

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
 Conducted May 19-21, 2012  
 Margin of Error ±4%

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

Very closely ..... 33%  
 Somewhat closely ..... 36%  
 Not too closely ..... 21%  
 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 ..... 55%  
 Not sure ..... 17%

## 3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	23%	41%	23%	13%
The economy	81%	16%	2%	1%
Immigration	40%	35%	19%	7%
The environment	35%	38%	16%	12%
Terrorism	46%	35%	13%	6%
Gay rights	18%	23%	23%	36%
Education	54%	34%	8%	4%
Health care	65%	25%	6%	4%
Social security	59%	30%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	58%	30%	8%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	30%	44%	17%	9%
Taxes	61%	29%	7%	2%
Medicare	51%	37%	9%	3%
Abortion	28%	27%	26%	19%

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

The war in Iraq .....	1%
The economy .....	39%
Immigration .....	3%
The environment .....	5%
Terrorism .....	2%
Gay rights .....	1%
Education .....	6%
Health care .....	10%
Social security .....	13%
The budget deficit .....	10%
The war in Afghanistan .....	1%
Taxes .....	4%
Medicare .....	3%
Abortion .....	2%

5. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following about the countries of Western Europe (including Great Britain, France, Germany, and others)?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
They have strong economies	5%	27%	30%	21%	17%
They are friends of the U.S.	23%	51%	8%	2%	15%
They have strong social values	16%	36%	20%	8%	20%
They are reliable partners in the war on terror	18%	41%	17%	5%	19%

6. As the U.S. becomes a more diverse country, do you think race and ethnicity will matter more or less in American society in the future?

Race and ethnicity will matter more .....	38%
Race and ethnicity will matter less .....	62%

7. Many ideas have been suggested for improving relations between racial and ethnic groups in the United States. Please indicate if you think each of the following ideas would be helpful, unhelpful, or would make no difference in improving racial and ethnic relations.

	Very helpful	Some-what helpful	Would make no difference	Some-what unhelpful	Very unhelpful	Not sure
Strengthening anti-discrimination laws and enforcing them more	25%	25%	25%	6%	12%	6%
Encouraging immigrants to learn English	54%	24%	11%	2%	4%	5%
Restricting the number of immigrants that come to the U.S. each year	35%	19%	23%	7%	7%	8%
Lowering the income gap between the rich and poor	33%	18%	20%	4%	18%	7%
Promoting the values of hard work and self-reliance as a pathway to success in the U.S.	53%	20%	16%	3%	3%	6%
Making sure that kids receive the same quality of education no matter where they live	57%	21%	11%	2%	4%	4%
Ending affirmative action	31%	17%	19%	10%	7%	17%
Promoting racial fairness in the court system	35%	24%	22%	3%	9%	8%

**8. How much have you heard about Facebook’s Initial Public Offering (IPO) to investors?**

A lot .....	30%
A little .....	49%
Nothing at all .....	21%

**9. Do you think purchasing stock in Facebook is a good long-term investment?**

*Asked of respondents who had heard of Facebook’s Initial Public Offering (IPO)*

Yes .....	14%
No .....	52%
Not sure .....	34%

**10. 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	28%	20%	10%	37%	5%
Mitt Romney	14%	25%	21%	30%	10%

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

Strongly Approve .....	17%
Somewhat Approve .....	27%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	12%
Strongly Disapprove .....	38%
Not Sure .....	6%

12. 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%	17%	20%	14%
The economy	13%	26%	11%	40%	9%
Immigration	9%	20%	17%	35%	18%
The environment	11%	30%	15%	24%	19%
Terrorism	26%	28%	12%	21%	13%
Gay rights	20%	19%	12%	32%	17%
Education	15%	28%	16%	25%	17%
Health care	20%	19%	11%	41%	9%
Social security	13%	22%	15%	32%	18%
The budget deficit	11%	22%	13%	43%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	29%	19%	24%	13%
Taxes	15%	23%	16%	34%	13%
Medicare	14%	24%	14%	32%	17%
Abortion	13%	19%	12%	26%	31%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	5%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Not sure	7%

**14. 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 .....	46%
Mitt Romney .....	42%
Other .....	6%
Not sure .....	6%

**15. 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 .....	16%
Obama will probably win .....	32%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win .....	15%
Romney will probably win .....	16%
Romney will definitely win .....	9%
Don't know .....	12%

**16. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and Hillary Clinton 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 Clinton in a follow-up question are counted as Obama, Romney, or Clinton supporters*

Barack Obama .....	32%
Mitt Romney .....	36%
Hillary Clinton .....	22%
Other .....	5%
Not sure .....	5%

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

Yes .....	13%
No .....	73%
Not sure .....	14%

18. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	34%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	16%

19. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	2%
Liberal	4%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	31%
Very conservative	18%
Not sure	23%

20. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	40%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	51%
Not sure	9%

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

Like a lot	34%
Like somewhat	25%
Dislike	31%
Not sure	9%

22. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	22%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	59%
Not sure	19%

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

Like a lot .....	9%
Like somewhat .....	34%
Dislike .....	38%
Not sure .....	19%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	38%	34%	28%
Bold	31%	53%	16%
Effective	25%	40%	35%
Exciting	17%	63%	20%
Experienced	22%	42%	36%
Honest	32%	30%	37%
Hypocritical	35%	38%	28%
Inspiring	33%	44%	23%
Intelligent	60%	27%	14%
Partisan	24%	58%	19%
Patriotic	30%	40%	31%
Religious	15%	54%	31%
Sincere	34%	32%	34%
Steady	29%	55%	17%
Strong	33%	45%	22%



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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	44%	20%
Bold	18%	68%	14%
Effective	22%	59%	19%
Exciting	6%	58%	36%
Experienced	38%	50%	12%
Honest	18%	49%	33%
Hypocritical	35%	47%	18%
Inspiring	10%	58%	32%
Intelligent	47%	43%	11%
Partisan	25%	63%	11%
Patriotic	33%	57%	10%
Religious	47%	47%	6%
Sincere	18%	50%	32%
Steady	23%	61%	15%
Strong	21%	64%	15%

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

Getting better	24%
About the same	40%
Getting worse	32%
Not sure	4%

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

Higher	20%
About the same	35%
Lower	22%
Not sure	23%

**28. Would you say that you and your family are...**

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	17%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	48%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	31%
Not sure .....	4%

**29. 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 .....	34%
Other .....	2%
Not sure .....	17%
I would not vote .....	9%

**30. Gender**

Male .....	48%
Female .....	52%

**31. Education**

No high school .....	12%
High school graduate .....	30%
Some college .....	23%
2-year college .....	9%
4-year college .....	17%
Post-graduate .....	9%

**32. Age**

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

**33. Race**

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

**34. Region**

Northeast .....	20%
Midwest .....	23%
South .....	35%
West .....	23%

**35. Party Identification**

Democrat .....	34%
Lean Democrat .....	14%
Independent .....	16%
Lean Republican .....	10%
Republican .....	26%

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<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	May 19-21, 2012
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	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.
<b>Weighting</b>	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 0.83.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	31 questions not reported.