

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted June 9-11, 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 32%
 Not too closely 24%
 Not at all 10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 23%
 Off on the wrong track 59%
 Not sure 19%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	25%	39%	25%	11%
The economy	81%	17%	1%	2%
Immigration	38%	38%	16%	9%
The environment	32%	41%	17%	10%
Terrorism	47%	35%	11%	6%
Gay rights	18%	23%	24%	35%
Education	53%	34%	9%	4%
Health care	62%	27%	8%	3%
Social security	61%	28%	8%	2%
The budget deficit	61%	27%	8%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	32%	39%	22%	7%
Taxes	60%	29%	8%	3%
Medicare	53%	31%	12%	3%
Abortion	26%	31%	24%	18%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	38%
Immigration	3%
The environment	2%
Terrorism	1%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	9%
Social security	16%
The budget deficit	12%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	4%
Abortion	2%

5. In 2010, Congress passed a health care reform law. Do you think the health care reform law should be expanded, kept the same, or repealed?

Expanded	24%
Kept the same	10%
Repealed	39%
Not sure	27%

6. In the Supreme Court hearings on the health care law, the court considered the question of whether Congress can require all Americans to purchase health care. Do you think the law's requirement that all Americans purchase health care is constitutional?

Yes, it is constitutional	22%
No, it is unconstitutional	53%
Not sure	25%

7. What do you think the Supreme Court will decide on the health care law?

It will keep all of the law 10%
 It will strike down the individual mandate but will keep most of the law ... 33%
 It will strike down all of the law 18%
 Not sure 40%

8. 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	25%	20%	10%	38%	7%
Mitt Romney	13%	25%	18%	31%	14%

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

Strongly Approve 14%
 Somewhat Approve 27%
 Somewhat Disapprove 13%
 Strongly Disapprove 37%
 Not Sure 9%

10. 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%	28%	18%	17%	18%
The economy	14%	22%	13%	39%	13%
Immigration	10%	21%	18%	32%	20%
The environment	11%	25%	18%	22%	23%
Terrorism	25%	28%	12%	17%	17%
Gay rights	18%	21%	13%	30%	19%
Education	14%	24%	19%	22%	22%
Health care	18%	21%	12%	38%	12%
Social security	13%	20%	18%	28%	21%
The budget deficit	11%	21%	14%	40%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	17%	27%	19%	20%	18%
Taxes	14%	22%	16%	32%	16%
Medicare	14%	21%	16%	28%	21%
Abortion	13%	18%	13%	28%	29%

11. 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	12%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	13%

12. 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	44%
Mitt Romney	42%
Other	7%
Not sure	8%

13. 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	14%
Obama will probably win	28%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win	20%
Romney will probably win	20%
Romney will definitely win	7%
Don't know	11%

14. In choosing who to support for President, how important are the following things to you?

	Most important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Do not care
The candidate's religious beliefs	7%	14%	24%	24%	31%
The candidate's race	3%	5%	8%	27%	57%
The candidate's experience	25%	40%	24%	3%	7%
The candidate's intelligence	37%	42%	13%	2%	6%
The candidate's position on economic issues	43%	41%	9%	1%	6%
The candidate's position on social issues like abortion and gay marriage	16%	30%	28%	12%	14%
The candidate's position on foreign policy issues	20%	46%	23%	3%	8%
The candidate's family life	7%	19%	28%	24%	21%

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

Get better	30%
About the same	15%
Get worse	39%
Not sure	16%

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

Get better	26%
About the same	14%
Get worse	33%
Not sure	27%

17. How well do you think each the following describes Barack Obama?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all
Is personally wealthy	40%	44%	11%	5%
Cares about people like me	25%	26%	18%	31%
Cares about the poor	30%	31%	18%	22%
Cares about the middle class	27%	29%	18%	26%
Cares about the wealthy	24%	37%	20%	20%

18. How well do you think each the following describes Mitt Romney?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all
Is personally wealthy	73%	18%	6%	3%
Cares about people like me	12%	29%	25%	34%
Cares about the poor	11%	27%	26%	36%
Cares about the middle class	14%	35%	24%	27%
Cares about the wealthy	55%	36%	6%	4%

19. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	37%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	50%
Not sure	12%

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

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	30%
Dislike	26%
Not sure	11%

21. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	23%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	56%
Not sure	21%

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

Like a lot	10%
Like somewhat	31%
Dislike	37%
Not sure	23%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	38%	38%	24%
Bold	30%	55%	15%
Effective	24%	41%	34%
Exciting	20%	59%	21%
Experienced	24%	44%	33%
Honest	33%	33%	34%
Hypocritical	36%	43%	22%
Inspiring	30%	49%	21%
Intelligent	58%	32%	10%
Partisan	27%	58%	15%
Patriotic	30%	43%	28%
Religious	15%	60%	24%
Sincere	32%	37%	30%
Steady	24%	60%	16%
Strong	32%	49%	19%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	38%	41%	21%
Bold	16%	71%	13%
Effective	22%	60%	18%
Exciting	6%	57%	37%
Experienced	34%	53%	12%
Honest	18%	50%	32%
Hypocritical	34%	49%	17%
Inspiring	9%	61%	30%
Intelligent	43%	47%	11%
Partisan	25%	64%	11%
Patriotic	34%	56%	10%
Religious	42%	51%	6%
Sincere	18%	51%	31%
Steady	21%	65%	14%
Strong	22%	66%	12%

25. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	33%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	17%

26. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	4%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	29%
Very conservative	18%
Not sure	23%

27. 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	32%
Other	4%
Not sure	19%
I would not vote	10%

28. In the 2012 elections, both the presidency and control of the U.S. Congress are at stake. Which of the following possible election results would give us the BEST CHANCE to solve the country's problems?

Obama is re-elected and Democrats get control of both houses of Congress	32%
Romney is elected and Republicans get control of both houses of Congress	29%
Obama is re-elected but Republicans maintain control of at least one house of Congress	6%
Romney is elected but Democrats maintain control of at least one house of Congress	6%
Not sure	27%

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

Very liberal	4%
Liberal	12%
Moderate	35%
Conservative	25%
Very Conservative	7%
Not sure	17%

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

Yes	15%
No	69%
Not sure	16%

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

Getting better	19%
About the same	32%
Getting worse	39%
Not sure	9%

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

Higher	19%
About the same	32%
Lower	20%
Not sure	28%

33. 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	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	34%
Not sure	6%

34. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

35. Education

No high school	13%
High school graduate	28%
Some college	24%
2-year college	7%
4-year college	18%
Post-graduate	9%

36. Age

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

37. Race

White	71%
Black	11%
Hispanic	9%
Other	9%

38. Region

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

39. Party Identification

Democrat	33%
Lean Democrat	12%
Independent	19%
Lean Republican	9%
Republican	27%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	June 9-11, 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 0.96.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.3% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	29 questions not reported.