

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted May 12-14, 2012
 Margin of Error ±4%

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

Very closely 35%
 Somewhat closely 35%
 Not too closely 19%
 Not at all 10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 27%
 Off on the wrong track 54%
 Not sure 19%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	28%	39%	20%	12%
The economy	82%	15%	1%	2%
Immigration	41%	35%	14%	9%
The environment	34%	37%	18%	11%
Terrorism	48%	34%	12%	6%
Gay rights	17%	23%	23%	37%
Education	51%	37%	7%	5%
Health care	68%	22%	6%	4%
Social security	61%	28%	6%	4%
The budget deficit	59%	28%	9%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	34%	43%	14%	8%
Taxes	61%	30%	7%	2%
Medicare	56%	32%	8%	4%
Abortion	27%	27%	25%	21%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	40%
Immigration	3%
The environment	2%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	1%
Education	5%
Health care	12%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	2%

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

Strongly favor	29%
Somewhat favor	14%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	34%
Not sure	10%

6. Which do you prefer more?

Asked of respondents who indicated they support same-sex marriage

Legalizing marriage between same-sex couples	82%
Allowing same-sex couples to have civil unions, but not marry	18%

7. Instead of allowing same-sex couples to marry, would you favor allowing civil unions for same-sex couples?

Asked of respondents who indicated they oppose same-sex marriage

Yes	46%
No	54%

8. Who should decide whether same-sex couples are allowed to get married?

The federal government in Washington should decide 30%
Each state should be allowed to set its own policy 48%
Not sure 22%

9. Do you think gay marriage will be legal in the entire country thirty years from now?

Yes 63%
No 37%

10. Do you know any gay or lesbian person who is married or in a civil union?

Yes 34%
No 66%

11. Do you think being homosexual is something a person chooses to be, or do you think it is something a person cannot change?

Homosexuality is a choice 45%
Homosexuality is not a choice 55%

12. This week President Obama announced his support of same-sex marriage. Do you think President Obama has favored gay marriage for a long time or did he just change his mind recently?

He has favored gay marriage for a long time 51%
He changed his mind recently 49%

13. Now we'd like to ask you about how the political parties have changed over the last thirty years.

Has the Democratic Party become more liberal or conservative than it used to be?

More liberal	43%
About the same	30%
More conservative	9%
Not sure	18%

14. Has the Republican Party become more liberal or conservative than it used to be?

More liberal	14%
About the same	28%
More conservative	39%
Not sure	19%

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	26%	18%	11%	38%	7%
Mitt Romney	13%	25%	22%	30%	10%

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

Strongly Approve	16%
Somewhat Approve	26%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	38%
Not Sure	7%

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%	29%	17%	21%	13%
The economy	14%	24%	13%	41%	9%
Immigration	9%	22%	21%	32%	16%
The environment	12%	29%	15%	26%	18%
Terrorism	24%	30%	15%	20%	12%
Gay rights	18%	23%	11%	33%	15%
Education	15%	28%	16%	24%	16%
Health care	18%	20%	12%	40%	9%
Social security	13%	23%	20%	30%	15%
The budget deficit	11%	22%	15%	42%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	30%	20%	23%	12%
Taxes	14%	21%	19%	35%	11%
Medicare	14%	21%	19%	31%	15%
Abortion	12%	19%	14%	26%	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	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	42%
Not sure	7%

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	42%
Mitt Romney	46%
Other	5%
Not sure	7%

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	32%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win	14%
Romney will probably win	18%
Romney will definitely win	8%
Don't know	13%

21. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither/Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Our government would run better if decisions were left up to independent experts rather than elected politicians.	13%	25%	34%	17%	12%
What people call 'compromise' in politics is really just selling out one's principles.	21%	29%	23%	19%	9%
The current political system does a good job of representing the interests of all Americans, rich or poor, white or black, male or female.	6%	13%	18%	29%	34%
Most people just don't have enough time or knowledge to make wise decisions about important political issues.	18%	34%	24%	15%	10%

21 (Continued). Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither/Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Washington lobbyists and interest groups distort the political process, and we'd be better off without them.	44%	26%	24%	5%	1%
When politicians disagree, it is usually because there are good arguments on both sides of an issue.	5%	22%	24%	32%	16%
The Supreme Court should be able to throw out any law it considers unconstitutional.	25%	25%	28%	14%	8%
The will of the people is pretty clear, and politicians should just follow it.	24%	32%	25%	16%	3%

22. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and General David Petraeus was running as an Independent candidate, who would you vote for?

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

Barack Obama	41%
Mitt Romney	34%
David Petraeus	13%
Other	4%
Not sure	9%

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

Yes	14%
No	70%
Not sure	15%

24. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	36%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	14%

25. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	4%
Liberal	4%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	29%
Very conservative	18%
Not sure	22%

26. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	38%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	54%
Not sure	8%

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	26%
Dislike	31%
Not sure	11%

28. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes 26%
 Says what he thinks people want to hear 58%
 Not sure 16%

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

Like a lot 11%
 Like somewhat 35%
 Dislike 36%
 Not sure 18%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	39%	36%	25%
Bold	31%	52%	16%
Effective	25%	44%	31%
Exciting	17%	60%	22%
Experienced	21%	44%	35%
Honest	29%	37%	34%
Hypocritical	35%	38%	26%
Inspiring	31%	44%	26%
Intelligent	53%	33%	14%
Partisan	24%	58%	18%
Patriotic	29%	40%	31%
Religious	14%	53%	33%
Sincere	31%	37%	32%
Steady	27%	54%	19%
Strong	29%	49%	23%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	37%	45%	19%
Bold	17%	66%	17%
Effective	20%	60%	19%
Exciting	5%	57%	38%
Experienced	34%	54%	12%
Honest	20%	51%	29%
Hypocritical	32%	50%	18%
Inspiring	10%	59%	31%
Intelligent	46%	43%	12%
Partisan	25%	66%	9%
Patriotic	35%	56%	9%
Religious	44%	50%	5%
Sincere	19%	50%	32%
Steady	22%	63%	15%
Strong	21%	64%	15%

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

Getting better	23%
About the same	39%
Getting worse	33%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	22%
About the same	37%
Lower	22%
Not sure	19%

34. 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	51%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	31%
Not sure	4%

35. 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	35%
The Republican Party candidate	36%
Other	2%
Not sure	14%
I would not vote	13%

36. Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%

37. Education

No high school	11%
High school graduate	31%
Some college	24%
2-year college	8%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	9%

38. Age

18-29	21%
30-44	27%
45-64	35%
65+	18%

39. Race

White	74%
Black	11%
Hispanic	8%
Other	7%

40. Region

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

41. Party Identification

Democrat	33%
Lean Democrat	12%
Independent	17%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	27%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	May 12-14, 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 0.82.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	30 questions not reported.