

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted November 19-22, 2011  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.8\%$

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	18%	27%	18%	27%	10%
The economy	9%	21%	15%	47%	8%
Immigration	9%	20%	17%	38%	15%
The environment	10%	29%	18%	29%	14%
Terrorism	21%	29%	14%	25%	11%
Gay rights	13%	25%	12%	25%	26%
Education	13%	29%	16%	31%	11%
Health care	16%	19%	14%	44%	8%
Social security	13%	21%	19%	37%	11%
The budget deficit	10%	21%	14%	47%	9%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	28%	19%	29%	10%
Taxes	13%	21%	16%	40%	10%
Medicare	13%	21%	17%	37%	12%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	35%	42%	16%	6%
The economy	81%	15%	2%	1%
Immigration	43%	35%	15%	6%
The environment	43%	35%	14%	7%
Terrorism	51%	32%	13%	5%
Gay rights	21%	24%	25%	30%
Education	56%	31%	10%	3%
Health care	73%	21%	4%	2%
Social security	66%	24%	8%	2%
The budget deficit	62%	28%	8%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	36%	44%	15%	6%
Taxes	68%	25%	6%	1%
Medicare	59%	29%	9%	4%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	39%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	1%
Education	5%
Health care	10%
Social security	15%
The budget deficit	11%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	4%

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

Strongly Approve	13%
Somewhat Approve	26%
Somewhat Disapprove	16%
Strongly Disapprove	40%
Not Sure	6%

## 5. Will you spend at least one night away from home during the Thanksgiving holiday?

Yes, I will travel more than 100 miles from home	12%
Yes, I will travel less than 100 miles from home	8%
No, I will not spend any nights away from home	80%

## 6. What is the main type of transportation you will use to reach your destination over the Thanksgiving holiday?

*Asked if respondent will travel more than 100 miles from home*

Plane	21%
Car	74%
Bus, train, or other public transportation	1%
None of the above	4%

## 7. Do you plan to shop for sale items on the day after Thanksgiving, also known as "Black Friday"?

Yes	25%
No	75%

## 8. Do you plan on buying Christmas presents this year?

Yes	76%
No	24%

**9. Compared to previous years, how much do you plan to spend on Christmas gifts this year?**  
*Asked if respondent plans to buy Christmas presents*

More .....	5%
About the same .....	51%
Less .....	42%
Not sure .....	3%

**10. How do you feel about the relationship between the size of the world's population and its impact on the environment?**

Could be much higher without harming the environment .....	9%
Could be somewhat higher without harming the environment .....	7%
Is about right and is not harming the environment .....	14%
Is somewhat too high and is harming the environment .....	29%
Is much too high and his harming the environment .....	21%
Not sure .....	20%

**11. How likely do you think it is that the earth will run out of resources to sustain a growing population?**

Will probably never happen .....	15%
May happen in the future, but not in my lifetime .....	49%
May happen in my lifetime .....	18%
Will probably happen in my lifetime .....	6%
Not sure .....	11%

**12. How concerned are you about the size of the federal budget deficit?**

Very concerned .....	57%
Somewhat concerned .....	29%
Not very concerned .....	11%
Not at all concerned .....	3%

13. When, if ever, do you think the federal budget should be balanced, so that the amount the government spends is equal to the amount it collects in taxes?

Immediately .....	44%
Next year .....	12%
In a few years .....	35%
Not necessary to balance the budget .....	9%

14. Would you support or oppose a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution that requires Congress to balance its budget every year and requires a three-fifths majority of both the House and Senate to raise the federal debt limit?

Strongly support .....	31%
Somewhat support .....	20%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	16%
Somewhat oppose .....	7%
Strongly oppose .....	12%
Not sure .....	14%

15. Which party do you trust more to handle the problem of the federal budget deficit?

Democrats .....	35%
Republicans .....	33%
About the same .....	32%

16. How much responsibility do you think President Barack Obama has for the current size of the federal budget deficit?

Most .....	30%
Some .....	30%
Only a little .....	26%
None .....	8%
Not sure .....	6%

17. Overall, do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease the amount it spends?

Increase	7%
Keep the same	12%
Decrease	71%
Not sure	10%

18. Do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease taxes?

Increase	28%
Keep the same	29%
Decrease	31%
Not sure	12%

19. Do you think the cost of government entitlement programs, including Social Security and Medicare, is a major economic problem for the U.S.?

Yes	42%
No	43%
Not sure	15%

20. Should the government raise taxes or cut entitlements in order to address the economic problem caused by the cost of major entitlement programs?

*Asked if respondent thinks the cost of government entitlement programs is a major economic problem*

Raise taxes	9%
Cut benefits	45%
Both	23%
Neither	23%

21. 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	31%
A little	42%
Nothing at all	27%

22. 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 of the creation of this "super committee"?

Strongly approve .....	7%
Somewhat approve .....	28%
Somewhat disapprove .....	17%
Strongly disapprove .....	28%
No opinion .....	20%

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

Very likely .....	3%
Somewhat likely .....	15%
Somewhat unlikely .....	26%
Very unlikely .....	42%
Not sure .....	14%

24. 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 .....	25%
Democratic members of the committee .....	17%
Both equally .....	47%
Not sure .....	11%

25. 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 .....	26%
Somewhat unlikely .....	30%
Very unlikely .....	19%
Not sure .....	20%

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

Very closely .....	31%
Somewhat closely .....	37%
Not too closely .....	23%
Not at all .....	10%

**27. 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 .....	37%
Republican primary or caucus .....	41%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all .....	22%

**28. 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 .....	53%
Would like someone else to enter .....	19%
Not sure .....	28%

**29. 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 .....	20%
Newt Gingrich .....	31%
Michele Bachmann .....	3%
Jon Huntsman .....	4%
Ron Paul .....	8%
Herman Cain .....	15%
Rick Santorum .....	3%
Rick Perry .....	5%
Gary Johnson .....	1%
Other .....	2%
No preference .....	8%



30. 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 .....	22%
Newt Gingrich .....	21%
Michele Bachmann .....	8%
Jon Huntsman .....	4%
Ron Paul .....	6%
Herman Cain .....	15%
Rick Santorum .....	4%
Rick Perry .....	8%
Gary Johnson .....	1%
Other .....	3%
No preference .....	9%

31. 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 .....	75%
Someone else .....	15%
Not sure .....	10%

32. 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 .....	45%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Mitt Romney .....	2%
Mitt Romney .....	41%
Other .....	6%
Not sure .....	5%

33. 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 .....	37%
Other .....	8%
Not sure .....	6%

34. 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 .....	45%
Lean Barack Obama .....	2%
Lean Newt Gingrich .....	1%
Newt Gingrich .....	41%
Other .....	6%
Not sure .....	5%

35. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Herman Cain.

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither agree, nor disagree	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Herman Cain cares about people like me.	14%	14%	30%	11%	31%
Herman Cain understands people like me.	14%	14%	29%	12%	32%
Herman Cain shares my values.	14%	11%	30%	12%	33%
Herman Cain understands complex issues.	9%	15%	31%	15%	31%
Herman Cain is tough enough for the job of president.	15%	14%	32%	12%	26%
Herman Cain has the qualifications to be a good President.	10%	14%	30%	12%	33%

36. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Newt Gingrich.

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither agree, nor disagree	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Newt Gingrich cares about people like me.	10%	13%	32%	12%	32%
Newt Gingrich understands people like me.	10%	13%	33%	12%	32%
Newt Gingrich shares my values.	11%	12%	32%	13%	32%
Newt Gingrich understands complex issues.	24%	18%	31%	10%	17%
Newt Gingrich is tough enough for the job of president.	23%	17%	31%	9%	20%
Newt Gingrich has the qualifications to be a good President.	19%	16%	31%	11%	23%

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

A great deal	37%
A fair amount	35%
Not much	21%
Nothing at all	7%

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

*Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement*

Yes	19%
No	81%

**39. 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	19%
Somewhat support	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	19%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	28%
Not sure	9%

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

A great deal	40%
A fair amount	32%
Not much	18%
Nothing at all	10%

**41. 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	20%
No	80%

**42. 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	19%
Somewhat support	19%
Neither support, nor oppose	19%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	24%
Not sure	10%

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

Very liberal .....	32%
Liberal .....	20%
Moderate .....	26%
Conservative .....	6%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	15%

**44. Do you think Barack Obama...**

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

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

Like a lot .....	30%
Like somewhat .....	30%
Dislike .....	28%
Not sure .....	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	29%	51%	20%
Decisive	16%	54%	29%
Effective	14%	47%	38%
Experienced	16%	45%	40%
Honest	28%	39%	33%
In touch	20%	45%	35%
Inspiring	30%	45%	24%
Intelligent	54%	32%	15%
Partisan	25%	56%	19%
Patriotic	29%	42%	29%
Realistic	24%	44%	32%
Religious	15%	59%	26%
Sincere	31%	38%	31%
Strong	25%	49%	26%
Unifying	12%	51%	37%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	7%

**48. Would you say things in this country today are...**

Generally headed in the right direction	15%
Off on the wrong track	74%
Not sure	11%

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

Getting better .....	11%
About the same .....	34%
Getting worse .....	49%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Higher .....	16%
About the same .....	34%
Lower .....	28%
Not sure .....	22%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	10%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	39%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	46%
Not sure .....	4%

**52. 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 .....	2%



**53. 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 .....	38%
Other .....	2%
Not sure .....	17%
I would not vote .....	2%

**54. Gender**

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

**55. Education**

No high school .....	13%
High school graduate .....	32%
Some college .....	23%
2-year college .....	7%
4-year college .....	17%
Post-graduate .....	9%

**56. Age**

18-29 .....	24%
30-44 .....	22%
45-64 .....	37%
65+ .....	18%

**57. Race**

White .....	73%
Black .....	11%
Hispanic .....	8%
Other .....	8%

**58. Region**

Northeast .....	17%
Midwest .....	22%
South .....	39%
West .....	23%

**59. Party Identification**

Democrat .....	33%
Lean Democrat .....	11%
Independent .....	19%
Lean Republican .....	10%
Republican .....	26%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	November 19-22, 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 0.4 to 5.5, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.71.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.8% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	25 questions not reported.