

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample            1000 General Population Respondents  
 Conducted        August 11-13, 2012  
 Margin of Error   ±4.2%

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

Very closely ..... 33%  
 Somewhat closely ..... 35%  
 Not too closely ..... 19%  
 Not at all ..... 12%

## 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 ..... 17%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	82%	13%	3%	2%
Immigration	43%	32%	18%	7%
The environment	40%	34%	18%	8%
Terrorism	46%	35%	13%	6%
Gay rights	22%	20%	22%	37%
Education	56%	32%	8%	4%
Health care	72%	19%	5%	3%
Social security	64%	27%	6%	3%
The budget deficit	59%	28%	9%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	31%	41%	20%	8%
Taxes	65%	26%	7%	2%
Medicare	56%	33%	7%	3%
Abortion	30%	30%	24%	15%

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

The economy .....	40%
Immigration .....	4%
The environment .....	5%
Terrorism .....	1%
Gay rights .....	1%
Education .....	5%
Health care .....	12%
Social security .....	14%
The budget deficit .....	6%
The war in Afghanistan .....	1%
Taxes .....	4%
Medicare .....	3%
Abortion .....	3%

5. Regardless of whether they should be legal or not, which of the following things do you personally consider to be morally acceptable or morally wrong?

	Morally acceptable	Morally wrong	Depends	Not sure
Birth control	74%	6%	14%	5%
Divorce	51%	12%	31%	6%
The death penalty	46%	18%	28%	8%
Premarital sex	44%	31%	17%	8%
Gay or lesbian relations	40%	40%	10%	9%
Doctor-assisted suicide	28%	35%	28%	8%
Abortion	25%	37%	33%	5%
Gambling	51%	17%	22%	10%
Killing animals for their furs	20%	54%	18%	7%
Interracial marriage	72%	12%	8%	8%

**6. Do you favor or oppose allowing voluntary prayer in public schools?**

Favor .....	71%
Oppose .....	15%
Not sure .....	14%

**7. Do you sometimes think that it is necessary to discipline a child with a good, hard spanking?**

Yes .....	58%
No .....	29%
Not sure .....	12%

**8. Which of the following choices would you respect more?**

A woman giving up her professional career to stay at home and raise her children. ....	24%
A woman choosing to maintain her professional career while raising her children .....	38%
No opinion .....	38%

**9. Do you think abortion should be...**

Legal in all cases .....	25%
Legal/Illegal in some cases .....	51%
Illegal in all cases .....	17%
Not sure .....	7%

**10. Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?**

Strongly favor .....	29%
Somewhat favor .....	14%
Somewhat oppose .....	10%
Strongly oppose .....	37%
Not sure .....	10%

**11. Are you in favor or opposed to the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?**

Favor the death penalty ..... 59%  
 Opposed to the death penalty ..... 20%  
 Not sure ..... 22%

**12. Do you favor or oppose providing a legal way for illegal immigrants already in the United States to become U.S. citizens?**

Favor ..... 41%  
 Oppose ..... 39%  
 Unsure ..... 20%

**13. 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%	18%	10%	37%	6%
Mitt Romney	17%	22%	16%	32%	13%
Paul Ryan	21%	15%	9%	24%	30%
Bill Clinton	33%	26%	18%	15%	9%
Joe Biden	15%	26%	16%	28%	16%

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

Strongly Approve ..... 15%  
 Somewhat Approve ..... 28%  
 Somewhat Disapprove ..... 12%  
 Strongly Disapprove ..... 38%  
 Not Sure ..... 7%

15. 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%	21%	13%	41%	11%
Immigration	13%	20%	15%	37%	15%
The environment	13%	22%	16%	27%	22%
Terrorism	21%	27%	13%	23%	15%
Gay rights	18%	18%	12%	34%	18%
Education	16%	23%	17%	27%	18%
Health care	20%	18%	9%	41%	11%
Social security	14%	21%	16%	31%	18%
The budget deficit	11%	22%	14%	41%	13%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	26%	18%	24%	17%
Taxes	17%	20%	12%	37%	13%
Medicare	16%	20%	13%	35%	16%
Abortion	14%	17%	10%	31%	29%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	19%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	10%

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

*Asked of registered voters*

Extremely enthusiastic .....	38%
Very enthusiastic .....	18%
Somewhat enthusiastic .....	21%
Not too enthusiastic .....	14%
Not at all enthusiastic .....	10%

**18. 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	47%	43%
Mitt Romney	44%	41%
Other	3%	3%
Not sure	6%	13%

**19. 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 .....	1%

**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 .....	16%
Obama will probably win .....	28%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win .....	15%
Romney will probably win .....	17%
Romney will definitely win .....	8%
Don't know .....	16%

21. 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 .....	35%
Other .....	2%
Not sure .....	16%
I would not vote .....	11%

22. Please check any words that describe how you feel about Mitt Romney's choice of Paul Ryan as his vice presidential running mate (Check all that apply).

Excited .....	17%
Disappointed .....	11%
Surprised .....	14%
Optimistic .....	21%
Angry .....	6%
I don't have any real feelings about the choice .....	49%

23. Do you think that selecting Paul Ryan was a good choice or a bad choice?

Very good choice .....	21%
Somewhat good choice .....	13%
Somewhat bad choice .....	10%
Very bad choice .....	14%
Don't know .....	41%

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

Yes .....	13%
No .....	69%
Not sure .....	19%

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

Very liberal .....	5%
Liberal .....	13%
Moderate .....	33%
Conservative .....	24%
Very Conservative .....	6%
Not sure .....	19%

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

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

**27. Would you say Mitt Romney is...**

Very liberal .....	2%
Liberal .....	3%
Moderate .....	21%
Conservative .....	28%
Very conservative .....	20%
Not sure .....	26%

**28. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	38%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	53%
Not sure .....	9%



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

Like a lot .....	34%
Like somewhat .....	23%
Dislike .....	30%
Not sure .....	13%

30. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes .....	29%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	51%
Not sure .....	20%

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

Like a lot .....	13%
Like somewhat .....	29%
Dislike .....	34%
Not sure .....	24%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	37%	33%	30%
Bold	31%	51%	18%
Effective	23%	46%	31%
Exciting	17%	61%	21%
Experienced	22%	44%	34%
Honest	30%	34%	37%
Hypocritical	35%	39%	26%
Inspiring	29%	47%	24%
Intelligent	55%	33%	13%
Partisan	25%	60%	15%
Patriotic	31%	41%	28%
Religious	14%	59%	26%
Sincere	32%	38%	30%
Steady	25%	56%	19%
Strong	28%	48%	23%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	35%	42%	24%
Bold	17%	69%	14%
Effective	22%	64%	14%
Exciting	9%	61%	30%
Experienced	36%	51%	12%
Honest	21%	47%	32%
Hypocritical	35%	44%	22%
Inspiring	13%	59%	28%
Intelligent	44%	46%	10%
Partisan	24%	64%	12%
Patriotic	36%	56%	7%
Religious	41%	54%	6%
Sincere	21%	51%	27%
Steady	22%	65%	13%
Strong	25%	64%	12%

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

Getting better .....	19%
About the same .....	34%
Getting worse .....	42%
Not sure .....	5%

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

Higher .....	21%
About the same .....	33%
Lower .....	20%
Not sure .....	27%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	14%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	42%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	40%
Not sure .....	5%

**37. Gender**

Male .....	47%
Female .....	53%

**38. Education**

No high school .....	15%
High school graduate .....	28%
Some college .....	21%
2-year college .....	10%
4-year college .....	16%
Post-graduate .....	10%

**39. Age**

18-29 .....	21%
30-44 .....	24%
45-64 .....	39%
65+ .....	17%

**40. Race**

White .....	69%
Black .....	11%
Hispanic .....	9%
Other .....	12%

**41. Region**

Northeast .....	17%
Midwest .....	21%
South .....	38%
West .....	24%

**42. Party Identification**

Democrat .....	35%
Lean Democrat .....	7%
Independent .....	21%
Lean Republican .....	12%
Republican .....	24%

## **The Economist/YouGov Poll**



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	August 11-13, 2012
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	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.
<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 0.4 to 7.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.92.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.2% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	31 questions not reported.