

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample            1000 General Population Respondents  
 Conducted        September 22-24, 2012  
 Margin of Error   ±4.7%

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

Very closely ..... 51%  
 Somewhat closely ..... 34%  
 Not too closely ..... 12%  
 Not at all ..... 3%

## 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	84%	14%	2%	0%
Immigration	42%	35%	18%	5%
The environment	39%	33%	18%	11%
Terrorism	51%	29%	15%	5%
Gay rights	21%	26%	22%	31%
Education	55%	33%	10%	2%
Health care	65%	26%	8%	2%
Social security	59%	30%	9%	2%
The budget deficit	65%	24%	9%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	37%	40%	17%	6%
Taxes	61%	32%	5%	2%
Medicare	52%	33%	13%	2%
Abortion	31%	29%	24%	16%

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

The economy .....	43%
Immigration .....	2%
The environment .....	4%
Terrorism .....	2%
Gay rights .....	3%
Education .....	9%
Health care .....	10%
Social security .....	9%
The budget deficit .....	9%
The war in Afghanistan .....	1%
Taxes .....	3%
Medicare .....	2%
Abortion .....	3%

5. If Barack Obama were reelected president in 2012, would the U.S. become more or less safe from foreign threats?

More safe from foreign threats .....	24%
About the same .....	34%
Less safe from foreign threats .....	38%
Not sure .....	4%

6. If Mitt Romney were elected president in 2012, would the U.S. become more or less safe from foreign threats?

More safe from foreign threats .....	30%
About the same .....	25%
Less safe from foreign threats .....	36%
Not sure .....	9%

7. If Barack Obama were reelected president in 2012, would the U.S. become more or less respected by other countries?

More respected by other countries ..... 26%  
 About the same ..... 32%  
 Less respected by other countries ..... 37%  
 Not sure ..... 5%

8. If Mitt Romney were elected president in 2012, would the U.S. become more or less respected by other countries?

More respected by other countries ..... 27%  
 About the same ..... 21%  
 Less respected by other countries ..... 42%  
 Not sure ..... 10%

9. 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	36%	16%	9%	37%	2%
Mitt Romney	21%	21%	15%	40%	3%
Paul Ryan	27%	14%	11%	39%	8%
Joe Biden	26%	21%	15%	33%	5%

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

Strongly Approve ..... 25%  
 Somewhat Approve ..... 23%  
 Somewhat Disapprove ..... 9%  
 Strongly Disapprove ..... 40%  
 Not Sure ..... 2%

11. 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	23%	23%	8%	43%	3%
Immigration	21%	21%	11%	38%	9%
The environment	17%	30%	15%	28%	10%
Terrorism	28%	20%	16%	30%	6%
Gay rights	26%	19%	11%	30%	13%
Education	24%	25%	16%	26%	8%
Health care	31%	16%	8%	42%	3%
Social security	24%	20%	15%	33%	9%
The budget deficit	18%	22%	9%	45%	6%
The war in Afghanistan	18%	26%	19%	29%	8%
Taxes	24%	21%	13%	37%	5%
Medicare	24%	21%	12%	35%	8%
Abortion	23%	20%	10%	31%	16%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	27%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	4%

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

*Asked of registered voters*

Extremely enthusiastic .....	40%
Very enthusiastic .....	24%
Somewhat enthusiastic .....	17%
Not too enthusiastic .....	10%
Not at all enthusiastic .....	8%

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

*Asked of registered voters. Leaners are left in the "not sure" category in the left column and allocated to the candidate they lean to in the right column.*

	Leaners Not Allocated	Leaners Allocated
Barack Obama	47%	48%
Mitt Romney	42%	43%
Other	6%	6%
Not sure	5%	3%

**15. 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 .....	90%
I will probably vote for [Obama/Romney], but I could change my mind .....	8%
I'm leaning toward voting for [Obama/Romney] .....	2%

**16. 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] .....	64%
I'm mostly voting against [other candidate] .....	35%
Not sure .....	1%

17. 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 .....	22%
Obama will probably win .....	28%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win .....	17%
Romney will probably win .....	16%
Romney will definitely win .....	9%
Don't know .....	8%

18. 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 .....	42%
The Republican Party candidate .....	37%
Other .....	3%
Not sure .....	15%
I would not vote .....	3%

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

Yes .....	18%
No .....	70%
Not sure .....	12%

20. What percentage of their income do you think the following people paid in taxes in 2011?

	Less than 5%	5-10%	10-15%	15-20%	20-30%	30-40%	40-50%	More than 50%	Don't know
Mitt Romney	9%	6%	51%	11%	5%	2%	1%	2%	14%
Barack Obama	6%	6%	15%	19%	21%	4%	2%	5%	24%

21. What percentage of their income do you think the following people gave away to charity in 2011?

	Less than 5%	5-10%	10-15%	15-20%	20-30%	30-40%	40-50%	More than 50%	Don't know
Mitt Romney	14%	12%	13%	14%	16%	5%	2%	1%	24%
Barack Obama	21%	13%	15%	9%	6%	2%	2%	3%	29%

22. Do you think the following people pay more than their fair share, their fair share, or less than their fair share of federal taxes?

	More than fair share	Fair share	Less than fair share	Don't know
Barack Obama	9%	45%	31%	15%
Mitt Romney	11%	27%	50%	12%
Bill Gates	12%	35%	36%	17%
Most people	26%	42%	20%	12%
People like yourself	35%	53%	4%	9%

23. Do you think the following people give too much or too little of their income to charity?

	Give away too much	Give away right amount	Give away too little	Don't know
Barack Obama	4%	31%	35%	30%
Mitt Romney	7%	36%	29%	28%
Bill Gates	12%	49%	13%	26%
Most people	3%	33%	40%	24%
People like yourself	4%	53%	26%	17%

24. Did you read or hear about a speech where Mitt Romney said that 47% of the population is "dependent on government", "will vote for the President no matter what", and "pay no income tax"?

Yes	82%
No	12%
Not sure	6%

25. Do you think it was a mistake for Mitt Romney to say what he said in that speech?

*Asked of respondents who had heard of Romney speech*

It was a serious mistake	39%
It was a minor mistake	19%
It was not a mistake	38%
Not sure	4%

26. Did Mitt Romney's comments about people who are "dependent on government" and "pay no income tax" change how you intend to vote in November?

*Asked of respondents who indicated they believe Mitt Romney's comments were a mistake*

Yes, it made me more likely to vote against him	18%
No, it didn't affect my vote and I might vote for him	24%
No, I had already decided to vote against him	57%

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

Very liberal	12%
Liberal	15%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	24%
Very Conservative	14%
Not sure	4%



28. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal .....	40%
Liberal .....	23%
Moderate .....	26%
Conservative .....	2%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	7%

29. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal .....	2%
Liberal .....	3%
Moderate .....	20%
Conservative .....	36%
Very conservative .....	27%
Not sure .....	12%

30. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes .....	46%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	47%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Like a lot .....	39%
Like somewhat .....	24%
Dislike .....	29%
Not sure .....	8%

32. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes .....	37%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	56%
Not sure .....	8%

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

Like a lot .....	16%
Like somewhat .....	30%
Dislike .....	43%
Not sure .....	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	41%	27%	33%
Bold	35%	50%	15%
Effective	32%	36%	32%
Exciting	27%	50%	23%
Experienced	28%	38%	34%
Honest	38%	24%	38%
Hypocritical	33%	35%	33%
Inspiring	42%	35%	23%
Intelligent	62%	26%	11%
Partisan	32%	50%	18%
Patriotic	35%	32%	33%
Religious	17%	53%	30%
Sincere	41%	27%	32%
Steady	35%	47%	18%
Strong	35%	45%	20%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	47%	24%	29%
Bold	20%	60%	20%
Effective	28%	45%	28%
Exciting	8%	50%	43%
Experienced	39%	42%	19%
Honest	29%	34%	37%
Hypocritical	41%	33%	26%
Inspiring	18%	43%	39%
Intelligent	50%	35%	16%
Partisan	35%	49%	15%
Patriotic	45%	43%	12%
Religious	59%	36%	6%
Sincere	27%	33%	41%
Steady	29%	53%	18%
Strong	28%	52%	20%

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

Getting better	31%
About the same	32%
Getting worse	33%
Not sure	3%

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

Higher	27%
About the same	37%
Lower	17%
Not sure	19%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	18%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	47%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	33%
Not sure .....	1%

**39. Gender**

Male .....	49%
Female .....	51%

**40. Education**

No high school .....	2%
High school graduate .....	39%
Some college .....	21%
2-year college .....	13%
4-year college .....	17%
Post-graduate .....	8%

**41. Age**

18-29 .....	25%
30-44 .....	27%
45-64 .....	34%
65+ .....	15%

**42. Race**

White .....	71%
Black .....	15%
Hispanic .....	9%
Other .....	5%

**43. Region**

Northeast .....	15%
Midwest .....	19%
South .....	40%
West .....	26%

**44. Party Identification**

Democrat .....	37%
Lean Democrat .....	10%
Independent .....	11%
Lean Republican .....	10%
Republican .....	32%

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<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	September 22-24, 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 8.6, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.15.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.7% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	23 questions not reported.