

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted March 30-April 1, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.7\%$

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	38%
Some of the time	34%
Only now and then	16%
Hardly at all	11%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	29%
Off on the wrong track	53%
Not sure	18%

3. Please indicate if you know personally... (Check all that apply)

	Yes, and that person is me	Yes, I know someone like this	No, don't know anyone like this
Someone who committed suicide	0%	41%	59%
Someone who died in Iraq or Afghanistan	0%	13%	87%
Someone who has been arrested	9%	65%	26%
Someone who dropped out of high school	10%	62%	28%
Someone who lives in Hawaii	1%	22%	77%
Someone who is a millionaire	2%	35%	63%
Someone who owns a vacation house	2%	46%	52%
Someone in jail	0%	38%	62%
Someone who owns stock in the stock market	19%	44%	37%
Anyone who owns a gun?	17%	61%	23%
Anyone who has been a victim of gun violence?	3%	23%	73%
Anyone who is an illegal immigrant?	1%	28%	71%
Anyone who is Israeli?	1%	20%	80%
Anyone who is part of a committed gay relationship?	2%	54%	44%
Anyone who doesn't have health care?	14%	55%	31%
Anyone who died in 9/11?	0%	6%	94%
Anyone who lost his or her job in the financial crisis?	8%	46%	46%
Anyone who now has AIDS, has died from AIDS, or has tested positive for HIV?	0%	28%	72%
Anyone who has served in the military?	10%	73%	17%
Anyone who has served in Iraq?	1%	47%	52%
Anyone who has served in Afghanistan?	1%	41%	59%
Anyone who has had an abortion?	4%	47%	49%
Anyone who is part of a married gay couple?	1%	23%	76%
Anyone who is Palestinian?	1%	12%	87%

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

Strongly favor	30%
Somewhat favor	14%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	31%
Not sure	11%

5. 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 permitted	44%
Should only be handled by federal government	37%
Not sure	19%

6. In 1996, the federal government passed a law that says the government will only recognize marriages between a man and a woman. It was called the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA. This law means that married same-sex couples could not receive federal benefits when it comes to taxes or entitlements like Social Security and Medicare. The Supreme Court is now hearing arguments on whether this law is constitutional. Several lower courts have said it is not. Do you think the Supreme Court should uphold DOMA and only recognize heterosexual marriages, or should it overturn the law and let the federal government recognize same-sex marriages, too?

This law should be upheld.	40%
This law should be overturned.	44%
Not sure	17%

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

Benefit	10%
Have no impact	57%
Threaten	33%

8. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion:

Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society. 59%
Homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society 41%

9. Do you think being homosexual is something a person chooses to be, or do you think it is something a person cannot change?

Homosexuality is a choice 42%
Homosexuality is not a choice 58%

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

Yes 71%
No 29%

11. What's more important?

The right of people to own guns 18%
Protecting people from gun violence 28%
Both are equally important 49%
Not sure 4%

12. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the NRA?

Very favorable 21%
Somewhat favorable 19%
Somewhat unfavorable 13%
Very unfavorable 25%
Not sure 22%

13. Do you think gun control laws should be made more or less strict than they are now?

More strict	53%
No change	27%
Less strict	10%
Not sure	10%

14. Do you think the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution does or does not allow states to regulate guns?

Does	25%
Does not	36%
Not sure	39%

15. 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	82%	7%	10%
Banning semi-automatic weapons	50%	33%	17%
Banning the sale of all handguns, except those that are issued to law enforcement officers	21%	66%	13%
Banning the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons that hold more than 10 rounds	52%	32%	16%
Requiring people who purchase handguns to wait five days before they receive that gun	69%	18%	14%
Requiring gun owners to register their guns with a national gun registry	64%	26%	10%
Limiting the number of handguns a person can own	45%	41%	14%
Preventing people from carrying a concealed gun in public	38%	45%	17%
Requiring people to obtain a police permit before buying a handgun	54%	32%	14%
Having the Centers for Disease Control conduct research on gun violence	39%	35%	26%
Spending \$50 million to hire officers and counselors for schools, and provide emergency planning in schools	46%	31%	23%
Requiring criminal and mental background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales	80%	12%	8%
Stationing armed guards at all schools	41%	37%	22%

16. Do you or anyone else in your household own a gun?

I personally own a gun	21%
I don't personally but someone in household does	17%
No	63%

17. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, are your sympathies more with...?

Israelis	29%
About equal	25%
Palestinians	7%
Not sure	38%

18. Do U.S. policies in the Middle East give too much or too little support to Israel?

Too much support	24%
About the right amount of support	22%
Too little support	21%
Not sure	33%

19. Do you favor or oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza strip?

Strongly favor	15%
Somewhat favor	18%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	11%
Not sure	48%

20. When, if ever, do you think Israel and Palestine will reach a lasting agreement that will end the conflict there?

This year	1%
Next year	3%
In a few years	4%
In the future, but not in the next few years	22%
Never	39%
Not sure	32%

21. Has the Obama Administration had a positive or negative effect on efforts to reach an agreement to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Positive	13%
No effect	30%
Negative	25%
Not sure	32%

22. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	23%
Not sure	34%

23. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	77%	19%	2%	2%
Immigration	43%	36%	16%	6%
The environment	46%	30%	15%	8%
Terrorism	49%	31%	12%	7%
Gay rights	22%	24%	23%	31%
Education	61%	27%	9%	3%
Health care	65%	26%	7%	2%
Social security	62%	28%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	58%	27%	11%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	32%	39%	22%	8%
Taxes	62%	28%	7%	3%
Medicare	54%	35%	9%	3%
Abortion	35%	26%	24%	15%

24. 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	30%	20%	9%	34%	7%
John Boehner	5%	17%	18%	26%	34%
Mitch McConnell	4%	15%	15%	22%	44%
Harry Reid	4%	16%	11%	30%	40%
Nancy Pelosi	9%	17%	11%	35%	28%
Joe Biden	20%	20%	11%	30%	18%
Hillary Clinton	30%	23%	10%	25%	11%
John Kerry	12%	24%	16%	24%	25%

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

Strongly Approve	20%
Somewhat Approve	28%
Somewhat Disapprove	10%
Strongly Disapprove	34%
Not Sure	8%

26. 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	16%	22%	13%	36%	13%
Immigration	15%	26%	13%	31%	16%
The environment	15%	26%	15%	25%	20%
Terrorism	20%	28%	14%	23%	15%
Gay rights	20%	22%	10%	28%	20%
Education	17%	27%	15%	24%	18%
Health care	21%	19%	12%	36%	13%
Social security	14%	26%	12%	29%	18%
The war in Afghanistan	16%	26%	18%	22%	18%
The budget deficit	14%	22%	13%	37%	14%
Taxes	16%	23%	14%	33%	14%
Medicare	16%	23%	13%	30%	17%
Abortion	16%	21%	11%	26%	26%

27. 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	17%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	12%

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

Very liberal	8%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	32%
Conservative	26%
Very Conservative	10%
Not sure	7%

29. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	32%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	16%

30. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	40%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	50%
Not sure	10%

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

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	28%
Not sure	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	35%	35%	30%
Bold	30%	55%	15%
Effective	28%	44%	29%
Exciting	17%	64%	19%
Experienced	25%	46%	29%
Honest	30%	38%	32%
Hypocritical	32%	41%	26%
Inspiring	34%	44%	22%
Intelligent	59%	29%	12%
Partisan	25%	62%	13%
Patriotic	28%	45%	27%
Religious	16%	59%	25%
Sincere	33%	40%	27%
Steady	27%	58%	15%
Strong	36%	48%	16%

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

Getting better	27%
About the same	35%
Getting worse	32%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	26%
About the same	31%
Lower	19%
Not sure	25%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	16%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	52%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	29%
Not sure	4%

36. Is the place where you live owned or rented?

Owned by you or your family	60%
Rented from someone else	39%
Other	2%

37. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

38. Education

No high school	12%
High school graduate	29%
Some college	26%
2-year college	11%
4-year college	15%
Post-graduate	7%

39. Age

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

40. Race

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

41. Region

Northeast	21%
Midwest	26%
South	33%
West	21%

42. Party Identification

Democrat	37%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	23%
Lean Republican	8%
Republican	25%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	March 30-April 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 13.4, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.15.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.7% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	14 questions not reported.