%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Higher .....	23%
About the same .....	36%
Lower .....	22%
Not sure .....	20%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	11%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	43%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	41%
Not sure .....	4%

<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	July 17-20, 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 3.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.5.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1,000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.5% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	23 questions not reported.