The Economist/YouGov Poll

Sample   1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted   August 25-27, 2012
Margin of Error ±4.2%

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

Very closely 41%
Somewhat closely 31%
Not too closely 20%
Not at all 8%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 28%
Off on the wrong track 61%
Not sure 11%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	80%	16%	2%	2%
Immigration	42%	33%	19%	6%
The environment	37%	34%	17%	11%
Terrorism	43%	35%	15%	7%
Gay rights	17%	22%	24%	37%
Education	50%	32%	13%	5%
Health care	70%	22%	5%	3%
Social security	63%	28%	6%	3%
The budget deficit	61%	27%	8%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	33%	40%	19%	8%
Taxes	60%	31%	6%	3%
Medicare	59%	29%	10%	3%
Abortion	28%	32%	21%	20%

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

The economy 43%
Immigration 3%
The environment 6%
Terrorism 1%
Gay rights 1%
Education 4%
Health care 10%
Social security 10%
The budget deficit 9%
The war in Afghanistan 1%
Taxes 2%
Medicare 6%
Abortion 2%

5. How much have you heard about the remarks of Missouri Senate candidate Todd Akin regarding the likelihood that women who are raped will become pregnant?

A lot 49%
A little 30%
Nothing at all 21%

6. Should Todd Akin quit the Missouri Senate race?
Asked of respondents who had heard of Akin controversy

Yes 49%
No 28%
Not sure 23%

7. Do you believe that women who are raped are less likely to become pregnant than women who engage in consensual sex?

Yes 8%
No 72%
Not sure 20%

8. How much have you heard about Friday's shootout outside the Empire State Building?

A lot 29%

A little 52%

Nothing at all 19%

9. Do you think gun control laws should be made more or less strict than they are now?

More strict 44%

No change 30%

Less strict 17%

Not sure 8%

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YouGov

10. Do you favor or oppose the following gun control measures?

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Preventing persons with a history of mental illness from owning guns	83%	4%	13%
Banning semi-automatic weapons	53%	32%	14%
Banning the sale of all handguns, except those that are issued to law enforcement officers	19%	68%	13%
Banning the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons that hold more than 10 rounds	56%	29%	15%
Requiring people who purchase handguns to wait five days before they receive that gun	69%	19%	11%
Requiring gun owners to register their guns with a national gun registry	62%	27%	10%
Limiting the number of handguns a person can own	46%	43%	11%
Preventing people from carrying a concealed gun in public	43%	43%	15%
Requiring people to obtain a police permit before buying a handgun	51%	34%	15%

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11. How much of the Republican National Convention do you plan to watch next week?

I'll watch a lot of it …………………………………………………………14%
I'll watch some of it …………………………………………………… 35%
I'll watch Mitt Romney's speech, but nothing else ……………………… 5%
I probably won't watch it ………………………………………… 46%

12. How much of the Democratic National Convention do you plan to watch in two weeks?

I'll watch a lot of it …………………………………………………………12%
I'll watch some of it …………………………………………………… 33%
I'll watch Barack Obama's speech, but nothing else ……………………7%
I probably won't watch it ………………………………………… 48%

13. Do you think the Obama administration has brought real change to Washington or was it more of the same partisan politics?

Brought real change ………………………………………………… 25%
More of the same partisan politics ………………………………………55%
Not sure ………………………………………………………………… 20%

14. Do you favor or oppose increasing trade with other nations?

Favor …………………………………………………………………………50%
Oppose ……………………………………………………………………18%
Not sure …………………………………………………………………31%

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15. Do you think federal spending on the following programs should be increased or decreased?

	Increase	Keep the same	Decrease	Not sure
Social Security	42%	42%	8%	8%
National Defense	25%	41%	26%	8%
Medicare	38%	44%	10%	8%
Aid to the Poor	33%	40%	19%	9%
Medicaid	30%	43%	18%	9%
Veterans' Benefits	49%	39%	5%	8%
Health research	42%	39%	10%	9%
Education	45%	32%	17%	7%
Highways	36%	45%	9%	9%
Mass Transit	26%	42%	21%	11%
Foreign Aid	4%	22%	66%	8%
Unemployment benefits	24%	42%	25%	10%
Science and Technology	37%	42%	10%	11%
Agriculture	21%	43%	26%	10%
Housing	22%	40%	28%	10%
The Environment	31%	35%	25%	8%

16. Do you think the use of marijuana should be legalized?

Yes 49%
No 37%
Not sure 14%

17. Do you think there is too much or too little environmental regulation by the federal government?

Too much 36%
About the right amount 30%
Too little 34%

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18. 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	27%	19%	11%	37%	6%
Mitt Romney	17%	23%	20%	31%	9%
Paul Ryan	25%	12%	19%	25%	19%
Joe Biden	14%	26%	16%	30%	14%

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

Strongly Approve 17%
Somewhat Approve 24%
Somewhat Disapprove 14%
Strongly Disapprove 36%
Not Sure 9%

20. 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	13%	23%	13%	40%	11%
Immigration	14%	19%	12%	39%	16%
The environment	12%	25%	17%	27%	20%
Terrorism	22%	27%	11%	23%	17%
Gay rights	17%	19%	12%	33%	19%
Education	16%	26%	15%	25%	18%
Health care	23%	17%	10%	38%	12%
Social security	16%	21%	15%	31%	17%
The budget deficit	9%	22%	13%	42%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	27%	20%	23%	16%
Taxes	17%	21%	13%	35%	13%
Medicare	18%	21%	14%	32%	15%
Abortion	15%	19%	11%	29%	25%

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

Strongly approve 1%
Somewhat approve 8%
Neither approve nor disapprove 15%
Somewhat disapprove 23%
Strongly disapprove 44%
Not sure 10%

22. How enthusiastic are you about voting for president in the upcoming presidential election in November?
Asked of registered voters

Extremely enthusiastic 37%
Very enthusiastic 20%
Somewhat enthusiastic 20%
Not too enthusiastic 14%
Not at all enthusiastic 9%

23. 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 Included	Leaners Excluded
Barack Obama	46%	42%
Mitt Romney	47%	42%
Other	4%	4%
Not sure	4%	12%

24. Would you say you are mostly voting for [Barack Obama/Mitt Romney] or against [other candidate]?
Asked of Obama/Romney supporters

I'm mostly voting for [Barack Obama/Mitt Romney] 58%
I'm mostly voting against [other candidate] 41%
Not sure 2%

25. 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 28%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win 17%
Romney will probably win 15%
Romney will definitely win 12%
Don't know 12%

26. 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 2%
Not sure 17%
I would not vote 12%

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

Yes 13%
No 71%
Not sure 16%

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

Very liberal 5%
Liberal 15%
Moderate 34%
Conservative 24%
Very Conservative 8%
Not sure 14%

29. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal 35%
Liberal 21%
Moderate 22%
Conservative 4%
Very conservative 1%
Not sure 16%

30. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal 3%
Liberal 4%
Moderate 21%
Conservative 32%
Very conservative 21%
Not sure 19%

31. Would you say Paul Ryan is...

Very liberal 1%
Liberal 3%
Moderate 7%
Conservative 26%
Very conservative 36%
Not sure 27%

32. Would you say Joe Biden is...

Very liberal 26%
Liberal 29%
Moderate 18%
Conservative 3%
Very conservative 1%
Not sure 23%

33. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes 40%
Says what he thinks people want to hear 51%
Not sure 9%

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

Like a lot 35%
Like somewhat 23%
Dislike 32%
Not sure 9%

35. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes 31%
Says what he thinks people want to hear 52%
Not sure 17%

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

Like a lot 16%
Like somewhat 29%
Dislike 38%
Not sure 17%

37. Do you think Joe Biden..

Says what he believes 41%
Says what he thinks people want to hear 33%
Not sure 26%

38. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Joe Biden as a person?

Like a lot … 20%
Like somewhat … 26%
Dislike … 30%
Not sure … 24%

39. Do you think Paul Ryan..

Says what he believes … 48%
Says what he thinks people want to hear … 25%
Not sure … 27%

40. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Paul Ryan as a person?

Like a lot … 23%
Like somewhat … 17%
Dislike … 30%
Not sure … 29%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	37%	35%	27%
Bold	27%	56%	17%
Effective	21%	44%	36%
Exciting	15%	63%	22%
Experienced	19%	44%	37%
Honest	33%	32%	35%
Hypocritical	33%	43%	24%
Inspiring	32%	45%	23%
Intelligent	57%	29%	14%
Partisan	29%	57%	14%
Patriotic	29%	41%	30%
Religious	16%	53%	31%
Sincere	34%	35%	31%
Steady	24%	59%	18%
Strong	29%	51%	20%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	40%	24%
Bold	18%	67%	15%
Effective	27%	55%	18%
Exciting	9%	58%	34%
Experienced	39%	49%	12%
Honest	25%	45%	30%
Hypocritical	33%	45%	23%
Inspiring	14%	59%	27%
Intelligent	49%	41%	10%
Partisan	26%	63%	12%
Patriotic	39%	53%	8%
Religious	49%	47%	4%
Sincere	25%	45%	31%
Steady	23%	64%	14%
Strong	27%	61%	12%

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

Getting better 22%
About the same 34%
Getting worse 38%
Not sure 6%

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

Higher 23%
About the same 37%
Lower 16%
Not sure 25%

45. Would you say that you and your family are...

Better off financially than you were a year ago 17%
About the same financially as you were a year ago 44%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago 35%
Not sure 4%

46. Gender

Male 49%
Female 51%

47. Education

No high school 13%
High school graduate 29%
Some college 21%
2-year college 10%
4-year college 17%
Post-graduate 10%

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48. Age

18-29	19%
30-44	27%
45-64	36%
65+	18%

49. Race

White	72%
Black	12%
Hispanic	8%
Other	8%

50. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	23%
South	36%
West	21%

51. Party Identification

Democrat	34%
Lean Democrat	12%
Independent	17%
Lean Republican	12%
Republican	26%

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Sponsorship   *The Economist*

Fieldwork   YouGov

Interviewing Dates   August 25-27, 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 7.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.91.

Number of respondents 1000

Margin of error $\pm$ 4.2% (adjusted for weighting)

Survey mode   Web-based interviews

Questions not reported 31 questions not reported.