

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted June 1-3, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.5\%$

1. Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs...?

Most of the time	40%
Some of the time	38%
Only now and then	15%
Hardly at all	7%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	31%
Off on the wrong track	58%
Not sure	11%

3. Who do you think should be the Republican nominee for President in 2016?

Rand Paul	8%
Chris Christie	13%
Marco Rubio	5%
Jeb Bush	4%
Condoleezza Rice	8%
Paul Ryan	7%
Bobby Jindal	2%
Rick Santorum	2%
Other	8%
Not sure	42%

4. Do you think the Republican Presidential nominee in 2016 should be more conservative or less conservative than Mitt Romney?

More conservative	21%
About the same	29%
Less conservative	33%
Not sure	18%

5. The U.S. Senate’s filibuster rule lets a minority of Senators prevent voting on a bill unless 60 out of 100 Senators vote to end the filibuster. Is this a good or bad rule?

A good rule	28%
A bad rule	34%
Not sure	38%

6. Should Senators who filibuster a bill need to participate in debate for the entire filibuster, or should they be able to filibuster a bill without being physically present?

They should participate in debate for the entire filibuster	72%
They should be able to filibuster without being physically present	9%
Not sure	19%

7. Should the number of votes needed to end a filibuster be reduced to 51, so that bills could pass in the U.S. Senate with a simple majority of votes, or not?

Should be reduced to 51	38%
Should not be reduced	33%
Not sure	30%

8. Do you favor or oppose providing a way for illegal immigrants currently in the country to gain legal citizenship if they pass background checks, pay fines, and have jobs?

Favor	53%
Oppose	35%
Not sure	12%

9. What about legal status? Do you favor or oppose providing a way for illegal immigrants already in the United States to become legal U.S. residents?

Favor	50%
Oppose	36%
Not sure	14%

10. Should LEGAL immigration be increased, decreased, or kept at the current level?

Increased	22%
Decreased	31%
Kept at the current level	47%

11. Do you support building more border fences?

Favor	55%
Oppose	25%
Not sure	20%

12. Would you favor a program allowing people from other countries to be guest workers in the U.S. for a temporary period of time, and then be required to return to their home country?

Favor	51%
Oppose	29%
Not sure	20%

13. Do you personally know anyone who is an illegal immigrant?

Yes	20%
No	66%
Not sure	14%

14. How serious a problem is immigration in your LOCAL community?

Very serious	13%
Somewhat serious	20%
A minor problem	24%
Not a problem	27%
Not sure	16%

15. How serious a threat do you think Al Qaeda poses to the United States?

An immediate and serious threat to the U.S.	35%
A somewhat serious threat to the U.S.	37%
A minor threat to the U.S.	18%
Not a threat to the U.S.	5%
Not sure	6%

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

Much more safe	10%
Somewhat more safe	25%
About the same	31%
Somewhat less safe	13%
Much less safe	12%
Not sure	8%

17. Which do you think poses the most serious threat to the United States?

The Al Qaeda organization that attacked the United States on September 11, 2001	13%
Small independent groups scattered throughout the world that accept Al Qaeda's ideology	39%
American residents who follow Al Qaeda's ideology	34%
Not sure	15%

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

More safe	35%
No effect	34%
Less safe	31%

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

More safe	32%
No effect	33%
Less safe	35%

20. Do you think that most people accused of terrorism in the United States should be tried in a criminal court or a military court?

Criminal court	54%
Military court	46%

21. The U.S. has been holding suspected terrorists at a military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Do you think the U.S. should continue to operate the prison or close it down?

Continue to operate	53%
Close down	30%
Not sure	17%

22. What if the detainees at Guantanamo were transferred to super maximum security prisons in the United States? Do you think the U.S. should continue to operate the prison or close it down?

Asked only if respondent did NOT answer 'Close down' to previous question

Continue to operate	55%
Close down	23%
Not sure	23%

23. Do you favor or oppose holding trials for the terrorist suspects being held at Guantanamo?

Favor strongly	40%
Favor somewhat	27%
Oppose somewhat	7%
Oppose strongly	9%
Not sure	17%

24. If trials are held for terrorist suspects, should they be held in U.S. courts or military tribunals?

U.S. courts	38%
Military tribunals	46%
Not sure	15%

25. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama has handled the prison at Guantanamo?

Approve strongly	8%
Approve somewhat	23%
Disapprove somewhat	21%
Disapprove strongly	22%
Not sure	26%

26. Do you approve or disapprove of the Obama Administration using drones to kill high-level terrorism suspects overseas?

Approve	52%
Disapprove	20%
Not sure	27%

27. Do you approve or disapprove of the Obama Administration using drones to kill high-level terrorism suspects overseas, even if those suspects are American citizens?

Asked of respondents who indicated they approved usage of drone strikes

Approve	75%
Disapprove	11%
Not sure	14%

28. Do you approve or disapprove of the Obama administration using drones to kill high-level terrorism suspects overseas, even if innocent civilians may also be killed?

Asked of respondents who indicated they approved usage of drone strikes

Approve	50%
Disapprove	32%
Not sure	18%

29. How much do you trust the Obama Administration’s judgment in making the right decisions about when to order drone strikes and whom to target?

A great deal	16%
Some	31%
Not much	18%
Not at all	23%
Not sure	13%

30. In general, do you think the Obama Administration has ordered too many drone strikes on terrorism suspects overseas, about the right amount of drone strikes, or too few drone strikes?

Too many	16%
About the right amount	32%
Too few	13%
Not sure	39%

31. Which comes closest to your opinion about who should be permitted to order drone strikes against suspected terrorists who are U.S. citizens?

Only the president	23%
The president OR top military and CIA officials	46%
Nobody	13%
Not sure	17%

32. Do you approve or disapprove of allowing gay boys to join the Boy Scouts?

Approve strongly	35%
Approve somewhat	19%
Disapprove somewhat	11%
Disapprove strongly	26%
Not sure	9%

33. Do you approve or disapprove of allowing gay men to be Boy Scout leaders?

Approve strongly	25%
Approve somewhat	16%
Disapprove somewhat	11%
Disapprove strongly	40%
Not sure	9%

34. Were you a Boy Scout?

Asked of male respondents only

Yes	40%
No	60%

35. The Boy Scout organization just voted to allow openly gay youths to join the Boy Scouts. If you had a son of Boy Scout age, would you let him join the Scouts?

Yes	52%
No	34%
Not sure	14%

36. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	74%	22%	2%	3%
Immigration	35%	40%	19%	6%
The environment	40%	35%	16%	9%
Terrorism	50%	31%	12%	7%
Gay rights	23%	22%	24%	31%
Education	55%	30%	10%	5%
Health care	63%	28%	5%	5%
Social security	58%	29%	9%	4%
The budget deficit	55%	29%	10%	6%
The war in Afghanistan	32%	38%	19%	11%
Taxes	58%	28%	9%	4%
Medicare	52%	32%	11%	5%
Abortion	35%	24%	24%	16%

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

The economy	32%
Immigration	6%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	3%
Education	6%
Health care	13%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	6%
Medicare	4%
Abortion	5%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Barack Obama	30%	17%	12%	36%	5%
John Boehner	5%	19%	16%	32%	27%
Mitch McConnell	4%	14%	15%	26%	41%
Harry Reid	5%	17%	14%	32%	33%
Nancy Pelosi	10%	19%	12%	39%	19%
Joe Biden	21%	22%	16%	31%	11%
Hillary Clinton	29%	23%	13%	30%	5%
John Kerry	13%	25%	18%	27%	17%

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

Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	26%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	5%

40. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling these specific issues?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The economy	17%	24%	12%	38%	9%
Immigration	13%	27%	16%	33%	11%
The environment	13%	28%	19%	24%	15%
Terrorism	19%	28%	16%	26%	11%
Gay rights	19%	25%	11%	29%	16%
Education	19%	28%	15%	24%	14%
Health care	21%	20%	10%	40%	9%
Social security	13%	23%	21%	30%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	19%	26%	19%	25%	11%
The budget deficit	15%	23%	14%	38%	10%
Taxes	15%	25%	17%	34%	10%
Medicare	15%	22%	19%	31%	13%
Abortion	16%	21%	11%	31%	21%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	6%

42. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Very liberal	8%
Liberal	14%
Moderate	33%
Conservative	30%
Very conservative	10%
Not sure	5%

43. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	34%
Liberal	24%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	10%

44. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	41%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	49%
Not sure	9%

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

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	30%
Not sure	9%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	36%	28%
Bold	27%	57%	16%
Effective	25%	45%	30%
Exciting	17%	61%	22%
Experienced	23%	47%	30%
Honest	29%	36%	35%
Hypocritical	34%	41%	26%
Inspiring	34%	41%	24%
Intelligent	54%	33%	14%
Partisan	25%	59%	16%
Patriotic	27%	45%	28%
Religious	16%	56%	28%
Sincere	32%	38%	30%
Steady	30%	54%	16%
Strong	32%	49%	19%

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

Getting better	29%
About the same	39%
Getting worse	27%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	23%
About the same	36%
Lower	17%
Not sure	24%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	15%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	47%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	35%
Not sure	3%

50. Do you think home prices in your area have increased or decreased in the last year?

Increased	33%
Stayed about the same	38%
Decreased	7%
Not sure	22%

51. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?

Yes	27%
No	73%

52. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

53. Education

No high school	9%
High school graduate	34%
Some college	22%
2-year college	11%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	8%

54. Age

18-29	24%
30-44	31%
45-64	32%
65+	14%

55. Race

White	66%
Black	14%
Hispanic	12%
Other	8%

56. Region

Northeast	16%
Midwest	24%
South	36%
West	23%

57. Party Identification

Democrat	37%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	21%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	22%

58. Six months from now, do you think there will be...

More jobs	19%
The same amount of jobs	46%
Fewer jobs	23%
Not sure	11%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	June 1-3, 2013
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2010 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2010 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement. Religion, political interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Pew Religion in American Life Survey.
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 0.2 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.06.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.5% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.