

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted August 16-18, 2009
Margin of Error $\pm 4.8\%$

1. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

Just about always	2%
Most of the time	13%
Some of the time	45%
Almost never	36%
Don't know	4%

2. Which part of the government do you trust MOST to do what's right?

Congress	5%
The Supreme Court	28%
The President	26%
Political parties	3%
Don't know	38%

3. Which part of the government do you trust LEAST to do what's right?

Congress	32%
The Supreme Court	4%
The President	18%
Political parties	30%
Don't know	15%

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

Yes	18%
No	42%
Not sure	40%

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

Yes 34%
No 35%
Not sure 31%

6. Do you think U.S. troops will still be in Afghanistan in 2012?

Yes 71%
No 9%
Not sure 21%

7. Do you favor increasing the number of troops in Afghanistan?

Favor 32%
Oppose 41%
Not sure 27%

8. What do you think will eventually happen in Afghanistan?

The United States will win the war in Afghanistan. 35%
The United States will withdraw from Afghanistan without winning. 65%

9. From what you know, do you think most of Afghanistan is secure enough for Afghans to have a fair election?

Is secure enough 11%
Is not secure enough 56%
Not sure 33%

10. Do you think most people in Afghanistan want to have U.S. troops in their country or would they like the U.S. to leave?

Most would like U.S. troops to stay	14%
About equally divided	39%
Most would like U.S. troops to leave	32%
Not sure	15%

11. If U.S. troops were removed from Afghanistan, do you think the Taliban would return to power?

Yes	71%
No	6%
Not sure	23%

12. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Afghanistan?

Yes	31%
No	49%
Not sure	20%

13. About six months ago, Congress passed President Obama's \$787 billion economic stimulus bill. Do you think the stimulus bill is working?

Yes	31%
No	51%
Not sure	18%

14. Do you think the stimulus bill WILL work? (Asked of respondents who said the stimulus is not working or were not sure if it is working)

Yes	9%
No	66%
Not sure	25%

15. Do you currently have health insurance?

Yes 77%
 No 22%
 Don't know 1%

16. What kind of health care coverage do you currently have? (Asked of respondents who have health insurance)

I have private insurance or belong to an HMO. 66%
 I'm covered by a government plan, such as Medicare or Medicaid. 30%
 Not sure 4%

17. Suppose you were offered a choice between the following two health insurance plans. Which one would you choose? (Asked of half of respondents)

A plan that limited the total amount of benefits in your lifetime to \$1 million. 41%
 A plan with no lifetime limit on benefits, but cost you an additional \$1000 per year. 59%

18. Suppose you were offered a choice between the following health insurance plans. Which would you choose? (Asked of half of respondents)

A plan with no lifetime limit on benefits. 77%
 A plan that limited the total amount of benefits in your lifetime to \$1 million, but saved you \$1000 per year. 23%

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

A great deal 30%
 A fair amount 37%
 Not much 26%
 Nothing at all 7%

20. 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	15%
About the same	36%
Worse care	36%
Not sure	13%

21. 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	52%
About the same	22%
Pay less	9%
Not sure	18%

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

Better off	18%
About the same	29%
Worse off	38%
Not sure	14%

23. 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%	54%
health care will be rationed?	60%	40%
there will be limits to medical care for the elderly and people with disabilities?	57%	43%
people will be able to get health insurance coverage for pre-existing conditions?	66%	34%
the elderly will be required to have consultations with doctors about end of life decisions?	54%	46%
you would be able to keep your health care coverage even if you became seriously ill?	65%	35%

24. Do you favor or oppose having a "public option" which would allow individuals to purchase health insurance coverage from the government?

Favor	41%
Oppose	33%
Not sure	27%

25. One proposal would be for the government to have experts evaluate how effective different medical treatments are and which ones are too costly. How good a job do you think the government can do in determining the comparative effectiveness of different medical procedures?

Excellent	5%
Good	16%
Fair	25%
Poor	54%

26. Recently, there have been protests at town hall meetings conducted by members of Congress by people opposed to health care reform. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the people protesting health care reform?

Favorable	36%
Neither favorable nor unfavorable	35%
Unfavorable	29%

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

Favors	25%
Evenly split	35%
Opposes	40%

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

Very likely	11%
Somewhat likely	35%
Somewhat unlikely	22%
Very unlikely	16%
Not sure	16%

29. Is Congress moving too quickly or too slowly to reform health care?

Too quickly	46%
About the right pace	25%
Too slowly	29%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Not sure
Hillary Clinton	28%	28%	18%	21%	5%
Rush Limbaugh	13%	18%	12%	44%	13%
Barack Obama	36%	16%	12%	32%	4%
George W. Bush	13%	23%	17%	43%	4%
John Boehner	6%	12%	12%	19%	52%
Nancy Pelosi	9%	17%	16%	41%	17%
Sarah Palin	20%	19%	12%	41%	8%

31. 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	14%	32%	19%	21%	14%
The economy	19%	26%	11%	37%	6%
Immigration	10%	19%	16%	35%	20%
The environment	21%	26%	12%	24%	17%
Terrorism	19%	24%	14%	28%	15%
Gay rights	11%	22%	16%	22%	28%
Education	20%	28%	14%	18%	20%
Health care	23%	20%	12%	36%	8%
Social security	16%	21%	15%	24%	24%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	35%	21%	19%	14%

32. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	43%	40%	12%	5%
The economy	87%	11%	1%	1%
Immigration	51%	30%	14%	5%
The environment	50%	34%	11%	6%
Terrorism	60%	29%	8%	3%
Gay rights	19%	24%	25%	33%
Education	64%	28%	5%	2%
Health care	74%	20%	4%	2%
Social security	67%	26%	5%	2%
The budget deficit	65%	28%	6%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	3%
The economy	39%
Immigration	7%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	2%
Education	5%
Health care	16%
Social security	9%
The budget deficit	9%

34. Do you think Barack Obama's policies...

Favor whites over blacks	2%
Treat both groups the same	66%
Favor blacks over whites	32%

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

Strongly approve	27%
Somewhat approve	22%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	28%
Not sure	7%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	15%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	8%

37. 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	6%
Lean Democrat	7%
Democrat	37%
Not Sure	18%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	37%
Off on the wrong track	51%
Not sure	12%

39. What do you think is more of a threat? (Asked of half of respondents)

Big business	35%
Big government	65%

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

Getting better	28%
About the same	31%
Getting worse	35%
Not sure	6%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	9%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	40%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	46%
Not sure	4%

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

Higher	39%
About the same	28%
Lower	18%
Not sure	16%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Honest	39%	29%	33%
Intelligent	66%	24%	11%
Religious	15%	54%	31%
Inspiring	40%	41%	19%
Patriotic	32%	43%	25%
Strong	42%	42%	16%
Bold	45%	42%	13%
Experienced	18%	35%	47%
Sincere	41%	32%	28%
Partisan	28%	49%	24%
Effective	31%	44%	25%
Unifying	22%	46%	32%
In Touch	34%	36%	30%
Realistic	35%	34%	31%
Decisive	34%	48%	18%

44. Would you say Barack Obama is ...

Very liberal	33%
Somewhat liberal	22%
Moderate	21%
Somewhat conservative	4%
Very conservative	4%
Not sure	16%

45. Do you think Barack Obama ...

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

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

Like a lot	38%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	21%
Not sure	12%