

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted November 12-15, 2011  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.7\%$

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        | 20%              | 27%              | 16%                 | 24%                 | 14%        |
| The economy            | 10%              | 23%              | 14%                 | 42%                 | 10%        |
| Immigration            | 8%               | 21%              | 17%                 | 36%                 | 19%        |
| The environment        | 11%              | 28%              | 18%                 | 25%                 | 18%        |
| Terrorism              | 22%              | 26%              | 15%                 | 23%                 | 14%        |
| Gay rights             | 14%              | 25%              | 13%                 | 22%                 | 27%        |
| Education              | 14%              | 27%              | 16%                 | 26%                 | 17%        |
| Health care            | 15%              | 21%              | 12%                 | 40%                 | 12%        |
| Social security        | 11%              | 23%              | 19%                 | 33%                 | 14%        |
| The budget deficit     | 10%              | 21%              | 15%                 | 42%                 | 12%        |
| The war in Afghanistan | 13%              | 28%              | 19%                 | 25%                 | 15%        |
| Taxes                  | 13%              | 20%              | 17%                 | 36%                 | 14%        |
| Medicare               | 12%              | 23%              | 18%                 | 33%                 | 14%        |

2. How important are the following issues to you?

|                        | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not very Important | Unimportant |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| The war in Iraq        | 35%            | 41%                | 17%                | 6%          |
| The economy            | 80%            | 15%                | 3%                 | 2%          |
| Immigration            | 45%            | 34%                | 15%                | 7%          |
| The environment        | 47%            | 33%                | 14%                | 6%          |
| Terrorism              | 52%            | 31%                | 11%                | 5%          |
| Gay rights             | 23%            | 26%                | 25%                | 26%         |
| Education              | 56%            | 31%                | 9%                 | 4%          |
| Health care            | 71%            | 24%                | 4%                 | 2%          |
| Social security        | 64%            | 28%                | 6%                 | 2%          |
| The budget deficit     | 61%            | 27%                | 8%                 | 4%          |
| The war in Afghanistan | 37%            | 42%                | 16%                | 5%          |
| Taxes                  | 64%            | 28%                | 5%                 | 3%          |
| Medicare               | 57%            | 30%                | 10%                | 3%          |

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

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| The war in Iraq        | 0%  |
| The economy            | 39% |
| Immigration            | 4%  |
| The environment        | 4%  |
| Terrorism              | 3%  |
| Gay rights             | 2%  |
| Education              | 7%  |
| Health care            | 12% |
| Social security        | 12% |
| The budget deficit     | 9%  |
| The war in Afghanistan | 1%  |
| Taxes                  | 5%  |
| Medicare               | 3%  |

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

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Strongly Approve .....    | 14% |
| Somewhat Approve .....    | 29% |
| Somewhat Disapprove ..... | 17% |
| Strongly Disapprove ..... | 34% |
| Not Sure .....            | 6%  |

**5. How closely do you follow College football?**

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Very closely .....     | 11% |
| Somewhat closely ..... | 17% |
| Not very closely ..... | 26% |
| Not at all .....       | 46% |

**6. How much have you heard or read about the sexual abuse scandal at Penn State University involving a former assistant football coach?**

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| A great deal .....   | 49% |
| A little .....       | 39% |
| Nothing at all ..... | 12% |

**7. How would you rate the job Penn State did in handling allegations of child abuse by former assistant football coach, Jerry Sandusky, when administration officials first learned of the charges?**

*Asked if respondent is aware of Penn State scandal*

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Excellent ..... | 5%  |
| Good .....      | 9%  |
| Only Fair ..... | 10% |
| Poor .....      | 57% |
| Not sure .....  | 19% |

8. How would you rate the job Penn State University has done in handling the response to the sexual abuse scandal since news of allegations against Jerry Sandusky became public?

*Asked if respondent is aware of Penn State scandal*

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Excellent ..... | 8%  |
| Good .....      | 21% |
| Only Fair ..... | 27% |
| Poor .....      | 26% |
| Not sure .....  | 19% |

9. Do you think Penn State officials had enough information to act earlier in order to prevent at least some cases of sexual abuse by Jerry Sandusky?

*Asked if respondent is aware of Penn State scandal*

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Yes, could have prevented some cases of abuse .....   | 67% |
| No, could not have prevented any cases of abuse ..... | 3%  |
| Not sure .....  | 29% |

10. Do you agree or disagree with Penn State University’s decision to fire head coach Coach Joe Paterno for failing to notify the police about an alleged sexual assault after he learned about it from an eyewitness?

*Asked if respondent is aware of Penn State scandal*

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Strongly agree .....    | 44% |
| Somewhat agree .....    | 17% |
| Somewhat disagree ..... | 11% |
| Strongly disagree ..... | 11% |
| Not sure .....          | 17% |

11. Some people say that Penn State should cancel the rest of its football season while it handles the aftermath of the sexual abuse scandal. Would you support or oppose this?

*Asked if respondent is aware of Penn State scandal*

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Strongly support ..... | 13% |
| Somewhat support ..... | 10% |
| Somewhat oppose .....  | 20% |
| Strongly oppose .....  | 33% |
| Not sure .....         | 24% |

12. How much have you heard or read about the so-called "super committee," a bi-partisan group of members of Congress that is currently working on a deficit reduction plan?

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| A great deal .....   | 25% |
| A little .....       | 36% |
| Nothing at all ..... | 39% |

13. As part of the debt ceiling increase legislation, Congress created a 12-person committee equally divided between members of the House and the Senate and between Republicans and Democrats. They are to report their recommendations for reducing the deficit on November 23rd. If they do not, or if their recommendations are not enacted, there will automatically be large across-the-board budget cuts, including for defense, Social Security and Medicare. Do you approve or disapprove the creation of this "super committee"?

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve .....    | 8%  |
| Somewhat approve .....    | 29% |
| Somewhat disapprove ..... | 17% |
| Strongly disapprove ..... | 22% |
| No opinion .....          | 24% |

14. How likely do you think it is that the super committee will be able to agree on its recommendations?

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very likely .....       | 3%  |
| Somewhat likely .....   | 18% |
| Somewhat unlikely ..... | 28% |
| Very unlikely .....     | 32% |
| Not sure .....          | 20% |

15. If the super committee members are NOT able to agree on recommendations to reduce the deficit, who would you blame more for the failure?

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Republican members of the committee ..... | 24% |
| Democratic members of the committee ..... | 15% |
| Both equally .....                        | 44% |
| Not sure .....                            | 18% |

16. If the super committee DOES come to an agreement, how likely do you think it is that the Congress will support its recommendations?

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Very likely       | 5%  |
| Somewhat likely   | 25% |
| Somewhat unlikely | 30% |
| Very unlikely     | 17% |
| Not sure          | 23% |

17. Would you be more or less likely to vote for a Congressional candidate if you learned that he or she had signed a pledge NOT to raise taxes?

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| More likely         | 33% |
| Makes no difference | 25% |
| Less likely         | 22% |
| Not sure            | 20% |

18. Are you personally or is someone in your household a member of a labor union?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Yes, I personally belong to a union                          | 7%  |
| I do not belong to a union, but someone in my household does | 10% |
| No   | 82% |

19. Are you personally or is someone in your household a public sector employee?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Yes, I am a public employee                                | 9%  |
| I am not a public employee, but someone in my household is | 8%  |
| No   | 83% |

20. Through collective bargaining, workers are able to act as a group to negotiate such things as wages, benefits, and working conditions. Do you support or oppose the right of public employees to collective bargaining?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Support collective bargaining on all employment issues .....             | 28% |
| Support collective bargaining on a limited range of employment issues .. | 27% |
| Oppose collective bargaining on all employment issues .....              | 16% |
| Not sure .....   | 29% |

21. Do you approve or disapprove of labor unions?

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Strongly approve .....                | 18% |
| Somewhat approve .....                | 19% |
| Neither approve, nor disapprove ..... | 32% |
| Somewhat disapprove .....             | 16% |
| Strongly disapprove .....             | 16% |

22. Would you say labor unions have too much or too little influence on the policies of the Obama Administration?

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Too much .....               | 39% |
| About the right amount ..... | 46% |
| Too little .....             | 15% |

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

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Very closely .....     | 29% |
| Somewhat closely ..... | 34% |
| Not too closely .....  | 22% |
| Not at all .....       | 15% |

24. 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 .....                     | 39% |
| Republican primary or caucus .....                     | 42% |
| Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all ..... | 20% |

25. 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 .....     | 50% |
| Would like someone else to enter ..... | 23% |
| Not sure .....                         | 27% |

26. 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 .....      | 19% |
| Newt Gingrich .....    | 23% |
| Michele Bachmann ..... | 5%  |
| Jon Huntsman .....     | 5%  |
| Ron Paul .....         | 7%  |
| Herman Cain .....      | 21% |
| Rick Santorum .....    | 2%  |
| Rick Perry .....       | 6%  |
| Gary Johnson .....     | 1%  |
| Other .....            | 4%  |
| No preference .....    | 6%  |



27. 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 .....      | 19% |
| Newt Gingrich .....    | 19% |
| Michele Bachmann ..... | 5%  |
| Jon Huntsman .....     | 4%  |
| Ron Paul .....         | 14% |
| Herman Cain .....      | 15% |
| Rick Santorum .....    | 3%  |
| Rick Perry .....       | 8%  |
| Gary Johnson .....     | 0%  |
| Other .....            | 2%  |
| No preference .....    | 10% |

28. 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 ..... | 72% |
| Someone else ..... | 14% |
| Not sure .....     | 14% |

29. 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 .....      | 44% |
| Lean Barack Obama ..... | 2%  |
| Lean Mitt Romney .....  | 2%  |
| Mitt Romney .....       | 39% |
| Other .....             | 7%  |
| Not sure .....          | 7%  |

30. 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 .....      | 47% |
| Lean Barack Obama ..... | 1%  |
| Lean Herman Cain .....  | 2%  |
| Herman Cain .....       | 36% |
| Other .....             | 6%  |
| Not sure .....          | 8%  |

31. 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 .....       | 46% |
| Lean Barack Obama .....  | 1%  |
| Lean Newt Gingrich ..... | 2%  |
| Newt Gingrich .....      | 39% |
| Other .....              | 5%  |
| Not sure .....           | 8%  |

32. 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 .....   | 54% |
| A little .....       | 30% |
| Nothing at all ..... | 15% |

33. 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 .....     | 38% |
| Not guilty ..... | 23% |
| Not sure .....   | 39% |

34. Herman Cain accused his opponents 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 opponents?

*Asked if respondent is aware of allegations against Cain*

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Agree .....    | 35% |
| Disagree ..... | 33% |
| Not sure ..... | 32% |

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

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes .....      | 25% |
| No .....       | 45% |
| Not sure ..... | 30% |

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

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| A great deal .....   | 36% |
| A fair amount .....  | 31% |
| Not much .....       | 21% |
| Nothing at all ..... | 12% |

37. 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% |

38. 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 .....            | 16% |
| Somewhat support .....            | 15% |
| Neither support, nor oppose ..... | 18% |
| Somewhat oppose .....             | 10% |
| Strongly oppose .....             | 29% |
| Not sure .....                    | 12% |

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

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| A great deal .....   | 37% |
| A fair amount .....  | 30% |
| Not much .....       | 16% |
| Nothing at all ..... | 17% |

**40. 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 ..... | 19% |
| No .....  | 81% |

**41. 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 .....            | 21% |
| Somewhat support .....            | 21% |
| Neither support, nor oppose ..... | 17% |
| Somewhat oppose .....             | 10% |
| Strongly oppose .....             | 20% |
| Not sure .....                    | 11% |

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

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Very liberal .....      | 27% |
| Liberal .....           | 18% |
| Moderate .....          | 27% |
| Conservative .....      | 5%  |
| Very conservative ..... | 2%  |
| Not sure .....          | 20% |

**43. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes ..... 42%  
 Says what he thinks people want to hear ..... 58%

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

Like a lot ..... 33%  
 Like somewhat ..... 28%  
 Dislike ..... 26%  
 Not sure ..... 13%

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

|             | Yes | No Opinion | No  |
|-------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Bold        | 26% | 53%        | 21% |
| Decisive    | 19% | 52%        | 29% |
| Effective   | 19% | 43%        | 38% |
| Experienced | 15% | 47%        | 38% |
| Honest      | 31% | 37%        | 32% |
| In touch    | 22% | 45%        | 32% |
| Inspiring   | 32% | 45%        | 23% |
| Intelligent | 55% | 30%        | 15% |
| Partisan    | 22% | 58%        | 20% |
| Patriotic   | 32% | 42%        | 27% |
| Realistic   | 26% | 45%        | 29% |
| Religious   | 15% | 60%        | 25% |
| Sincere     | 33% | 39%        | 28% |
| Strong      | 28% | 47%        | 25% |
| Unifying    | 14% | 51%        | 34% |

46. 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 | 14% |
| Somewhat disapprove            | 26% |
| Strongly disapprove            | 43% |
| Not sure                       | 9%  |

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Generally headed in the right direction | 17% |
| Off on the wrong track                  | 68% |
| Not sure                                | 15% |

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

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Getting better | 15% |
| About the same | 37% |
| Getting worse  | 41% |
| Not sure       | 7%  |

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

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Higher         | 18% |
| About the same | 34% |
| Lower          | 26% |
| Not sure       | 22% |

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Better off financially than you were a year ago   | 13% |
| About the same financially as you were a year ago | 41% |
| Worse off financially than you were a year ago    | 41% |
| Not sure  | 5%  |

**51. Do you favor or oppose repealing President Obama’s health care reform law passed last year by Congress?**

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Strongly favor            | 22% |
| Favor                     | 13% |
| Neither favor, nor oppose | 30% |
| Oppose                    | 12% |
| Strongly oppose           | 22% |

**52. How satisfied are you with your health insurance coverage?**

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Very satisfied        | 26% |
| Somewhat satisfied    | 38% |
| Somewhat dissatisfied | 11% |
| Very dissatisfied     | 12% |
| Not sure              | 14% |

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

*Asked of registered voters*

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| The Democratic Party candidate | 42% |
| The Republican Party candidate | 39% |
| Other                          | 3%  |
| Not sure                       | 14% |
| I would not vote               | 1%  |

**54. 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 | 40% |
| The Republican Party candidate | 37% |
| Other                          | 2%  |
| Not sure                       | 20% |
| I would not vote               | 1%  |

**55. Gender**

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Male .....   | 48% |
| Female ..... | 52% |

**56. Education**

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| No high school .....       | 12% |
| High school graduate ..... | 32% |
| Some college .....         | 25% |
| 2-year college .....       | 5%  |
| 4-year college .....       | 16% |
| Post-graduate .....        | 10% |

**57. Age**

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| 18-29 ..... | 25% |
| 30-44 ..... | 27% |
| 45-64 ..... | 33% |
| 65+ .....   | 15% |

**58. Race**

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| White .....    | 75% |
| Black .....    | 11% |
| Hispanic ..... | 7%  |
| Other .....    | 7%  |

**59. Region**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Northeast ..... | 17% |
| Midwest .....   | 21% |
| South .....     | 40% |
| West .....      | 22% |



60. Party Identification

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Democrat .....        | 32% |
| Lean Democrat .....   | 11% |
| Independent .....     | 25% |
| Lean Republican ..... | 8%  |
| Republican .....      | 24% |

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sponsorship</b>            | <i>The Economist</i>   |
| <b>Fieldwork</b>              | YouGov   |
| <b>Interviewing Dates</b>     | November 12-15, 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 3.7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.64.  |
| <b>Number of respondents</b>  | 1000   |
| <b>Margin of error</b>        | ± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)  |
| <b>Survey mode</b>            | Web-based interviews   |
| <b>Questions not reported</b> | 24 questions not reported.   |