

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted August 18-20, 2012
 Margin of Error ±4.6%

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

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Very closely | 36% |
| Somewhat closely | 32% |
| Not too closely | 21% |
| Not at all | 11% |

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

| | |
|---|-----|
| Generally headed in the right direction | 21% |
| Off on the wrong track | 62% |
| Not sure | 17% |

3. How important are the following issues to you?

| | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not very Important | Unimportant |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| The economy | 81% | 15% | 3% | 1% |
| Immigration | 41% | 36% | 16% | 8% |
| The environment | 34% | 38% | 18% | 10% |
| Terrorism | 40% | 37% | 17% | 5% |
| Gay rights | 21% | 21% | 25% | 33% |
| Education | 51% | 32% | 12% | 5% |
| Health care | 65% | 23% | 8% | 3% |
| Social security | 61% | 28% | 8% | 3% |
| The budget deficit | 61% | 27% | 8% | 4% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 31% | 41% | 20% | 8% |
| Taxes | 59% | 30% | 10% | 2% |
| Medicare | 55% | 32% | 10% | 3% |
| Abortion | 27% | 32% | 23% | 18% |

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

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| The economy | 37% |
| Immigration | 4% |
| The environment | 3% |
| Terrorism | 2% |
| Gay rights | 2% |
| Education | 6% |
| Health care | 12% |
| Social security | 12% |
| The budget deficit | 9% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 1% |
| Taxes | 6% |
| Medicare | 5% |
| Abortion | 3% |

5. Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan has proposed a plan to change Medicare, the federal government’s health insurance program for older Americans. Which of the following most accurately describes Ryan’s proposal for Medicare?

| | |
|---|-----|
| Gradually end the Medicare program over the next 40 years | 8% |
| Turn Medicare into a government voucher program for the purchase of private insurance | 39% |
| Transfer control of the Medicare program from the federal government to the states | 10% |
| Have not heard about Ryan’s plan | 43% |

6. Do you support or oppose Paul Ryan’s plan to change the Medicare program?

Asked of respondents who indicated they had heard of Paul Ryan’s Medicare plan

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Strongly support | 22% |
| Somewhat support | 17% |
| Somewhat oppose | 6% |
| Strongly oppose | 45% |
| Not sure | 10% |

7. Do you think the Medicare program can be preserved for future generations without cutting benefits?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 43% |
| No | 29% |
| Not sure | 28% |

8. Who do you think Medicare benefits should be cut for?

Asked of respondents who indicated they believe Medicare cannot be preserved without cutting benefits

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| All Americans | 28% |
| Americans under age 65 | 9% |
| Americans under age 55 | 12% |
| Americans under age 45 | 16% |
| Americans under age 35 | 11% |
| None of the above | 24% |

9. Which party do you trust to do a better job on the following issues?

| | The Democrats | The Republicans | Neither | Not sure |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------|----------|
| The economy | 30% | 32% | 22% | 15% |
| The budget deficit | 27% | 33% | 25% | 15% |
| Social security | 35% | 27% | 21% | 16% |
| Foreign policy | 32% | 30% | 21% | 18% |
| Medicare | 34% | 28% | 23% | 15% |

10. If you could send just one of the following two messages to the federal government right now, would it be "lend me a hand" or would it be "leave me alone"?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Lend me a hand | 43% |
| Leave me alone | 57% |

11. 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 | 26% | 18% | 9% | 39% | 7% |
| Mitt Romney | 15% | 23% | 14% | 33% | 15% |
| Paul Ryan | 22% | 15% | 11% | 29% | 23% |
| Joe Biden | 15% | 21% | 14% | 34% | 16% |

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

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Strongly Approve | 15% |
| Somewhat Approve | 27% |
| Somewhat Disapprove | 10% |
| Strongly Disapprove | 41% |
| Not Sure | 7% |

13. 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 | 13% | 20% | 10% | 43% | 14% |
| Immigration | 13% | 17% | 13% | 36% | 21% |
| The environment | 13% | 23% | 12% | 29% | 23% |
| Terrorism | 21% | 26% | 10% | 26% | 17% |
| Gay rights | 18% | 17% | 9% | 33% | 23% |
| Education | 15% | 22% | 12% | 28% | 23% |
| Health care | 20% | 17% | 7% | 42% | 14% |
| Social security | 16% | 19% | 10% | 34% | 20% |
| The budget deficit | 11% | 18% | 11% | 43% | 17% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 16% | 25% | 13% | 27% | 18% |
| Taxes | 17% | 19% | 11% | 37% | 16% |
| Medicare | 17% | 17% | 10% | 37% | 19% |
| Abortion | 16% | 17% | 8% | 29% | 30% |

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

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve | 0% |
| Somewhat approve | 7% |
| Neither approve nor disapprove | 19% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 24% |
| Strongly disapprove | 40% |
| Not sure | 10% |

15. How enthusiastic are you about voting for president in the upcoming presidential election in November?

Asked of registered voters

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Extremely enthusiastic | 42% |
| Very enthusiastic | 19% |
| Somewhat enthusiastic | 17% |
| Not too enthusiastic | 12% |
| Not at all enthusiastic | 10% |

16. Who will you vote for in the 2012 Presidential election?

Asked of registered voters. Respondents who initially answered 'not sure' were then asked whom they would support if they had to choose. Those who answered 'Probably Obama' or 'Probably Romney' to the follow-up question are considered 'leaners.'

| | Leaners Included | Leaners Excluded |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Barack Obama | 45% | 42% |
| Mitt Romney | 45% | 42% |
| Other | 4% | 4% |
| Not sure | 5% | 12% |

17. Would you say you are mostly voting for [Barack Obama/Mitt Romney] or against [other candidate]?

Asked of Obama/Romney supporters

| | |
|--|-----|
| I'm mostly voting for [Barack Obama/Mitt Romney] | 61% |
| I'm mostly voting against [other candidate] | 38% |
| Not sure | 1% |

18. Regardless of which candidate you support, who do you think is most likely to win the Presidential election in November?

Asked of registered voters

| | |
|--|-----|
| Obama will definitely win | 16% |
| Obama will probably win | 27% |
| Obama and Romney are equally likely to win | 16% |
| Romney will probably win | 21% |
| Romney will definitely win | 9% |
| Don't know | 12% |

19. 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 | 34% |
| The Republican Party candidate | 35% |
| Other | 2% |
| Not sure | 17% |
| I would not vote | 11% |

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

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 16% |
| No | 68% |
| Not sure | 16% |

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

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal | 4% |
| Liberal | 11% |
| Moderate | 31% |
| Conservative | 23% |
| Very Conservative | 8% |
| Not sure | 23% |

22. Would you say Barack Obama is...

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal | 35% |
| Liberal | 15% |
| Moderate | 24% |
| Conservative | 4% |
| Very conservative | 1% |
| Not sure | 22% |

23. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal | 4% |
| Liberal | 4% |
| Moderate | 18% |
| Conservative | 31% |
| Very conservative | 15% |
| Not sure | 27% |

24. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Like a lot | 29% |
| Like somewhat | 28% |
| Dislike | 29% |
| Not sure | 13% |

26. Do you think Mitt Romney...

| | |
|---|-----|
| Says what he believes | 27% |
| Says what he thinks people want to hear | 53% |
| Not sure | 20% |

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

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Like a lot | 12% |
| Like somewhat | 27% |
| Dislike | 37% |
| Not sure | 23% |

28. How well do you think each the following describes Barack Obama?

| | Extremely well | Quite well | Not too well | Not well at all |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Strong leader | 19% | 27% | 25% | 29% |
| Moral | 23% | 31% | 19% | 27% |
| Cares about people like me | 22% | 26% | 20% | 32% |
| Knowledgeable | 28% | 34% | 18% | 20% |
| Inspiring | 30% | 26% | 16% | 28% |
| Compassionate | 25% | 27% | 22% | 26% |
| Decent | 28% | 31% | 15% | 25% |
| Intelligent | 37% | 34% | 15% | 15% |

29. How well do you think each the following describes Mitt Romney?

| | Extremely well | Quite well | Not too well | Not well at all |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Strong leader | 16% | 33% | 27% | 24% |
| Moral | 20% | 36% | 23% | 21% |
| Cares about people like me | 8% | 26% | 26% | 40% |
| Knowledgeable | 20% | 37% | 25% | 18% |
| Inspiring | 9% | 25% | 32% | 33% |
| Compassionate | 11% | 27% | 29% | 33% |
| Decent | 21% | 33% | 24% | 22% |
| Intelligent | 26% | 42% | 16% | 15% |

30. How much do you like each of the following types of food?

| | Like a lot | Like somewhat | Neutral | Dislike somewhat | Dislike a lot | Don't know |
|----------------|------------|---------------|---------|------------------|---------------|------------|
| American | 73% | 17% | 6% | 1% | 0% | 3% |
| African | 8% | 9% | 21% | 6% | 9% | 47% |
| Middle Eastern | 14% | 14% | 22% | 7% | 8% | 35% |
| French | 20% | 24% | 25% | 3% | 6% | 22% |
| Italian | 65% | 22% | 6% | 1% | 3% | 3% |
| Chinese | 54% | 26% | 9% | 2% | 5% | 4% |
| Indian | 16% | 17% | 20% | 9% | 11% | 27% |
| Mexican | 54% | 26% | 8% | 4% | 3% | 5% |
| Thai | 22% | 19% | 18% | 6% | 9% | 25% |

31. Which of these is your favorite type of food?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| American | 31% |
| African | 1% |
| Middle Eastern | 1% |
| French | 2% |
| Italian | 26% |
| Chinese | 11% |
| Indian | 3% |
| Mexican | 17% |
| Thai | 4% |
| Other | 4% |

32. Which country do you think makes the best cars?

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| United States | 46% |
| Japan | 28% |
| Germany | 20% |
| Korea | 2% |
| Sweden | 1% |
| Other | 3% |

33. Which country do you think makes the worst cars?

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| United States | 20% |
| Japan | 7% |
| Germany | 5% |
| Korea | 39% |
| Sweden | 13% |
| Other | 15% |

34. If you had to pick one, what type of movie would you most like to see?

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Comedy | 31% |
| Drama | 11% |
| Action | 26% |
| Horror | 8% |
| Mystery | 9% |
| Documentary | 10% |
| Other | 3% |

35. In general, do you prefer Hollywood or foreign films?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Hollywood films | 64% |
| About the same | 31% |
| Foreign films | 4% |

36. Given the choice, what do you most like to do for entertainment?

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Watch television | 34% |
| Read a book | 19% |
| Go to a movie | 13% |
| See a play | 5% |
| Go to a concert | 6% |
| Attend a sports event | 11% |
| Other | 11% |

37. Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

| | Agree strongly | Agree somewhat | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree somewhat | Disagree strongly |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Generations of slavery and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for blacks to work their way out of the lower class. | 12% | 18% | 20% | 19% | 31% |
| Over the past few years, blacks have gotten less than they deserve. | 6% | 13% | 29% | 17% | 35% |
| It's really a matter of some people not trying hard enough; if blacks would only try harder they could be just as well off as whites. | 24% | 26% | 25% | 11% | 15% |
| Irish, Italians, Jewish and many other minorities overcame prejudice and worked their way up. Blacks should do the same without any special favors. | 39% | 23% | 22% | 8% | 7% |

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

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Getting better | 17% |
| About the same | 35% |
| Getting worse | 40% |
| Not sure | 9% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Higher | 17% |
| About the same | 38% |
| Lower | 18% |
| Not sure | 27% |

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

| | |
|---|-----|
| Better off financially than you were a year ago | 14% |
| About the same financially as you were a year ago | 47% |
| Worse off financially than you were a year ago | 33% |
| Not sure | 6% |

41. Gender

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Male | 48% |
| Female | 52% |

42. Education

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| No high school | 12% |
| High school graduate | 31% |
| Some college | 23% |
| 2-year college | 8% |
| 4-year college | 17% |
| Post-graduate | 9% |

43. Age

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| 18-29 | 21% |
| 30-44 | 26% |
| 45-64 | 35% |
| 65+ | 18% |

44. Race

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| White | 73% |
| Black | 11% |
| Hispanic | 8% |
| Other | 8% |

45. Region

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Northeast | 20% |
| Midwest | 24% |
| South | 36% |
| West | 21% |

46. Party Identification

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Democrat | 34% |
| Lean Democrat | 11% |
| Independent | 20% |
| Lean Republican | 13% |
| Republican | 23% |

The Economist/YouGov Poll



| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Sponsorship | <i>The Economist</i> |
| Fieldwork | YouGov |
| Interviewing Dates | August 18-20, 2012 |
| Target population | U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over. |
| Sampling method | 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. |
| 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 7.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.08. |
| Number of respondents | 1000 |
| Margin of error | ± 4.6% (adjusted for weighting) |
| Survey mode | Web-based interviews |
| Questions not reported | 27 questions not reported. |