

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
 Conducted November 17-19, 2012  
 Margin of Error ±5.4%

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

Very closely ..... 49%  
 Somewhat closely ..... 31%  
 Not too closely ..... 13%  
 Not at all ..... 7%

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

Generally headed in the right direction ..... 34%  
 Off on the wrong track ..... 54%  
 Not sure ..... 12%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	80%	17%	2%	1%
Immigration	42%	38%	14%	6%
The environment	37%	35%	18%	10%
Terrorism	51%	31%	12%	5%
Gay rights	19%	25%	23%	32%
Education	51%	36%	11%	3%
Health care	68%	24%	7%	2%
Social security	62%	27%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	60%	26%	10%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	35%	40%	17%	8%
Taxes	64%	27%	8%	2%
Medicare	53%	32%	12%	2%
Abortion	30%	33%	22%	15%

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

The economy .....	45%
Immigration .....	3%
The environment .....	3%
Terrorism .....	3%
Gay rights .....	1%
Education .....	5%
Health care .....	9%
Social security .....	12%
The budget deficit .....	10%
The war in Afghanistan .....	1%
Taxes .....	3%
Medicare .....	3%
Abortion .....	1%

5. Do you think married people with the following jobs should resign their position if they were found to be having an affair?

	Yes, they should resign	No, they should not resign	Not sure
Member of Congress	40%	41%	19%
Army general	35%	46%	18%
Director of CIA	41%	40%	19%
Chief Executive of a major company	19%	60%	21%
University professor	25%	55%	19%
Coach of a pro-sports team	21%	59%	20%
Principal of a high school	33%	49%	19%
Mayor of a big city	34%	46%	20%
Manager of a local business	13%	66%	21%
Minister of a church	69%	17%	14%

**6. Do you think openly gay people should be allowed to hold each of the following jobs?**

	Yes, they should be allowed	No, they should not be allowed	Not sure
Member of Congress	70%	18%	13%
Army general	60%	27%	13%
Director of CIA	63%	24%	13%
Chief Executive of a major company	73%	14%	13%
University professor	70%	18%	12%
Coach of a pro-sports team	65%	21%	13%
Principal of a high school	62%	27%	11%
Mayor of a big city	70%	18%	12%
Manager of a local business	76%	12%	11%
Minister of a church	46%	39%	15%

**7. Should members of Congress stand up for their principles no matter what, or compromise with their opponents in order to get something done?**

Stand up for their principles	42%
Compromise to get something done	58%

**8. How concerned are you about the federal budget deficit?**

Very concerned	52%
Somewhat concerned	27%
Slightly concerned	15%
Not concerned at all	6%

**9. Do you favor raising taxes to decrease the federal budget deficit?**

Yes	31%
No	47%
Not sure	21%

10. Whose taxes should be raised? For families with total annual income in the following categories, please tell us how much their taxes should be raised.

*Asked of respondents who indicated they favor raising taxes to reduce deficit*

	No change	A little	A fair amount	A lot
Under \$30,000	86%	9%	4%	1%
\$30,000 to \$60,000	67%	26%	7%	0%
\$60,000 to \$100,000	45%	38%	16%	2%
\$100,000 to \$250,000	24%	26%	41%	9%
\$250,000 to \$500,000	1%	14%	49%	37%
Over \$500,000	0%	4%	29%	67%

11. Do you favor cutting spending to decrease the federal budget deficit?

Yes	71%
No	14%
Not sure	15%

12. Which of the following programs would you favor cutting to reduce the federal budget deficit? Check all that apply.

*Asked of respondents who indicated they favor cutting spending to reduce the deficit*

Medicare	21%
Medicaid	31%
Social Security	19%
Defense spending	51%
None of the above	30%

13. Have you heard about the "fiscal cliff"?

Yes	63%
No	26%
Not sure	11%

14. How badly do you think the economy will be hurt if Congress and the President do not reach a compromise on tax increases and spending cuts before the end of the year?

Hurt badly	57%
Hurt a little	23%
Not hurt at all	6%
Don't know	15%

15. What would you like Congress and the President to do instead of the tax increases and spending cuts that are scheduled to automatically go into effect?

Only cut spending	22%
Mostly cut spending, but raise taxes a little	23%
Cut spending and raise taxes by about the same amounts	14%
Mostly raise taxes, but cut spending a little	13%
Only raise taxes	5%
Other, please specify	10%
Not sure	12%

16. Who do you think is willing to compromise on tax increases and spending cuts?

	Very willing	Somewhat willing	Not willing to compromise	Not sure
President Obama	27%	23%	34%	17%
Congress	4%	39%	35%	22%
Democrats	19%	29%	36%	16%
Republicans	6%	28%	49%	17%

17. Who do you blame for the recent escalation of violence in Israel/Palestine?

Israel	7%
The Palestinians	36%
Both	37%
Not sure	20%

18. Do you think U.S. foreign aid to the following countries should be increased or decreased?

	Increase	Stay the same	Decrease	Not sure
Israel	17%	28%	37%	18%
Egypt	3%	16%	62%	19%
The West Bank and Gaza	6%	17%	57%	21%
Iraq	4%	15%	66%	16%
Afghanistan	2%	20%	60%	17%
Pakistan	4%	11%	67%	18%

19. 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%	14%	10%	36%	7%
John Boehner	9%	22%	20%	20%	30%
Mitch McConnell	7%	14%	14%	21%	44%
Harry Reid	8%	18%	11%	29%	34%
Nancy Pelosi	14%	16%	11%	40%	18%
David Petraeus	11%	24%	27%	10%	29%

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

Strongly Approve	25%
Somewhat Approve	20%
Somewhat Disapprove	12%
Strongly Disapprove	38%
Not Sure	4%

21. 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%	19%	11%	39%	8%
Immigration	20%	19%	13%	38%	10%
The environment	21%	26%	13%	24%	16%
Terrorism	26%	22%	10%	30%	12%
Gay rights	28%	15%	8%	29%	20%
Education	24%	23%	13%	26%	15%
Health care	27%	18%	10%	37%	9%
Social security	24%	18%	14%	29%	14%
The budget deficit	19%	20%	13%	39%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	20%	24%	18%	27%	12%
Taxes	25%	18%	14%	33%	11%
Medicare	25%	18%	14%	31%	12%
Abortion	24%	16%	10%	28%	22%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	29%
Strongly disapprove	34%
Not sure	9%

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

Yes	12%
No	72%
Not sure	15%

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

Very liberal	11%
Liberal	15%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	26%
Very Conservative	11%
Not sure	8%

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

Very liberal	36%
Liberal	23%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	11%

**26. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes	45%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	47%
Not sure	8%

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

Like a lot	39%
Like somewhat	23%
Dislike	28%
Not sure	10%



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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	32%	32%
Bold	33%	52%	15%
Effective	29%	39%	32%
Exciting	22%	58%	20%
Experienced	30%	39%	31%
Honest	36%	30%	33%
Hypocritical	33%	36%	30%
Inspiring	37%	40%	23%
Intelligent	56%	32%	12%
Partisan	27%	55%	18%
Patriotic	31%	39%	30%
Religious	17%	52%	30%
Sincere	39%	32%	30%
Steady	31%	52%	17%
Strong	37%	42%	21%

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

Getting better	28%
About the same	24%
Getting worse	42%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	31%
Lower	28%
Not sure	20%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	15%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	44%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	36%
Not sure .....	5%

**32. Gender**

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

**33. Education**

No high school .....	12%
High school graduate .....	29%
Some college .....	26%
2-year college .....	10%
4-year college .....	16%
Post-graduate .....	7%

**34. Age**

18-29 .....	26%
30-44 .....	23%
45-64 .....	35%
65+ .....	17%

**35. Race**

White .....	64%
Black .....	16%
Hispanic .....	12%
Other .....	8%

**36. Region**

Northeast .....	17%
Midwest .....	21%
South .....	42%
West .....	20%

**37. Party Identification**

Democrat .....	37%
Lean Democrat .....	6%
Independent .....	19%
Lean Republican .....	9%
Republican .....	30%

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<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	November 17-19, 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 10.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.42.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 5.4% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	17 questions not reported.