The Economist/YouGov Poll

Sample   1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted   September 8-10, 2012
Margin of Error ±3.9%

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

Very closely 42%
Somewhat closely 37%
Not too closely 16%
Not at all 6%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 34%
Off on the wrong track 53%
Not sure 13%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	82%	15%	2%	1%
Immigration	40%	36%	19%	6%
The environment	40%	34%	18%	9%
Terrorism	44%	32%	18%	6%
Gay rights	26%	19%	24%	31%
Education	58%	30%	8%	4%
Health care	70%	22%	6%	2%
Social security	59%	30%	9%	2%
The budget deficit	58%	28%	10%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	34%	41%	17%	8%
Taxes	60%	30%	8%	2%
Medicare	55%	33%	10%	2%
Abortion	35%	30%	22%	13%

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

The economy	40%
Immigration	3%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	3%
Education	5%
Health care	12%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	5%
Abortion	2%

5. Did you watch or listen to any of the Democratic National Convention this past week?

Yes	61%
No	39%

6. Which of the following people did you see speak at the Democratic National Convention? (Check all that apply)
Asked of respondents who watched part of Democratic convention

Elizabeth Warren	34%
Julian Castro	38%
Bill Clinton	83%
Michelle Obama	68%
Barack Obama	77%
Joe Biden	57%

7. How would you rate each of the following people's speeches at the Democratic National Convention?
Asked of respondents who watched individual speeches

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Didn't watch it
Elizabeth Warren	36%	30%	10%	23%	2%
Julian Castro	43%	28%	14%	16%	0%
Bill Clinton	63%	18%	12%	7%	0%
Michelle Obama	63%	15%	12%	10%	0%
Barack Obama	46%	18%	15%	20%	1%
Joe Biden	33%	31%	19%	16%	1%

8. At their national convention in Charlotte, North Carolina this week, Democrats passed a party platform and later made two amendments. One of those changes was...?

Shortening the 2016 Democratic convention from 3 days to 1 day 2%

Changing the greatest security threat to the U.S. from al-Qaeda terrorists to the Chinese military 2%

Reinserting the word "God" 51%

Did not hear about the platform changes 45%

9. Which one of the following three statements comes closest to your view?

The U.S. is a Christian nation 28%

The U.S. is a Biblical nation, defined by the Judeo-Christian tradition 20%

The U.S. is a secular nation in which religious belief, or lack of it, isn't a defining characteristic 37%

Don't know 15%

10. Do you think Republican politicians running for office talk too much or too little about their religious beliefs?

Talk too much 43%

Talk about the right amount 43%

Talk too little 13%

11. Do you think <u>Democratic</u> politicians running for office talk too much or too little about their religious beliefs?

Talk too much	18%
Talk about the right amount	50%
Talk too little	32%

12. 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	33%	19%	7%	37%	4%
Mitt Romney	20%	24%	13%	37%	6%
Paul Ryan	27%	16%	11%	33%	13%
Joe Biden	23%	23%	13%	32%	9%

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

Strongly Approve	24%
Somewhat Approve	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	11%
Strongly Disapprove	38%
Not Sure	4%

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14. 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	19%	25%	11%	39%	6%
Immigration	20%	20%	15%	35%	11%
The environment	17%	26%	16%	25%	16%
Terrorism	27%	26%	15%	21%	11%
Gay rights	22%	21%	13%	29%	15%
Education	23%	23%	18%	23%	13%
Health care	28%	16%	12%	38%	6%
Social security	22%	19%	15%	32%	13%
The budget deficit	18%	21%	12%	40%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	21%	27%	17%	23%	11%
Taxes	24%	19%	15%	34%	7%
Medicare	22%	21%	12%	33%	11%
Abortion	22%	21%	12%	28%	18%

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

Strongly approve 3%
Somewhat approve 6%
Neither approve nor disapprove 15%
Somewhat disapprove 26%
Strongly disapprove 43%
Not sure 8%

16. How enthusiastic are you about voting for president in the upcoming presidential election in November?
Asked of registered voters

Extremely enthusiastic 43%
Very enthusiastic 25%
Somewhat enthusiastic 16%
Not too enthusiastic 11%
Not at all enthusiastic 5%

17. 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	49%	45%
Mitt Romney	45%	43%
Other	4%	4%
Not sure	2%	8%

18. How sure are you about your plans to vote for [Obama/Romney]?
Asked of Obama/Romney supporters

I will definitely vote for [Obama/Romney]. My mind is made up. 92%
I will probably vote for [Obama/Romney], but I could change my mind. 6%
I'm leaning toward voting for [Obama/Romney]. 2%

19. Would you say you are mostly voting for [Obama/Romney] or against [other candidate]?
Asked of Obama/Romney supporters

I'm mostly voting for [Obama/Romney] 58%
I'm mostly voting against [other candidate] 40%
Not sure 2%

20. 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 18%
Obama will probably win 31%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win 15%
Romney will probably win 17%
Romney will definitely win 11%
Don't know 8%

21. 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 43%
The Republican Party candidate 36%
Other 3%
Not sure 12%
I would not vote 7%

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

Yes 16%
No 71%
Not sure 13%

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

Very liberal 7%
Liberal 18%
Moderate 32%
Conservative 23%
Very Conservative 11%
Not sure 9%

24. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal 36%
Liberal 19%
Moderate 28%
Conservative 4%
Very conservative 2%
Not sure 12%

25. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal 4%
Liberal 3%
Moderate 22%
Conservative 31%
Very conservative 23%
Not sure 18%

26. Would you say Paul Ryan is...

Very liberal 3%
Liberal 3%
Moderate 8%
Conservative 26%
Very conservative 41%
Not sure 19%

27. Would you say Joe Biden is...

Very liberal 27%
Liberal 33%
Moderate 19%
Conservative 3%
Very conservative 1%
Not sure 17%

28. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes 43%
Says what he thinks people want to hear 51%
Not sure 6%

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

Like a lot 39%
Like somewhat 24%
Dislike 30%
Not sure 8%

30. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes 33%
Says what he thinks people want to hear 54%
Not sure 13%

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

Like a lot 15%
Like somewhat 30%
Dislike 41%
Not sure 13%

32. Do you think Joe Biden..

Says what he believes 45%
Says what he thinks people want to hear 35%
Not sure 20%

33. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Joe Biden as a person?

Like a lot 22%
Like somewhat 28%
Dislike 32%
Not sure 18%

34. Do you think Paul Ryan..

Says what he believes 48%
Says what he thinks people want to hear 30%
Not sure 22%

35. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Paul Ryan as a person?

Like a lot 23%
Like somewhat 19%
Dislike 35%
Not sure 23%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	40%	28%	33%
Bold	33%	52%	15%
Effective	26%	45%	29%
Exciting	23%	60%	17%
Experienced	26%	41%	32%
Honest	34%	32%	34%
Hypocritical	35%	34%	31%
Inspiring	39%	42%	19%
Intelligent	62%	27%	11%
Partisan	25%	55%	19%
Patriotic	32%	39%	29%
Religious	18%	54%	28%
Sincere	35%	37%	28%
Steady	30%	55%	15%
Strong	35%	47%	18%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	39%	32%	28%
Bold	21%	64%	15%
Effective	27%	52%	21%
Exciting	9%	55%	36%
Experienced	39%	47%	14%
Honest	26%	41%	34%
Hypocritical	37%	40%	23%
Inspiring	17%	50%	32%
Intelligent	48%	41%	10%
Partisan	30%	61%	9%
Patriotic	39%	51%	9%
Religious	57%	39%	4%
Sincere	28%	40%	32%
Steady	26%	58%	16%
Strong	27%	60%	14%

38. Thinking back to the 2008 presidential election between Barack Obama and John McCain, was your state considered a "battleground" state? That is, was it considered "up for grabs"?

I did not live in my current state in 2008. ....4%
Yes, my state was a battleground in 2008. ....22%
No, my state was not a battleground in 2008. ....49%
Don't know. 25%

39. Thinking about the upcoming presidential election to be held in November 2012, do you expect your state to be a "battleground" state? That is, will it be "up for grabs"?

Yes, my state will be a battleground 27%
No, my state will not be a battleground 51%
Don't know 23%

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

Getting better 27%
About the same 29%
Getting worse 40%
Not sure 4%

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

Higher 26%
About the same 31%
Lower 20%
Not sure 22%

42. 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 45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago 36%
Not sure 3%

43. Gender

Male 48%
Female 52%

44. Education

No high school 4%
High school graduate 41%
Some college 22%
2-year college 8%
4-year college 16%
Post-graduate 9%

45. Age

18-29 .... 22%
30-44 .... 27%
45-64 .... 34%
65+ 17%

46. Race

White 73%
Black 12%
Hispanic 9%
Other 6%

47. Region

Northeast 12%
Midwest 15%
South 34%
West 39%

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48. Party Identification

Democrat 35%
Lean Democrat 12%
Independent 13%
Lean Republican 11%
Republican 28%

Sponsorship	*The Economist*
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	September 8-10, 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 0.1 to 6.6, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.75.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	34 questions not reported.