

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted April 14-16, 2012
 Margin of Error ±4%

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

Very closely 36%
 Somewhat closely 32%
 Not too closely 21%
 Not at all 11%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 25%
 Off on the wrong track 59%
 Not sure 16%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	27%	39%	21%	13%
The economy	78%	18%	2%	2%
Immigration	41%	33%	19%	7%
The environment	37%	41%	15%	7%
Terrorism	45%	33%	15%	7%
Gay rights	20%	26%	21%	34%
Education	56%	31%	10%	3%
Health care	68%	22%	7%	3%
Social security	59%	31%	7%	3%
The budget deficit	55%	32%	10%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	34%	40%	18%	8%
Taxes	58%	33%	6%	2%
Medicare	54%	34%	9%	3%
Abortion	28%	29%	25%	18%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	40%
Immigration	3%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	3%
Education	5%
Health care	12%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	4%
Abortion	2%

5. In your view, are women in today’s society more encouraged to pursue a successful career or raise a good family?

More encouraged to pursue a successful career	40%
More encouraged to raise a good family	8%
Both about equally	42%
Not sure	9%

6. Women who start families face many choices today. Which of the following choices would you respect more, or do you not have an opinion?

A woman giving up her professional career to stay at home and raise her children.	30%
A woman choosing to maintain her professional career while raising her children	35%
No opinion	36%

7. Do you think most families with children in the United States today can afford to have only one parent who works while the other stays home?

Yes 16%
 No 74%
 Not sure 11%

8. Do you agree or disagree with the so-called "Buffett Rule," which states that Americans making over one million dollars a year should not pay a lower tax rate than middle-income Americans?

Agree 57%
 Disagree 28%
 Don't know 14%

9. Please indicate whether you think the following groups pay more than their fair share, their fair share, or less than their fair share of federal taxes.

	More than fair share	Fair share	Less than fair share	Don't know
Rich people	16%	15%	61%	8%
Middle-class people	46%	41%	6%	7%
Poor people	32%	29%	28%	11%
People like yourself	44%	43%	5%	8%

10. 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	32%	11%	21%	18%	19%
President Bush	34%	17%	25%	16%	9%
Democrats in the U.S. Congress	29%	22%	28%	13%	7%
Republicans in the U.S. Congress	31%	25%	27%	12%	6%
Wall Street bankers	46%	24%	16%	7%	6%
Consumers who borrowed too much money	26%	30%	24%	14%	6%

11. How serious a problem is the increase in the price of gasoline in recent months for you and your family?

Very serious	46%
Somewhat serious	32%
Not too serious	16%
Not at all serious	7%

12. How likely do you think it is that gas prices will rise above \$5.00 per gallon in the summer?

Very likely	39%
Somewhat likely	35%
Somewhat unlikely	19%
Very unlikely	7%

13. Do you think the president is able to do much about gas prices?

Yes, he should be able to keep them low	43%
No, gas prices are beyond his control	41%
Not sure	16%

14. How much do you think each of the following is responsible for the recent increase in gas prices?

	Very responsible	Somewhat responsible	Not responsible	Not sure
Oil companies	60%	25%	11%	5%
Foreign countries that produce oil	52%	34%	9%	6%
The Obama administration	34%	24%	32%	9%
Republicans in Congress	26%	30%	32%	12%
Environmental regulations	30%	33%	27%	10%
Decreasing supply of oil	25%	34%	33%	9%
Increased demand for oil	35%	41%	17%	7%

15. In dealing with U.S. adversaries such as Iran and North Korea, do you think the Obama Administration should...

Engage directly with opposing countries to resolve conflict	48%
Refuse to engage with opposing countries	21%
Don't Know	31%

16. How much have you heard about last week's attempt by North Korea to launch a rocket into orbit in defiance of the international community?

A lot	40%
A little	46%
Nothing at all	15%

17. Which of the following should the U.S. do in response to North Korea’s attempt to launch a rocket into orbit? (Check all that apply)

Asked of respondents who indicated they had heard about North Korea’s rocket launch attempt

Withhold promised food aid to North Korea	45%
Tighten the enforcement of existing sanctions on North Korea	70%
Impose new penalties and sanctions on North Korea	56%
Increase military exercises with American allies near North Korea, including South Korea and Japan	36%

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	26%	18%	12%	38%	6%
Mitt Romney	14%	23%	21%	29%	13%
Rick Santorum	13%	22%	15%	33%	17%

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	15%
Strongly Disapprove	36%
Not Sure	7%

20. 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	18%	28%	18%	23%	14%
The economy	13%	24%	14%	40%	10%
Immigration	8%	23%	19%	32%	18%
The environment	11%	27%	17%	28%	17%
Terrorism	18%	30%	14%	23%	14%
Gay rights	9%	23%	15%	24%	29%
Education	15%	26%	18%	24%	17%
Health care	19%	19%	10%	43%	10%
Social securitys	13%	24%	15%	30%	18%
The budget deficit	9%	23%	17%	40%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	10%	29%	21%	26%	14%
Taxes	15%	23%	16%	34%	12%
Medicare	13%	22%	17%	31%	16%
Abortion	11%	20%	12%	27%	31%

21. 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	25%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	10%

22. Are you registered to vote as...

Asked of registered voters who live in states with party registration

Democrat	43%
Republican	32%
Other Party	1%
Independent/No Party	24%
Not sure	1%

23. Who would you like to be the Republican nominee for President in 2012?

Asked of eligible registered voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections

Mitt Romney	49%
Newt Gingrich	20%
Ron Paul	13%
Other	10%
No preference	8%

24. What would you prefer to see happen in the Republican nomination campaign?

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections

All candidates except Romney drop out, allowing Romney to focus on the general election	52%
The current field of candidates all stay in the race until one clinches the nomination	48%

25. How do you feel about Rick Santorum's decision to drop out of the presidential nomination contest?

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections

Relieved	23%
Satisfied	45%
Dissatisfied	30%
Angry	2%

26. How would you feel if Mitt Romney became the Republican nominee for President?

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections

Excited	11%
Satisfied	59%
Dissatisfied	24%
Angry	6%

27. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

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	49%
Mitt Romney	42%
Other	4%
Not sure	6%

28. Regardless of who you would support, who do you think would win the presidential election if Mitt Romney became the Republican nominee?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	57%
Mitt Romney	38%
Someone else	5%

29. Do you think political candidates running for office talk too much or too little about their religious beliefs?

Talk too much	39%
Talk about the right amount	44%
Talk too little	18%

30. In a TV interview this week, a Democratic consultant made which of the following statements about Ann Romney, wife of Mitt Romney and stay-at-home mother to the Romneys' five sons?

Ann Romney never worked a day in her life.	56%
Ann Romney doesn't know what it's like to worry about money.	9%
Ann Romney cares more about men than women.	1%
Didn't hear about any of these statements	33%

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

Yes	14%
No	68%
Not sure	18%

32. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	34%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	16%

33. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	2%
Liberal	5%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	28%
Very conservative	14%
Not sure	25%

34. Would you say Rick Santorum is...

Very liberal	2%
Liberal	3%
Moderate	6%
Conservative	26%
Very conservative	41%
Not sure	24%

35. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	37%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	52%
Not sure	11%

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

Like a lot	31%
Like somewhat	30%
Dislike	29%
Not sure	10%

37. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	22%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	60%
Not sure	19%

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

Like a lot	11%
Like somewhat	31%
Dislike	35%
Not sure	23%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	38%	34%	29%
Bold	30%	53%	17%
Effective	23%	45%	32%
Exciting	16%	62%	22%
Experienced	22%	44%	34%
Honest	29%	39%	32%
Hypocritical	30%	44%	26%
Inspiring	32%	45%	23%
Intelligent	56%	32%	11%
Partisan	24%	59%	17%
Patriotic	30%	41%	30%
Religious	15%	58%	26%
Sincere	32%	38%	30%
Steady	27%	57%	16%
Strong	31%	50%	19%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	33%	46%	21%
Bold	14%	72%	14%
Effective	19%	67%	15%
Exciting	6%	61%	33%
Experienced	35%	56%	9%
Honest	18%	55%	27%
Hypocritical	30%	52%	18%
Inspiring	9%	64%	27%
Intelligent	46%	48%	7%
Partisan	20%	69%	11%
Patriotic	32%	62%	6%
Religious	44%	52%	5%
Sincere	18%	56%	26%
Steady	20%	67%	13%
Strong	20%	67%	13%

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

Getting better	23%
About the same	34%
Getting worse	37%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	23%
About the same	35%
Lower	19%
Not sure	23%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	16%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	47%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	33%
Not sure	4%

44. 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	38%
The Republican Party candidate	31%
Other	2%
Not sure	18%
I would not vote	11%

45. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

46. Education

No high school	15%
High school graduate	30%
Some college	23%
2-year college	8%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	9%

47. Age

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

48. Race

White	72%
Black	11%
Hispanic	9%
Other	8%

49. Region

Northeast	18%
Midwest	22%
South	37%
West	22%

50. Party Identification

Democrat	35%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	19%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	27%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	April 14-16, 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 0.8.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	33 questions not reported.