

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted August 16-18, 2014
Margin of Error $\pm 4.6\%$

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	8%
Don't know	2%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	28%
Off on the wrong track	60%
Not sure	12%

3. How closely are you following the news about the Ebola outbreak in western Africa?

Very closely	16%
Somewhat closely	51%
Not very closely	28%
Not following at all	5%

4. Do you think reports about the number of people affected by the Ebola outbreak are too high, about right, or too low?

Too high	11%
About right	35%
Too low	22%
Not sure	32%

5. How concerned are you that the Ebola outbreak will spread to the United States and cause an epidemic here?

Very concerned	17%
Somewhat concerned	42%
Not very concerned	31%
Not concerned at all	10%

6. Do you think the affected countries in Africa are doing enough, too much, or not enough to contain the Ebola outbreak?

Doing too much	3%
Doing enough	17%
Not doing enough	56%
Don't know	25%

7. Do you think the United States is doing enough, too much, or not enough to contain the Ebola outbreak?

Doing too much	6%
Doing enough	37%
Not doing enough	31%
Don't know	27%

8. Do you think the world would be doing more to cure Ebola if it more commonly affected countries in Europe or the United States instead of Africa?

Yes	72%
No	11%
Not sure	17%

9. Do you think there would already be a cure for Ebola if it more commonly affected countries in Europe or the United States instead of Africa?

Yes	44%
No	19%
Not sure	37%

10. Should the US government increase or decrease spending on Ebola research, or should it continue to spend the current amount?

Increase spending	33%
Spend the same	42%
Decrease spending	4%
Not sure	20%

11. Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama’s handling of the Ebola outbreak in western Africa?

Approve strongly	13%
Approve somewhat	24%
Disapprove somewhat	14%
Disapprove strongly	16%
Not sure	32%

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the following international crises?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Fighting between ISIS fighters and the government of Iraq	14%	23%	14%	29%	19%
Fighting between Israelis and Palestinians in Gaza	12%	20%	17%	33%	18%
Fighting between pro-Russia separatists and the government of Ukraine	13%	21%	16%	30%	20%
Fighting between rebels and the government of Syria	11%	18%	17%	30%	24%

13. When it comes to US policy in Syria which statement do you agree with most?

- The US should have provided Syrian rebels with more aid sooner 27%
- The US should not have gotten involved at all 40%
- The US did the best it could in a difficult situation 33%

14. Do you think the next President should be more or less willing than President Obama to use the American military in conflicts around the world?

- More willing 28%
- Equally willing 26%
- Less willing 29%
- Not sure 17%

15. Do you think if Hillary Clinton had been elected President that she would be handling the crises listed below better than Barack Obama?

	Yes	No	Not sure
Fighting between rebels and the government of Syria	19%	40%	41%
Fighting between ISIS fighters and the government of Iraq	20%	40%	40%
Fighting between Israelis and Palestinians in Gaza	20%	40%	40%
Fighting between pro-Russia separatists and the government of Ukraine	17%	40%	43%

16. If she was elected President, do you think Hillary Clinton would be more or less willing than President Obama to use the American military in conflicts around the world?

More willing	21%
Equally willing	36%
Less willing	21%
Not sure	22%

17. In general, do you think Hillary Clinton is more of a foreign policy hawk or a dove?

Hawk	33%
Dove	30%
Not sure	37%

18. Do you wish Hillary Clinton had been elected President instead of Barack Obama in 2008?

Yes	29%
No	52%
Not sure	20%

19. Had she been elected President in 2008, do you think Republicans would have opposed Hillary Clinton more, less or about the same as they oppose Barack Obama?

Opposed her more	16%
Opposed her about the same	52%
Opposed her less	21%
Not sure	10%

20. If Hillary Clinton had been elected President instead of Barack Obama in 2008, do you think the health care reform law...

Would have been better	12%
Would have been essentially the same	27%
Would not have been passed into law	39%
Not sure	22%

21. If Hillary Clinton had been elected President instead of Barack Obama in 2008, do you think more people, fewer people, or about the same number of people would be on welfare today?

More people on welfare	7%
About the same	62%
Fewer people on welfare	15%
Not sure	16%

22. Do you approve or disapprove of the welfare reform law that President Bill Clinton signed in 1996 that required welfare recipients to work within two years of applying for benefits, eliminated eligibility for most federal benefits for most legal immigrants until they become citizens, required able-bodied adults with no dependent children to work 20 hours per week in order to be eligible for food stamps, and imposed a five-year lifetime cap on welfare benefits whether or not a person can find a job?

Approve strongly	38%
Approve somewhat	36%
Disapprove somewhat	10%
Disapprove strongly	7%
Don't know	10%

23. Do you think the welfare reform law passed in 1996 succeeded or failed in moving people off welfare and into work?

Succeeded	31%
Failed	38%
Not sure	32%

24. What do you think was President Bill Clinton’s top achievement?

Balanced the federal budget	29%
Economic prosperity in the 1990s	23%
Welfare reform law	12%
Family Medical Leave Act	14%
NAFTA/GATT	4%
Restoration of democracy in Haiti	2%
Assault weapons ban	5%
Intervention in Bosnia	1%
Northern Ireland peace process	1%
Something else	10%

25. What do you think was President Bill Clinton’s worst failure?

The Lewinsky affair	35%
Somalia mission	5%
Defense of Marriage Act	6%
Don’t Ask/Don’t Tell Policy	11%
Welfare reform law	6%
NAFTA/GATT	8%
Assault weapons ban	6%
Inaction in Rwanda	8%
Failure to pass health care reform	9%
Something else	7%

26. Do you think the health care reform law should be expanded, kept the same, or repealed?

Expanded	32%
Kept the same	11%
Repealed	46%
Not sure	11%

27. From all that you know now, has the health care reform law been a complete success, a complete failure, or something in between?

A complete failure	21%
More of a failure than a success	28%
Equal amount of both failure and success	15%
More of a success than a failure	20%
A complete success	3%
Too early to tell	8%
Not sure	6%

28. Do you think the number of people with health insurance has increased, remained the same, or decreased over the last 12 months?

Increased	46%
Remained the same	21%
Decreased	21%
Don't know	12%

29. Do you think the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, has caused health insurance prices for most people to increase by more or less than they usually do?

The law has caused health insurance prices for most people to increase more than they usually do	51%
The law has not had an effect on health insurance prices for most people	15%
The law has caused health insurance prices for most people to increase less than they usually do	16%
Not sure	18%

30. Do you think colleges and universities should pay college athletes based on their performance?

Definitely yes	11%
Probably yes	19%
Probably not	20%
Definitely not	41%
Not sure	10%

31. Do you think college athletes should be allowed to be paid to appear in ads or make endorsement for products?

Definitely yes	22%
Probably yes	29%
Probably not	18%
Definitely not	21%
Not sure	10%

32. Should colleges and universities be required to cover medical costs for former players if those costs stem from the former player’s participation in college athletics?

Yes	53%
No	25%
Not sure	22%

33. If a college or university offers an athletic scholarship to a student who is subsequently injured and unable to play, do you think the school should be allowed to withdraw the scholarship, or should it be required to honor the scholarship?

It should be allowed to withdraw the scholarship	16%
It should be required to honor the scholarship	70%
Not sure	14%

34. Do you think college athletes should be allowed to form labor unions to bargain over things like medical coverage and better terms for scholarships from their schools, or not?

Yes, they should	27%
No, they should not	50%
Not sure	23%

35. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	78%	19%	3%	0%
Immigration	50%	33%	11%	5%
The environment	45%	35%	13%	7%
Terrorism	58%	27%	11%	4%
Gay rights	21%	23%	23%	33%
Education	62%	26%	7%	4%
Health care	67%	25%	5%	3%
Social security	64%	26%	7%	3%
The budget deficit	60%	25%	10%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	29%	40%	22%	8%
Taxes	63%	27%	8%	2%
Medicare	58%	29%	10%	3%
Abortion	36%	26%	23%	15%
Foreign policy	42%	41%	12%	5%

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

The economy	27%
Immigration	7%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	6%
Gay rights	2%
Education	10%
Health care	8%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	6%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	7%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	5%
Foreign policy	1%

37. 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%	22%	10%	39%	4%
Joe Biden	17%	24%	17%	30%	12%
John Boehner	6%	17%	22%	30%	26%
Mitch McConnell	3%	16%	20%	23%	38%
Harry Reid	7%	17%	12%	33%	32%
Nancy Pelosi	9%	20%	12%	39%	20%
John Kerry	11%	26%	19%	27%	16%

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
Rand Paul	13%	22%	14%	22%	29%
Chris Christie	8%	22%	24%	23%	22%
Paul Ryan	13%	20%	17%	25%	25%
Jeb Bush	9%	22%	23%	22%	25%
Mike Huckabee	15%	19%	19%	19%	28%
Marco Rubio	12%	18%	17%	19%	34%
Hillary Clinton	24%	27%	14%	28%	6%
Elizabeth Warren	15%	12%	13%	20%	40%
Ted Cruz	13%	15%	17%	23%	32%
Scott Walker	13%	14%	10%	18%	44%
Brian Schweitzer	3%	11%	12%	7%	66%
Rick Perry	14%	18%	14%	27%	27%

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

Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	30%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	4%

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%	15%	38%	8%
Immigration	12%	22%	15%	40%	10%
The environment	12%	32%	16%	27%	13%
Terrorism	18%	25%	14%	32%	11%
Gay rights	19%	25%	9%	29%	19%
Education	14%	29%	19%	26%	13%
Health care	20%	23%	10%	43%	5%
Social security	13%	24%	20%	29%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	26%	21%	29%	11%
The budget deficit	15%	21%	16%	40%	8%
Taxes	13%	25%	17%	35%	10%
Medicare	16%	24%	18%	29%	13%
Abortion	15%	24%	11%	27%	24%
Foreign policy	10%	27%	14%	37%	11%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	7%

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

Very liberal	5%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	35%
Conservative	32%
Very conservative	9%
Not sure	1%

43. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	37%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	7%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	13%

44. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	40%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	53%
Not sure	8%

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

Like a lot	30%
Like somewhat	26%
Dislike	32%
Not sure	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	40%	33%	27%
Bold	22%	58%	20%
Effective	17%	49%	34%
Exciting	13%	63%	23%
Experienced	16%	50%	34%
Honest	29%	33%	39%
Hypocritical	39%	37%	24%
Inspiring	26%	49%	26%
Intelligent	51%	33%	16%
Partisan	26%	60%	14%
Patriotic	25%	45%	30%
Religious	13%	60%	27%
Sincere	32%	38%	31%
Steady	21%	58%	21%
Strong	26%	48%	25%

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

Getting better	22%
About the same	37%
Getting worse	36%
Not sure	4%

48. Six months from now, do you think there will be...

More jobs	18%
The same amount of jobs	44%
Fewer jobs	25%
Not sure	12%

49. 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	7%
Military Household - I served previously	12%
Military Household - Family served previously	35%
Military Household - None	50%

50. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

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

Strongly support	10%
Somewhat support	19%
Neither support, nor oppose	20%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	25%
Not sure	16%

52. Education

No high school	10%
High school graduate	30%
Some college	23%
2-year college	11%
4-year college	18%
Post-graduate	8%

53. Age

18-29	24%
30-44	26%
45-64	33%
65+	16%

54. Race

White	66%
Black	14%
Hispanic	12%
Other	8%

55. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	25%
South	36%
West	20%

56. Party Identification

Democratic	41%
Independent	29%
Republican	30%

57. Are you registered to vote?

Yes	71%
No	27%
Don't know	2%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	August 16-18, 2014
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 to 6, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.11.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.6% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.