

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted June 29-July 1, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.1\%$

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	43%
Some of the time	33%
Only now and then	15%
Hardly at all	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	30%
Off on the wrong track	58%
Not sure	12%

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

Favor	43%
Oppose	40%
Unsure	17%

4. Do you support building more border fences?

Favor	62%
Oppose	23%
Not sure	16%

5. Edward Snowden, a former CIA employee, made the news recently for leaking information of government surveillance on Americans, including monitoring internet usage and telephone records, to the press. What is your opinion on Snowden, if any?

Very favorable	13%
Somewhat favorable	23%
Somewhat unfavorable	18%
Very unfavorable	25%
Not sure	20%

6. Would you support or oppose the prosecution of Edward Snowden for leaking the information?

I would support prosecution	34%
I neither support nor oppose	25%
I would oppose his prosecution	25%
Not sure	16%

7. Do you think collecting and analyzing Americans' phone records is justified as a way to combat terrorism, or is it an unnecessary intrusion into Americans' lives?

Justified as a way to combat terrorism	28%
Unnecessary intrusion into Americans' lives	55%
Not sure	17%

8. 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	24%
A fair amount	44%
Not much	23%
Nothing at all	9%

9. 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?

Approve strongly	10%
Approve somewhat	24%
Disapprove somewhat	29%
Disapprove strongly	26%
Not sure	12%

10. 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	13%
Somewhat likely	27%
Somewhat unlikely	18%
Very unlikely	27%
Not sure	16%

11. 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	19%
Is listening in on phone conversations on a regular basis	53%
Not sure	27%

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

Congress	5%
The Supreme Court	23%
The President	18%
Political parties	2%
Not sure	51%

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

Congress	26%
The Supreme Court	4%
The President	30%
Political parties	21%
Not sure	19%

14. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the Supreme Court's recent decisions?

Approve	29%
Disapprove	38%
Not sure	33%

15. Thinking about the current Supreme Court, please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
The Supreme Court should be able to throw out any law it considered unconstitutional	23%	24%	21%	11%	12%	8%
The Supreme Court gets too mixed up in politics	30%	26%	22%	10%	4%	7%
The decisions of the Supreme Court favor some groups more than others	27%	26%	27%	8%	4%	8%
If the Supreme Court started making a lot of rulings that most Americans disagreed with, it might be better to do away with the Court altogether	12%	13%	22%	15%	28%	10%
The Supreme Court can usually be trusted to make decisions that are right for the country as a whole	9%	30%	24%	18%	11%	7%

16. How much do you know or have you heard about the Justices who are currently serving on the Supreme Court? For each justice below, would you say you know/have heard about this person...?

	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	Did not even know this person was on the Supreme Court
Chief Justice John Roberts	21%	25%	27%	27%
Antonin Scalia	21%	22%	23%	33%
Anthony Kennedy	11%	21%	30%	38%
Clarence Thomas	23%	26%	25%	26%
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	16%	25%	26%	33%
Stephen Breyer	6%	14%	33%	46%
Samuel Alito	13%	21%	28%	38%
Sonia Sotomayor	20%	28%	26%	26%
Elena Kagan	13%	20%	30%	36%

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

Asked of respondents who indicated they knew of each of the following justices

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Chief Justice John Roberts	12%	46%	28%	14%
Antonin Scalia	24%	30%	17%	29%
Anthony Kennedy	11%	54%	28%	7%
Clarence Thomas	24%	25%	20%	31%
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	24%	35%	17%	24%
Stephen Breyer	22%	37%	26%	15%
Samuel Alito	23%	35%	23%	20%
Sonia Sotomayor	28%	32%	17%	23%
Elena Kagan	24%	27%	15%	33%

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

Higher	19%
Lower	57%
Not sure	24%

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

More safe	28%
Less safe	42%
Not sure	30%

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

Approve	33%
Disapprove	45%
Not sure	22%

21. As you may know, the Voting Rights Act was passed in the 1960's to prevent state and local governments from using rules and procedures which prevented many blacks from voting. Do you think the Voting Rights Act is necessary today to make sure that blacks are allowed to vote, or do you think the Voting Rights Act is no longer necessary?

The Voting Rights Act is still necessary	43%
The Voting Rights Act is no longer necessary	40%
Not sure	18%

22. How would you describe yourself?

Very patriotic	45%
Somewhat patriotic	40%
Not very patriotic	9%
Not at all patriotic	7%

23. Do you think Americans are becoming more or less patriotic?

More patriotic	7%
About the same	47%
Less patriotic	46%

24. Is it possible for someone to do the following things and still be considered patriotic?

	Yes	No	Not sure
Refuse to serve in a war that they oppose	48%	35%	17%
Disobey a law they think is immoral	50%	29%	21%
Criticize our leaders to foreigners	53%	33%	14%
Refuse to pay taxes	29%	56%	15%
Burn an American flag in protest	18%	71%	11%

25. Which political party do you think is more patriotic?

Democratic party	19%
About the same	54%
Republican party	27%

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

Strongly favor	28%
Somewhat favor	15%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	37%
Not sure	9%

27. 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 permitted44%
 Should only be handled by federal government38%
 Not sure 18%

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

Benefit10%
 Have no impact53%
 Threaten 37%

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

Yes75%
 No25%

30. How much do you know about each of the following figures of the Republican Party?

	Know a lot	Know a little	Have not heard of this person
Chris Christie	38%	39%	23%
Rand Paul	33%	41%	26%
Marco Rubio	33%	41%	25%
Michael Steele	20%	33%	47%
Fred Thompson	25%	40%	36%
Rick Perry	35%	45%	20%
Herman Cain	28%	41%	31%
Michelle Bachmann	37%	44%	20%
Jeb Bush	32%	50%	18%

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

Asked of respondents who indicated they had heard of each of the following people

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Chris Christie	15%	46%	28%	12%
Rand Paul	23%	30%	23%	24%
Marco Rubio	12%	34%	31%	23%
Michael Steele	7%	40%	36%	17%
Fred Thompson	17%	40%	28%	14%
Rick Perry	16%	31%	22%	31%
Herman Cain	17%	30%	24%	29%
Michelle Bachmann	15%	26%	23%	36%
Jeb Bush	12%	34%	31%	23%

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

Rand Paul	7%
Chris Christie	15%
Marco Rubio	6%
Jeb Bush	5%
Condoleezza Rice	9%
Paul Ryan	4%
Bobby Jindal	2%
Rick Santorum	5%
Other	7%
Not sure	39%

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

More conservative	24%
About the same	27%
Less conservative	32%
Not sure	17%

34. Do you think abortion should be...

Legal in all cases	27%
Legal/Illegal in some cases	49%
Illegal in all cases	17%
Not sure	6%

35. When do you think abortion should be legal?

Abortion should always be legal. There should be no restrictions on abortion.	22%
Abortion should be legal, but with some restrictions (such as for minors or late-term abortions).	31%
Abortion should only be legal in special circumstances, such as when the life of the mother is in danger.	34%
Abortion should be illegal. It should never be allowed.	12%

36. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	76%	19%	3%	3%
Immigration	39%	37%	17%	6%
The environment	40%	34%	16%	10%
Terrorism	45%	35%	11%	8%
Gay rights	19%	20%	22%	38%
Education	54%	30%	10%	6%
Health care	66%	24%	6%	5%
Social security	56%	32%	9%	3%
The budget deficit	53%	32%	10%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	27%	39%	20%	14%
Taxes	55%	34%	8%	3%
Medicare	48%	35%	13%	4%
Abortion	32%	37%	18%	13%

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

The economy	38%
Immigration	4%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	5%
Health care	13%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	7%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	4%
Abortion	4%

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	25%	20%	14%	34%	7%
John Boehner	5%	19%	21%	27%	29%
Mitch McConnell	3%	20%	16%	21%	39%
Harry Reid	5%	17%	15%	30%	33%
Nancy Pelosi	11%	21%	13%	36%	20%
Joe Biden	21%	23%	12%	31%	13%
Hillary Clinton	30%	22%	11%	29%	9%
John Kerry	14%	27%	16%	24%	19%
Eric Holder	4%	16%	11%	29%	40%
John Roberts	5%	26%	19%	12%	38%
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	11%	22%	16%	14%	38%
Clarence Thomas	14%	19%	15%	21%	31%

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

Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	27%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	6%

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	15%	24%	14%	37%	11%
Immigration	14%	22%	14%	36%	15%
The environment	14%	26%	16%	27%	17%
Terrorism	18%	26%	14%	27%	14%
Gay rights	19%	19%	9%	36%	18%
Education	16%	27%	15%	28%	15%
Health care	20%	19%	10%	41%	10%
Social security	12%	21%	18%	32%	17%
The war in Afghanistan	16%	27%	19%	26%	13%
The budget deficit	13%	20%	14%	39%	13%
Taxes	14%	22%	16%	34%	15%
Medicare	14%	21%	17%	33%	16%
Abortion	14%	21%	11%	31%	23%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	12%
Somewhat disapprove	27%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	10%

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

Very liberal	7%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	31%
Conservative	29%
Very conservative	10%
Not sure	6%

43. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	35%
Liberal	23%
Moderate	21%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	13%

44. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	39%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	51%
Not sure	10%

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

Like a lot	31%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	32%
Not sure	8%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	36%	28%
Bold	29%	54%	17%
Effective	23%	47%	31%
Exciting	17%	60%	23%
Experienced	21%	51%	29%
Honest	27%	39%	34%
Hypocritical	35%	41%	24%
Inspiring	31%	44%	24%
Intelligent	52%	35%	13%
Partisan	25%	60%	15%
Patriotic	29%	44%	27%
Religious	14%	59%	27%
Sincere	30%	39%	31%
Steady	28%	53%	19%
Strong	28%	51%	21%

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

Getting better	24%
About the same	40%
Getting worse	32%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	23%
About the same	33%
Lower	21%
Not sure	23%

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	52%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	30%
Not sure	3%

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

Increased	37%
Stayed about the same	32%
Decreased	13%
Not sure	18%

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

Yes	24%
No	76%

52. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

53. Education

No high school	8%
High school graduate	34%
Some college	23%
2-year college	11%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	7%

54. Age

18-29	22%
30-44	27%
45-64	35%
65+	17%

55. Race

White	65%
Black	15%
Hispanic	12%
Other	9%

56. Region

Northeast	14%
Midwest	21%
South	40%
West	25%

57. Party Identification

Democrat	36%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	20%
Lean Republican	9%
Republican	26%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	June 29-July 1, 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 0.87.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.1% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.