

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample                    2000 General Population Respondents  
 Conducted                December 18 - 21, 2015  
 Margin of Error        ±3.1%

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 ..... 48%  
 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 ..... 24%  
 Off on the wrong track ..... 64%  
 Not sure ..... 12%

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	23%	21%	10%	41%	5%
Martin O’Malley	3%	19%	18%	18%	41%
Bernie Sanders	20%	24%	14%	27%	16%

4. 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%

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

Hillary Clinton .....	62%
Martin O'Malley .....	2%
Bernie Sanders .....	16%
Not sure .....	20%

6. 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	74%	13%	13%
Martin O'Malley	15%	49%	36%
Bernie Sanders	44%	34%	22%

7. 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	6%	26%	25%	29%	14%
Ben Carson	13%	26%	15%	29%	17%
Chris Christie	8%	25%	21%	27%	19%
Ted Cruz	15%	20%	15%	29%	20%
Carly Fiorina	8%	22%	19%	24%	26%
Jim Gilmore	1%	10%	13%	18%	57%
Lindsey Graham	2%	15%	23%	26%	34%
Mike Huckabee	8%	22%	17%	29%	24%
John Kasich	5%	19%	21%	18%	38%
George Pataki	2%	14%	22%	19%	44%
Rand Paul	6%	21%	22%	25%	26%
Marco Rubio	13%	23%	17%	25%	22%
Rick Santorum	4%	18%	19%	32%	28%
Donald Trump	22%	16%	9%	47%	7%

**8. 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	36%
Satisfied with the choices	48%
Don't know	16%

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

Jeb Bush	6%
Ben Carson	4%
Chris Christie	1%
Ted Cruz	12%
Carly Fiorina	1%
Jim Gilmore	0%
Lindsey Graham	1%
Mike Huckabee	1%
John Kasich	0%
George Pataki	0%
Rand Paul	1%
Marco Rubio	11%
Rick Santorum	0%
Donald Trump	33%
Not sure	27%

10. 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	41%	41%	18%
Ben Carson	34%	44%	21%
Chris Christie	32%	44%	24%
Ted Cruz	46%	29%	25%
Carly Fiorina	24%	49%	26%
Jim Gilmore	8%	56%	37%
Lindsey Graham	11%	59%	29%
Mike Huckabee	19%	54%	26%
John Kasich	19%	49%	32%
George Pataki	11%	56%	33%
Rand Paul	21%	50%	28%
Marco Rubio	50%	26%	24%
Rick Santorum	17%	55%	28%
Donald Trump	53%	32%	15%

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

	Honest and trustworthy	Not honest and trustworthy	Not sure
Jeb Bush	30%	40%	29%
Ben Carson	37%	35%	28%
Hillary Clinton	31%	52%	17%
Ted Cruz	30%	37%	33%
Marco Rubio	32%	34%	34%
Bernie Sanders	43%	27%	30%
Donald Trump	32%	50%	18%

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

	Ready	Not ready	Not sure
Jeb Bush	35%	41%	24%
Ben Carson	18%	56%	26%
Hillary Clinton	49%	37%	14%
Ted Cruz	30%	42%	28%
Marco Rubio	28%	41%	31%
Bernie Sanders	32%	42%	26%
Donald Trump	32%	53%	15%

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

	Confident	Uneasy	Not sure
Jeb Bush	30%	45%	24%
Ben Carson	21%	53%	27%
Hillary Clinton	40%	46%	14%
Ted Cruz	30%	41%	29%
Marco Rubio	27%	40%	33%
Bernie Sanders	26%	45%	28%
Donald Trump	33%	53%	14%

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

	Confident	Uneasy	Not sure
Jeb Bush	29%	43%	27%
Ben Carson	24%	46%	30%
Hillary Clinton	41%	43%	16%
Ted Cruz	29%	41%	30%
Marco Rubio	28%	40%	32%
Bernie Sanders	30%	42%	28%
Donald Trump	37%	50%	12%

15. Looking back at 2015, how would you describe the year for the world?

A very good year	3%
A good year	25%
A bad year	48%
A very bad year	23%

16. Looking back at 2015, how would you describe the year for you and your family?

A very good year	7%
A good year	56%
A bad year	28%
A very bad year	9%

17. In the last year, has the United States become more respected or less respected in the world?

More respected	7%
No change	35%
Less respected	59%

18. Do you think things are better off or worse off than they were a year ago when it comes to:

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	1%	5%	13%	25%	46%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	3%	10%	32%	23%	21%	12%
Energy issues	6%	21%	32%	18%	12%	11%
The environment	3%	15%	38%	21%	12%	10%
The economy in your area	5%	21%	33%	20%	14%	8%
Job security	4%	20%	29%	22%	17%	8%
Government spending	3%	7%	25%	20%	34%	11%
Health care coverage	9%	19%	17%	21%	28%	6%
Education	3%	12%	35%	24%	16%	9%
Social Security and Medicare	3%	9%	31%	29%	21%	9%
The U.S. financial system	3%	15%	23%	24%	24%	10%
Wall Street	4%	12%	32%	22%	12%	18%
The national economy	6%	20%	20%	24%	21%	9%

19. Compared to a year ago, do you find politics more or less interesting?

More interesting	32%
About the same	41%
Less interesting	21%
Not sure	6%

20. Compared to a year ago, do you think political discussion has become more negative or less negative?

More negative .....	55%
About the same .....	30%
Less negative .....	5%
Not sure .....	9%

21. Compared to a year ago, do you think the US is more or less safe from terrorist attacks now?

Much more safe now .....	1%
Somewhat more safe now .....	6%
About the same .....	29%
Somewhat less safe now .....	25%
Much less safe now .....	33%
Not sure .....	5%

22. Compared to a year ago, do you think your community is more or less safe from terrorist attacks now?

Much more safe now .....	2%
Somewhat more safe now .....	6%
About the same .....	52%
Somewhat less safe now .....	17%
Much less safe now .....	16%
Not sure .....	8%

23. 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%) .....	39%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%) .....	35%
Not very likely (1% to 10%) .....	12%
Very unlikely (less than 1%) .....	5%
Not sure .....	10%



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

More than I expected .....	17%
About what I expected .....	29%
Less than I expected .....	45%
Not sure .....	8%

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

Outstanding .....	12%
Above Average .....	19%
Average .....	17%
Below Average .....	15%
Poor .....	31%
Not Sure .....	6%

**26. How much progress has Barack Obama made in achieving the following campaign promises?**

	A lot	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
Changing the partisan tone in Washington	6%	10%	13%	55%	15%
Improving the U.S. image in the world	12%	18%	16%	46%	8%
Improving the economy	18%	22%	19%	34%	8%

**27. Do you think the current Congress is better or worse than the previous Congress?**

Better .....	10%
About the same .....	41%
Worse .....	36%
Not sure .....	14%

28. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	68%	27%	3%	2%
Immigration	52%	30%	14%	4%
The environment	45%	34%	14%	8%
Terrorism	64%	24%	8%	4%
Gay rights	18%	24%	27%	30%
Education	59%	29%	8%	4%
Health care	68%	25%	5%	2%
Social security	64%	26%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	47%	37%	11%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	35%	40%	18%	7%
Taxes	54%	36%	7%	3%
Medicare	59%	30%	8%	3%
Abortion	33%	31%	20%	15%
Foreign policy	50%	34%	11%	5%
Gun control	51%	24%	13%	11%

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

The economy	15%
Immigration	7%
The environment	6%
Terrorism	18%
Gay rights	1%
Education	8%
Health care	10%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	5%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	2%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	3%
Foreign policy	2%
Gun control	5%

**30. 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%	19%	12%	38%	5%
Joe Biden	19%	26%	17%	22%	16%
Paul Ryan	8%	21%	20%	21%	31%
Mitch McConnell	3%	12%	18%	29%	37%
Nancy Pelosi	6%	19%	14%	35%	26%
Harry Reid	4%	16%	14%	31%	36%

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

Strongly Approve	18%
Somewhat Approve	25%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	38%
Not Sure	4%

**32. Would you say Barack Obama is...**

Very liberal	32%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	22%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	19%

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

Very strong	17%
Somewhat strong	27%
Somewhat weak	20%
Very weak	35%

**34. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes ..... 40%  
 Says what he thinks people want to hear ..... 49%  
 Not sure ..... 11%

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

Like a lot ..... 32%  
 Like somewhat ..... 26%  
 Dislike ..... 30%  
 Not sure ..... 12%

**36. 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%	20%	12%	25%	29%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	22%	20%	32%	17%
The budget deficit	12%	23%	16%	34%	16%
The economy	17%	27%	16%	30%	11%
Education	15%	27%	18%	23%	17%
The environment	17%	29%	14%	22%	18%
Foreign policy	12%	21%	17%	35%	15%
Gay rights	22%	21%	10%	24%	23%
Gun control	13%	19%	17%	37%	14%
Health care	22%	20%	11%	38%	8%
Immigration	13%	22%	14%	39%	11%
Medicare	14%	23%	16%	29%	18%
Social security	13%	23%	16%	30%	18%
Taxes	11%	24%	19%	29%	18%
Terrorism	15%	20%	14%	38%	13%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	11%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	10%

38. 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	6%
Somewhat approve	15%
Neither approve nor disapprove	22%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	22%
Not sure	17%

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

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	23%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	15%
Not sure	38%

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

Compromises to get things done	65%
Sticks to his principles, no matter what	35%

**41. 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%

**42. 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 .....	10%
Both equally .....	40%
Neither .....	2%
Not sure .....	3%

**43. 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	13%	24%	16%	34%	12%
The Republican Party	10%	23%	21%	34%	12%

**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%	21%	19%	30%	17%
Republicans in Congress	6%	20%	23%	33%	18%

**45. 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 .....	42%
Other .....	4%
Not sure .....	12%
I would not vote .....	3%

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

Getting better .....	23%
About the same .....	37%
Getting worse .....	33%
Not sure .....	7%

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

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

**48. Would you say that you and your family are...**

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	17%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	48%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	31%
Not sure .....	4%

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

More jobs .....	19%
The same amount of jobs .....	41%
Fewer jobs .....	25%
Not sure .....	15%

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

Very worried .....	10%
Somewhat worried .....	33%
Not very worried .....	57%

**51. 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. ....	29%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much. .....	42%
Not very hard .....	22%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Very happy .....	26%
Happy .....	36%
Neither happy nor unhappy .....	27%
Unhappy .....	6%
Very unhappy .....	4%

**53. Are you male or female?**

Male .....	48%
Female .....	52%

**54. Respondent age by category**

Under 30 .....	22%
30-44 .....	25%
45-64 .....	35%
65+ .....	17%



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

White .....	68%
Black .....	11%
Hispanic .....	13%
Other .....	7%

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

HS or less .....	42%
Some college .....	32%
College grad .....	17%
Postgrad .....	9%

**57. Calculated from respondent's state of residence**

Northeast .....	18%
Midwest .....	22%
South .....	37%
West .....	22%

**58. How would you describe the place where you live?**

City .....	33%
Suburb .....	32%
Town .....	15%
Rural area .....	19%
Other .....	1%

59. 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 .....	1%
Family member .....	7%
I served previously .....	12%
Family served previously .....	34%
None .....	52%

60. 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 .....	9%
Homemaker .....	9%
Other .....	2%

61. Family Income

Under 50 .....	60%
50-100 .....	27%
100+ .....	12%

62. What is your marital status?

Married .....	48%
Separated .....	2%
Divorced .....	12%
Widowed .....	5%
Single .....	28%
Domestic partnership .....	5%

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

Yes .....	28%
No .....	72%

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

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

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

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

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

Democrat .....	32%
Independent .....	42%
Republican .....	25%

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

Democrat .....	32%
Lean Democrat .....	8%
Independent .....	25%
Lean Republican .....	9%
Republican .....	25%

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

Strong Democrat .....	18%
Not very strong Democrat .....	15%
Lean Democrat .....	8%
Independent .....	21%
Lean Republican .....	9%
Not very strong Republican .....	11%
Strong Republican .....	14%
Not sure .....	5%

69. Would you describe yourself as a libertarian?

Yes .....	15%
No .....	57%
Not sure .....	28%

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

Strongly support .....	8%
Somewhat support .....	15%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	25%
Somewhat oppose .....	7%
Strongly oppose .....	25%
Not sure .....	20%

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

Yes .....	8%
No .....	71%
Not Sure .....	21%

72. Are you registered to vote?

Registered .....	61%
Not registered .....	39%

73. 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	30%
Nearly always	17%
Part of the time	11%
Seldom	10%
Never	26%
Unsure	6%

74. 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	32%
Not likely to vote in a primary election or attend a caucus	37%

75. 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	65%
I'm still making up my mind	32%
I don't plan to vote in the primary election or caucus	1%
Not sure	2%

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

Yes	28%
No	72%

77. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	37%
Somewhat important	28%
Not too important	14%
Not at all important	21%

**78. 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 .....	8%
A few times a year .....	15%
Seldom .....	23%
Never .....	28%
Don't know .....	2%

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

Several times a day .....	25%
Once a day .....	16%
A few times a week .....	13%
Once a week .....	3%
A few times a month .....	7%
Seldom .....	14%
Never .....	19%
Don't know .....	3%

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

Protestant .....	34%
Roman Catholic .....	21%
Mormon .....	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox .....	1%
Jewish .....	2%
Muslim .....	1%
Buddhist .....	0%
Hindu .....	1%
Atheist .....	6%
Agnostic .....	5%
Nothing in particular .....	22%
Something else .....	5%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	December 18 - 21, 2015
<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 6.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.98.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	2000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.1% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	21 questions not reported.