

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted August 14-17, 2010  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.4\%$

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	12%	27%	21%	29%	11%
The economy	13%	22%	14%	45%	6%
Immigration	9%	20%	17%	43%	12%
The environment	13%	27%	19%	28%	13%
Terrorism	13%	26%	15%	35%	12%
Gay rights	9%	22%	15%	30%	23%
Education	15%	26%	18%	27%	14%
Health care	18%	20%	13%	41%	7%
Social security	12%	21%	15%	37%	16%
The budget deficit	9%	19%	17%	44%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	9%	25%	23%	32%	11%
Taxes	13%	20%	16%	39%	11%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	43%	37%	13%	6%
The economy	83%	14%	2%	1%
Immigration	53%	28%	14%	5%
The environment	51%	31%	14%	5%
Terrorism	57%	26%	12%	5%
Gay rights	26%	23%	24%	26%
Education	60%	28%	9%	4%
Health care	72%	20%	4%	3%
Social security	67%	24%	6%	3%
The budget deficit	63%	27%	6%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	48%	35%	11%	6%
Taxes	67%	26%	5%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	38%
Immigration	8%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	4%
Education	5%
Health care	14%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	3%

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

Strongly approve .....	15%
Somewhat approve .....	28%
Somewhat disapprove .....	15%
Strongly disapprove .....	37%
Not sure .....	6%

**5. How much would you say you know about the religion of Islam and its practices?**

A great deal .....	12%
Some .....	42%
Not very much .....	27%
Nothing at all .....	19%

**6. As of today, what is your impression of the religion called Islam?**

Very favorable .....	4%
Somewhat favorable .....	16%
Somewhat unfavorable .....	28%
Very unfavorable .....	28%
Not sure .....	24%

**7. How much have you heard or read about the controversy surrounding the building of an Islamic Cultural Center and mosque a few blocks from the World Trade Center site in New York City?**

A lot .....	49%
A little .....	35%
Nothing at all .....	16%

**8. Do you think the Islamic Cultural Center and mosque should be built there, or not?**

Should .....	18%
Should not .....	58%
No opinion .....	25%

9. Whether or not you think the Islamic Cultural Center and mosque should be built near the World Trade Center site, do you think that Muslims have a constitutional right to build a mosque there?

Yes .....	50%
No .....	33%
Not sure .....	17%

10. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution includes the right to freedom of religion, and many legal experts have said that there is no legal way to prevent the construction of a mosque at that site. In order to prevent the construction of that mosque, should the Constitution be changed? (Asked if respondent thinks New York mosque should not be built)

Yes .....	19%
No .....	66%
Not sure .....	15%

11. Which of these statements comes closest to your opinion:

Muslims should be able to build mosques in the United States wherever other religions can build houses of worship. ....	52%
There are some places in the United States where it is not appropriate to build mosques, though it would be appropriate for other religions to build houses of worship. ....	34%
Mosques should not be permitted anywhere in the United States. ....	14%

12. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Anyone born within the borders of the United States is considered a United States citizen.

Agree .....	55%
Neither agree, nor disagree .....	14%
Disagree .....	25%
Not sure .....	6%

13. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Anyone born within the borders of the United States should be considered a United States citizen.

Agree .....	45%
Neither agree, nor disagree .....	14%
Disagree .....	35%
Not sure .....	7%

14. What about children born to people who have come to the United State illegally? Should children born to illegal immigrants within the borders of the United States be considered United States citizens?

Definitely yes .....	21%
Probably yes .....	17%
Probably no .....	16%
Definitely no .....	40%
Not sure .....	7%

15. The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gives U.S. citizenship to anyone born within the borders of the United States. In order to prevent children born to illegal immigrants within the borders of the United States from becoming citizens, should the Constitution be changed?

Definitely yes .....	25%
Probably yes .....	22%
Probably no .....	11%
Definitely no .....	30%
Not sure .....	12%

16. Which party is closer to you on the issue of immigration?

The Democratic Party .....	33%
The Republican Party .....	35%
Don't know .....	33%

**17. How much discrimination do the following groups face in America today?**

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not much	None at all
Arab Americans	36%	36%	21%	7%
Asian Americans	6%	27%	51%	16%
African Americans	19%	36%	34%	12%
Mexican Americans	26%	38%	27%	9%

**18. Would you describe yourself as...**

A frequent air traveler	9%
An occasional air traveler	70%
Never flown	21%

**19. From your own experience, how would you rate the behavior of most flight attendants?**

(Asked if respondent is an occasional or frequent flyer)

Excellent	29%
Good	59%
Only fair	11%
Poor	1%

**20. From your own experience, how would you rate the behavior of most airline passengers?**

(Asked if respondent is an occasional or frequent flyer)

Excellent	11%
Good	60%
Only fair	23%
Poor	6%

21. Who is more to blame for the problems that occur on plane flights? (Asked if respondent is an occasional or frequent flyer)

Flight attendants .....	3%
Passengers .....	59%
Equally to blame .....	38%

22. How much have you heard or read about Steven Slater, the flight attendant who quit his job last week by sliding down the evacuation slide after a confrontation with a passenger on a JetBlue flight?

A lot .....	43%
A little .....	40%
Nothing at all .....	17%

23. Right now, how much sympathy do you have with that flight attendant? (Asked if respondent is aware of JetBlue incident)

A lot .....	16%
Some .....	36%
Not too much .....	31%
None at all .....	18%

24. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal .....	35%
Liberal .....	20%
Moderate .....	21%
Conservative .....	3%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	18%

25. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes .....	44%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	56%

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

Like a lot .....	35%
Like somewhat .....	29%
Dislike .....	25%
Not sure .....	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	30%	34%	36%
Intelligent	60%	26%	15%
Religious	16%	55%	29%
Inspiring	34%	38%	28%
Patriotic	28%	39%	33%
Strong	33%	44%	23%
Bold	34%	45%	20%
Experienced	13%	38%	49%
Sincere	33%	34%	32%
Partisan	28%	52%	21%
Effective	22%	43%	35%
Unifying	16%	45%	39%
In Touch	25%	40%	35%
Realistic	28%	37%	35%
Decisive	24%	48%	28%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	28%
Off on the wrong track .....	61%
Not sure .....	12%



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

Strongly approve .....	2%
Somewhat approve .....	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	14%
Somewhat disapprove .....	23%
Strongly disapprove .....	45%
Not sure .....	7%

30. 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 = 715, MoE = ±3.8%)	40%	5%	5%	40%	11%
All Respondents	34%	5%	6%	38%	17%

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

Getting better .....	17%
About the same .....	36%
Getting worse .....	43%
Not sure .....	4%

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

Higher .....	20%
About the same .....	33%
Lower .....	30%
Not sure .....	18%

**33. 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 .....	42%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	43%
Not sure .....	4%

**34. How worried are you about losing your job? (Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed)**

Very worried .....	6%
Somewhat worried .....	35%
Not very worried .....	58%

**35. 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 if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed)**

Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut. ....	41%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much. ....	33%
Not very hard .....	21%
Not sure .....	6%

**36. Six months from now do you think there will be...**

More jobs .....	16%
The same amount of jobs .....	36%
Fewer jobs .....	37%
Not sure .....	11%

37. How happy would you say you are with your current job? (Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed)

Very happy .....	22%
Happy .....	38%
Neither happy nor unhappy .....	25%
Unhappy .....	11%
Very unhappy .....	4%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	August 14-17, 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 2.8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.5.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1,000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	18 questions not reported.