UMass Poll – National Poll of Political Issues

Field dates: March 11-14, 2013
Sample: 800 adults

The survey was conducted by YouGov America (http://yougov.com). The respondents were matched on gender, age, race, education, party identification, ideology, and political interest. YouGov then weighted the matched set of survey respondents to known marginals from the American Community Survey. All analyses were produced using these weights.

The margin of error is 5%.

UMass Poll Directors

Prof. Brian F. Schaffner, Ph.D. – Director	schaffne@polsci.umass.edu
Prof. Raymond La Raja, Ph.D. – Associate Director	laraja@polsci.umass.edu
Prof. Maryann Barakso, Ph.D. – Associate Director	barakso@polsci.umass.edu
Prof. Tatishe Nteta, Ph.D. – Associate Director	nteta@polsci.umass.edu

Email: poll@polsci.umass.edu
Twitter: @UMassPoll
http://www.umass.edu/poll

Government and Policy Priorities

What is your opinion of the following individuals?

	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not sure
Barack Obama	34%	17%	9%	34%	6%
Joe Biden	25%	23%	10%	29%	13%
John Kerry	19%	22%	14%	21%	24%
John Boehner	5%	20%	18%	34%	23%

Net Favorability

	Overall favorability
Barack Obama	+8%
Joe Biden	+9%
John Kerry	+6%
John Boehner	-27%

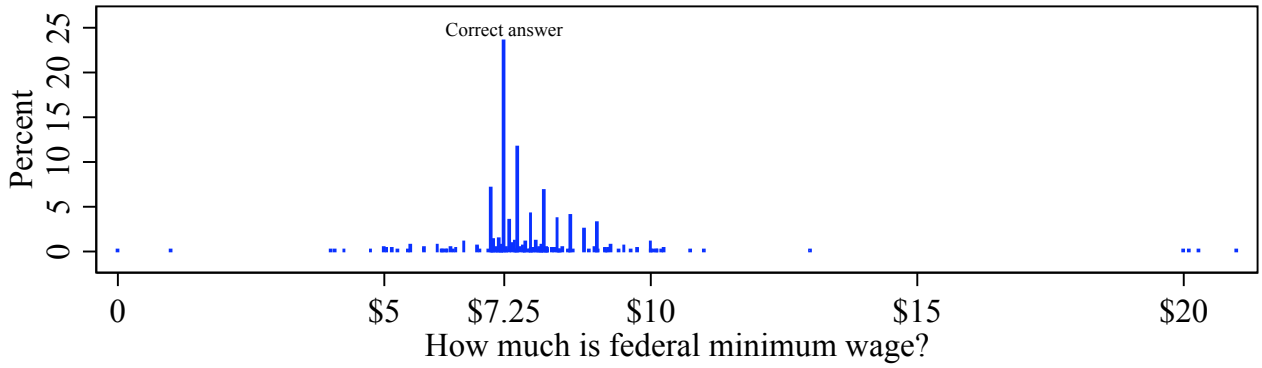
President Obama mentioned several policy issues in his State of the Union speech a few weeks ago. Please rank the five issues of most importance to you, with the most important issue at the top of the list, and the least important issue at the bottom of the list.

Issue	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Not ranked
Economy, Jobs	36%	29%	15%	8%	5%	7%
National Debt, Deficit	17%	21%	12%	9%	10%	32%
Healthcare	15%	13%	15%	13%	10%	33%
Gun Control	7%	7%	8%	7%	11%	59%
National Security	7%	7%	9%	16%	14%	47%
Education	7%	8%	15%	13%	10%	47%
Immigration	5%	4%	9%	10%	12%	61%
Climate Change	3%	4%	5%	6%	9%	74%
Voting Rights	2%	3%	3%	5%	5%	82%
Energy	1%	3%	7%	13%	13%	63%

Minimum Wage

Please indicate what you think the federal minimum wage rate is currently? If you are not sure, please just provide us with your best guess.

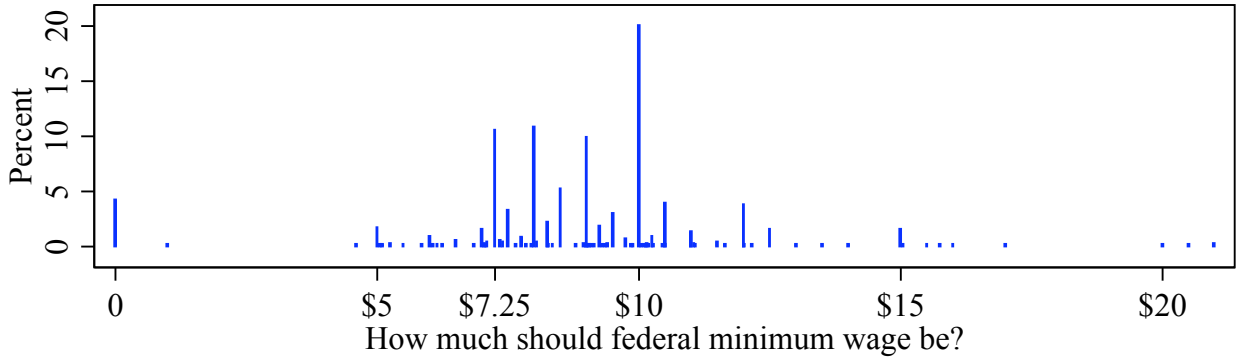
Average answer: $7.71



Note: Plot shows percent of respondents guessing a particular level of minimum wage.

Please indicate what you think the federal minimum wage rate should be?

Average answer: $8.87

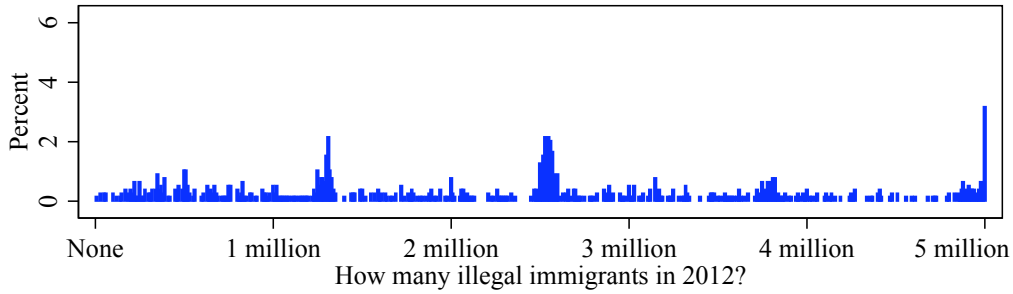


Note: Plot shows percent of respondents preferring a particular level of minimum wage.

Immigration

Using your best guess, how many people do you think illegally immigrated to the United States in 2012?

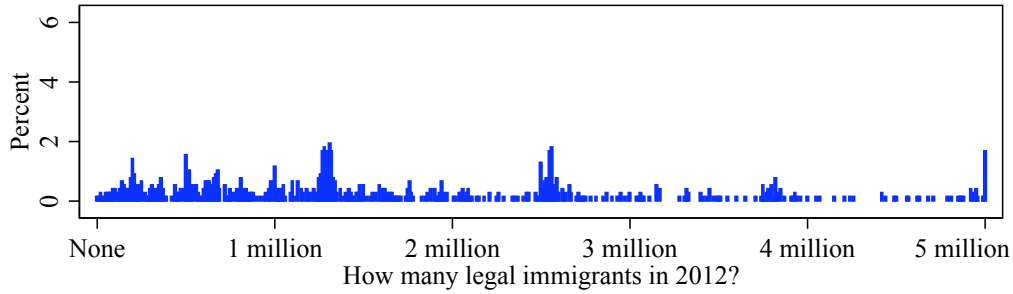
Average answer: 2.26 million



Note: Plot shows percent of respondents guessing a particular level of illegal immigration.

Using your best guess, how many people do you think legally immigrated to the United States in 2012?

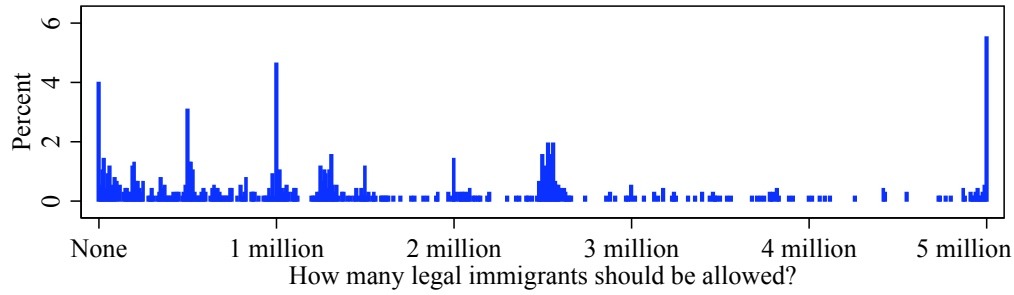
Average answer: 1.72 million



Note: Plot shows percent of respondents guessing a particular level of legal immigration.

How many legal immigrants (permanent residents) should be allowed to come to the US every year?

Average answer: 1.71 million



Note: Plot shows percent of respondents preferring a particular level of legal immigration.

There are currently limits on visas available to legal immigrants working in different industries. Would you increase, decrease, or not change the number of legal immigrants allowed into the U.S. in each industry?

	Greatly Increase	Increase	Not change	Decrease	Greatly Decrease
Science, engineering, tech.	11%	31%	39%	12%	7%
Doctors, nurses	9%	33%	39%	13%	6%
Farming, construction, …	8%	25%	43%	17%	7%
Students	6%	24%	41%	19%	9%
Hospitality	4%	18%	49%	19%	9%

Gun Control

In the current debate on gun control, some lawmakers favor limiting the manufacture and sale of certain types of firearms. Would you support or oppose banning sales of semi-automatic assault weapons [like the one pictured] to individuals?

	Strongly support ban	Support ban	Neither support nor oppose ban	Oppose ban	Strongly oppose ban
Not shown picture	34%	17%	17%	14%	19%
Shown picture of AR-15	39%	18%	14%	8%	21%

Retirement Age

Some people have suggested that the retirement age should be different depending on an individual's occupation. For each of the following occupations, indicate at what age you believe individuals should be allowed to retire and begin collecting full Social Security benefits?

	Average
Construction and manufacturing	62
Nurses	62
Food preparation and service	64
Teaching	64
Retail and sales	64
Office clerk	65
Executives and managers	66

Voting Rights

On Election Day 2012, many Americans experienced long lines at their polling stations when attempting to vote. How important do you think it is that the federal government addresses this problem?

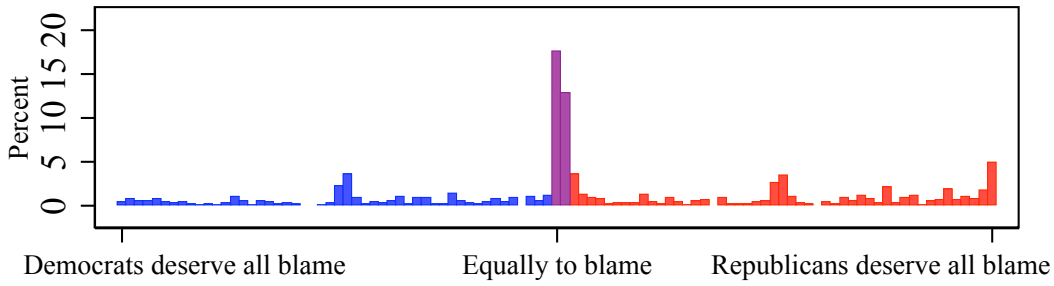
Image Shown	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Black voters in line	39%	31%	19%	11%
White voters in line	44%	28%	13%	15%
No image shown	48%	28%	12%	12%

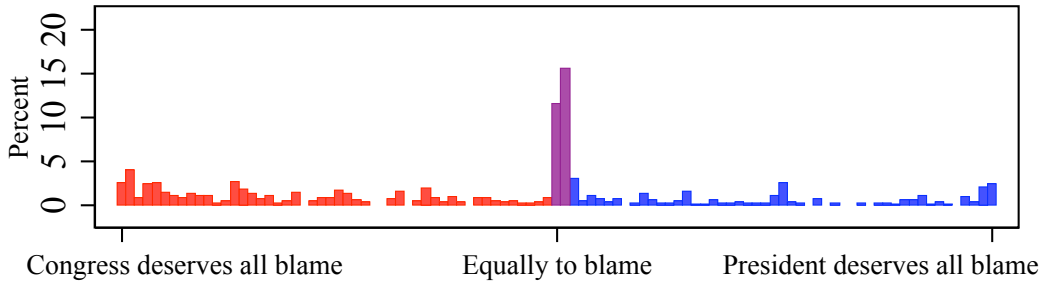
As you may know, the Voting Rights Act was passed in the 1960s to prevent state and local governments from using rules and procedures that prevented many blacks from voting. Do you think the Voting Rights Act is necessary today to make sure that blacks are allowed to vote, or do you think that the Voting Rights Act is no longer necessary?

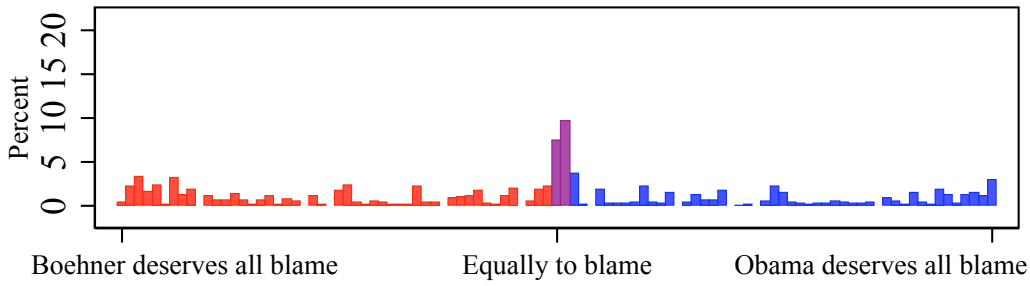
	Percentage of Respondents
Necessary Today	42%
No Longer Necessary	42%
No Opinion	14%

Blame for Washington Politics

Who is more to blame for what has gone wrong in Washington?







Note: Plots show percent of respondents choosing a particular point on the scale.

Averages:
Democrat/Republican blame: 56
Congress/President blame: 42
Boehner/Obama blame: 47