

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted February 25-28, 2012
 Margin of Error ±3.6%

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

Very closely 34%
 Somewhat closely 33%
 Not too closely 21%
 Not at all 13%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 29%
 Off on the wrong track 59%
 Not sure 12%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	29%	36%	22%	13%
The economy	83%	13%	2%	1%
Immigration	39%	34%	19%	8%
The environment	37%	36%	18%	8%
Terrorism	47%	32%	15%	6%
Gay rights	18%	25%	25%	32%
Education	56%	30%	10%	4%
Health care	69%	22%	6%	3%
Social security	62%	28%	9%	2%
The budget deficit	58%	27%	11%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	34%	39%	18%	9%
Taxes	59%	32%	7%	2%
Medicare	55%	31%	11%	3%
Abortion	28%	30%	24%	18%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	44%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	5%
Health care	10%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	2%

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

Very serious	42%
Somewhat serious	37%
No too serious	15%
Not at all serious	6%

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

Very likely	40%
Somewhat likely	42%
Somewhat unlikely	14%
Very unlikely	4%

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

Yes, he should be able to keep them low	47%
No, gas prices are beyond his control	37%
Not sure	16%

8. 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	62%	27%	8%	3%
Foreign countries that produce oil	55%	34%	8%	3%
The Obama administration	34%	24%	34%	9%
Republicans in Congress	25%	28%	34%	13%
Environmental regulations	31%	29%	29%	11%
Decreasing supply of oil	26%	33%	33%	8%
Increased demand for oil	31%	41%	22%	6%

9. Should the U.S. government provide incentives to increase production of the following sources of energy?

	Provide incentives	Don't provide incentives	Not sure
Nuclear power	38%	37%	25%
Coal	37%	43%	20%
Natural gas	57%	25%	19%
Oil	43%	41%	17%
Wind	62%	22%	16%
Solar	63%	22%	15%

10. Would you favor or oppose requiring car manufacturers to achieve an average fuel efficiency of 55 miles per gallon by 2025?

Favor	63%
Oppose	18%
Not sure	19%

11. Do you think the federal government should permit gas prices to rise in order to decrease our reliance on oil for energy?

Yes	10%
No	67%
Unsure	22%

12. In general, do you feel the laws covering the sale of handguns should be made more strict than they are now?

Make gun laws more strict	44%
No change	34%
Make gun laws less strict	16%
Not sure	6%

13. Are you in favor or opposed to the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

Favor the death penalty	56%
Opposed to the death penalty	25%
Not sure	19%

14. Do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to see to it that everyone has health care coverage?

Yes	43%
No	45%
Not sure	12%

15. Do you generally favor or oppose affirmative action programs for women and racial minorities?

Favor	31%
Oppose	41%
Not sure	28%

16. Over the past 30 years, do you think the U.S. unemployment rate has generally been higher when Democrats have been president or when Republicans have been president?

Much higher under Democrats	19%
A little higher under Democrats	12%
No difference	41%
A little higher under Republicans	13%
Much higher under Republicans	15%

17. Do you think the unemployment rate has increased or decreased over the past six months?

Increased a lot	14%
Increased a little	17%
No change	22%
Decreased a little	44%
Decreased a lot	3%

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	28%	20%	9%	36%	7%
Mitt Romney	10%	22%	23%	30%	16%
Newt Gingrich	9%	18%	15%	43%	14%
Ron Paul	11%	24%	21%	24%	19%
Rick Santorum	13%	20%	14%	34%	18%

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

Strongly Approve	18%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	12%
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	21%	28%	13%	22%	15%
The economy	14%	27%	11%	38%	10%
Immigration	9%	23%	16%	33%	18%
The environment	11%	29%	15%	27%	19%
Terrorism	23%	28%	12%	23%	14%
Gay rights	10%	26%	13%	26%	25%
Education	14%	30%	15%	25%	17%
Health care	19%	24%	10%	38%	8%
Social security	13%	24%	18%	29%	17%
The budget deficit	11%	26%	13%	39%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	28%	17%	25%	16%
Taxes	14%	26%	15%	33%	11%
Medicare	12%	27%	15%	29%	17%
Abortion	12%	23%	10%	26%	29%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	17%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	9%

22. Are you registered to vote as...

Asked of registered voters who live in states with party registration

Democrat	41%
Republican	39%
Other Party	1%
Independent/No Party	18%
Not sure	1%

23. Are you satisfied with the field of Republicans who have declared their candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination or would you like someone else to enter the race?

Asked of registered voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections

Satisfied with current field	51%
Would like someone else to enter	27%
Not sure	22%

24. If you had to choose one, which of these individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

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

Mitt Romney	29%
Newt Gingrich	19%
Ron Paul	12%
Rick Santorum	28%
Other	7%
No preference	4%

25. Romney vs. Gingrich two-way race, imputed

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Respondents who did not name Romney or Gingrich as their preferred Republican nominee were asked whom they would want to be the Republican nominee if Romney or Gingrich were the only two available options. The first choice and Romney-Gingrich hypothetical questions were combined to create this measure.

Romney	56%
Gingrich	44%

26. Romney vs. Santorum two-way race, imputed

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Respondents who did not name Romney or Santorum as their preferred Republican nominee were asked whom they would want to be the Republican nominee if Romney or Santorum were the only two available options. The first choice and Romney-Santorum hypothetical questions were combined to create this measure.

Romney	56%
Santorum	44%

27. Santorum vs. Gingrich two-way race, imputed

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Respondents who did not name Santorum or Gingrich as their preferred Republican nominee were asked whom they would want to be the Republican nominee if Santorum or Gingrich were the only two available options. The first choice and Santorum-Gingrich hypothetical questions were combined to create this measure.

Gingrich	42%
Santorum	58%

28. 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

Barack Obama	48%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Mitt Romney	1%
Mitt Romney	39%
Other	5%
Not sure	5%

29. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Newt Gingrich, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Newt Gingrich?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	51%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich	1%
Newt Gingrich	37%
Other	7%
Not sure	4%

30. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Rick Santorum, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Rick Santorum?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	49%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Rick Santorum	1%
Rick Santorum	40%
Other	5%
Not sure	4%

31. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Ron Paul, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Ron Paul?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	46%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Ron Paul	1%
Ron Paul	38%
Other	7%
Not sure	5%

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

Barack Obama	55%
Mitt Romney	38%
Someone else	6%

33. Regardless of who you would support, who do you think would win the presidential election if Rick Santorum became the Republican nominee?

Barack Obama	61%
Rick Santorum	33%
Someone else	6%

34. Regardless of who you would support, who do you think would win the presidential election if Newt Gingrich became the Republican nominee?

Barack Obama	65%
Newt Gingrich	29%
Someone else	7%

35. Do you think the unemployment rate has increased or decreased since Barack Obama became president?

Increased a lot	32%
Increased a little	18%
No change	15%
Decreased a little	29%
Decreased a lot	6%

36. Do you think the tax burden on middle-class Americans has increased or decreased since Barack Obama became president?

Increased a lot	20%
Increased a little	22%
No change	38%
Decreased a little	18%
Decreased a lot	2%

37. Which one of the following statements is closest to Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum’s position on birth control?

I’m fine with it within a marriage but not outside of the husband-wife relationship because it encourages premarital sex.	10%
It’s not okay because it’s a license to do things in the sexual realm that is counter to how things are supposed to be.	33%
Contraception. It’s working just fine. Just leave it alone.	6%
Have not heard yet about Santorum’s position on birth control	52%

38. Which of the following people has described himself as "severely conservative"?

Mitt Romney	25%
Rick Santorum	15%
Newt Gingrich	15%
Have not heard anyone say this	45%

39. Do you think the unemployment rate will be higher over the next five years if Barack Obama is reelected or if a Republican president is elected in November?

Much higher if Obama is reelected	29%
A little higher if Obama is reelected	10%
No difference	28%
A little higher if a Republican is elected	11%
Much higher if a Republican is elected	23%

40. Do you think the tax burden on middle-class Americans will be higher over the next five years if Barack Obama is reelected or if a Republican president is elected in November?

Much higher if Obama is reelected	27%
A little higher if Obama is reelected	14%
No difference	22%
A little higher if a Republican is elected	12%
Much higher if a Republican is elected	25%

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

Yes	13%
No	73%
Not sure	13%

42. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	32%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	16%

43. Would you say Rick Santorum is...

Very liberal	1%
Liberal	2%
Moderate	8%
Conservative	26%
Very conservative	37%
Not sure	25%

44. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	43%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	48%
Not sure	9%

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

Like a lot	36%
Like somewhat	26%
Dislike	26%
Not sure	12%

46. Do you think Rick Santorum...

Says what he believes	46%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	29%
Not sure	25%

47. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Rick Santorum as a person?

Like a lot	13%
Like somewhat	23%
Dislike	34%
Not sure	31%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	34%	34%	32%
Bold	33%	52%	15%
Effective	25%	45%	30%
Exciting	18%	61%	21%
Experienced	19%	47%	35%
Honest	32%	38%	30%
Hypocritical	31%	43%	26%
Inspiring	33%	46%	21%
Intelligent	60%	29%	10%
Partisan	26%	59%	16%
Patriotic	28%	45%	26%
Religious	17%	58%	25%
Sincere	35%	38%	27%
Steady	30%	52%	17%
Strong	32%	48%	20%

49. Which of these words would you use to describe Rick Santorum?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	27%	52%	21%
Bold	19%	71%	10%
Effective	11%	69%	20%
Exciting	5%	68%	26%
Experienced	18%	67%	14%
Honest	23%	61%	16%
Hypocritical	23%	59%	18%
Inspiring	10%	66%	25%
Intelligent	29%	54%	17%
Partisan	26%	66%	8%
Patriotic	31%	64%	5%
Religious	49%	47%	4%
Sincere	28%	58%	14%
Steady	20%	71%	10%
Strong	14%	74%	12%

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

Getting better	28%
About the same	31%
Getting worse	35%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	25%
About the same	33%
Lower	20%
Not sure	22%

52. 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	36%
Not sure	4%

53. 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	39%
The Republican Party candidate	32%
Other	2%
Not sure	16%
I would not vote	12%

54. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

55. Education

No high school	12%
High school graduate	33%
Some college	21%
2-year college	9%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	9%

56. Age

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

57. Race

White	71%
Black	12%
Hispanic	9%
Other	9%

58. Region

Northeast	20%
Midwest	21%
South	36%
West	23%

59. Party Identification

Democrat	35%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	18%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	26%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	February 25-28, 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 4.6, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.59.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.6% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	30 questions not reported.