

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted July 7-9, 2012
 Margin of Error ±4.2%

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

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Very closely | 34% |
| Somewhat closely | 35% |
| Not too closely | 22% |
| 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 | 57% |
| Not sure | 16% |

3. How important are the following issues to you?

| | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not very Important | Unimportant |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| The economy | 79% | 18% | 2% | 1% |
| Immigration | 40% | 38% | 16% | 6% |
| The environment | 36% | 40% | 15% | 9% |
| Terrorism | 44% | 36% | 15% | 5% |
| Gay rights | 16% | 26% | 25% | 33% |
| Education | 54% | 32% | 10% | 4% |
| Health care | 68% | 25% | 5% | 2% |
| Social security | 61% | 30% | 7% | 2% |
| The budget deficit | 62% | 28% | 7% | 3% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 32% | 43% | 18% | 6% |
| Taxes | 60% | 31% | 7% | 2% |
| Medicare | 55% | 32% | 10% | 3% |
| Abortion | 27% | 33% | 23% | 17% |

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

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| The economy | 43% |
| Immigration | 3% |
| The environment | 3% |
| Terrorism | 1% |
| Gay rights | 2% |
| Education | 5% |
| Health care | 11% |
| Social security | 11% |
| The budget deficit | 9% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 1% |
| Taxes | 4% |
| Medicare | 4% |
| Abortion | 3% |

5. 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 | 33% | 12% | 21% | 15% | 19% |
| President Bush | 35% | 16% | 23% | 19% | 7% |
| Democrats in the U.S. Congress | 31% | 17% | 30% | 15% | 7% |
| Republicans in the U.S. Congress | 35% | 18% | 27% | 14% | 6% |
| Wall Street bankers | 44% | 21% | 20% | 11% | 4% |
| Consumers who borrowed too much money | 24% | 25% | 31% | 15% | 5% |

6. Do you think each of the following policies would stimulate the economy, slow the economy, or make no difference?

| | Stimulate the economy | Make no difference | Slow the economy | Not sure |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------|
| Cutting taxes for the wealthy | 28% | 29% | 32% | 10% |
| Cutting taxes for the middle class | 65% | 19% | 5% | 10% |
| Cutting taxes for the poor | 45% | 39% | 5% | 10% |
| Increasing government spending on infrastructure projects that employ Americans | 47% | 18% | 21% | 14% |
| Reducing the federal deficit | 51% | 23% | 8% | 17% |
| Reducing environmental regulations | 32% | 39% | 10% | 19% |
| Raising the minimum wage | 41% | 23% | 23% | 13% |

7. If Barack Obama were re-elected president in 2012, would the economy get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Get better | 28% |
| About the same | 22% |
| Get worse | 40% |
| Not sure | 9% |

8. If Mitt Romney were elected president in 2012, would the economy get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Get better | 27% |
| About the same | 18% |
| Get worse | 36% |
| Not sure | 19% |

9. Do you think the recent heat wave throughout the central and eastern U.S. is the result of climate change or do these kind of events just happen from time to time?

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Result of climate change | 35% |
| Just happen from time to time | 50% |
| Not sure | 16% |

10. Some people say that global temperatures have been going up slowly over the past 100 years - the phenomenon called "global warming." Do you think that global warming is happening?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Definitely is happening | 33% |
| Probably is happening | 30% |
| Probably is not happening | 15% |
| Definitely is not happening | 10% |
| Not sure | 12% |

11. How serious a problem do you think global warming is?

Not asked of respondents who think global warming is definitely not happening

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Very serious | 36% |
| Somewhat serious | 33% |
| Not very serious | 22% |
| Not sure | 9% |

12. Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling on the 2010 health care reform law, finding that most of the law is...

| | |
|--|-----|
| Constitutional | 70% |
| Unconstitutional | 10% |
| Did not hear about the Supreme Court's decision in this case | 19% |

13. Under the 2010 health care law, do you think you personally will receive better or worse care than you receive now?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Better care | 15% |
| About the same | 31% |
| Worse care | 41% |
| Not sure | 14% |

14. The health care law requires everyone to have health insurance or make a payment to the government. This payment has been described both as a penalty and as a tax. Would you call it a penalty or a tax?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| It's a penalty | 42% |
| It's a tax | 40% |
| Not sure | 18% |

15. The health care law gives states money to expand their Medicaid programs to cover more people, but states can choose not to expand them without losing federal funds for their existing programs. The federal government will pay each state that agrees to expand its program 100% of the cost of the expansion until 2017 and around 90% of the cost after that. Do you think your state should agree to expand its Medicaid program, or decline to expand it?

| | |
|--|-----|
| My state should agree to expand its Medicaid program | 46% |
| My state should decline to expand its Medicaid program | 29% |
| Not sure | 25% |

16. Thinking about the current Supreme Court, please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements.

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| The Supreme Court should be able to throw out any law it considered unconstitutional | 32% | 25% | 16% | 11% | 9% | 8% |
| The Supreme Court gets too mixed up in politics | 28% | 29% | 21% | 9% | 5% | 8% |
| The decisions of the Supreme Court favor some groups more than others | 26% | 30% | 26% | 6% | 5% | 8% |
| If the Supreme Court started making a lot of rulings that most Americans disagreed with, it might be better to do away with the Court altogether | 12% | 12% | 21% | 14% | 32% | 9% |
| The Supreme Court can usually be trusted to make decisions that are right for the country as a whole | 10% | 29% | 23% | 20% | 12% | 7% |

17. 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% | 19% | 10% | 40% | 5% |
| Mitt Romney | 16% | 24% | 15% | 34% | 11% |
| Tim Pawlenty | 6% | 18% | 14% | 16% | 46% |
| Rob Portman | 3% | 11% | 9% | 11% | 66% |
| Bobby Jindal | 14% | 12% | 13% | 19% | 42% |
| Paul Ryan | 14% | 12% | 9% | 24% | 42% |
| Joe Biden | 15% | 23% | 16% | 33% | 14% |

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

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Strongly Approve | 17% |
| Somewhat Approve | 26% |
| Somewhat Disapprove | 14% |
| Strongly Disapprove | 37% |
| Not Sure | 6% |

19. 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% | 19% | 16% | 41% | 11% |
| Immigration | 13% | 20% | 12% | 40% | 14% |
| The environment | 11% | 27% | 13% | 29% | 20% |
| Terrorism | 21% | 29% | 15% | 24% | 12% |
| Gay rights | 18% | 17% | 11% | 31% | 23% |
| Education | 14% | 24% | 17% | 28% | 17% |
| Health care | 21% | 18% | 10% | 42% | 8% |
| Social security | 15% | 21% | 15% | 34% | 16% |
| The budget deficit | 10% | 20% | 14% | 42% | 14% |
| The war in Afghanistan | 13% | 28% | 21% | 25% | 13% |
| Taxes | 13% | 22% | 14% | 38% | 12% |
| Medicare | 16% | 22% | 14% | 34% | 15% |
| Abortion | 12% | 19% | 11% | 29% | 29% |

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

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve | 1% |
| Somewhat approve | 7% |
| Neither approve nor disapprove | 17% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 24% |
| Strongly disapprove | 43% |
| Not sure | 8% |

21. 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 | 43% |
| Mitt Romney | 44% |
| Other | 6% |
| Not sure | 8% |

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 | 33% |
| Other | 2% |
| Not sure | 18% |
| I would not vote | 11% |

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

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal | 8% |
| Liberal | 11% |
| Moderate | 33% |
| Conservative | 24% |
| Very Conservative | 9% |
| Not sure | 16% |

24. Would you say Barack Obama is...

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal | 36% |
| Liberal | 20% |
| Moderate | 21% |
| Conservative | 4% |
| Very conservative | 1% |
| Not sure | 17% |

25. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal | 2% |
| Liberal | 4% |
| Moderate | 24% |
| Conservative | 28% |
| Very conservative | 19% |
| Not sure | 23% |

26. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Like a lot | 33% |
| Like somewhat | 26% |
| Dislike | 28% |
| Not sure | 12% |

28. Do you think Mitt Romney...

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

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

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Like a lot | 12% |
| Like somewhat | 28% |
| Dislike | 41% |
| Not sure | 20% |

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

| | Yes | No Opinion | No |
|--------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Arrogant | 41% | 33% | 27% |
| Bold | 28% | 57% | 15% |
| Effective | 22% | 44% | 34% |
| Exciting | 17% | 61% | 22% |
| Experienced | 18% | 46% | 36% |
| Honest | 28% | 36% | 35% |
| Hypocritical | 33% | 42% | 25% |
| Inspiring | 30% | 47% | 23% |
| Intelligent | 57% | 32% | 11% |
| Partisan | 25% | 58% | 17% |
| Patriotic | 28% | 44% | 29% |
| Religious | 15% | 57% | 29% |
| Sincere | 30% | 38% | 32% |
| Steady | 27% | 57% | 16% |
| Strong | 27% | 51% | 22% |

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

| | Yes | No Opinion | No |
|--------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Arrogant | 37% | 43% | 20% |
| Bold | 15% | 68% | 17% |
| Effective | 20% | 58% | 22% |
| Exciting | 6% | 57% | 37% |
| Experienced | 35% | 54% | 11% |
| Honest | 19% | 48% | 33% |
| Hypocritical | 36% | 46% | 18% |
| Inspiring | 10% | 58% | 31% |
| Intelligent | 44% | 45% | 11% |
| Partisan | 24% | 65% | 11% |
| Patriotic | 33% | 58% | 9% |
| Religious | 42% | 51% | 7% |
| Sincere | 19% | 49% | 31% |
| Steady | 22% | 63% | 15% |
| Strong | 23% | 63% | 14% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Getting better | 18% |
| About the same | 35% |
| Getting worse | 41% |
| Not sure | 6% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Higher | 22% |
| About the same | 36% |
| Lower | 20% |
| Not sure | 23% |

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

| | |
|---|-----|
| Better off financially than you were a year ago | 12% |
| About the same financially as you were a year ago | 47% |
| Worse off financially than you were a year ago | 35% |
| Not sure | 6% |

35. Gender

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Male | 49% |
| Female | 51% |

36. Education

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| No high school | 13% |
| High school graduate | 30% |
| Some college | 23% |
| 2-year college | 8% |
| 4-year college | 17% |
| Post-graduate | 9% |

37. Age

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

38. Race

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| White | 72% |
| Black | 11% |
| Hispanic | 9% |
| Other | 9% |

39. Region

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Northeast | 19% |
| Midwest | 22% |
| South | 37% |
| West | 22% |

40. Party Identification

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Democrat | 34% |
| Lean Democrat | 10% |
| Independent | 19% |
| Lean Republican | 10% |
| Republican | 26% |

The Economist/YouGov Poll



| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Sponsorship | <i>The Economist</i> |
| Fieldwork | YouGov |
| Interviewing Dates | July 7-9, 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 0.2 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.91. |
| Number of respondents | 1000 |
| Margin of error | ± 4.2% (adjusted for weighting) |
| Survey mode | Web-based interviews |
| Questions not reported | 27 questions not reported. |