

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted March 10-13, 2012
 Margin of Error ±3.7%

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

Very closely 33%
 Somewhat closely 36%
 Not too closely 20%
 Not at all 12%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 31%
 Off on the wrong track 54%
 Not sure 15%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	27%	39%	23%	11%
The economy	82%	15%	2%	0%
Immigration	39%	38%	17%	6%
The environment	34%	38%	18%	10%
Terrorism	44%	36%	14%	5%
Gay rights	19%	24%	24%	33%
Education	52%	34%	10%	4%
Health care	65%	25%	6%	4%
Social security	57%	34%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	58%	28%	10%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	33%	42%	19%	7%
Taxes	59%	31%	8%	2%
Medicare	50%	36%	10%	3%
Abortion	25%	29%	25%	20%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	45%
Immigration	2%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	3%
Education	6%
Health care	9%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	2%

5. How much have you read or heard about the dispute over Iran’s nuclear program?

A lot	39%
A little	40%
Nothing at all	21%

6. Do you think tougher international economic sanctions on Iran will or will not work in getting Iran to give up its nuclear program?

Will work	15%
Will not work	48%
Not sure	38%

7. In your opinion, which is more important?

Preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons, even if it means taking military actions	66%
Avoiding military conflict with Iran, even if it means they develop nuclear weapons.	34%

8. If Israel were to attack to stop Iran’s nuclear weapons program, what position should the U.S. take?

It should support Israel’s military action	45%
It should oppose Israel’s military action	7%
It should stay neutral	29%
Not sure	19%

9. In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, which side do you sympathize with more?

Israel	32%
The Palestinians	7%
Both	19%
Neither	21%
Not sure	21%

10. Which side do you think Barack Obama sympathizes with more?

Israel	19%
The Palestinians	26%
Both	17%
Neither	7%
Not sure	32%

11. Which side do you think the Republican candidates for president sympathize with more?

Israel	49%
The Palestinians	2%
Both	5%
Neither	10%
Not sure	35%

12. In general, how often do you think it is appropriate for a U.S. president to apologize to other countries when America makes a mistake in foreign policy?

Always appropriate	30%
Sometimes appropriate	40%
Never appropriate	18%
Not sure	12%

13. 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	32%	15%	8%	37%	8%
Mitt Romney	11%	26%	20%	28%	15%
Newt Gingrich	9%	17%	17%	44%	14%
Ron Paul	8%	26%	21%	26%	19%
Rick Santorum	13%	23%	13%	33%	18%

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

Strongly Approve	21%
Somewhat Approve	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	35%
Not Sure	7%

15. 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	24%	27%	12%	22%	15%
The economy	17%	23%	11%	38%	11%
Immigration	9%	23%	16%	33%	18%
The environment	13%	27%	15%	26%	19%
Terrorism	25%	26%	10%	23%	16%
Gay rights	11%	25%	12%	27%	25%
Education	16%	27%	16%	24%	18%
Health care	20%	20%	9%	40%	11%
Social securitys	14%	22%	16%	30%	19%
The budget deficit	12%	22%	12%	40%	13%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	29%	17%	24%	16%
Taxes	15%	24%	14%	34%	14%
Medicare	16%	22%	14%	30%	18%
Abortion	14%	20%	11%	27%	28%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	12%

17. Are you registered to vote as...

Asked of registered voters who live in states with party registration

Democrat	45%
Republican	33%
Other Party	1%
Independent/No Party	19%
Not sure	2%

18. Are you satisfied with the field of Republicans who have declared their candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination or would you like someone else to enter the race?

Asked of registered voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections

Satisfied with current field	47%
Would like someone else to enter	24%
Not sure	28%

19. If you had to choose one, which of these individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

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

Mitt Romney	28%
Newt Gingrich	21%
Ron Paul	10%
Rick Santorum	24%
Other	8%
No preference	8%

20. If you had to choose one, which of these two individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president?

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Not asked of respondents who support Romney or Gingrich, whose preference was determined from Q19.

Romney	57%
Gingrich	43%

21. If you had to choose one, which of these two individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president?

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Not asked of respondents who support Romney or Santorum, whose preference was determined from Q19.

Romney	52%
Santorum	48%

22. If you had to choose one, which of these two individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president?

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Not asked of respondents who support Santorum or Gingrich, whose preference was determined from Q19.

Gingrich	47%
Santorum	53%

23. How many times have you switched whom you are supporting in the Republican presidential primary contest?

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

Zero times	45%
Once	31%
Twice	15%
Three times	5%
More than three times	4%

24. 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

Barack Obama	47%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Mitt Romney	1%
Mitt Romney	43%
Other	3%
Not sure	4%

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

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	50%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich	2%
Newt Gingrich	39%
Other	3%
Not sure	5%

26. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Rick Santorum, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Rick Santorum?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	49%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Rick Santorum	2%
Rick Santorum	41%
Other	4%
Not sure	4%

27. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Ron Paul, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Ron Paul?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	47%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Ron Paul	3%
Ron Paul	39%
Other	5%
Not sure	5%

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

Barack Obama	52%
Mitt Romney	45%
Someone else	3%

29. Regardless of who you would support, who do you think would win the presidential election if Rick Santorum became the Republican nominee?

Barack Obama	64%
Rick Santorum	31%
Someone else	4%

30. Regardless of who you would support, who do you think would win the presidential election if Newt Gingrich became the Republican nominee?

Barack Obama	67%
Newt Gingrich	28%
Someone else	5%

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

Yes	13%
No	71%
Not sure	16%

32. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	33%
Liberal	19%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	18%

33. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	4%
Liberal	5%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	30%
Very conservative	9%
Not sure	24%

34. Would you say Rick Santorum is...

Very liberal	2%
Liberal	3%
Moderate	8%
Conservative	23%
Very conservative	40%
Not sure	24%

35. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	43%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	46%
Not sure	10%

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

Like a lot	34%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	27%
Not sure	11%

37. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	17%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	61%
Not sure	22%

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

Like a lot	8%
Like somewhat	36%
Dislike	31%
Not sure	24%

39. Do you think Rick Santorum...

Says what he believes	47%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	28%
Not sure	25%

40. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Rick Santorum as a person?

Like a lot	14%
Like somewhat	24%
Dislike	35%
Not sure	27%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	35%	36%	29%
Bold	30%	55%	16%
Effective	26%	43%	30%
Exciting	17%	65%	18%
Experienced	20%	46%	34%
Honest	35%	33%	32%
Hypocritical	32%	41%	27%
Inspiring	32%	47%	21%
Intelligent	61%	29%	10%
Partisan	25%	59%	16%
Patriotic	31%	42%	27%
Religious	15%	58%	27%
Sincere	35%	39%	27%
Steady	29%	57%	15%
Strong	32%	47%	20%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	32%	51%	18%
Bold	14%	74%	12%
Effective	16%	70%	14%
Exciting	5%	64%	31%
Experienced	31%	61%	8%
Honest	14%	60%	26%
Hypocritical	29%	57%	13%
Inspiring	9%	66%	25%
Intelligent	40%	51%	9%
Partisan	18%	74%	9%
Patriotic	29%	65%	6%
Religious	37%	58%	4%
Sincere	15%	60%	26%
Steady	20%	70%	10%
Strong	20%	69%	11%

43. Which of these words would you use to describe Rick Santorum?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	24%	56%	20%
Bold	16%	73%	11%
Effective	11%	68%	21%
Exciting	9%	67%	24%
Experienced	17%	66%	17%
Honest	27%	59%	14%
Hypocritical	21%	59%	20%
Inspiring	12%	64%	23%
Intelligent	29%	56%	15%
Partisan	25%	69%	6%
Patriotic	32%	63%	5%
Religious	50%	48%	2%
Sincere	27%	59%	14%
Steady	19%	72%	9%
Strong	14%	73%	13%

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

Getting better	31%
About the same	34%
Getting worse	29%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	26%
About the same	36%
Lower	17%
Not sure	21%

46. 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	49%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	31%
Not sure	6%

47. 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	36%
The Republican Party candidate	33%
Other	1%
Not sure	18%
I would not vote	11%

48. Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%

49. Education

No high school	12%
High school graduate	32%
Some college	21%
2-year college	9%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	9%

50. Age

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

51. Race

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

52. Region

Northeast	20%
Midwest	23%
South	37%
West	20%

53. Party Identification

Democrat	35%
Lean Democrat	11%
Independent	18%
Lean Republican	9%
Republican	27%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	March 10-13, 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 0.3 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.66.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	25 questions not reported.