

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted June 2-4, 2012
 Margin of Error ±4.1%

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

Very closely 34%
 Somewhat closely 33%
 Not too closely 22%
 Not at all 12%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 24%
 Off on the wrong track 59%
 Not sure 17%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	26%	37%	26%	12%
The economy	78%	18%	2%	2%
Immigration	40%	31%	19%	10%
The environment	36%	36%	18%	10%
Terrorism	46%	34%	16%	5%
Gay rights	18%	25%	22%	35%
Education	54%	31%	10%	5%
Health care	69%	22%	6%	4%
Social security	60%	33%	5%	2%
The budget deficit	57%	31%	8%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	33%	38%	21%	9%
Taxes	58%	34%	6%	2%
Medicare	57%	32%	9%	3%
Abortion	28%	28%	24%	20%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	37%
Immigration	3%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	1%
Education	5%
Health care	14%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	3%

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	28%	14%	22%	20%	16%
President Bush	32%	20%	24%	16%	7%
Democrats in the U.S. Congress	31%	20%	27%	15%	7%
Republicans in the U.S. Congress	35%	17%	28%	14%	6%
Wall Street bankers	43%	23%	18%	11%	5%
Consumers who borrowed too much money	26%	25%	29%	13%	7%

6. Do you think each of the following policies would stimulate the economy, slow the economy, or make no difference?

	Stimulate the economy	Make no difference	Slow the economy	Not sure
Cutting taxes for the wealthy	23%	30%	34%	12%
Cutting taxes for the middle class	62%	20%	5%	12%
Cutting taxes for the poor	44%	38%	6%	11%
Increasing government spending on infrastructure projects that employ Americans	47%	21%	16%	16%
Reducing the federal deficit	46%	25%	11%	18%
Reducing environmental regulations	32%	35%	12%	21%
Raising the minimum wage	37%	24%	24%	15%

7. When thinking about the U.S. economy, which statement comes closer to your view?

The worst is yet to come	58%
The worst is behind us	42%

8. How much have you heard or read about the controversy in Wisconsin concerning a law that limits collective-bargaining rights for public employees?

A lot	33%
A little	26%
Nothing at all	41%

9. Through collective bargaining, workers are able to act as a group to negotiate such things as wages, benefits, and working conditions. Do you support or oppose the right of public employees to collective bargaining?

Support collective bargaining on all employment issues	30%
Support collective bargaining on a limited range of employment issues ..	31%
Oppose collective bargaining on all employment issues	17%
Not sure	23%

10. Do you approve or disapprove of labor unions?

Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	21%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	29%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	16%

11. Do you think labor unions have more or less influence today than they had thirty years ago?

More influence	21%
About the same	15%
Less influence	46%
Not sure	18%

12. Thirty years from now, do you think labor unions will have more or less influence than they have today?

More influence	9%
About the same	20%
Less influence	42%
Not sure	29%

13. Do you support laws that require showing photo identification in order to vote?

Yes 65%
 No 22%
 Not sure 13%

14. Which do you think is more common in the United States?

People who are eligible to vote being denied the chance to vote 25%
 Illegal voting by people who are *not* eligible to vote 34%
 Both are equally common 25%
 Not sure 16%

15. 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	24%	23%	11%	34%	8%
Mitt Romney	15%	24%	17%	30%	13%

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

Strongly Approve 15%
 Somewhat Approve 27%
 Somewhat Disapprove 17%
 Strongly Disapprove 33%
 Not Sure 8%

17. 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	20%	30%	15%	22%	13%
The economy	12%	26%	15%	36%	11%
Immigration	10%	22%	19%	33%	17%
The environment	12%	30%	13%	26%	18%
Terrorism	22%	32%	12%	22%	12%
Gay rights	17%	21%	12%	30%	20%
Education	15%	28%	17%	23%	17%
Health care	19%	20%	12%	39%	11%
Social security	13%	25%	17%	29%	15%
The budget deficit	11%	22%	16%	39%	13%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	31%	17%	23%	13%
Taxes	13%	27%	14%	33%	12%
Medicare	15%	23%	15%	31%	16%
Abortion	11%	21%	11%	27%	29%

18. 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	16%
Somewhat disapprove	28%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	10%

19. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, who would you vote for?

Asked of registered voters. Respondents who initially answered 'not sure' but indicated they were leaning toward Obama or Romney in a follow-up question are counted as Obama or Romney supporters

Barack Obama	47%
Mitt Romney	42%
Other	5%
Not sure	6%

20. 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	15%
Obama will probably win	33%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win	16%
Romney will probably win	17%
Romney will definitely win	8%
Don't know	10%

21. Do you think the difference in incomes between rich people and poor people in the United States today is larger, smaller, or about the same as it was 30 years ago?

Larger	66%
About the same	30%
Smaller	4%

22. Do you think this is a good thing, a bad thing, or haven't you thought about it?

A good thing	9%
A bad thing	56%
Haven't thought about it	35%

23. How important is it that the federal government in Washington enacts policies that attempt to do each of the following?

	Extremely important	Somewhat important	Somewhat unimportant	Not at all important	Not sure
Grow and expand the economy	66%	16%	5%	4%	9%
Increase the equality of opportunity for people to get ahead if they want to	46%	24%	9%	10%	10%
Reduce the wealth gap between the rich and poor	34%	22%	12%	21%	11%

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

Yes	14%
No	66%
Not sure	19%

25. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	31%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	7%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	17%

26. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	4%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	29%
Very conservative	18%
Not sure	23%

27. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	40%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	48%
Not sure	12%

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	31%
Dislike	27%
Not sure	10%

29. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	21%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	58%
Not sure	21%

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

Like a lot	13%
Like somewhat	31%
Dislike	35%
Not sure	21%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	36%	28%
Bold	33%	53%	14%
Effective	24%	44%	32%
Exciting	17%	64%	19%
Experienced	20%	45%	35%
Honest	32%	38%	30%
Hypocritical	30%	46%	25%
Inspiring	33%	45%	22%
Intelligent	60%	30%	10%
Partisan	23%	61%	16%
Patriotic	31%	43%	25%
Religious	14%	60%	26%
Sincere	34%	39%	27%
Steady	27%	57%	17%
Strong	30%	49%	21%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	38%	39%	23%
Bold	19%	67%	14%
Effective	23%	58%	19%
Exciting	7%	59%	34%
Experienced	37%	50%	13%
Honest	20%	51%	30%
Hypocritical	32%	48%	20%
Inspiring	12%	58%	30%
Intelligent	47%	43%	10%
Partisan	24%	66%	10%
Patriotic	36%	56%	8%
Religious	45%	51%	4%
Sincere	20%	53%	27%
Steady	22%	63%	14%
Strong	22%	65%	14%

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

Getting better	20%
About the same	33%
Getting worse	39%
Not sure	8%

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

Higher	20%
About the same	32%
Lower	24%
Not sure	23%

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	42%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	36%
Not sure	6%

36. 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	34%
The Republican Party candidate	32%
Other	2%
Not sure	17%
I would not vote	15%

37. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

38. Education

No high school	15%
High school graduate	29%
Some college	22%
2-year college	8%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	9%

39. Age

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

40. Race

White	70%
Black	12%
Hispanic	9%
Other	10%

41. Region

Northeast	20%
Midwest	22%
South	36%
West	22%

42. Party Identification

Democrat	32%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	25%
Lean Republican	9%
Republican	25%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	June 2-4, 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 0.88.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.1% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	30 questions not reported.