

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 2000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted July 31 - August 4, 2015
 Margin of Error ±2.9%

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 32%
 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 30%
 Off on the wrong track 56%
 Not sure 14%

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
Joe Biden	14%	27%	15%	26%	17%
Lincoln Chafee	2%	10%	12%	14%	62%
Hillary Clinton	21%	23%	10%	39%	7%
Martin O’Malley	3%	13%	14%	14%	56%
Bernie Sanders	15%	15%	14%	21%	36%
Jim Webb	3%	13%	14%	11%	58%

4. 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	9%	25%	21%	28%	17%
Ben Carson	14%	18%	12%	16%	40%
Chris Christie	6%	22%	24%	27%	22%
Ted Cruz	11%	20%	14%	26%	29%
Carly Fiorina	9%	16%	12%	17%	45%
Jim Gilmore	3%	8%	11%	12%	66%
Lindsey Graham	4%	16%	19%	22%	39%
Mike Huckabee	9%	22%	18%	25%	26%
Bobby Jindal	7%	18%	14%	21%	40%
John Kasich	6%	14%	13%	13%	53%
George Pataki	2%	14%	17%	15%	52%
Rand Paul	8%	26%	20%	19%	28%
Rick Perry	7%	23%	15%	25%	30%
Marco Rubio	11%	23%	15%	21%	30%
Rick Santorum	6%	20%	16%	25%	33%
Donald Trump	20%	16%	11%	44%	8%
Scott Walker	14%	16%	10%	22%	37%

5. On Thursday, August 6, the 2016 Republican presidential candidates will participate in the first nationally televised debate of the campaign. How interested are you in watching the debate?

Very interested	32%
Somewhat interested	34%
Not very interested	18%
Not at all interested	16%

6. Do you plan to watch the debate?

Yes	47%
No	29%
Not sure	24%

7. How important is a candidate’s debate performance in deciding your vote for the (2016) Republican nominee for president?

Very important	19%
Somewhat important	42%
Not very important	21%
Not at all important	18%

8. Which candidate did you vote for in the 2012 presidential election?

I did not vote	27%
Barack Obama	35%
Mitt Romney	29%
Other candidate	3%
Not old enough to vote in 2012	6%

9. Which candidate did you vote for in the 2012 Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state?

I did not vote in a 2012 Republican primary or caucus	54%
Michele Bachmann	1%
Herman Cain	1%
Newt Gingrich	1%
Jon Huntsman, Jr.	1%
Gary Johnson	0%
Fred Karger	0%
Ron Paul	3%
Rick Perry	1%
Buddy Roemer	0%
Mitt Romney	15%
Rick Santorum	2%
Other	1%
Don’t remember	14%
Not old enough to vote in 2012	6%

10. Which candidate did you vote for in the 2008 Democratic presidential primary or caucus in your state?

I did not vote in a 2008 Democratic primary or caucus	46%
Hillary Clinton	6%
Barack Obama	21%
John Edwards	2%
Bill Richardson	0%
Joe Biden	1%
Dennis Kucinich	1%
Chris Dodd	0%
Mike Gravel	0%
Other	1%
Don't remember	10%
Not old enough to vote in 2008	13%

11. 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	31%
Nearly always	16%
Part of the time	12%
Seldom	11%
Never	23%
Unsure	7%

12. 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	35%
Likely to vote in Republican primary or attend Republican caucus	32%
Not likely to vote in a primary election or attend a caucus	34%

13. If you had to choose one, which one of these individuals would you want to be the Democratic nominee for president in 2016?

Asked of registered voters who identify as Democrats

Joe Biden	13%
Lincoln Chafee	1%
Hillary Clinton	51%
Martin O'Malley	1%
Bernie Sanders	21%
Jim Webb	2%
Other	2%
No preference	10%

14. If you had to choose one, which one of these individuals would be your SECOND choice for the Democratic nominee for president in 2016?

Asked of registered voters who identify as Democrats

Joe Biden	27%
Lincoln Chafee	1%
Hillary Clinton	24%
Martin O'Malley	4%
Bernie Sanders	16%
Jim Webb	3%
Other	2%
No preference	23%

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

Asked of registered voters who identify as Democrats

Enthusiastic	71%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	24%
Dissatisfied but not upset	2%
Upset	1%
Not sure	2%

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

Asked of registered voters who identify as Democrats

Enthusiastic	35%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	51%
Dissatisfied but not upset	9%
Upset	1%
Not sure	4%

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

Asked of registered voters who identify as Democrats

Would like to see someone else run for the Democratic nomination	25%
Satisfied with the choices	60%
Don't know	16%

18. If you had to choose one, which one of these individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president in 2016?

Asked of registered voters who identify as Republicans

Jeb Bush	12%
Ben Carson	6%
Chris Christie	4%
Ted Cruz	6%
Carly Fiorina	2%
Jim Gilmore	0%
Lindsey Graham	1%
Mike Huckabee	3%
Bobby Jindal	3%
John Kasich	1%
George Pataki	-
Rand Paul	6%
Rick Perry	2%
Marco Rubio	8%
Rick Santorum	0%
Donald Trump	26%
Scott Walker	14%
Other	0%
No preference	4%

19. If you had to choose one, which one of these individuals would be your SECOND choice for the Republican nominee for president in 2016?

Asked of registered voters who identify as Republicans

Jeb Bush	11%
Ben Carson	7%
Chris Christie	4%
Ted Cruz	5%
Carly Fiorina	4%
Jim Gilmore	-
Lindsey Graham	3%
Mike Huckabee	7%
Bobby Jindal	2%
John Kasich	4%
George Pataki	0%
Rand Paul	6%
Rick Perry	3%
Marco Rubio	9%
Rick Santorum	2%
Donald Trump	10%
Scott Walker	12%
Other	1%
No preference	10%

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

Asked of registered voters who identify as Republicans

Enthusiastic	78%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	20%
Dissatisfied but not upset	1%
Upset	-
Not sure	1%

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

Asked of registered voters who identify as Republicans

Enthusiastic	63%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	32%
Dissatisfied but not upset	3%
Upset	1%
Not sure	1%

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

Asked of registered voters who identify as Republicans

Would like to see someone else run for the Republican nomination	14%
Satisfied with the choices	69%
Don't know	17%

23. Who do you think is the most likely candidate to become the DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE for president in 2016?

Joe Biden	8%
Lincoln Chafee	1%
Hillary Clinton	52%
Martin O'Malley	1%
Bernie Sanders	10%
Jim Webb	2%
Not sure	26%

24. Which of the DEMOCRATIC presidential candidates listed below do you think could WIN the GENERAL ELECTION in November if they were to become the Democratic nominee? (Select all that apply.)

Joe Biden	21%
Lincoln Chafee	2%
Hillary Clinton	52%
Martin O'Malley	4%
Bernie Sanders	16%
Jim Webb	5%
None of them	26%

25. Who do you think is most likely to win the general election if he or she wins the Democratic nomination?

Joe Biden	11%
Lincoln Chafee	1%
Hillary Clinton	47%
Martin O'Malley	2%
Bernie Sanders	10%
Jim Webb	3%
None of them	27%

26. Who do you think is the most likely candidate to become the REPUBLICAN NOMINEE for president in 2016?

Jeb Bush	26%
Ben Carson	1%
Chris Christie	2%
Ted Cruz	3%
Carly Fiorina	0%
Jim Gilmore	0%
Lindsey Graham	1%
Mike Huckabee	2%
Bobby Jindal	1%
John Kasich	1%
George Pataki	1%
Rand Paul	2%
Rick Perry	1%
Marco Rubio	2%
Rick Santorum	0%
Donald Trump	16%
Scott Walker	6%
Not sure	34%

27. Which of the REPUBLICAN presidential candidates listed below do you think could WIN the GENERAL ELECTION in November if they were to become the Republican nominee? (Select all that apply.)

Jeb Bush	26%
Ben Carson	7%
Chris Christie	7%
Ted Cruz	8%
Carly Fiorina	4%
Jim Gilmore	1%
Lindsey Graham	2%
Mike Huckabee	5%
Bobby Jindal	3%
John Kasich	4%
George Pataki	1%
Rand Paul	8%
Rick Perry	5%
Marco Rubio	12%
Rick Santorum	4%
Donald Trump	22%
Scott Walker	14%
None of them	30%

28. Who do you think is most likely to win the general election if he or she wins the Republican nomination?

Jeb Bush	20%
Ben Carson	3%
Chris Christie	3%
Ted Cruz	3%
Carly Fiorina	1%
Jim Gilmore	0%
Lindsey Graham	1%
Mike Huckabee	2%
Bobby Jindal	1%
John Kasich	2%
George Pataki	1%
Rand Paul	3%
Rick Perry	1%
Marco Rubio	4%
Rick Santorum	0%
Donald Trump	17%
Scott Walker	8%
None of them	31%

29. Which party is closer to you on the issue of gun control?

The Democratic Party	29%
The Republican Party	32%
Both are the same	14%
Don't know	25%

30. What's more important?

The right of people to own guns	20%
Protecting people from gun violence	28%
Both are equally important	48%
Not sure	4%

31. In general, do you feel the laws covering the sale of handguns should be made more strict than they are now?

Make gun laws more strict	52%
No change	27%
Make gun laws less strict	11%
Not sure	10%

32. Do you think the second amendment of the U.S. Constitution does or does not allow states to regulate guns?

Does allow	33%
Does not allow	30%
Not sure	37%

33. Do you favor or oppose the following gun control measures?

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Preventing persons with a history of mental illness from owning guns	81%	8%	11%
Banning semi-automatic weapons	51%	31%	18%
Banning the sale of all handguns, except those that are issued to law enforcement officers	20%	66%	14%
Banning the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons that hold more than 10 rounds	54%	30%	16%
Requiring people who purchase handguns to wait five days before they receive that gun	69%	19%	13%
Requiring gun owners to register their guns with a national gun registry	64%	26%	10%
Limiting the number of handguns a person can own	44%	44%	12%
Preventing people from carrying a concealed gun in public	39%	45%	16%
Requiring people to obtain a police permit before buying a handgun	51%	33%	15%

34. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the National Rifle Association?

Very favorable	17%
Somewhat favorable	24%
Somewhat unfavorable	15%
Very unfavorable	22%
Don't know	22%

35. After the mass shooting in an elementary school in Newtown, CT, the NRA proposed having an armed guard in every school. Do you approve or disapprove of this idea?

Strongly approve	25%
Somewhat approve	27%
Somewhat disapprove	18%
Strongly disapprove	17%
Not sure	13%

36. In 1994, the federal government enacted the Federal Assault Weapons Ban. The ban defined an assault weapon as a semi-automatic rifle or shotgun with features common in military firearms (e.g. collapsible stock, flash suppressor, pistol grip, large capacity magazines). In 2004, Congress did not renew the legislation and the ban is no longer law. Some members of Congress have recently begun an effort to renew the federal assault weapons ban. Do you support or oppose legislation that would ban "assault weapons"?

Support	50%
Oppose	28%
Not sure	22%

37. Do you or does anyone in your household own a gun?

Personally own a gun	21%
Don't personally own a gun, but someone in the household owns a gun ..	14%
No one in the household owns a gun	57%
Not sure	8%

38. Do you or does anyone in your household own the following types of weapons?

Asked of those who personally own a gun or someone in the household owns a gun

	Personally own	Someone in the household owns	No one in the household owns	Not sure	Prefer not to say
Rifle	30%	23%	29%	3%	14%
Shotgun	31%	21%	30%	5%	14%
Handgun (pistol or revolver)	44%	25%	15%	3%	14%

39. There are many reasons why some people choose to own guns and others do not. What are some of the reasons why you own a gun? Select all that apply.

Asked of those who personally own a gun

Personal safety/Protection	77%
Hunting	39%
Recreation/Sport (non-specific)	42%
Target shooting	58%
Second Amendment right	51%
Like guns/Wanted one/Enjoy using	38%
Antique/Family heirloom/Passed down	34%
Have always owned/Raised with guns/Family tradition	39%
Related to line of work—police, military	9%
Animal/Pet control/Euthanize sick animals, pets	11%
Collect guns/Hobby	22%
Other	6%
No reason in particular	2%

40. How worried are you that the government will pass laws that might take away your guns?

Asked of those who personally own a gun or someone in the household owns a gun

Very worried	21%
Somewhat worried	28%
Not very worried	25%
Not worried at all	25%

41. Do you think you would feel safer with a gun in your home?

Asked of people who live in households in which no one owns a gun

Yes35%
 No65%

42. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	75%	21%	3%	1%
Immigration	51%	32%	12%	4%
The environment	48%	34%	13%	5%
Terrorism	61%	26%	10%	3%
Gay rights	21%	24%	25%	30%
Education	62%	28%	7%	3%
Health care	67%	25%	6%	2%
Social security	64%	27%	6%	2%
The budget deficit	51%	34%	11%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	32%	42%	18%	8%
Taxes	56%	36%	6%	2%
Medicare	60%	29%	9%	3%
Abortion	38%	32%	18%	12%
Foreign policy	45%	39%	12%	4%
Gun control	47%	32%	14%	7%

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

The economy	20%
Immigration	7%
The environment	6%
Terrorism	10%
Gay rights	2%
Education	10%
Health care	9%
Social security	15%
The budget deficit	4%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	5%
Foreign policy	2%
Gun control	3%

44. 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	27%	21%	10%	37%	4%
John Boehner	5%	16%	18%	33%	28%
Mitch McConnell	3%	18%	18%	28%	33%
Nancy Pelosi	7%	19%	12%	36%	25%
Harry Reid	4%	17%	13%	31%	35%

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

Strongly Approve	19%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	35%
Not Sure	5%

46. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	32%
Liberal	22%
Moderate	21%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	17%

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

Very strong	17%
Somewhat strong	32%
Somewhat weak	19%
Very weak	32%

48. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	39%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	48%
Not sure	12%

49. 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%

50. 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	14%	21%	11%	29%	25%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	24%	20%	29%	15%
The budget deficit	14%	22%	15%	34%	15%
The economy	19%	24%	13%	32%	11%
Education	17%	26%	15%	25%	17%
The environment	15%	29%	15%	23%	18%
Foreign policy	14%	23%	14%	33%	15%
Gay rights	26%	19%	10%	29%	16%
Gun control	12%	21%	17%	32%	18%
Health care	24%	20%	11%	36%	9%
Immigration	15%	21%	13%	39%	12%
Medicare	17%	23%	15%	27%	19%
Social security	14%	23%	16%	26%	21%
Taxes	12%	24%	17%	31%	17%
Terrorism	17%	24%	12%	34%	14%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	25%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	11%

52. 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	5%
Somewhat approve	14%
Neither approve nor disapprove	21%
Somewhat disapprove	18%
Strongly disapprove	24%
Not sure	18%

53. 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	5%
About the same	34%
Less than usual	42%
Not sure	20%

54. 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	17%	23%	17%	30%	12%
The Republican Party	9%	22%	24%	31%	13%

55. 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	11%	22%	22%	31%	14%
Republicans in Congress	6%	18%	24%	37%	15%

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

Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	37%
The Republican Party candidate	40%
Other	3%
Not sure	16%
I would not vote	4%

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

Getting better	24%
About the same	37%
Getting worse	33%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	18%
About the same	34%
Lower	23%
Not sure	24%

59. 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	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	31%
Not sure	5%

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

More jobs	20%
The same amount of jobs	40%
Fewer jobs	26%
Not sure	14%

61. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	13%
Somewhat worried	31%
Not very worried	56%

62. 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.	32%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	38%
Not very hard	22%
Not sure	8%

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

Very happy	22%
Happy	37%
Neither happy nor unhappy	27%
Unhappy	8%
Very unhappy	5%

64. Are you male or female?

Male	48%
Female	52%

65. Age

18-29	22%
30-44	26%
45-64	35%
65+	17%

66. Race

White	74%
Black	12%
Hispanic	14%

67. Education

HS	43%
SC	31%
CG	17%
PG	9%

68. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	21%
South	39%
West	24%

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

Full-time employed	34%
Part-time employed	12%
Self-employed	-
Unemployed or temporarily on layoff	12%
Retired	21%
Permanently disabled	10%
Homemaker	10%
Other	2%

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

Less than \$10,000	8%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	11%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	13%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	12%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	8%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	8%
\$60,000 - \$69,999	4%
\$70,000 - \$79,999	5%
\$80,000 - \$99,999	6%
\$100,000 - \$119,999	5%
\$120,000 - \$149,999	3%
\$150,000 or more	0%
Prefer not to say	14%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	2%
\$200,000 - \$249,999	0%
\$250,000 - \$349,999	1%
\$350,000 - \$499,999	0%
\$500,000 or more	0%

71. What is your marital status?

Married	46%
Separated	3%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	4%
Single	30%
Domestic partnership	5%

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

Yes	28%
No	72%

73. 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.

Military Household - I am	1%
Military Household - Family	6%
Military Household - I served previously	12%
Military Household - Family served previously	34%
Military Household - None	50%

74. Ideology

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

75. Ideology

Very liberal	5%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	35%
Conservative	29%
Very conservative	6%
Not sure	9%

76. 3 Point Party ID

Democrat	32%
Independent	41%
Republican	27%

77. 5 Point Party ID

Democrat	32%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	25%
Lean Republican	7%
Republican	27%

78. 7 Point Party ID

Strong Democrat	17%
Not very strong Democrat	15%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	22%
Lean Republican	7%
Not very strong Republican	12%
Strong Republican	15%
Not sure	3%

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

Strongly support	9%
Somewhat support	15%
Neither support, nor oppose	24%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	23%
Not sure	21%

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

Yes	9%
No	69%
Not Sure	22%

81. Voter Registration

Yes	64%
No	30%
Not sure	6%

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

Yes	29%
No	71%

83. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	39%
Somewhat important	28%
Not too important	14%
Not at all important	19%

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

More than once a week	7%
Once a week	18%
Once or twice a month	8%
A few times a year	14%
Seldom	24%
Never	27%
Don't know	1%

85. 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	6%
Seldom	13%
Never	18%
Don't know	3%

86. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	35%
Roman Catholic	21%
Mormon	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	1%
Atheist	5%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	20%
Something else	5%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 31 - August 4, 2015
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 6, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.86.
Number of respondents	2000
Margin of error	± 2.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.