

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted May 25-27, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.7\%$

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	41%
Some of the time	38%
Only now and then	13%
Hardly at all	8%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	30%
Off on the wrong track	55%
Not sure	15%

3. How much have you read or heard about the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya last September that killed the U.S. ambassador to Libya?

Heard a lot	46%
Heard a little	38%
Heard nothing at all	9%
Not sure	7%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of President Obama's handling of the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya?

Asked of respondents who had heard at least a little about the Benghazi attack

Approve	27%
Disapprove	45%
Not sure	27%

5. Based on what you know, which of the following is closer to your opinion on information released to the public about the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Libya?

Asked of respondents who had heard at least a little about the Benghazi attack

The Obama Administration deliberately misled the American people	45%
The Obama Administration shared facts as they became available	38%
Not sure	17%

6. Do you think the Congressional investigations into the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya...?

Asked of respondents who had heard at least a little about the Benghazi attack

Are mostly a serious attempt to find out what really happened	29%
Are mostly a politically-motivated attempt to embarrass the Administration	34%
Are about equally-motivated by both of these	27%
Not sure	10%

7. How confident are you that the Obama Administration and the U.S. Department of State are taking the right steps to prevent future attacks like the one on the U.S. Consulate in Libya?

Asked of respondents who had heard at least a little about the Benghazi attack

Very confident	15%
Somewhat confident	28%
Not very confident	19%
Not at all confident	29%
Not sure	9%

8. Who do you think should be the Democratic nominee for President in 2016?

Hillary Clinton	36%
Andrew Cuomo	3%
Rahm Emanuel	1%
Joe Biden	10%
Martin O'Malley	1%
Mark Warner	2%
Other	8%
Not sure	39%

9. 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	30%
A bad rule	31%
Not sure	39%

10. 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	7%
Not sure	22%

11. 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	34%
Not sure	31%

12. 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	46%
Oppose	37%
Not sure	18%

13. Should LEGAL immigration be \$id1, \$id2, or kept at the current level?

Increased	18%
Decreased	37%
Kept at the current level	45%

14. Do you support building more border fences?

Favor	58%
Oppose	20%
Not sure	22%

15. 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	49%
Oppose	26%
Not sure	25%

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

Yes	21%
No	62%
Not sure	18%

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

Very serious	15%
Somewhat serious	22%
A minor problem	23%
Not a problem	24%
Not sure	16%

18. Would you say Barack Obama is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	14%
Somewhat strong	32%
Somewhat weak	23%
Very weak	31%

19. As a President, how do you think Barack Obama will go down in history?

Outstanding	8%
Above Average	21%
Average	24%
Below Average	13%
Poor	26%
Not Sure	7%

20. Since taking office, do you think Barack Obama has accomplished...

More than I expected	15%
About what I expected	36%
Less than I expected	40%
Not sure	10%

21. 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.	37%
A minor threat to the U.S.	17%
Not a threat to the U.S.	5%
Not sure	9%

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

Much more safe	7%
Somewhat more safe	30%
About the same	33%
Somewhat less safe	8%
Much less safe	12%
Not sure	9%

23. 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	39%
American residents who follow Al Qaeda's ideology	35%
Not sure	17%

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

More safe	35%
No effect	36%
Less safe	29%

25. 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	36%
Less safe	32%

26. 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	51%
Military court	49%

27. 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	28%
Not sure	19%

28. 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 of all respondents except those who replied 'Close down' to previous question

Continue to operate	53%
Close down	20%
Not sure	27%

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

Favor strongly	37%
Favor somewhat	26%
Oppose somewhat	9%
Oppose strongly	9%
Not sure	19%

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

U.S. courts	34%
Military tribunals	48%
Not sure	17%

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

Approve strongly	6%
Approve somewhat	21%
Disapprove somewhat	24%
Disapprove strongly	21%
Not sure	28%

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

Approve	55%
Disapprove	16%
Not sure	29%

33. 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	76%
Disapprove	14%
Not sure	10%

34. 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	49%
Disapprove	34%
Not sure	17%

35. 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	15%
About the right amount	29%
Too few	13%
Not sure	42%

36. 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	14%
Not sure	20%

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

Approve strongly	33%
Approve somewhat	19%
Disapprove somewhat	10%
Disapprove strongly	24%
Not sure	13%

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

Approve strongly	23%
Approve somewhat	14%
Disapprove somewhat	12%
Disapprove strongly	40%
Not sure	11%

39. Were you a Boy Scout?

Asked of male respondents only

Yes	43%
No	57%

40. 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	53%
No	32%
Not sure	16%

41. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	76%	20%	2%	2%
Immigration	41%	33%	19%	7%
The environment	42%	34%	14%	9%
Terrorism	50%	31%	13%	6%
Gay rights	23%	21%	24%	32%
Education	59%	26%	9%	6%
Health care	68%	22%	7%	3%
Social security	58%	27%	11%	3%
The budget deficit	54%	31%	11%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	26%	42%	23%	9%
Taxes	59%	33%	6%	2%
Medicare	53%	31%	12%	4%
Abortion	36%	27%	21%	17%

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

The economy	30%
Immigration	6%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	3%
Education	8%
Health care	11%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	5%
Abortion	5%

43. 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	24%	21%	11%	38%	5%
John Boehner	7%	18%	18%	31%	25%
Mitch McConnell	4%	19%	13%	24%	39%
Harry Reid	3%	18%	15%	31%	33%
Nancy Pelosi	8%	19%	14%	41%	18%
Joe Biden	18%	27%	12%	32%	11%
Hillary Clinton	28%	22%	14%	30%	6%
John Kerry	12%	27%	17%	27%	17%
Wayne LaPierre	8%	11%	9%	20%	52%

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

Strongly approve	19%
Somewhat approve	26%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	5%

45. 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	14%	26%	12%	38%	10%
Immigration	14%	24%	14%	34%	13%
The environment	13%	26%	17%	24%	20%
Terrorism	18%	27%	15%	27%	14%
Gay rights	19%	22%	11%	32%	16%
Education	13%	30%	15%	24%	17%
Health care	20%	18%	12%	38%	12%
Social security	11%	21%	19%	32%	17%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	26%	20%	24%	15%
The budget deficit	12%	22%	15%	38%	13%
Taxes	14%	23%	17%	34%	12%
Medicare	14%	24%	16%	31%	16%
Abortion	14%	21%	10%	33%	23%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	19%
Somewhat disapprove	25%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	8%

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

Very liberal	6%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	24%
Very conservative	12%
Not sure	6%

48. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	37%
Liberal	24%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	9%

49. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	38%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	49%
Not sure	13%

50. 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%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	39%	36%	25%
Bold	27%	56%	17%
Effective	20%	48%	32%
Exciting	14%	60%	26%
Experienced	20%	48%	32%
Honest	27%	37%	36%
Hypocritical	34%	42%	24%
Inspiring	30%	42%	28%
Intelligent	53%	34%	13%
Partisan	23%	63%	14%
Patriotic	27%	43%	30%
Religious	15%	56%	29%
Sincere	31%	37%	32%
Steady	27%	55%	18%
Strong	27%	49%	24%

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

Getting better	29%
About the same	40%
Getting worse	27%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	23%
About the same	39%
Lower	14%
Not sure	24%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	16%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	50%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	29%
Not sure	5%

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

Yes	27%
No	73%

56. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

57. Education

No high school	10%
High school graduate	32%
Some college	24%
2-year college	10%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	8%

58. Age

18-29	25%
30-44	31%
45-64	30%
65+	14%

59. Race

White	68%
Black	15%
Hispanic	11%
Other	7%

60. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	26%
South	38%
West	20%

61. Party Identification

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

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	May 25-27, 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 0.1 to 7.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.13.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.7% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.