

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted June 30-July 2, 2012
 Margin of Error $\pm 4.4\%$

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

Very closely 37%
 Somewhat closely 35%
 Not too closely 19%
 Not at all 9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 28%
 Off on the wrong track 56%
 Not sure 16%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	84%	15%	1%	0%
Immigration	43%	37%	15%	5%
The environment	35%	43%	15%	7%
Terrorism	43%	38%	14%	5%
Gay rights	18%	23%	22%	36%
Education	56%	31%	10%	3%
Health care	68%	25%	4%	3%
Social security	60%	32%	8%	1%
The budget deficit	59%	30%	8%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	26%	43%	23%	8%
Taxes	60%	31%	6%	3%
Medicare	53%	37%	8%	3%
Abortion	26%	32%	23%	19%

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

The economy	42%
Immigration	3%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	5%
Health care	11%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	2%
Abortion	3%

5. Which part of the government do you trust **MOST** to do what's right?

Congress	7%
The Supreme Court	17%
The President	24%
Political parties	4%
Don't Know	49%

6. Which part of the government do you trust **LEAST** to do what's right?

Congress	29%
The Supreme Court	5%
The President	27%
Political parties	21%
Don't Know	19%

7. Please check any words that describe how you feel about the Supreme Court decision on the health care law passed in 2010. (Check all that apply).

Excited	16%
Relieved	22%
Disappointed	36%
Angry	22%
Surprised	39%
Frustrated	27%
Pessimistic	20%
Optimistic	30%

8. Do you think the health care reform law should be expanded, kept the same, or repealed?

Expanded	25%
Kept the same	11%
Repealed	42%
Not sure	23%

9. Do you currently have health insurance?

Yes	76%
No	20%
Not sure	4%

10. Do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to see to it that everyone has health care coverage?

Yes	34%
No	49%
Not sure	17%

11. Which of the following comes closest to your opinion about the justices on the U.S. Supreme Court?

Supreme Court justices usually decide their cases based on legal analysis without much regard to politics and ideology	25%
Supreme court justices usually decide their cases based on their political ideologies	45%
Not sure	30%

12. As you may know, the Supreme Court has the power to strike down laws passed by Congress or state legislatures if it considers the laws to be unconstitutional. Do you think the Supreme Court uses this power too much, too little, or about the right amount?

Too much	14%
About the right amount	38%
Too little	17%
Not sure	31%

13. Have you heard about the congressional investigation of the "Fast and Furious" operation?

Yes	56%
No	34%
Not sure	10%

14. Do you think the congressional investigation of the Fast and Furious operation is mostly about finding out what happened, or is it mostly about politics?

Asked of respondents who indicated they had heard about the Fast and Furious investigation

Mostly about finding out what happened	42%
Mostly about politics	52%
Not sure	6%

15. Do you think the Constitution grants the President the power (known as "executive privilege") to withhold documents from Congress or prevent people in his administration from testifying before Congress?

Yes	28%
No	38%
Not sure	34%

16. 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%	20%	9%	37%	7%
Mitt Romney	14%	30%	14%	33%	10%
John Roberts	5%	22%	23%	12%	37%
Eric Holder	6%	15%	10%	31%	37%

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

Strongly Approve	18%
Somewhat Approve	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	39%
Not Sure	5%

18. 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	14%	23%	12%	40%	11%
Immigration	14%	21%	12%	37%	17%
The environment	12%	27%	14%	26%	20%
Terrorism	21%	29%	13%	22%	15%
Gay rights	20%	19%	9%	31%	21%
Education	15%	26%	16%	24%	18%
Health care	23%	19%	8%	39%	10%
Social security	14%	22%	15%	30%	19%
The budget deficit	12%	19%	15%	40%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	28%	21%	22%	14%
Taxes	14%	22%	15%	36%	14%
Medicare	15%	23%	13%	32%	17%
Abortion	14%	18%	12%	26%	30%

19. 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	14%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	13%

20. 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	43%
Other	3%
Not sure	8%

21. 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	32%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win	16%
Romney will probably win	15%
Romney will definitely win	8%
Don't know	13%

22. 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	37%
The Republican Party candidate	34%
Other	2%
Not sure	18%
I would not vote	9%

23. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
All people are created equal.	71%	14%	5%	5%	6%
All people are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.	74%	13%	4%	1%	7%
Whenever any form of government becomes destructive to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it.	64%	20%	4%	1%	11%

24. When it comes to protecting each of the following, do you trust Barack Obama or Mitt Romney more?

	Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Not sure
Protecting the lives of Americans	40%	33%	27%
Protecting people's liberty	41%	37%	22%
Protecting the right of people to pursue happiness	40%	35%	25%

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

Very liberal	5%
Liberal	15%
Moderate	33%
Conservative	24%
Very Conservative	8%
Not sure	16%

26. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	35%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	22%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	17%

27. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	4%
Liberal	5%
Moderate	18%
Conservative	32%
Very conservative	20%
Not sure	22%

28. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	39%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	51%
Not sure	10%

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

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	23%
Dislike	32%
Not sure	12%

30. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	26%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	57%
Not sure	17%

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

Like a lot	11%
Like somewhat	33%
Dislike	37%
Not sure	19%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	39%	31%	30%
Bold	36%	50%	14%
Effective	26%	45%	29%
Exciting	18%	61%	21%
Experienced	19%	43%	38%
Honest	30%	33%	37%
Hypocritical	35%	38%	28%
Inspiring	32%	43%	25%
Intelligent	55%	31%	14%
Partisan	26%	60%	14%
Patriotic	30%	40%	30%
Religious	14%	58%	28%
Sincere	34%	34%	32%
Steady	28%	51%	21%
Strong	30%	49%	20%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	37%	43%	20%
Bold	19%	65%	15%
Effective	21%	60%	19%
Exciting	6%	59%	35%
Experienced	36%	51%	12%
Honest	18%	48%	33%
Hypocritical	33%	45%	21%
Inspiring	14%	55%	32%
Intelligent	46%	43%	12%
Partisan	25%	64%	11%
Patriotic	36%	55%	9%
Religious	46%	47%	6%
Sincere	19%	50%	31%
Steady	22%	64%	14%
Strong	24%	61%	14%

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

Getting better	23%
About the same	32%
Getting worse	38%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	35%
Lower	19%
Not sure	25%

36. 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	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	33%
Not sure	5%

37. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

38. Education

No high school	11%
High school graduate	31%
Some college	21%
2-year college	10%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	9%

39. Age

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

40. Race

White	73%
Black	11%
Hispanic	9%
Other	7%

41. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	22%
South	38%
West	21%

42. Party Identification

Democrat	34%
Lean Democrat	11%
Independent	19%
Lean Republican	12%
Republican	25%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	June 30-July 2, 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 1.02.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	42 questions not reported.