

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample            1000 General Population Respondents  
 Conducted        November 23-26, 2012  
 Margin of Error   ±5.6%

## 1. How closely did you follow news about the 2012 Presidential election campaign?

Very closely ..... 47%  
 Somewhat closely ..... 34%  
 Not too closely ..... 13%  
 Not at all ..... 5%

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

Generally headed in the right direction ..... 38%  
 Off on the wrong track ..... 53%  
 Not sure ..... 9%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	82%	17%	1%	0%
Immigration	40%	40%	16%	4%
The environment	38%	36%	16%	10%
Terrorism	46%	36%	13%	5%
Gay rights	24%	19%	24%	33%
Education	55%	34%	8%	3%
Health care	70%	25%	3%	2%
Social security	59%	32%	8%	1%
The budget deficit	64%	24%	10%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	31%	44%	20%	5%
Taxes	66%	27%	5%	1%
Medicare	55%	33%	10%	1%
Abortion	34%	27%	25%	14%

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

The economy .....	40%
Immigration .....	2%
The environment .....	2%
Terrorism .....	1%
Gay rights .....	3%
Education .....	4%
Health care .....	13%
Social security .....	11%
The budget deficit .....	9%
The war in Afghanistan .....	0%
Taxes .....	4%
Medicare .....	4%
Abortion .....	4%

5. How much is each of the following people or groups to blame for the poor economic conditions of the past few years?

	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	Not at all
President Obama	32%	10%	17%	22%	18%
President Bush	34%	17%	24%	16%	9%
Democrats in the U.S. Congress	29%	15%	27%	23%	7%
Republicans in the U.S. Congress	29%	20%	31%	14%	6%
Wall Street bankers	38%	25%	23%	11%	4%
Consumers who borrowed too much money	26%	28%	26%	15%	5%

6. Unless Congress acts before the end of the year, automatic tax increases and spending cuts will go into effect. How likely is it that Congress and the President will agree on a way to avoid the large spending cuts and tax increases now scheduled for January 1?

Very likely	16%
Somewhat likely	26%
Somewhat unlikely	26%
Very unlikely	17%
Not sure	16%

7. If Congress and the President fail to reach an agreement to avoid the large cuts and tax increases, who will you blame? (Check all that apply)

The Republicans in Congress	51%
The Democrats in Congress	34%
President Obama	43%
Not sure	13%

8. In recent years, many candidates who run for Congress have signed a document developed by an organization called Americans for Tax Reform that is called the Taxpayer Protection Pledge. When they sign the pledge, candidates make a commitment to oppose all tax increases for the entire time they are serving in the office they are running for.

Do you support or oppose candidates signing the Taxpayer Protection Pledge?

Strongly support	23%
Somewhat support	22%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	25%
Not sure	18%

9. Some politicians who once signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge are now trying to back out of it. These politicians argue that they signed the pledge many years ago, when the country's budget situation was better, and that the current budget problems mean that Congress should not rule out all tax increases. What do you think the reaction to politicians who break the pledge should be?

- They should be criticized for breaking a pledge that they made to the people. .... 31%
- They should be congratulated for being willing to address the country's budget problems, even if it means backing out of a pledge they made. .... 28%
- It depends on what kind of tax increase they are willing to support. .... 29%
- Not sure ..... 12%

10. Do you think the amount of annual revenue that the federal government currently receives is enough to fund the federal government's responsibilities?

- Yes, the current amount of annual revenue is enough ..... 39%
- No, more revenue is needed ..... 36%
- Not sure ..... 24%

11. Overall, do you think illegal immigrants make a contribution to American society or are a drain?

- Mostly make a contribution ..... 24%
- Neither ..... 13%
- Mostly a drain ..... 51%
- Not sure ..... 11%

12. Do you favor or oppose providing a legal way for illegal immigrants already in the United States to become U.S. citizens?

- Favor ..... 45%
- Oppose ..... 37%
- Unsure ..... 19%

13. Please indicate your opinion of the following immigration proposals:

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	24%
Somewhat support	27%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	23%
Don't know	9%

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

Strongly support	33%
Somewhat support	29%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	16%
Don't know	9%

15. 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	36%
Should only be handled by federal government	49%
Not sure	15%

16. 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	37%	14%	11%	36%	2%
John Boehner	9%	20%	17%	24%	30%
Mitch McConnell	5%	14%	14%	19%	47%
Harry Reid	7%	16%	11%	30%	36%
Nancy Pelosi	13%	20%	12%	34%	21%
David Petraeus	11%	24%	22%	11%	32%

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

Strongly Approve	27%
Somewhat Approve	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	9%
Strongly Disapprove	37%
Not Sure	2%

18. 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	22%	24%	10%	40%	6%
Immigration	18%	19%	15%	35%	14%
The environment	18%	28%	15%	24%	16%
Terrorism	25%	28%	13%	24%	10%
Gay rights	20%	19%	9%	29%	23%
Education	22%	25%	14%	25%	13%
Health care	27%	18%	8%	40%	7%
Social security	21%	23%	11%	32%	13%
The budget deficit	17%	20%	14%	40%	8%
The war in Afghanistan	22%	27%	15%	23%	13%
Taxes	24%	23%	9%	36%	9%
Medicare	22%	23%	11%	33%	11%
Abortion	21%	18%	7%	32%	23%

19. 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	18%
Somewhat disapprove	29%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	9%

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

Yes	12%
No	80%
Not sure	9%

21. Some groups of people tend to vote mostly for Democrats or Republicans, while other groups are about equally split between the parties. How do you think the following groups tend to vote?

	Mostly Democratic	Some-what Democratic	Evenly Split	Some-what Republican	Mostly Republican	Don't know
Rich people	2%	2%	18%	17%	51%	10%
Middle class people	12%	20%	40%	12%	6%	11%
Poor people	56%	20%	11%	3%	0%	11%
People with advanced university degrees	19%	16%	28%	13%	8%	15%
People who live in big cities	36%	20%	23%	3%	4%	14%
People who live in rural areas	7%	10%	17%	21%	29%	16%
People who live in suburbs	5%	12%	35%	23%	10%	15%
Young people	37%	33%	15%	2%	1%	11%
Old people	9%	11%	27%	26%	16%	12%

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

Very liberal	11%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	25%
Very Conservative	13%
Not sure	6%



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

Very liberal .....	37%
Liberal .....	25%
Moderate .....	21%
Conservative .....	5%
Very conservative .....	3%
Not sure .....	9%

**24. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	48%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	45%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Like a lot .....	41%
Like somewhat .....	22%
Dislike .....	30%
Not sure .....	7%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	39%	24%	37%
Bold	33%	50%	18%
Effective	35%	33%	32%
Exciting	23%	54%	23%
Experienced	28%	41%	31%
Honest	35%	29%	35%
Hypocritical	34%	31%	35%
Inspiring	39%	37%	25%
Intelligent	60%	25%	14%
Partisan	27%	55%	19%
Patriotic	32%	40%	28%
Religious	16%	55%	29%
Sincere	37%	33%	30%
Steady	29%	52%	19%
Strong	37%	41%	22%

27. Did you go shopping on "Black Friday" (the day after Thanksgiving, when many stores and retail chains offer discounts)?

Yes .....	21%
No .....	79%

28. How much did you spend on "Black Friday"?

*Asked of respondents who indicated they shopped on Black Friday*

Less than \$50 .....	31%
\$50-\$100 .....	21%
\$100-\$250 .....	25%
\$250-\$500 .....	19%
More than \$500 .....	4%

**29. Did you spend more or less than you expected?**

*Asked of respondents who indicated they shopped on Black Friday*

More than I expected .....	22%
About the same .....	65%
Less than I expected .....	13%

**30. Do you think the Black Friday bargains were better or worse than last year?**

*Asked of respondents who indicated they shopped on Black Friday*

Better than last year .....	9%
About the same .....	47%
Worse than last year .....	19%
I didn't shop during Black Friday last year .....	25%

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

Getting better .....	28%
About the same .....	32%
Getting worse .....	38%
Not sure .....	3%

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

Higher .....	20%
About the same .....	34%
Lower .....	24%
Not sure .....	23%

**33. 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 .....	36%
Not sure .....	3%

**34. Gender**

Male .....	50%
Female .....	50%

**35. Education**

No high school .....	11%
High school graduate .....	32%
Some college .....	23%
2-year college .....	10%
4-year college .....	15%
Post-graduate .....	9%

**36. Age**

18-29 .....	28%
30-44 .....	23%
45-64 .....	34%
65+ .....	15%

**37. Race**

White .....	68%
Black .....	16%
Hispanic .....	12%
Other .....	4%

**38. Region**

Northeast .....	19%
Midwest .....	22%
South .....	39%
West .....	20%

**39. Party Identification**

Democrat .....	39%
Lean Democrat .....	9%
Independent .....	10%
Lean Republican .....	12%
Republican .....	29%

<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	November 23-26, 2012
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	Respondents were selected from YouGov’s opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2010 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2010 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement. Religion, political interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Pew Religion in American Life Survey.
<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 to 8.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.52.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 5.6% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	17 questions not reported.