

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted November 5-8, 2011  
Margin of Error  $\pm 4\%$

1. 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	23%	24%	16%	27%	10%
The economy	10%	20%	16%	46%	7%
Immigration	9%	19%	17%	38%	16%
The environment	10%	27%	19%	26%	17%
Terrorism	24%	28%	15%	23%	9%
Gay rights	14%	21%	13%	28%	25%
Education	14%	26%	18%	28%	13%
Health care	16%	20%	13%	44%	7%
Social security	14%	18%	20%	35%	13%
The budget deficit	10%	19%	17%	45%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	25%	20%	28%	11%
Taxes	14%	19%	17%	41%	9%
Medicare	13%	19%	20%	36%	13%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	40%	37%	16%	7%
The economy	83%	13%	2%	1%
Immigration	48%	30%	14%	7%
The environment	44%	37%	13%	5%
Terrorism	53%	31%	10%	4%
Gay rights	23%	23%	25%	29%
Education	60%	28%	8%	3%
Health care	73%	20%	5%	3%
Social security	67%	22%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	65%	25%	7%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	42%	37%	15%	6%
Taxes	67%	25%	5%	2%
Medicare	56%	28%	11%	4%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	46%
Immigration	4%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	5%
Health care	10%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	6%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	2%

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

Strongly Approve .....	14%
Somewhat Approve .....	28%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	15%
Strongly Disapprove .....	37%
Not Sure .....	7%

**5. Recently, President Obama proposed a variety of measures to stimulate the economy and create jobs. Do you think that his jobs package would create a substantial number of new jobs in the U.S. or not?**

Would create a substantial number of new jobs .....	27%
Would not create a substantial number of new jobs .....	40%
Haven't heard about his plan .....	15%
Not sure .....	18%

**6. Which party do you trust more to handle the issue of job creation?**

Democrats .....	32%
Republicans .....	28%
About the same .....	21%
Not sure .....	19%

**7. Congress recently considered a measure to spend \$60 billion on transportation infrastructure improvements. The highway, transit, rail, and aviation projects would be paid for by a 0.7% tax surcharge on annual incomes over \$1 million. Do you favor or oppose this measure?**

Favor transportation spending and favor the surcharge on income earned above \$1 million .....	47%
Favor transportation spending, but oppose the surcharge on income earned above \$1 million .....	12%
Oppose transportation spending and surcharge on income earned above \$1 million .....	16%
Not sure .....	25%

8. Another measure before Congress would provide tax breaks of up to \$9,600 for companies that hire veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The measure would also expand vocational rehabilitation benefits for veterans. The bill would be paid for through existing Department of Veterans' Affairs spending. Do you favor or oppose this measure?

Favor .....	60%
Oppose .....	11%
Not sure .....	29%

9. How much have you heard or read about the European debt crisis, which is currently causing economic and political turmoil in Greece?

A lot .....	35%
A little .....	43%
Nothing at all .....	21%

10. How likely is it that the European debt crisis will hurt the economic recovery in the U.S.?  
*Asked if respondent is aware of European debt crisis*

Very likely .....	38%
Somewhat likely .....	38%
Neither likely, nor unlikely .....	10%
Somewhat unlikely .....	3%
Very unlikely .....	1%
Not sure .....	9%

11. In your opinion, should U.S. funds be used to help rescue European governments facing financial crises?  
*Asked if respondent is aware of European debt crisis*

Definitely yes .....	1%
Probably yes .....	8%
Probably no .....	28%
Definitely no .....	52%
Not sure .....	12%

12. How much confidence do you have in European leaders to take the right steps to resolve the debt crisis?

*Asked if respondent is aware of European debt crisis*

A great deal .....	4%
A fair amount .....	33%
Not much .....	36%
None at all .....	12%
Not sure .....	15%

13. How much have you heard or read about the allegations that Herman Cain sexually harassed several female employees while serving as the head of the National Restaurant Association in the 1990's?

A great deal .....	49%
A little .....	35%
Nothing at all .....	16%

14. Do you think Herman Cain is guilty of sexually harassing female employees while he led the National Restaurant Association?

*Asked if respondent is aware of allegations against Cain*

Guilty .....	33%
Not guilty .....	22%
Not sure .....	45%

15. Herman Cain accused his opponents in the race for the Republican presidential nomination of spreading the stories about Cain's unwanted sexual advances as part of a smear campaign against him. Do you agree or disagree that the stories are part of a smear campaign organized by his political rivals?

*Asked if respondent is aware of allegations against Cain*

Agree .....	38%
Disagree .....	26%
Not sure .....	36%

16. Would you consider voting for a candidate for President who had been accused of sexual harassment?

Yes .....	30%
No .....	42%
Not sure .....	29%

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
Mitt Romney	11%	27%	20%	19%	23%
Newt Gingrich	14%	16%	17%	28%	24%
Jon Huntsman	4%	16%	15%	13%	50%
Michele Bachmann	8%	15%	12%	34%	30%
Ron Paul	8%	25%	18%	18%	30%
Herman Cain	14%	18%	16%	28%	23%
Rick Santorum	5%	14%	14%	22%	42%
Rick Perry	6%	17%	18%	33%	25%
Gary Johnson	2%	7%	8%	12%	68%

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

Very closely .....	28%
Somewhat closely .....	28%
Not too closely .....	31%
Not at all .....	13%

19. In the upcoming primary elections, are you more likely to vote in a Democratic presidential primary or caucus, or a Republican primary or caucus, or aren't you likely to vote in a primary or caucus at all?

*Asked of registered voters*

Democratic primary or caucus .....	38%
Republican primary or caucus .....	42%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all .....	21%

**20. 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 are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus*

Satisfied with current field .....	51%
Would like someone else to enter .....	19%
Not sure .....	31%

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

*Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus*

Mitt Romney .....	24%
Newt Gingrich .....	16%
Michele Bachmann .....	7%
Jon Huntsman .....	5%
Ron Paul .....	7%
Herman Cain .....	21%
Rick Santorum .....	2%
Rick Perry .....	7%
Gary Johnson .....	1%
Other .....	5%
No preference .....	6%

**22. And which of these individuals would be your SECOND choice to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?**

*Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus*

Mitt Romney .....	15%
Newt Gingrich .....	17%
Michele Bachmann .....	5%
Jon Huntsman .....	3%
Ron Paul .....	7%
Herman Cain .....	21%
Rick Santorum .....	4%
Rick Perry .....	11%
Gary Johnson .....	1%
Other .....	2%
No preference .....	13%

23. In the 2012 presidential election, would you prefer that Barack Obama or someone else run as the Democratic nominee for president?

*Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Democratic primary or caucus*

Barack Obama .....	70%
Someone else .....	17%
Not sure .....	13%

24. 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 .....	43%
Lean Barack Obama .....	3%
Lean Mitt Romney .....	3%
Mitt Romney .....	39%
Other .....	7%
Not sure .....	7%

25. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Herman Cain, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Herman Cain?

*Asked of registered voters*

Barack Obama .....	46%
Lean Barack Obama .....	2%
Lean Herman Cain .....	2%
Herman Cain .....	36%
Other .....	8%
Not sure .....	7%



26. 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 .....	47%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich .....	3%
Newt Gingrich .....	38%
Other .....	5%
Not sure .....	6%

27. How much have you heard or read about the political movement known as the Tea Party?

A great deal .....	36%
A fair amount .....	32%
Not much .....	22%
Nothing at all .....	10%

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

*Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement*

Yes .....	16%
No .....	84%

29. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?

*Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement*

Strongly support .....	17%
Somewhat support .....	17%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	18%
Somewhat oppose .....	8%
Strongly oppose .....	28%
Not sure .....	12%

30. How much have you heard or read about the protest movement known as the Occupy Wall Street movement?

A great deal .....	38%
A fair amount .....	32%
Not much .....	17%
Nothing at all .....	13%

31. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Occupy Wall Street movement?

*Asked if respondent is aware of Occupy Wall Street movement*

Yes .....	23%
No .....	77%

32. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Occupy Wall Street movement?

*Asked if respondent is aware of Occupy Wall Street movement*

Strongly support .....	22%
Somewhat support .....	19%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	19%
Somewhat oppose .....	11%
Strongly oppose .....	20%
Not sure .....	9%

33. Have there been any public protests as part of the Occupy movement in the area where you live?

*Asked if respondent is aware of Occupy Wall Street movement*

Yes .....	52%
No .....	40%
Not sure .....	9%

34. Have you personally attended any public protests as part of the Occupy movement in the area where you live?

*Asked if there have been Occupy protests in respondent's area*

Yes .....	10%
No .....	90%

**35. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of the Occupy protesters in your area?**

*Asked if there have been Occupy protests in respondent's area*

Very favorable .....	25%
Somewhat favorable .....	19%
Somewhat unfavorable .....	16%
Very unfavorable .....	30%
Don't know .....	10%

**36. Would you say Barack Obama is...**

Very liberal .....	32%
Liberal .....	20%
Moderate .....	24%
Conservative .....	5%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	19%

**37. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	43%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	57%

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

Like a lot .....	32%
Like somewhat .....	29%
Dislike .....	26%
Not sure .....	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	27%	50%	23%
Decisive	20%	50%	31%
Effective	16%	43%	41%
Experienced	16%	44%	40%
Honest	28%	41%	31%
In touch	23%	43%	34%
Inspiring	28%	47%	25%
Intelligent	56%	28%	16%
Partisan	25%	56%	20%
Patriotic	27%	45%	28%
Realistic	26%	40%	34%
Religious	12%	56%	32%
Sincere	31%	38%	31%
Strong	27%	45%	28%
Unifying	13%	48%	39%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	15%
Off on the wrong track	72%
Not sure	13%

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

Getting better .....	12%
About the same .....	37%
Getting worse .....	45%
Not sure .....	5%

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

Higher .....	15%
About the same .....	35%
Lower .....	26%
Not sure .....	24%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	11%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	40%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	43%
Not sure .....	6%

**45. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for...**

*Asked of registered voters*

The Democratic Party candidate .....	40%
The Republican Party candidate .....	39%
Other .....	4%
Not sure .....	14%
I would not vote .....	3%

**46. If an election for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?**

*Asked of registered voters*

The Democratic Party candidate .....	41%
The Republican Party candidate .....	39%
Other .....	1%
Not sure .....	17%
I would not vote .....	3%

**47. Gender**

Male .....	47%
Female .....	53%

**48. Education**

No high school .....	14%
High school graduate .....	32%
Some college .....	22%
2-year college .....	7%
4-year college .....	16%
Post-graduate .....	9%

**49. Age**

18-29 .....	22%
30-44 .....	27%
45-64 .....	35%
65+ .....	16%

**50. Race**

White .....	73%
Black .....	10%
Hispanic .....	7%
Other .....	10%

51. Region

Northeast .....	19%
Midwest .....	21%
South .....	36%
West .....	24%

52. Party Identification

Democrat .....	31%
Lean Democrat .....	11%
Independent .....	24%
Lean Republican .....	9%
Republican .....	24%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	November 5-8, 2011
<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 0.5 to 6.2, 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>	26 questions not reported.