

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted June 8-10, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.4\%$

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	45%
Some of the time	31%
Only now and then	17%
Hardly at all	8%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	27%
Off on the wrong track	62%
Not sure	12%

3. How much have you heard or read about the National Security Agency collecting information about telephone records including the length of phone calls and the numbers called?

A great deal	28%
A fair amount	39%
Not much	23%
Nothing at all	10%

4. The National Security Agency has been collecting information about telephone records – length of calls and the numbers called – in order to reduce the threat of terrorism. Do you approve or disapprove of their doing this?

Asked if respondent is aware of collection program

Approve strongly	9%
Approve somewhat	26%
Disapprove somewhat	26%
Disapprove strongly	33%
Not sure	5%

5. The phone records information has been collected since 2007. How likely do you think it is that this information has prevented a terrorist attack?

Very likely	9%
Somewhat likely	26%
Somewhat unlikely	30%
Very unlikely	24%
Not sure	11%

6. The NSA says that it is not listening in to phone conversations, just looking at the "metadata" of call duration, etc. Do you think the NSA is telling the truth about this, or do you think it is listening in to phone conversations on a regular basis?

Telling the truth	17%
Is listening in on phone conversations on a regular basis	56%
Not sure	28%

7. Do you subscribe to Verizon or to some other telephone service?

Verizon	30%
Some other telephone service	64%
None	6%

8. Based on *your* understanding of the Constitution, what do you believe the police, FBI, IRS, US Customs, or other authority needs in order to...

	A warrant issued by a judge	A subpoena	A national security letter (NSL)	Permission of a supervisor	No special permission
Listen in on your phone conversations	65%	10%	13%	2%	10%
Read your emails	60%	16%	9%	3%	12%
Examine the contents of your laptop, phone, or computer	70%	15%	5%	3%	7%
Enter your home (without your permission or probable cause)	80%	8%	5%	1%	6%
Track <i>who</i> you communicate with (not <i>what</i> is said)	47%	12%	17%	6%	18%
Access your private social network data	53%	18%	10%	3%	16%
Access your public social network data	40%	16%	7%	4%	33%
See what books you've checked out of a library or what movies you've rented	41%	17%	9%	8%	24%
Track your movements (ex: by attaching a GPS tracker to your car)	67%	9%	11%	4%	9%
Search you on the street (aka <i>stop & frisk</i> without probable cause)	51%	12%	7%	7%	23%
Compelling you to identify yourself	21%	9%	4%	6%	59%
Ask you to provide identification (not at a border or during a traffic stop)	24%	7%	7%	6%	56%
Look inside your car or home through a window	40%	9%	7%	7%	37%

9. Which statement comes closer to your view?

It should be harder for the government to access my private information and communications.	61%
The government needs easier access to everyone's information and communications in order to make us more safe.	8%
The current level of government access to information and communications fairly balances people's 4th Amendment rights with the government's security requirements.	28%
Other	3%

10. Which comes closer to your view of the Patriot Act?

It is a necessary tool that helps the government find terrorists	38%
It goes too far and poses a threat to civil liberties	44%
I don't know	18%

11. Do you think the next generation of Americans will have a higher or lower standard of living than people today?

Higher	22%
Lower	56%
Not sure	22%

12. Do you think the foreign policy of the Obama Administration has made the United States more or less safe?

More safe	28%
Less safe	40%
Not sure	32%

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

Approve	32%
Disapprove	45%
Not sure	24%

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

Strongly favor	32%
Somewhat favor	14%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	30%
Not sure	11%

15. Should states be permitted to set their own policies when it comes to same-sex marriage, or is this something that should only be handled by the federal government?

States should be permitted	49%
Should only be handled by federal government	33%
Not sure	18%

16. In 1996, the federal government passed a law that says the government will only recognize marriages between a man and a woman. It was called the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA. This law means that married same-sex couples could not receive federal benefits when it comes to taxes or entitlements like Social Security and Medicare. The Supreme Court is now hearing arguments on whether this law is constitutional. Several lower courts have said it is not. Do you think the Supreme Court should uphold DOMA and only recognize heterosexual marriages, or should it overturn the law and let the federal government recognize same-sex marriages, too?

This law should be upheld.	39%
This law should be overturned.	44%
Not sure	17%

17. What would be the impact of legalizing same sex marriages on the institution of traditional male-female marriages?

Benefit	10%
Have no impact	54%
Threaten	35%

18. Do you think gay marriage will be legal in the entire country thirty years from now?

Yes	72%
No	28%

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

Rand Paul	9%
Chris Christie	15%
Marco Rubio	6%
Jeb Bush	3%
Condoleezza Rice	8%
Paul Ryan	5%
Bobby Jindal	1%
Rick Santorum	3%
Other	9%
Not sure	42%

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

More conservative	27%
About the same	23%
Less conservative	32%
Not sure	18%

21. 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	35%
A bad rule	29%
Not sure	36%

22. 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 70%
- They should be able to filibuster without being physically present 8%
- Not sure 22%

23. 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 34%
- Should not be reduced 37%
- Not sure 29%

24. 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 56%
- Oppose 33%
- Not sure 11%

25. 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 51%
- Oppose 32%
- Not sure 17%

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

- Increased 22%
- Decreased 32%
- Kept at the current level 46%

27. Do you support building more border fences?

Favor	56%
Oppose	24%
Not sure	20%

28. 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	52%
Oppose	28%
Not sure	20%

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

Yes	24%
No	61%
Not sure	15%

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

Very serious	15%
Somewhat serious	19%
A minor problem	25%
Not a problem	25%
Not sure	16%

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

An immediate and serious threat to the U.S.	31%
A somewhat serious threat to the U.S.	44%
A minor threat to the U.S.	14%
Not a threat to the U.S.	3%
Not sure	8%

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

Much more safe	9%
Somewhat more safe	34%
About the same	31%
Somewhat less safe	9%
Much less safe	10%
Not sure	7%

33. 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	9%
Small independent groups scattered throughout the world that accept Al Qaeda's ideology	40%
American residents who follow Al Qaeda's ideology	33%
Not sure	18%

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

More safe	43%
No effect	33%
Less safe	24%

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

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

36. 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	50%
Military court	50%

37. 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	29%
Not sure	19%

38. 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	19%
Not sure	26%

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

Favor strongly	37%
Favor somewhat	28%
Oppose somewhat	7%
Oppose strongly	9%
Not sure	18%

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

U.S. courts	37%
Military tribunals	48%
Not sure	15%

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

Approve strongly	8%
Approve somewhat	19%
Disapprove somewhat	27%
Disapprove strongly	19%
Not sure	28%

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

Approve	51%
Disapprove	21%
Not sure	28%

43. 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	16%
Not sure	10%

44. 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	47%
Disapprove	34%
Not sure	18%

45. 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	15%
Some	29%
Not much	25%
Not at all	18%
Not sure	13%

46. 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	20%
About the right amount	32%
Too few	9%
Not sure	40%

47. 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	22%
The president OR top military and CIA officials	44%
Nobody	16%
Not sure	18%

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

Approve strongly	38%
Approve somewhat	17%
Disapprove somewhat	10%
Disapprove strongly	23%
Not sure	13%

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

Approve strongly	28%
Approve somewhat	14%
Disapprove somewhat	14%
Disapprove strongly	34%
Not sure	11%

50. Were you a Boy Scout?

Asked of male respondents only

Yes	37%
No	63%

51. 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	58%
No	27%
Not sure	15%

52. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	77%	20%	2%	1%
Immigration	43%	37%	15%	4%
The environment	41%	36%	15%	8%
Terrorism	50%	32%	13%	5%
Gay rights	23%	26%	22%	29%
Education	61%	26%	9%	4%
Health care	71%	24%	4%	2%
Social security	60%	28%	9%	2%
The budget deficit	55%	30%	10%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	31%	42%	19%	8%
Taxes	59%	33%	6%	2%
Medicare	55%	29%	12%	4%
Abortion	37%	28%	21%	15%

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

The economy	32%
Immigration	5%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	4%
Gay rights	3%
Education	9%
Health care	13%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	6%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	3%

54. 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	26%	21%	12%	33%	8%
John Boehner	6%	18%	18%	27%	32%
Mitch McConnell	4%	17%	15%	22%	41%
Harry Reid	6%	16%	15%	29%	35%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	16%	14%	35%	24%
Joe Biden	20%	21%	14%	30%	15%
Hillary Clinton	27%	23%	12%	29%	9%
John Kerry	13%	22%	17%	26%	23%
Eric Holder	4%	13%	12%	31%	41%
John Roberts	4%	19%	21%	12%	44%
Susan Rice	8%	15%	13%	24%	40%

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

Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	27%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	33%
Not sure	7%

56. 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	15%	23%	16%	35%	10%
Immigration	14%	27%	16%	31%	13%
The environment	12%	24%	20%	24%	20%
Terrorism	15%	30%	21%	20%	13%
Gay rights	19%	21%	14%	28%	18%
Education	14%	27%	18%	23%	18%
Health care	20%	21%	11%	39%	9%
Social security	13%	20%	22%	29%	17%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	26%	22%	22%	15%
The budget deficit	14%	20%	18%	35%	12%
Taxes	14%	23%	16%	35%	12%
Medicare	13%	21%	19%	30%	16%
Abortion	15%	19%	13%	27%	26%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	42%
Not sure	8%

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

Very liberal	5%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	31%
Very conservative	10%
Not sure	3%

59. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	34%
Liberal	25%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	11%

60. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	36%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	53%
Not sure	11%

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	29%
Not sure	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	38%	26%
Bold	26%	59%	15%
Effective	22%	50%	28%
Exciting	11%	67%	22%
Experienced	21%	48%	32%
Honest	25%	39%	36%
Hypocritical	34%	43%	23%
Inspiring	31%	44%	25%
Intelligent	55%	33%	12%
Partisan	26%	62%	12%
Patriotic	27%	43%	30%
Religious	10%	57%	32%
Sincere	28%	41%	31%
Steady	25%	57%	18%
Strong	29%	51%	20%

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

Getting better	27%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	30%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	25%
About the same	33%
Lower	17%
Not sure	25%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	18%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	32%
Not sure	4%

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

Increased	33%
Stayed about the same	36%
Decreased	16%
Not sure	15%

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

Yes	26%
No	74%

68. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

69. Education

No high school	9%
High school graduate	32%
Some college	26%
2-year college	10%
4-year college	15%
Post-graduate	8%

70. Age

18-29	26%
30-44	32%
45-64	28%
65+	13%

71. Race

White	69%
Black	11%
Hispanic	14%
Other	6%

72. Region

Northeast	18%
Midwest	23%
South	36%
West	23%

73. Party Identification

Democrat	35%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	22%
Lean Republican	8%
Republican	25%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	June 8-10, 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 0.4 to 6.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.