

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted September 15-17, 2012
 Margin of Error ±4.1%

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

Very closely 56%
 Somewhat closely 30%
 Not too closely 10%
 Not at all 5%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 34%
 Off on the wrong track 54%
 Not sure 12%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	83%	15%	2%	1%
Immigration	41%	37%	15%	7%
The environment	41%	34%	16%	9%
Terrorism	51%	30%	14%	5%
Gay rights	25%	24%	22%	30%
Education	60%	27%	9%	4%
Health care	72%	22%	4%	2%
Social security	59%	31%	9%	1%
The budget deficit	59%	28%	10%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	38%	40%	16%	6%
Taxes	59%	32%	7%	2%
Medicare	55%	33%	9%	3%
Abortion	36%	30%	19%	15%

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

The economy	39%
Immigration	3%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	7%
Health care	11%
Social security	8%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	4%
Abortion	4%

5. Which presidential candidate would do a better job of handling these issues?

	Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	About the same	Don't know
The economy	43%	40%	8%	9%
Immigration	43%	35%	11%	11%
The environment	47%	25%	17%	11%
Terrorism	41%	37%	12%	10%
Gay rights	53%	23%	11%	13%
Education	46%	30%	13%	11%
Health care	45%	37%	8%	10%
Social security	44%	36%	10%	11%
The budget deficit	39%	40%	11%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	42%	33%	14%	10%
Taxes	45%	38%	8%	9%
Medicare	44%	36%	10%	10%
Abortion	46%	30%	13%	11%

6. Have you heard or read anything about the death of the American ambassador in Libya?

Yes	86%
No	10%
Not sure	4%

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Obama administration has handled the events in Libya, Egypt, and the rest of the Muslim world this past week?

Asked of respondents who had heard of the events in the Middle East

Strongly approve	30%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	34%
Don't know	9%

8. If Mitt Romney were President, do you think that he would have handled the events in the Middle East better or worse than Barack Obama?

Asked of respondents who had heard of the events in the Middle East

Better	37%
About the same	12%
Worse	43%
Not sure	8%

9. Do you think it is ever right for a candidate to criticize the President's handling of a foreign policy crisis during an election campaign?

Always right	22%
Always wrong	22%
Depends	47%
Not sure	9%

10. In general, do you think there is too much or too little regulation of business by the government?

Too much	42%
About the right amount	20%
Too little	25%
Not sure	13%

11. If you had to choose, would you rather have a congressperson who...

Compromises to get things done.	61%
Sticks to his or her principles, no matter what.	39%

12. 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	36%	16%	7%	37%	3%
Mitt Romney	24%	18%	15%	37%	6%
Paul Ryan	28%	12%	11%	37%	12%
Joe Biden	26%	21%	13%	33%	8%

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

Strongly Approve	26%
Somewhat Approve	22%
Somewhat Disapprove	9%
Strongly Disapprove	39%
Not Sure	4%

14. 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	22%	21%	9%	41%	7%
Immigration	23%	20%	10%	37%	10%
The environment	20%	24%	12%	29%	15%
Terrorism	29%	20%	11%	31%	9%
Gay rights	25%	21%	10%	33%	12%
Education	24%	22%	14%	28%	11%
Health care	30%	16%	6%	40%	7%
Social security	24%	19%	10%	34%	14%
The budget deficit	20%	20%	9%	42%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	22%	24%	15%	30%	9%
Taxes	26%	20%	8%	37%	8%
Medicare	26%	18%	9%	36%	12%
Abortion	24%	18%	10%	31%	17%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	14%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	6%

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

Asked of registered voters

Extremely enthusiastic	45%
Very enthusiastic	24%
Somewhat enthusiastic	15%
Not too enthusiastic	10%
Not at all enthusiastic	6%

17. Who will you vote for in the 2012 Presidential election?

Asked of registered voters. Leaners are left in the "not sure" category in the left column and allocated to the candidate they lean to in the right column.

	Leaners Not Allocated	Leaners Allocated
Barack Obama	47%	49%
Mitt Romney	43%	44%
Other	3%	3%
Not sure	7%	3%

18. How sure are you about your plans to vote for [Obama/Romney]?

Asked of Obama/Romney supporters

I will definitely vote for [Obama/Romney]. My mind is made up	89%
I will probably vote for [Obama/Romney], but I could change my mind	8%
I'm leaning toward voting for [Obama/Romney]	4%

19. Would you say you are mostly voting for [Obama/Romney] or against [other candidate]?

Asked of Obama/Romney supporters

I'm mostly voting for [Obama/Romney]	66%
I'm mostly voting against [other candidate]	32%
Not sure	2%

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	21%
Obama will probably win	30%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win	11%
Romney will probably win	16%
Romney will definitely win	11%
Don't know	11%

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	44%
The Republican Party candidate	36%
Other	1%
Not sure	15%
I would not vote	3%

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

Yes	15%
No	71%
Not sure	14%

23. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Very liberal	11%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	36%
Conservative	23%
Very Conservative	13%
Not sure	0%

24. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	38%
Liberal	23%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	9%

25. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	2%
Liberal	3%
Moderate	19%
Conservative	36%
Very conservative	25%
Not sure	15%

26. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	46%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	46%
Not sure	8%

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

Like a lot	42%
Like somewhat	23%
Dislike	27%
Not sure	9%

28. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	35%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	56%
Not sure	10%

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

Like a lot	20%
Like somewhat	27%
Dislike	41%
Not sure	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	39%	26%	36%
Bold	34%	48%	18%
Effective	29%	37%	34%
Exciting	25%	56%	18%
Experienced	29%	37%	34%
Honest	38%	27%	35%
Hypocritical	37%	30%	34%
Inspiring	40%	39%	21%
Intelligent	63%	24%	13%
Partisan	28%	52%	20%
Patriotic	35%	35%	30%
Religious	17%	53%	30%
Sincere	39%	33%	28%
Steady	34%	48%	18%
Strong	37%	40%	22%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	42%	27%	31%
Bold	23%	59%	18%
Effective	30%	48%	22%
Exciting	12%	48%	40%
Experienced	40%	40%	20%
Honest	31%	33%	36%
Hypocritical	40%	32%	28%
Inspiring	18%	46%	36%
Intelligent	50%	36%	13%
Partisan	29%	55%	16%
Patriotic	46%	41%	13%
Religious	61%	34%	5%
Sincere	29%	36%	35%
Steady	27%	54%	18%
Strong	31%	51%	17%

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

Getting better	30%
About the same	26%
Getting worse	39%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	30%
About the same	31%
Lower	16%
Not sure	23%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	21%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	37%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	37%
Not sure	4%

35. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

36. Education

No high school	2%
High school graduate	40%
Some college	24%
2-year college	10%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	8%

37. Age

18-29	26%
30-44	27%
45-64	33%
65+	14%

38. Race

White	68%
Black	15%
Hispanic	12%
Other	6%

39. Region

Northeast	15%
Midwest	17%
South	40%
West	29%

40. Party Identification

Democrat	35%
Lean Democrat	13%
Independent	12%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	30%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	September 15-17, 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 to 6, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.85.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.1% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	34 questions not reported.