

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted February 1-3, 2014  
Margin of Error  $\pm 4\%$

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	33%
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	27%
Off on the wrong track	61%
Not sure	12%

3. Do you approve or disapprove Presidents using executive orders?

Approve strongly	13%
Approve somewhat	30%
Disapprove somewhat	16%
Disapprove strongly	24%
Not sure	17%

4. From what you know now, do you think executive orders are constitutional or unconstitutional?

Constitutional	28%
Unconstitutional	18%
It depends	41%
Not sure	13%

5. From what you know, do modern Presidents cite the Constitution or laws previously enacted by Congress as the basis for their executive orders?

Yes .....	31%
No .....	27%
Don't know .....	42%

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the executive order which...

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Not sure
Freed all slaves in the states that were in rebellion against the federal government	56%	21%	7%	5%	12%
Established the Works Progress Administration (WPA)	26%	25%	9%	9%	30%
Created military exclusion zones during World War II and allowed for the forcible relocation of Americans of Japanese descent to internment camps	6%	13%	20%	46%	15%
Desegregated the U.S. military	47%	22%	7%	11%	12%
Placed U.S. steel mills facing a strike by union workers under federal control	9%	18%	27%	27%	19%

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the executive order which...

	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Not sure
Restricted all non-governmental organizations that receive federal funding from performing or promoting abortion services as a method of family planning in foreign countries	19%	18%	17%	27%	19%
Authorized enhanced interrogation techniques and established military tribunals to try foreign enemy combatants	21%	29%	16%	17%	17%
Directed the Centers for Disease Control to research the causes and prevention of gun violence	23%	27%	18%	22%	9%
Deferred deportation hearings for illegal immigrants who were brought into this country before they were 16 years old, have lived in the U.S. for at least 5 years, must be younger than 30, and have graduated from high school in the U.S. or served in the U.S. military	22%	30%	15%	18%	15%

7. Do you favor or oppose providing a legal way for illegal immigrants already in the United States to become U.S. citizens?

Favor strongly	23%
Favor somewhat	32%
Oppose somewhat	17%
Oppose strongly	23%
Not sure	5%

8. What do you think should happen to the illegal immigrants already living and working in the country who do not have any criminal history?

Create a path to legal citizenship	41%
Grant permanent residency but not citizenship	14%
Grant only temporary residency	13%
Do not grant any legal status	24%
Not sure	7%

9. Do you support or oppose creating a path to US citizenship for illegal immigrant children who are brought into the country through no fault of their own?

Support strongly	36%
Support somewhat	28%
Oppose somewhat	13%
Oppose strongly	15%
Not sure	9%

10. How likely is it that Congress will pass immigration reform this year?

Very likely	6%
Somewhat likely	21%
Somewhat unlikely	27%
Very unlikely	24%
Not sure	22%

11. When it comes to immigration reform, which party do you trust most?

Republican party .....	16%
Democratic party .....	30%
Both equally .....	5%
Neither .....	39%
Not sure .....	10%

12. Do you think most Republicans want an immigration reform law to pass this year or not?

Yes .....	18%
No .....	50%
Not sure .....	31%

13. Do you think most Democrats want an immigration reform law to pass this year or not?

Yes .....	55%
No .....	17%
Not sure .....	28%

14. Do you think most of the Republicans who want immigration reform to pass this year are motivated by politics or because they think it is the best policy?

Motivated by politics .....	54%
Think it is the best policy .....	12%
Both equally .....	19%
Not sure .....	16%

15. Do you think most of the Democrats who want immigration reform to pass this year are motivated by politics or because they think it is the best policy?

Motivated by politics .....	48%
Think it is the best policy .....	16%
Both equally .....	23%
Not sure .....	14%

16. From all that you know now, has the health care reform law been a complete success, a complete failure, or something in between?

A complete failure	29%
More of a failure than a success	21%
Equal amount of both failure and success	15%
More of a success than a failure	16%
A complete success	2%
Too early to tell	12%
Not sure	5%

17. Have you tried to visit the federal health insurance exchange website, healthcare.gov?

Yes	30%
No	69%
Not sure	2%

18. Thinking about your most recent attempt, why did you visit healthcare.gov?

*Asked of those who have tried to visit healthcare.gov*

To buy health insurance	20%
To get information about health insurance	44%
Just curious	32%
Other	4%
Not sure	0%

19. Was your most recent experience at healthcare.gov positive or negative?

*Asked of those who have tried to visit healthcare.gov*

Very positive	13%
Somewhat positive	13%
Neither positive nor negative	21%
Somewhat negative	22%
Very negative	30%
Not sure	0%

**20. Which month was your most recent visit to healthcare.gov?**

October .....	16%
November .....	14%
December .....	37%
January .....	27%
Don't remember .....	6%

**21. Do you think the health care reform law should be expanded, kept the same, or repealed?**

Expanded .....	27%
Kept the same .....	12%
Repealed .....	44%
Not sure .....	18%

**22. Do you have health insurance?**

Yes .....	79%
No .....	21%

**23. Will you buy a health insurance plan before the deadline or will you pay the fine instead?**

*Asked of those who do not have health insurance*

Buy health insurance .....	18%
Pay the fine .....	41%
Already signed up .....	4%
Not sure .....	37%

**24. Did you have health insurance before January 1, 2014?**

Yes .....	77%
No .....	23%

**25. Have you heard much about the drought emergency in California?**

Heard a lot .....	18%
Heard a little .....	51%
Heard nothing at all .....	32%

**26. Which of the following water conservation measures would you adopt?**

Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth .....	70%
Turn off the faucet while doing the dishes .....	63%
Take shorter showers .....	56%
Install a high-efficiency showerhead .....	50%
Operate your washing machine with full loads only .....	64%
Operate your dishwasher with full loads only .....	59%
Use a broom to clean sidewalks, driveways and pavement .....	60%
Reduce outdoor watering needs by planting species appropriate for the climate .....	51%
Water during the coolest part of the day .....	44%
Detect leaks in plumbing .....	61%
Install aerators on bathroom faucets .....	28%
Install aerators on kitchen faucets .....	30%
Replace your old toilet .....	30%
Replace your washing machine .....	15%
Limit the number of times you flush the toilet .....	33%
None of these .....	8%

**27. Have you heard much about the snow storm that hit Atlanta last week?**

Heard a lot .....	42%
Heard a little .....	45%
Heard nothing at all .....	13%

**28. How many inches of snow should it take to close schools in your community?**

Mean .....	6
Median .....	5



29. How confident are you in the federal government's ability to respond effectively to a major natural disaster in the United States?

Very confident	12%
Somewhat confident	37%
Not so confident	32%
Not confident at all	18%

30. How confident are you in your state government's ability to respond effectively to a major natural disaster in your state?

Very confident	14%
Somewhat confident	47%
Not so confident	27%
Not confident at all	12%

31. How confident are you in your local government's ability to respond effectively to a major natural disaster in your community?

Very confident	14%
Somewhat confident	46%
Not so confident	27%
Not confident at all	13%

32. Do you think the severity of recent weather events, like the California drought emergency or the Atlanta snow storm, are the result of climate change or do these kind of events just happen from time to time?

Result of climate change	40%
Just happen from time to time	50%
Not sure	11%

33. Policymakers in Washington have been debating whether to allow construction of a large oil pipeline, known as the Keystone Pipeline, across the central United States. What is your opinion on whether or not the Keystone pipeline should be constructed?

It should be constructed .....	36%
It should be constructed, but only after a careful government review of its environmental impacts .....	29%
It should not be constructed .....	19%
Don't know .....	16%

34. Do you approve or disapprove of the Justice Department seeking the death penalty against Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the man accused of bombing the Boston Marathon in 2013?

Approve strongly .....	48%
Approve somewhat .....	22%
Disapprove somewhat .....	11%
Disapprove strongly .....	9%
Not sure .....	11%

35. Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for serious crimes such as murder and rape?

Favor strongly .....	43%
Favor somewhat .....	28%
Oppose somewhat .....	12%
Oppose strongly .....	10%
Not sure .....	6%

36. Do you think that any innocent people have been executed in the U.S. during the last five years?

Yes .....	50%
No .....	21%
Not sure .....	29%

**37. Do you think that executing murderers deters others from committing murder?**

Yes .....	33%
No .....	51%
Not sure .....	16%

**38. How important are the following issues to you?**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	76%	19%	4%	2%
Immigration	35%	39%	16%	10%
The environment	47%	31%	14%	7%
Terrorism	52%	30%	13%	6%
Gay rights	20%	23%	25%	33%
Education	58%	29%	9%	4%
Health care	62%	27%	7%	4%
Social security	60%	26%	11%	4%
The budget deficit	53%	29%	12%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	31%	38%	20%	11%
Taxes	58%	30%	10%	3%
Medicare	52%	31%	12%	6%
Abortion	40%	26%	22%	12%

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

The economy .....	33%
Immigration .....	4%
The environment .....	8%
Terrorism .....	4%
Gay rights .....	2%
Education .....	9%
Health care .....	11%
Social security .....	10%
The budget deficit .....	5%
The war in Afghanistan .....	1%
Taxes .....	6%
Medicare .....	3%
Abortion .....	5%

40. 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	23%	21%	14%	37%	5%
Joe Biden	16%	26%	17%	31%	11%
John Boehner	4%	19%	23%	31%	23%
Mitch McConnell	3%	17%	19%	29%	33%
Harry Reid	6%	21%	12%	32%	28%
Nancy Pelosi	10%	22%	13%	38%	17%
Hillary Clinton	27%	22%	13%	32%	6%
Chris Christie	6%	22%	26%	27%	18%

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

Strongly approve .....	13%
Somewhat approve .....	29%
Somewhat disapprove .....	17%
Strongly disapprove .....	37%
Not sure .....	4%

42. 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	13%	26%	14%	39%	8%
Immigration	14%	25%	14%	33%	14%
The environment	12%	27%	16%	27%	18%
Terrorism	19%	26%	15%	27%	12%
Gay rights	17%	25%	12%	29%	18%
Education	15%	29%	16%	27%	14%
Health care	19%	22%	12%	42%	5%
Social security	14%	21%	19%	30%	17%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	24%	19%	30%	12%
The budget deficit	11%	23%	16%	40%	9%
Taxes	12%	25%	16%	35%	13%
Medicare	14%	23%	16%	31%	16%
Abortion	12%	22%	12%	33%	21%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	14%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Not sure	6%

**44. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following groups in Congress?**

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Democrats in Congress	13%	23%	20%	36%	8%
Republicans in Congress	7%	19%	23%	42%	9%

**45. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the political parties?**

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
The Democratic Party	14%	24%	17%	35%	9%
The Republican Party	7%	20%	21%	42%	9%

**46. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for...**

The Democratic Party candidate	33%
The Republican Party candidate	25%
Other	7%
Not sure	22%
I would not vote	12%

**47. If an election for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?**

The Democratic Party candidate	35%
The Republican Party candidate	29%
Other	3%
Not sure	22%
I would not vote	12%

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

Very liberal .....	6%
Liberal .....	18%
Moderate .....	35%
Conservative .....	30%
Very conservative .....	9%
Not sure .....	2%

49. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal .....	35%
Liberal .....	23%
Moderate .....	23%
Conservative .....	7%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	10%

50. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes .....	34%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	53%
Not sure .....	13%

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

Like a lot .....	30%
Like somewhat .....	29%
Dislike .....	33%
Not sure .....	9%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	40%	36%	24%
Bold	28%	57%	15%
Effective	17%	51%	32%
Exciting	13%	64%	23%
Experienced	18%	51%	31%
Honest	25%	41%	35%
Hypocritical	36%	43%	21%
Inspiring	27%	47%	26%
Intelligent	53%	34%	13%
Partisan	23%	62%	15%
Patriotic	26%	47%	27%
Religious	15%	60%	25%
Sincere	28%	42%	31%
Steady	23%	61%	17%
Strong	26%	55%	19%

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

Getting better	21%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	37%
Not sure	4%

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

Higher	23%
About the same	36%
Lower	22%
Not sure	19%



**55. 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 .....	49%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	33%
Not sure .....	2%

**56. Is the place where you live owned or rented?**

Owned by you or your family .....	62%
Rented from someone else .....	36%
Other .....	2%

**57. Do you think the value of your home has increased or decreased in the last year?**

Increased .....	21%
Stayed about the same .....	44%
Decreased .....	28%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Increased .....	37%
Stayed about the same .....	37%
Decreased .....	8%
Not sure .....	18%

**59. Thinking ahead, do you think home prices in your area will increase or decrease in the next year?**

Will increase a lot .....	6%
Will increase a little .....	30%
Will stay about the same .....	34%
Will decrease a little .....	12%
Will decrease a lot .....	5%
Not sure .....	14%

**60. How worried are you about making your mortgage payments?**

Very worried .....	9%
Somewhat worried .....	21%
Not worried .....	34%
Don't have mortgage payments .....	36%

**61. Do you plan to buy a home in the next 12 months?**

Will definitely buy a home .....	2%
Am considering buying a home .....	14%
Not looking for a home now .....	84%

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

Yes .....	27%
No .....	73%

**63. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?**

Full-time employed .....	35%
Part-time employed .....	15%
Self-employed .....	0%
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff .....	13%
Retired .....	18%
Permanently disabled .....	7%
Homemaker .....	10%
Other .....	2%

**64. Do you currently have more than one job?**

Yes .....	18%
No .....	82%

**65. How worried are you about losing your job?**

Very worried .....	12%
Somewhat worried .....	28%
Not very worried .....	60%

**66. If you lost your job, how hard would it be for you to find a new job that paid as much as you are making now?**

Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut. ....	38%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much. .....	36%
Not very hard .....	15%
Not sure .....	11%

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

More jobs .....	18%
The same amount of jobs .....	44%
Fewer jobs .....	27%
Not sure .....	11%

**68. How happy would you say you are with your current job?**

Very happy .....	22%
Happy .....	34%
Neither happy nor unhappy .....	31%
Unhappy .....	9%
Very unhappy .....	4%

**69. How would you guess your total family income to be six months from now?**

Higher .....	19%
Same .....	63%
Lower .....	18%

**70. If you lost your job, how long would it be before you exhausted your savings?**

I don't have any savings .....	31%
I could last a few weeks on my savings .....	21%
I could last a few months on my savings .....	26%
I could last a year on my savings .....	12%
I could last more than a year on my savings .....	10%

**71. Gender**

Male .....	49%
Female .....	51%

**72. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?**  
*Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement*

Strongly support .....	11%
Somewhat support .....	19%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	18%
Somewhat oppose .....	10%
Strongly oppose .....	24%
Not sure .....	18%

**73. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement?**

Yes .....	13%
No .....	70%
Not Sure .....	17%

**74. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?**

White .....	67%
Black .....	15%
Hispanic .....	11%
Asian .....	3%
Native American .....	1%
Middle Eastern .....	0%
Mixed .....	2%
Other .....	1%

**75. Education**

No high school .....	11%
High school graduate .....	31%
Some college .....	25%
2-year college .....	9%
4-year college .....	16%
Post-graduate .....	8%

**76. What is your marital status?**

Married .....	45%
Separated .....	1%
Divorced .....	10%
Widowed .....	3%
Single .....	38%
Domestic partnership .....	3%

**77. Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?**

Yes .....	32%
No .....	68%

**78. How important is religion in your life?**

Very important .....	42%
Somewhat important .....	28%
Not too important .....	12%
Not at all important .....	18%

**79. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?**

More than once a week .....	10%
Once a week .....	15%
Once or twice a month .....	10%
A few times a year .....	16%
Seldom .....	22%
Never .....	25%
Don't know .....	2%

**80. People practice their religion in different ways. Outside of attending religious services, how often do you pray?**

Several times a day .....	30%
Once a day .....	14%
A few times a week .....	12%
Once a week .....	3%
A few times a month .....	6%
Seldom .....	14%
Never .....	17%
Don't know .....	3%

**81. What is your present religion, if any?**

Protestant .....	38%
Roman Catholic .....	20%
Mormon .....	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox .....	1%
Jewish .....	3%
Muslim .....	2%
Buddhist .....	1%
Hindu .....	0%
Atheist .....	4%
Agnostic .....	6%
Nothing in particular .....	19%
Something else .....	4%

**82. Age**

18-29 .....	26%
30-44 .....	27%
45-64 .....	33%
65+ .....	14%

**83. Race**

White .....	67%
Black .....	15%
Hispanic .....	11%
Other .....	7%

**84. Region**

Northeast .....	18%
Midwest .....	24%
South .....	38%
West .....	21%

**85. Party Identification**

Democrat .....	34%
Lean Democrat .....	8%
Independent .....	24%
Lean Republican .....	12%
Republican .....	22%

<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	February 1-3, 2014
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	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.
<b>Weighting</b>	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 4.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.82.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	21 questions not reported.