

The Economist/YouGov Poll

Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted July 24-27, 2010
Margin of Error $\pm 3.6\%$

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	10%	28%	24%	23%	15%
The economy	13%	23%	15%	40%	10%
Immigration	8%	22%	15%	41%	13%
The environment	11%	29%	19%	26%	14%
Terrorism	14%	26%	16%	31%	12%
Gay rights	10%	25%	15%	24%	26%
Education	13%	27%	20%	22%	18%
Health care	20%	21%	12%	38%	10%
Social security	12%	19%	15%	32%	21%
The budget deficit	10%	22%	14%	42%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	9%	27%	23%	26%	15%
Taxes	12%	23%	14%	37%	14%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	40%	42%	14%	4%
The economy	82%	15%	2%	1%
Immigration	53%	29%	14%	4%
The environment	47%	37%	12%	4%
Terrorism	57%	29%	11%	3%
Gay rights	22%	27%	25%	26%
Education	59%	30%	8%	3%
Health care	76%	19%	4%	2%
Social security	64%	26%	8%	2%
The budget deficit	59%	30%	9%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	43%	41%	11%	4%
Taxes	62%	30%	6%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	36%
Immigration	6%
The environment	7%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	15%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	6%
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	16%
Somewhat approve	28%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	6%

5. How much have you heard or read about the controversy over the forced resignation of a black U.S. Department of Agriculture official, Shirley Sherrod, who was accused of making racist remarks in a speech at an NAACP event?

A lot	42%
A little	34%
Nothing at all	24%

6. In general, do you think the following groups favor whites over blacks, favor blacks over whites, or do they treat both groups the same?

	Favors whites over blacks	Favors blacks over whites	Treats both the same	Not sure
U.S. Department of Agriculture	11%	8%	42%	40%
NAACP	3%	65%	13%	19%
The Tea Party movement	34%	3%	34%	29%
The Obama administration	3%	35%	43%	19%

7. From what you know about Shirley Sherrod, in her work at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, do you think she favored whites over blacks, favored blacks over whites, or did she treat both groups the same? (Asked if respondent is aware of Shirley Sherrod controversy)

Favored whites over blacks	1%
Favored blacks over whites	26%
Treated both the same	47%
Not sure	25%

8. How big a problem is racism in our society today?

A big problem	32%
Somewhat of a problem	46%
A small problem	18%
Not a problem	3%

9. Since Barack Obama has been president, do you think race relations in the United States have gotten...

Better	10%
Stayed about the same	49%
Worse	40%

10. Do you think race relations in the United States are generally...

Good	55%
Bad	45%

11. Which of the following statements comes closer to your point of view?

Talk about race is healthy for the country because it produces a dialogue and can help deal with problems in race relations in the United States.	74%
Talk about race is NOT healthy for the country because it can lead to other actions and will only make race relations in the United States worse.	26%

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

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
We have gone too far in pushing equal rights in this country.	39%	45%	17%
I think it's OK for blacks and whites to date each other.	71%	15%	14%
We need to do more to help blacks and other minorities get out of poverty.	36%	45%	20%
We spend too much time talking about race.	53%	29%	18%
Most white people are at least a little prejudiced against blacks.	40%	43%	16%
African Americans have progressed to the point where they no longer need special consideration to succeed in life.	61%	22%	18%

13. Do you think there is a "double standard" in how the news media treats charges of racism and unfairness?

Yes, charges of unfairness made by blacks are treated MORE seriously than those made by other races.	49%
Yes, charges of unfairness made by blacks are treated LESS seriously than those made by other races.	16%
No, charges of unfairness are treated the same, regardless of who makes them.	12%
Not sure	23%

14. How much confidence do you have in the traditional news media - such as newspapers, news magazines, TV and radio news - to present news in a fair and accurate manner?

A great deal	4%
Quite a bit	12%
Only some	30%
Very little	27%
None at all	22%
Not sure	5%

15. In general, how much confidence do you have in new media sources on the Internet, such as blogs, to present news in a fair and accurate manner?

A great deal	4%
Quite a bit	11%
Only some	33%
Very little	29%
None at all	16%
Not sure	7%

16. Where do you get most of your information about news and current events?

Local TV newscasts	26%
Cable news networks	27%
General Web sites like Yahoo or Google	10%
News Web sites	15%
Radio	7%
Newspapers and magazines	8%
Blogs	2%
Other	5%

17. During the last seven days, did you watch any of these cable news channels? Check all that apply.

CNN	31%
Fox News	41%
MSNBC	22%
None of the above	39%

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

A great deal	31%
A fair amount	31%
Not much	25%
Nothing at all	13%

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

Yes	22%
No	78%

20. 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	23%
Somewhat support	15%
Neither support, nor oppose	16%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	22%
Not sure	16%

21. What do you think are the chances of a terrorist attack against the United States in the next 12 months?

Very likely (more than 50%)	21%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%)	35%
Not very likely (1% to 10%)	22%
Very unlikely (less than 1%)	10%
Not sure	12%

22. Are we safer from terrorist attacks now than we were in 2001?

Much more safe	10%
Somewhat more safe	30%
About the same	29%
Somewhat less safe	10%
Much less safe	13%
Not sure	9%

23. How much confidence do you have that the Department of Homeland Security, including the intelligence agencies, will be able to protect the country from terrorist attacks?

A lot of confidence	8%
Some confidence	47%
Not too much confidence	34%
No confidence at all	11%

24. Are government intelligence agencies that deal with terrorism doing a better or worse job of protecting the U.S. against terrorist attacks now than they were before September 11, 2001?

Better	36%
About the same	39%
Worse	10%
Not sure	14%

25. Do you think federal spending on national intelligence programs should be increased or decreased?

Increased	25%
Kept the same	41%
Decreased	15%
Not sure	20%

26. Do you think the policies of the Bush administration made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?

More safe	40%
No effect	26%
Less safe	34%

27. Do you think the policies of the Obama administration have made the United States more or less safe from terrorism?

More safe	25%
No effect	41%
Less safe	34%

28. 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	74%
A little	19%
Nothing at all	7%

29. 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	10%
Somewhat approve	19%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	23%
Somewhat disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	28%

30. 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	6%
Quite a bit	21%
Only some	28%
Very little	25%
None at all	17%
Not sure	3%

31. 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	6%
Quite a bit	19%
Only some	29%
Very little	26%
None at all	17%
Not sure	3%

32. 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	8%
Quite a bit	21%
Only some	32%
Very little	23%
None at all	13%
Not sure	4%

33. 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	9%
Quite a bit	21%
Only some	33%
Very little	22%
None at all	11%
Not sure	3%

34. 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	12%
Somewhat likely	37%
Neither likely, nor unlikely	15%
Somewhat unlikely	20%
Very unlikely	12%
Not sure	5%

35. 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	37%
Nothing at all	24%

36. 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	27%
Hard to say	32%
Probably no	11%
Definitely no	17%

37. Do you think the U.S. Senate should or should not confirm Elena Kagan as a Supreme Court justice?

Should confirm	40%
Should not confirm	29%
Not sure	31%

38. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	34%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	2%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	18%

39. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	45%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	55%

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

Like a lot	36%
Like somewhat	26%
Dislike	26%
Not sure	13%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	32%	36%	31%
Intelligent	61%	27%	12%
Religious	14%	58%	29%
Inspiring	34%	41%	24%
Patriotic	29%	43%	28%
Strong	33%	46%	21%
Bold	35%	49%	16%
Experienced	12%	41%	47%
Sincere	35%	37%	28%
Partisan	28%	54%	18%
Effective	24%	48%	28%
Unifying	18%	47%	35%
In Touch	26%	43%	31%
Realistic	31%	40%	29%
Decisive	24%	51%	25%

42. 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%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	11%
Neither approve nor disapprove	17%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	10%

44. 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 = 713, MoE = ±3.9%)	39%	4%	6%	40%	10%
All Respondents	35%	4%	6%	37%	18%

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

Getting better	19%
About the same	37%
Getting worse	36%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	22%
About the same	34%
Lower	21%
Not sure	23%

47. 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	40%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	43%
Not sure	6%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 24-27, 2010
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	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.
Weighting	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 0.6 to 4.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.6.
Number of respondents	1,000
Margin of error	± 3.6% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	24 questions not reported.