

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted July 28-30, 2012
 Margin of Error $\pm 4.5\%$

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

Very closely 34%
 Somewhat closely 35%
 Not too closely 22%
 Not at all 9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 22%
 Off on the wrong track 62%
 Not sure 16%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	81%	14%	3%	2%
Immigration	41%	33%	21%	6%
The environment	40%	33%	18%	10%
Terrorism	48%	32%	14%	6%
Gay rights	20%	22%	25%	33%
Education	52%	33%	10%	5%
Health care	70%	21%	6%	3%
Social security	61%	27%	9%	2%
The budget deficit	63%	26%	8%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	30%	40%	20%	10%
Taxes	61%	29%	8%	3%
Medicare	55%	29%	12%	4%
Abortion	31%	29%	23%	17%

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

The economy	41%
Immigration	4%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	4%
Health care	12%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	2%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	2%
Abortion	1%

5. How concerned are you about the following things?

	Extremely concerned	Moderately concerned	Slightly concerned	Not at all concerned
China's rapid economic rise	27%	31%	25%	17%
Terrorist groups like Al Qaeda	36%	32%	22%	10%
The spread of nuclear weapons	38%	30%	23%	9%
Anti-American sentiment in the rest of the world	25%	35%	25%	16%
The European financial crisis	24%	42%	23%	11%

6. How strongly do you support or oppose the following foreign policy ideas?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Spend more money on national defense and security	19%	21%	33%	17%	10%
Get our allies in Europe and Asia to do more internationally	29%	34%	29%	5%	3%
Focus less attention on the rest of the world and more on our problems at home	50%	26%	16%	6%	2%
Reduce America's military presence and bases overseas	22%	33%	23%	13%	9%
Reward U.S. companies that rely on American workers	56%	22%	16%	2%	4%

7. Which region of the world do you think will be most critical to American security and prosperity in the next ten years?

Asia	21%
Latin America	5%
Europe	9%
Middle East	34%
Africa	2%
Not sure	29%

8. Do you think the U.S. is safer today than it was before September 11, 2001?

Definitely yes	12%
Probably yes	30%
Probably no	26%
Definitely no	14%
Not sure	18%

9. How likely do you think it is that the U.S. will still be the world's strongest country thirty years from now?

Very likely	18%
Somewhat likely	25%
Somewhat unlikely	28%
Very unlikely	13%
Not sure	15%

10. 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	28%	20%	11%	34%	7%
Mitt Romney	18%	22%	18%	32%	10%
Tim Pawlenty	6%	18%	16%	11%	49%
Rob Portman	3%	15%	10%	7%	65%
Bobby Jindal	11%	17%	10%	14%	47%
Paul Ryan	14%	16%	11%	17%	43%
Condoleezza Rice	23%	31%	17%	9%	19%
Marco Rubio	16%	16%	14%	13%	42%

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

Strongly Approve	19%
Somewhat Approve	23%
Somewhat Disapprove	16%
Strongly Disapprove	35%
Not Sure	7%

12. 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	15%	20%	14%	39%	12%
Immigration	12%	21%	15%	36%	16%
The environment	14%	25%	16%	24%	21%
Terrorism	22%	26%	16%	22%	14%
Gay rights	17%	21%	12%	31%	19%
Education	16%	25%	16%	23%	20%
Health care	20%	22%	8%	39%	10%
Social security	13%	20%	17%	30%	21%
The budget deficit	13%	20%	11%	43%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	16%	28%	19%	22%	15%
Taxes	19%	20%	11%	34%	15%
Medicare	16%	18%	14%	32%	20%
Abortion	13%	19%	10%	28%	31%

13. 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	17%
Somewhat disapprove	27%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	8%

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

Asked of registered voters

Extremely enthusiastic	41%
Very enthusiastic	17%
Somewhat enthusiastic	18%
Not too enthusiastic	14%
Not at all enthusiastic	10%

15. 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 Counted as Candidate Supporters	Leaners Counted as 'Not Sure'
Barack Obama	44%	40%
Mitt Romney	46%	43%
Other	6%	6%
Not sure	4%	12%

16. Would you say you are mostly voting for [Obama/Romney] or against [other candidate]?

Asked of registered voters who indicate they plan to vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney

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

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	16%
Obama will probably win	27%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win	18%
Romney will probably win	18%
Romney will definitely win	8%
Don't know	13%

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	36%
The Republican Party candidate	34%
Other	3%
Not sure	17%
I would not vote	11%

19. Now we are interested in exploring how the outcome of this fall's presidential election will affect America over the next four years. Regardless of which candidate you personally support, what effect do you think the election outcome will have on . . .

	Much higher if Obama is reelected	Somewhat higher if Obama is reelected	No difference	Somewhat higher if Romney is elected	Much higher if Romney is elected
The federal budget deficit	36%	11%	36%	5%	12%
Your own federal taxes	25%	14%	42%	11%	9%
The overall rate of economic growth in America	9%	18%	37%	17%	18%
Federal spending on social security and Medicare	17%	25%	47%	7%	4%
Defense spending	3%	7%	39%	32%	18%
Federal spending on domestic programs like education, food stamps, and highways	28%	29%	34%	6%	3%
The unemployment rate	26%	13%	39%	10%	12%

20. Please indicate whether 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	10%	32%	36%	22%
Mitt Romney	12%	17%	53%	17%
Bill Gates	14%	21%	43%	22%
Most people	30%	39%	16%	16%
People like yourself	39%	44%	4%	13%

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

Yes	15%
No	70%
Not sure	15%

22. Thinking about politics these days, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Very liberal	5%
Liberal	13%
Moderate	33%
Conservative	26%
Very Conservative	7%
Not sure	16%

23. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	34%
Liberal	23%
Moderate	21%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	16%

24. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	3%
Moderate	19%
Conservative	34%
Very conservative	21%
Not sure	20%

25. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	42%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	49%
Not sure	9%

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

Like a lot	34%
Like somewhat	23%
Dislike	31%
Not sure	11%

27. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	27%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	59%
Not sure	14%

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

Like a lot	14%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	39%
Not sure	18%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	40%	27%	32%
Bold	32%	54%	14%
Effective	23%	43%	34%
Exciting	18%	59%	23%
Experienced	22%	44%	34%
Honest	34%	33%	33%
Hypocritical	34%	39%	27%
Inspiring	34%	45%	21%
Intelligent	62%	28%	10%
Partisan	30%	55%	15%
Patriotic	32%	38%	30%
Religious	18%	53%	29%
Sincere	32%	38%	30%
Steady	30%	53%	17%
Strong	31%	47%	21%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	42%	34%	24%
Bold	20%	62%	18%
Effective	24%	55%	22%
Exciting	7%	56%	36%
Experienced	37%	49%	14%
Honest	21%	41%	37%
Hypocritical	37%	43%	20%
Inspiring	12%	56%	31%
Intelligent	48%	41%	12%
Partisan	27%	60%	13%
Patriotic	39%	51%	10%
Religious	49%	45%	6%
Sincere	22%	44%	34%
Steady	22%	61%	17%
Strong	22%	61%	17%

31. How much of the Summer Olympic Games do you plan to watch?

I'll be watching lots of events every day	14%
I'll be watching lots of events when I can	24%
I'll probably watch a few events, not more	32%
I doubt I'll watch them	29%

32. What are some of your favorite Summer Olympics events? (Check up to 4).

Asked of respondents who indicated they plan to watch the Olympic Games

Gymnastics	67%
Basketball	29%
Canoeing and kayaking	4%
Archery	10%
Track and field	46%
Boxing	12%
Fencing	6%
Soccer	17%
Field hockey	2%
Judo	2%
Rowing	5%
Swimming	65%
Tennis	12%
Wrestling	6%
Weightlifting	6%
Table tennis	3%
Taekwondo	5%
Pentathlon	3%
Cycling	7%
Equestrian (horse events)	12%

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

Getting better	16%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	44%
Not sure	4%

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

Higher	19%
About the same	37%
Lower	20%
Not sure	24%

35. 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	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	35%
Not sure	5%

36. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

37. Education

No high school	13%
High school graduate	30%
Some college	23%
2-year college	7%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	9%

38. Age

18-29	19%
30-44	26%
45-64	35%
65+	19%

39. Race

White	73%
Black	12%
Hispanic	8%
Other	7%

40. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	23%
South	36%
West	22%

41. Party Identification

Democrat	37%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	18%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	27%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 28-30, 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 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.03.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.5% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	22 questions not reported.