

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample            1000 General Population Respondents  
 Conducted        April 28-30, 2012  
 Margin of Error   ±4.2%

## 1. How closely have you been following news about the 2012 presidential election campaign?

Very closely ..... 32%  
 Somewhat closely ..... 36%  
 Not too closely ..... 23%  
 Not at all ..... 10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction ..... 27%  
 Off on the wrong track ..... 59%  
 Not sure ..... 14%

## 3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	25%	38%	26%	11%
The economy	83%	13%	2%	2%
Immigration	41%	34%	18%	6%
The environment	37%	37%	18%	9%
Terrorism	45%	37%	13%	5%
Gay rights	17%	24%	27%	32%
Education	55%	31%	10%	4%
Health care	69%	25%	3%	3%
Social security	64%	27%	7%	3%
The budget deficit	59%	28%	8%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	32%	40%	22%	7%
Taxes	61%	31%	5%	2%
Medicare	58%	32%	7%	3%
Abortion	30%	30%	23%	18%

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

The war in Iraq .....	0%
The economy .....	39%
Immigration .....	2%
The environment .....	5%
Terrorism .....	2%
Gay rights .....	1%
Education .....	7%
Health care .....	13%
Social security .....	12%
The budget deficit .....	10%
The war in Afghanistan .....	1%
Taxes .....	3%
Medicare .....	3%
Abortion .....	2%

5. Are we safer from terrorist attacks now than we were in 2001?

Much more safe .....	16%
Somewhat more safe .....	33%
About the same .....	32%
Somewhat less safe .....	4%
Much less safe .....	6%
Not sure .....	10%

6. So far, there has not been another terrorist attack in the United States since 2001. Is this mostly because...

the United States government is doing a good job protecting the country	40%
the United States is a difficult target for terrorists .....	17%
the United States has been lucky so far .....	42%

7. In general, do you think China's rapid economic rise has been a good thing or a bad thing for the United States?

A good thing .....	6%
A bad thing .....	30%
Both good and bad .....	44%
Not sure .....	21%

8. Which of the following is closest to your own view of how the United States should respond to China's rise?

The United States should work closely with China to promote international cooperation and stability .....	19%
The United States should form a military alliance in Asia to counter China's growing clout in the region .....	4%
The United States should focus on restoring its economic strength at home so that it is better able to deal with China in the future .....	63%
Not sure .....	15%

9. How serious a problem is immigration in your LOCAL community?

Very serious .....	14%
Somewhat serious .....	24%
A minor problem .....	28%
Not a problem .....	26%
Not sure .....	8%

10. As you may know, in 2010 the state of Arizona passed a law that requires police to verify the legal status of someone they have already stopped or arrested if they suspect that the person is in the country illegally. Do you approve or disapprove of Arizona's immigration law?

Approve .....	58%
Disapprove .....	30%
Not sure .....	12%

11. Should states be permitted to set their own policies when it comes to immigration, or is this something that should only be handled by the federal government?

States should be permitted .....48%  
 Should only be handled by federal government .....36%  
 Not sure ..... 16%

12. Here are some policies that have been proposed to deal with illegal immigration. Which do you support?

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Making it a crime to hire illegal immigrants	73%	15%	12%
Not allowing illegal immigrants to send their children to school	41%	38%	21%
Denying illegal immigrants public benefits	72%	16%	12%
Building more border fences	54%	27%	19%
Using the National Guard to patrol the Mexican Border	67%	17%	16%
Requiring police to report illegal immigrants to federal government	73%	14%	13%

13. Passing a law that would allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they go to college

Strongly support ..... 18%  
 Somewhat support .....29%  
 Somewhat oppose ..... 17%  
 Strongly oppose ..... 24%  
 Don't know ..... 13%

14. Passing a law that would allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military

Strongly support	29%
Somewhat support	31%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	17%
Don't know	13%

15. 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	43%
No change	32%
Make gun laws less strict	16%
Not sure	9%

16. Are you in favor or opposed to the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

Favor the death penalty	60%
Opposed to the death penalty	21%
Not sure	19%

17. 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	28%	19%	10%	37%	5%
Mitt Romney	12%	26%	21%	29%	12%

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

Strongly Approve .....	19%
Somewhat Approve .....	27%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	14%
Strongly Disapprove .....	35%
Not Sure .....	5%

19. Below are some issues facing the country. For each one, indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling that issue.

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The war in Iraq	21%	32%	14%	19%	14%
The economy	14%	26%	12%	40%	7%
Immigration	9%	26%	15%	36%	14%
The environment	13%	29%	13%	27%	19%
Terrorism	22%	33%	14%	18%	12%
Gay rights	11%	24%	13%	25%	27%
Education	17%	29%	14%	24%	16%
Health care	18%	23%	11%	40%	8%
Social security	13%	25%	14%	32%	16%
The budget deficit	13%	23%	14%	40%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	16%	32%	18%	21%	13%
Taxes	15%	26%	12%	35%	12%
Medicare	15%	23%	16%	32%	14%
Abortion	13%	22%	13%	26%	26%

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

Strongly approve .....	1%
Somewhat approve .....	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	16%
Somewhat disapprove .....	23%
Strongly disapprove .....	44%
Not sure .....	9%

**21. Are you registered to vote as...**

*Asked of registered voters who live in states with party registration*

Democrat .....	39%
Republican .....	38%
Other Party .....	0%
Independent/No Party .....	22%
Not sure .....	1%

**22. Who would you like to be the Republican nominee for President in 2012?**

*Asked of eligible registered voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections*

Mitt Romney .....	49%
Newt Gingrich .....	17%
Ron Paul .....	16%
Other .....	11%
No preference .....	7%

**23. What would you prefer to see happen in the Republican nomination campaign?**

*Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections*

All candidates except Romney drop out, allowing Romney to focus on the general election .....	59%
The current field of candidates all stay in the race until one clinches the nomination .....	41%

**24. How would you feel if Mitt Romney became the Republican nominee for President?**

*Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections*

Excited .....	15%
Satisfied .....	61%
Dissatisfied .....	22%
Angry .....	3%

**25. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?**

*Asked of registered voters. Respondents who initially answered 'not sure' but indicated they were leaning toward Obama or Romney in a follow-up question are counted as Obama or Romney supporters*

Barack Obama .....	48%
Mitt Romney .....	43%
Other .....	4%
Not sure .....	5%

**26. Regardless of who you would support, who do you think would win the presidential election if Mitt Romney became the Republican nominee?**

*Asked of registered voters*

Barack Obama .....	56%
Mitt Romney .....	40%
Someone else .....	4%



27. How much do you know about each of the following people?

	Know a lot	Know a little	Have not heard of this person
Chris Christie	32%	36%	33%
Rob Portman	6%	24%	70%
Paul Ryan	27%	29%	44%
Rick Santorum	45%	45%	10%
Bob McDonnell	9%	27%	64%
Rand Paul	26%	41%	33%
Mitch Daniels	14%	34%	52%
Jim DeMint	16%	28%	56%
Marco Rubio	25%	33%	42%
Nikki Haley	12%	26%	62%
Condoleezza Rice	46%	43%	11%
Sarah Palin	59%	36%	6%
Jeb Bush	35%	49%	16%
David Petraeus	22%	41%	37%

28. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following people?

*Asked of respondents who indicated they had heard of each of the following people*

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Chris Christie	25%	32%	23%	20%
Rob Portman	9%	42%	37%	12%
Paul Ryan	27%	23%	20%	29%
Rick Santorum	16%	29%	22%	33%
Bob McDonnell	12%	40%	28%	20%
Rand Paul	14%	38%	25%	24%
Mitch Daniels	16%	40%	28%	16%
Jim DeMint	19%	33%	25%	23%
Marco Rubio	28%	29%	26%	17%
Nikki Haley	17%	36%	22%	25%
Condoleezza Rice	27%	44%	19%	11%
Sarah Palin	20%	23%	18%	39%
Jeb Bush	17%	34%	27%	21%
David Petraeus	29%	48%	18%	5%

29. Please evaluate how helpful you would find the kinds of information described below as you make decisions about who to vote for.

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	A little helpful	Not at all helpful
Political ads that describe a candidate's weaknesses	11%	24%	34%	31%
Political ads that make detailed and specific claims about a candidate	23%	31%	26%	20%
Political ads that offer evidence to support the claims being made about a candidate.	36%	31%	20%	13%
Political ads that describe a candidate's personality	10%	21%	35%	34%
Political ads that are highly critical of a candidate's past performance in office.	13%	24%	31%	32%

29. (Continued) Please evaluate how helpful you would find the kinds of information described below as you make decisions about who to vote for.

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	A little helpful	Not at all helpful
Political ads that make broad claims about a candidate's future plans for governing	11%	18%	31%	40%
Political ads that are officially sponsored by interest groups rather than the candidates themselves.	8%	18%	25%	49%
Political ads that show the differences between candidates' positions on issues.	42%	29%	19%	10%
Political ads that criticize the spouse, children, or relatives of a candidate.	3%	6%	7%	85%
Political ads that show the inconsistencies in a candidate's positions on issues	25%	31%	23%	21%

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

Yes .....	12%
No .....	72%
Not sure .....	15%

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

Very liberal .....	31%
Liberal .....	21%
Moderate .....	27%
Conservative .....	5%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	15%

**32. Would you say Mitt Romney is...**

Very liberal .....	1%
Liberal .....	4%
Moderate .....	26%
Conservative .....	30%
Very conservative .....	16%
Not sure .....	23%

**33. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	39%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	50%
Not sure .....	10%

**34. 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 .....	9%

**35. Do you think Mitt Romney...**

Says what he believes .....	22%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	60%
Not sure .....	18%

**36. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Mitt Romney as a person?**

Like a lot .....	11%
Like somewhat .....	32%
Dislike .....	35%
Not sure .....	21%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	37%	34%	29%
Bold	30%	55%	14%
Effective	27%	43%	31%
Exciting	20%	61%	19%
Experienced	21%	44%	36%
Honest	32%	34%	34%
Hypocritical	32%	42%	25%
Inspiring	35%	44%	21%
Intelligent	58%	31%	11%
Partisan	28%	55%	17%
Patriotic	29%	42%	30%
Religious	18%	56%	26%
Sincere	35%	36%	29%
Steady	28%	55%	17%
Strong	31%	50%	18%

**38. Which of these words would you use to describe Mitt Romney?**

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	44%	21%
Bold	18%	66%	16%
Effective	21%	62%	17%
Exciting	6%	59%	35%
Experienced	33%	55%	12%
Honest	17%	52%	31%
Hypocritical	35%	46%	18%
Inspiring	9%	59%	31%
Intelligent	43%	46%	12%
Partisan	26%	62%	12%
Patriotic	33%	58%	8%
Religious	43%	52%	5%
Sincere	19%	51%	30%
Steady	23%	63%	13%
Strong	22%	64%	14%

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

Getting better	25%
About the same	40%
Getting worse	30%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	23%
About the same	40%
Lower	16%
Not sure	22%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	15%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	49%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	32%
Not sure .....	3%

**42. If an election for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?**

The Democratic Party candidate .....	39%
The Republican Party candidate .....	33%
Other .....	1%
Not sure .....	17%
I would not vote .....	10%

**43. Gender**

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

**44. Education**

No high school .....	11%
High school graduate .....	33%
Some college .....	23%
2-year college .....	8%
4-year college .....	17%
Post-graduate .....	9%

**45. Age**

18-29 .....	21%
30-44 .....	27%
45-64 .....	34%
65+ .....	18%

**46. Race**

White .....	76%
Black .....	11%
Hispanic .....	8%
Other .....	5%

**47. Region**

Northeast .....	19%
Midwest .....	23%
South .....	36%
West .....	22%

**48. Party Identification**

Democrat .....	34%
Lean Democrat .....	12%
Independent .....	17%
Lean Republican .....	11%
Republican .....	26%



# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	April 28-30, 2012
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	Respondents were selected from YouGov's PollingPoint panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2005–2007 American Community Study. Voter registration, turnout, religion, news interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement and the Pew Religion in American Life Survey. Matching respondents were selected from the PollingPoint panel, an opt-in Internet panel.
<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 0.2 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.9.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.2% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	32 questions not reported.