

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 2000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted December 30, 2015 - January 6, 2016
 Margin of Error ±2.8%

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 47%
 Some of the time 30%
 Only now and then 13%
 Hardly at all 9%
 Don’t know 1%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 26%
 Off on the wrong track 63%
 Not sure 11%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don’t know
Hillary Clinton	21%	20%	12%	42%	5%
Martin O’Malley	4%	20%	19%	16%	41%
Bernie Sanders	18%	25%	16%	23%	18%

4. How would you feel if (your first choice) was the 2016 Democratic presidential election nominee?

Asked of registered voters

Enthusiastic	45%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	39%
Dissatisfied but not upset	9%
Upset	2%
Not sure	4%

5. How do you feel about the field of Democratic candidates running for president in 2016?

Asked of registered voters

Would like to see someone else run for the Democratic nomination	50%
Satisfied with the choices	36%
Don't know	14%

6. Who do you think is the most likely candidate to become the Democratic nominee for president in 2016?

Hillary Clinton	63%
Martin O'Malley	2%
Bernie Sanders	15%
Not sure	20%

7. Regardless of who the Republicans select as their nominee, do you think the Democratic presidential candidates listed below could possibly win or could never win the general election in November if he or she was to become the Democratic nominee?

	Could possibly win	Could never win	Not sure
Hillary Clinton	72%	15%	12%
Martin O'Malley	16%	49%	36%
Bernie Sanders	46%	30%	24%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Jeb Bush	7%	25%	25%	28%	16%
Ben Carson	11%	25%	17%	27%	19%
Chris Christie	8%	25%	21%	23%	22%
Ted Cruz	15%	23%	13%	26%	23%
Carly Fiorina	8%	23%	17%	24%	28%
Jim Gilmore	1%	11%	14%	15%	59%
Mike Huckabee	7%	23%	18%	26%	26%
John Kasich	4%	20%	21%	15%	40%
Rand Paul	6%	24%	20%	22%	28%
Marco Rubio	12%	26%	19%	20%	23%
Rick Santorum	4%	19%	20%	28%	30%
Donald Trump	23%	16%	10%	44%	7%

9. How would you feel if (your first choice) was the 2016 Republican presidential election nominee?

Asked of registered voters

Enthusiastic	49%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	38%
Dissatisfied but not upset	7%
Upset	2%
Not sure	4%

10. If an election for the Republican nomination for president was going to be held now and the only candidates were Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, would you vote for...

Asked of registered voters

Ted Cruz	48%
Marco Rubio	52%

11. If an election for the Republican nomination for president was going to be held now and the only candidates were Ted Cruz and Donald Trump, would you vote for...

Asked of registered voters

Ted Cruz	51%
Donald Trump	49%

12. If an election for the Republican nomination for president was going to be held now and the only candidates were Marco Rubio and Donald Trump, would you vote for...

Asked of registered voters

Marco Rubio	55%
Donald Trump	45%

13. How do you feel about the field of Republican candidates running for president in 2016?

Asked of registered voters

Would like to see someone else run for the Republican nomination	40%
Satisfied with the choices	46%
Don't know	14%

14. Who do you think is the most likely candidate to become the Republican nominee for president in 2016?

Jeb Bush	8%
Ben Carson	4%
Chris Christie	2%
Ted Cruz	11%
Carly Fiorina	1%
Jim Gilmore	1%
Mike Huckabee	1%
John Kasich	1%
Rand Paul	1%
Marco Rubio	8%
Rick Santorum	1%
Donald Trump	35%
Not sure	27%

15. Regardless of who the Democrats select as their nominee, do you think the Republican presidential candidates listed below could possibly win or could never win the general election in November if he or she was to become the Republican nominee?

	Could possibly win	Could never win	Not sure
Jeb Bush	40%	41%	19%
Ben Carson	30%	44%	26%
Chris Christie	29%	45%	26%
Ted Cruz	49%	26%	25%
Carly Fiorina	22%	48%	29%
Jim Gilmore	9%	53%	38%
Mike Huckabee	18%	55%	28%
John Kasich	20%	47%	33%
Rand Paul	23%	48%	29%
Marco Rubio	48%	25%	26%
Rick Santorum	16%	53%	31%
Donald Trump	55%	28%	16%

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

Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	40%
The Republican Party candidate	44%
Other	2%
Not sure	12%
I would not vote	2%

17. Do you think the following presidential candidates are honest and trustworthy, or not?

	Honest and trustworthy	Not honest and trustworthy	Not sure
Jeb Bush	32%	39%	29%
Ben Carson	35%	35%	30%
Hillary Clinton	30%	54%	17%
Ted Cruz	31%	33%	36%
Marco Rubio	30%	33%	37%
Bernie Sanders	43%	25%	32%
Donald Trump	32%	50%	18%

18. Do you think the following presidential candidates are ready to be Commander-in-Chief?

	Ready	Not ready	Not sure
Jeb Bush	34%	43%	23%
Ben Carson	17%	56%	27%
Hillary Clinton	47%	39%	14%
Ted Cruz	31%	40%	29%
Marco Rubio	29%	41%	30%
Bernie Sanders	31%	42%	27%
Donald Trump	33%	52%	15%

19. Are you confident or uneasy about the following presidential candidates' ability to deal wisely with terrorism?

	Confident	Uneasy	Not sure
Jeb Bush	30%	44%	27%
Ben Carson	17%	54%	29%
Hillary Clinton	38%	47%	15%
Ted Cruz	29%	41%	31%
Marco Rubio	27%	39%	33%
Bernie Sanders	26%	45%	29%
Donald Trump	36%	50%	14%

20. Are you confident or uneasy about the following presidential candidates' ability to deal wisely with immigration?

	Confident	Uneasy	Not sure
Jeb Bush	29%	43%	28%
Ben Carson	22%	46%	32%
Hillary Clinton	37%	45%	17%
Ted Cruz	29%	39%	31%
Marco Rubio	27%	40%	34%
Bernie Sanders	31%	39%	30%
Donald Trump	36%	51%	13%

21. Would you say you follow what's going on in the presidential election...

Most of the time	41%
Some of the time	28%
Only now and then	17%
Hardly at all	10%
Don't know	5%

22. Which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right? When someone gives 1 million dollars to a super PAC (political action committee)...

They want something big in return from the candidates they are trying to elect	76%
They are simply supporting candidates with whom they agree, which is their right	24%

23. Recent changes in campaign finance rules have allowed potential presidential candidates to raise more money today than they have in the past. How has this affected the process by which the parties nominate presidential candidates?

Made the process better	9%
Made the process worse	47%
Had no real impact	16%
Not sure	27%

24. Currently, groups not affiliated with a candidate are able to spend unlimited amounts of money on advertisements during a political campaign. Do you think this kind of spending should be limited by law, or should it remain unlimited?

Limited by law	57%
Remain unlimited	21%
Not sure	22%

25. In general, do you think there are too many political ads on television during presidential campaigns, too few political ads, or is the amount of political ads about right?

Too many	55%
Too few	6%
About right	21%
Not sure	18%

26. Do you think there should be a law to reduce the number of political ads on television during presidential campaigns or do you think candidates should just run fewer ads?

Asked of those who think there are too many political ads on television during presidential campaigns

There should be a law	34%
Candidates should run fewer ads	57%
Not sure	9%

27. What's your feeling about the year ahead? Generally speaking, are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2016 will be for the world?

Very optimistic	9%
Somewhat optimistic	26%
Neither optimistic, nor pessimistic	30%
Somewhat pessimistic	23%
Very pessimistic	12%

28. How do you feel about your family's future in the upcoming year?

Very optimistic	16%
Somewhat optimistic	32%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	28%
Somewhat pessimistic	16%
Very pessimistic	7%

29. In the year ahead, will the United States become more respected or less respected in the world?

More respected	15%
No change	46%
Less respected	39%

30. In 2016, do you think things will be better off or worse off than they were in 2015 when it comes to:

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	2%	8%	22%	28%	28%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	3%	11%	32%	26%	15%	13%
Energy issues	4%	21%	35%	18%	9%	12%
The environment	4%	16%	40%	18%	11%	11%
The economy in your area	5%	21%	34%	18%	11%	11%
Job security	4%	18%	32%	21%	13%	12%
Government spending	2%	9%	28%	24%	25%	11%
Health care coverage	5%	16%	25%	22%	19%	12%
Education	5%	16%	39%	20%	10%	11%
Social Security and Medicare	3%	10%	32%	27%	16%	12%
The U.S. financial system	3%	15%	29%	24%	17%	13%
Wall Street	4%	13%	36%	19%	11%	17%
The national economy	4%	21%	24%	24%	15%	12%

31. In the year ahead, do you think politics will be more or less interesting?

More interesting	38%
About the same	39%
Less interesting	13%
Not sure	10%

32. In the year ahead, do you think political discussion will become more negative or less negative?

More negative	54%
About the same	30%
Less negative	4%
Not sure	11%

33. Do you think the US will be more or less safe from terrorist attacks this time next year?

Much more safe next year	3%
Somewhat more safe next year	10%
About the same	36%
Somewhat less safe next year	21%
Much less safe next year	18%
Not sure	12%

34. In the year ahead, do you think your community will be more or less safe from terrorist attacks this time next year?

Much more safe next year	4%
Somewhat more safe next year	8%
About the same	57%
Somewhat less safe next year	12%
Much less safe next year	9%
Not sure	11%

35. What do you think are the chances of a terrorist attack against the United States in the next 12 months?

Very likely (more than 50%)	33%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%)	36%
Not very likely (1% to 10%)	13%
Very unlikely (less than 1%)	5%
Not sure	13%

36. In the next year, do you think Barack Obama will accomplish...

More than I expect	12%
About what I expect	40%
Less than I expect	33%
Not sure	16%

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

Outstanding	11%
Above Average	18%
Average	20%
Below Average	13%
Poor	30%
Not Sure	7%

38. Looking ahead to 2016, how much progress do you think Barack Obama will make in achieving these campaign promises?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
Changing the partisan tone in Washington	4%	12%	15%	55%	14%
Improving the U.S. image in the world	9%	19%	16%	45%	11%
Improving the economy	10%	23%	20%	38%	10%

39. In 2016, do you think the Congress will accomplish more or less than Congress usually does in a year?

More than usual	8%
About the same	45%
Less than usual	32%
Not sure	15%

40. In 2016, do you think the Congress will accomplish more or less than what they accomplished in 2015?

More than 2015	10%
About the same as 2015	48%
Less than 2015	27%
Not sure	15%

41. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	67%	28%	4%	1%
Immigration	49%	34%	13%	4%
The environment	44%	35%	13%	8%
Terrorism	67%	24%	6%	3%
Gay rights	20%	24%	24%	32%
Education	54%	33%	10%	4%
Health care	65%	26%	6%	2%
Social security	63%	27%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	47%	37%	11%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	35%	43%	16%	6%
Taxes	51%	38%	8%	3%
Medicare	58%	29%	10%	3%
Abortion	34%	29%	22%	15%
Foreign policy	46%	38%	12%	4%
Gun control	48%	25%	16%	11%

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

The economy	16%
Immigration	8%
The environment	6%
Terrorism	16%
Gay rights	1%
Education	8%
Health care	9%
Social security	15%
The budget deficit	4%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	3%
Foreign policy	1%
Gun control	6%

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%	19%	14%	37%	5%
Joe Biden	19%	27%	15%	21%	17%
Paul Ryan	7%	24%	19%	20%	30%
Mitch McConnell	2%	14%	20%	27%	38%
Nancy Pelosi	8%	17%	14%	35%	26%
Harry Reid	4%	17%	14%	29%	36%

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

Strongly Approve	16%
Somewhat Approve	26%
Somewhat Disapprove	15%
Strongly Disapprove	37%
Not Sure	6%

45. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	21%
Conservative	7%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	19%

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

Very strong	14%
Somewhat strong	29%
Somewhat weak	22%
Very weak	35%

47. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	39%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	47%
Not sure	13%

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

Like a lot	28%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	32%
Not sure	12%

49. 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
Abortion	12%	21%	12%	25%	30%
The war in Afghanistan	9%	22%	22%	32%	15%
The budget deficit	10%	22%	16%	35%	17%
The economy	15%	25%	17%	31%	12%
Education	13%	27%	16%	23%	21%
The environment	15%	26%	15%	24%	19%
Foreign policy	12%	22%	17%	33%	16%
Gay rights	20%	20%	11%	23%	25%
Gun control	12%	20%	17%	38%	13%
Health care	18%	20%	14%	37%	11%
Immigration	12%	22%	14%	40%	12%
Medicare	13%	22%	17%	29%	19%
Social security	11%	23%	17%	30%	19%
Taxes	11%	23%	19%	29%	19%
Terrorism	13%	22%	15%	38%	13%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	10%
Neither approve nor disapprove	21%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	34%
Not sure	12%

51. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the member of the US House of Representatives that represents your Congressional district is handling his or her job?

Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	16%
Neither approve nor disapprove	25%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	22%
Not sure	17%

52. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Paul Ryan is handling his job as Speaker of the US House of Representatives?

Strongly approve	5%
Somewhat approve	28%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	14%
Not sure	36%

53. Do you think Paul Ryan is someone who...

Compromises to get things done	67%
Sticks to his principles, no matter what	33%

54. Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does at this point in its two-year term?

More than usual	6%
About the same	38%
Less than usual	36%
Not sure	20%

55. Who is more to blame for Congress achieving less than usual?

Asked if respondent says Congress accomplished less than usual

Republicans in Congress	44%
Democrats in Congress	11%
Both equally	42%
Neither	2%
Not sure	2%

56. 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%	25%	18%	30%	12%
The Republican Party	8%	23%	23%	33%	13%

57. 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	9%	27%	19%	29%	17%
Republicans in Congress	4%	23%	22%	33%	17%

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

Getting better	21%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	35%
Not sure	8%

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

Higher	22%
About the same	34%
Lower	21%
Not sure	24%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	19%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	30%
Not sure	7%

61. Six months from now do you think there will be...

More jobs	23%
The same amount of jobs	41%
Fewer jobs	22%
Not sure	14%

62. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	9%
Somewhat worried	34%
Not very worried	57%

63. 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.	31%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	41%
Not very hard	20%
Not sure	8%

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

Very happy	24%
Happy	36%
Neither happy nor unhappy	28%
Unhappy	7%
Very unhappy	5%

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

Liberal	21%
Moderate	36%
Conservative	35%
Not sure	9%

66. Thinking about politics these days, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Very liberal	5%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	36%
Conservative	29%
Very Conservative	6%
Not sure	9%

67. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

Democrat	31%
Republican	24%
Independent	31%
Other	3%
Not sure	10%

68. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

Democrat	31%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	27%
Lean Republican	8%
Republican	24%

69. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

Strong Democrat	19%
Not very strong Democrat	12%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	20%
Lean Republican	8%
Not very strong Republican	10%
Strong Republican	14%
Not sure	7%

70. Would you describe yourself as a libertarian?

Yes	16%
No	54%
Not sure	30%

71. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?

Strongly support	7%
Somewhat support	19%
Neither support, nor oppose	24%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	22%
Not sure	19%

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

Yes	8%
No	70%
Not Sure	22%

73. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	60%
Not registered	40%

74. How often would you say you vote in primary or caucus elections—that is, the elections in which a party selects their nominee to run in a general election. Would you say you vote in primary or caucus elections...?

Always	29%
Nearly always	17%
Part of the time	13%
Seldom	11%
Never	25%
Unsure	4%

75. In the 2016 primary election or caucus in your state, are you likely to vote?

Likely to vote in Democratic primary or attend Democratic caucus	31%
Likely to vote in Republican primary or attend Republican caucus	33%
Not likely to vote in a primary election or attend a caucus	36%

76. Do you have a good idea of which candidate you'll vote for in your party's presidential primary next year, or are you still making up your mind?

Asked of those who said they are likely to vote in their party's presidential primary or caucus next year

I have a good idea of who I'll vote for	61%
I'm still making up my mind	35%
I don't plan to vote in the primary election or caucus	1%
Not sure	2%

77. Are you male or female?

Male	48%
Female	52%

78. Respondent age by category

Under 30	22%
30-44	26%
45-64	35%
65+	17%

79. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	68%
Black	11%
Hispanic	14%
Other	7%

80. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

HS or less	43%
Some college	31%
College grad	17%
Postgrad	9%

81. What is your marital status?

Married	48%
Separated	3%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	5%
Single	28%
Domestic partnership	5%

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

Yes	31%
No	69%

83. Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	19%
Midwest	22%
South	37%
West	22%

84. How would you describe the place where you live?

City	32%
Suburb	32%
Town	16%
Rural area	19%
Other	1%

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

Full-time employed	33%
Part-time employed	12%
Self-employed	-
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff	13%
Retired	21%
Permanently disabled	9%
Homemaker	11%
Other	2%

86. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?

Under \$50K	54%
\$50-100K	24%
\$100K or more	11%
Prefer not to say	10%

87. We'd like to know whether you or someone in your immediate family is currently serving or has ever served in the U.S. military. Immediate family is defined as your parents, siblings, spouse, and children. Please check all boxes that apply.

I am	2%
Family member	8%
I served previously	13%
Family served previously	34%
None	51%

88. Are you or is someone in your household a member of a labor union?

Yes, I am	7%
Yes, household member is	7%
No	86%

89. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	37%
Somewhat important	29%
Not too important	15%
Not at all important	18%

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

More than once a week	7%
Once a week	16%
Once or twice a month	9%
A few times a year	16%
Seldom	25%
Never	26%
Don't know	2%

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

Yes	31%
No	69%

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

Several times a day	27%
Once a day	16%
A few times a week	13%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	8%
Seldom	16%
Never	15%
Don't know	3%

93. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	38%
Roman Catholic	21%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	1%
Atheist	5%
Agnostic	4%
Nothing in particular	19%
Something else	5%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 30, 2015 - January 6, 2016
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 4.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.82.
Number of respondents	2000
Margin of error	± 2.8% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.