

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted December 31, 2011 - January 3, 2012  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.9\%$

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	Some-what approve	Some-what disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The economy	11%	24%	16%	39%	10%
Immigration	9%	22%	20%	33%	16%
The environment	10%	31%	18%	21%	19%
Terrorism	20%	31%	14%	20%	14%
Gay rights	13%	25%	14%	20%	28%
Education	13%	30%	20%	21%	16%
Health care	18%	21%	14%	37%	10%
Social security	14%	20%	21%	30%	15%
The budget deficit	10%	22%	18%	39%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	30%	22%	22%	12%
Taxes	13%	25%	17%	32%	12%
Medicare	14%	23%	20%	28%	15%
Abortion	12%	22%	13%	20%	33%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	78%	19%	2%	1%
Immigration	42%	34%	19%	5%
The environment	41%	38%	14%	7%
Terrorism	47%	35%	12%	6%
Gay rights	21%	25%	26%	28%
Education	51%	36%	9%	4%
Health care	69%	26%	4%	2%
Social security	62%	30%	6%	2%
The budget deficit	60%	28%	8%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	34%	44%	16%	6%
Taxes	63%	29%	7%	1%
Medicare	55%	32%	9%	4%
Abortion	32%	31%	22%	15%

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

The economy	37%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	4%
Education	5%
Health care	13%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	2%

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

Strongly Approve .....	15%
Somewhat Approve .....	28%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	16%
Strongly Disapprove .....	31%
Not Sure .....	10%

**5. If you had to choose, would you rather have a member of Congress who...**

Compromises to get things done. ....	67%
Sticks to their principles, no matter what. ....	33%

**6. Would you say the following people are liberal or conservative?**

	Ex- tremely liberal	Very liberal	Slightly liberal	Mod- erate	Slightly con- ser- vative	Very con- ser- vative	Ex- tremely con- ser- vative	Not sure
Barack Obama	24%	15%	17%	16%	4%	2%	1%	20%
Hillary Clinton	14%	22%	17%	17%	4%	2%	2%	22%
Joe Biden	16%	18%	15%	15%	4%	3%	2%	28%
Bill Clinton	8%	22%	22%	19%	3%	2%	1%	21%
Mitt Romney	2%	2%	3%	14%	21%	20%	9%	30%
Newt Gingrich	2%	2%	4%	8%	13%	23%	17%	32%
Ron Paul	3%	4%	4%	8%	10%	15%	21%	36%
Rick Santorum	1%	0%	2%	5%	8%	18%	23%	43%
Jon Huntsman	1%	1%	2%	13%	14%	11%	5%	53%
Michele Bachmann	1%	1%	2%	4%	5%	15%	36%	34%
Sarah Palin	3%	2%	2%	4%	6%	20%	38%	25%
John McCain	2%	2%	5%	15%	18%	24%	9%	24%
George W. Bush	3%	1%	3%	9%	18%	29%	16%	21%

7. Looking back at 2011, how would you describe the year for the world?

A very good year .....	1%
A good year .....	22%
A bad year .....	55%
A very bad year .....	22%

8. Looking back at 2011, how would you describe the year for you and your family?

A very good year .....	3%
A good year .....	43%
A bad year .....	40%
A very bad year .....	14%

9. What's your feeling about the year ahead? Generally speaking, are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2012 will be for the world?

Very optimistic .....	7%
Somewhat optimistic .....	28%
Neither optimistic, nor pessimistic .....	33%
Somewhat pessimistic .....	22%
Very pessimistic .....	9%

10. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2012 will be for you and your family?

Very optimistic .....	13%
Somewhat optimistic .....	31%
Neither optimistic, nor pessimistic .....	32%
Somewhat pessimistic .....	19%
Very pessimistic .....	6%

11. Since taking office, do you think Barack Obama has accomplished...

More than I expected .....	12%
About what I expected .....	34%
Less than I expected .....	42%
Not sure .....	12%

12. As a President, how do you think Barack Obama will go down in history?

Outstanding .....	6%
Above Average .....	23%
Average .....	19%
Below Average .....	18%
Poor .....	24%
Not Sure .....	10%

13. Would you say Barack Obama is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong .....	12%
Somewhat strong .....	34%
Somewhat weak .....	26%
Very weak .....	28%

14. How much progress has Barack Obama made in achieving the following campaign promises?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
Changing the partisan tone in Washington	3%	12%	18%	53%	15%
Improving the U.S. image in the world	17%	19%	16%	37%	10%
Improving the economy	6%	24%	21%	41%	8%

15. Looking ahead to 2012, how much progress do you think Barack Obama will make in achieving these campaign promises?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
Changing the partisan tone in Washington	4%	16%	18%	46%	15%
Improving the U.S. image in the world	14%	20%	16%	36%	14%
Improving the economy	9%	26%	19%	34%	12%

16. Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does in a year?

More than usual	2%
About the same	23%
Less than usual	58%
Not sure	16%

17. Who is more to blame for Congress achieving less than it usually does in a year?

*Asked if respondent says Congress accomplished less than usual*

Republicans in Congress	42%
Democrats in Congress	10%
Both equally	46%
Neither	1%
Not sure	1%

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

Very closely	26%
Somewhat closely	33%
Not too closely	25%
Not at all	16%

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 .....	37%
Republican primary or caucus .....	38%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all .....	25%

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 .....	41%
Would like someone else to enter .....	28%
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 .....	30%
Newt Gingrich .....	17%
Michele Bachmann .....	2%
Jon Huntsman .....	5%
Ron Paul .....	13%
Rick Santorum .....	8%
Rick Perry .....	8%
Other .....	8%
No preference .....	9%

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. List excludes first choice candidate.*

Mitt Romney .....	16%
Newt Gingrich .....	23%
Michele Bachmann .....	8%
Jon Huntsman .....	12%
Ron Paul .....	6%
Rick Santorum .....	10%
Rick Perry .....	7%
Other .....	4%
No preference .....	14%

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 .....	77%
Someone else .....	12%
Not sure .....	11%

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 .....	47%
Lean Barack Obama .....	2%
Lean Mitt Romney .....	1%
Mitt Romney .....	39%
Other .....	5%
Not sure .....	6%



25. 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 .....	50%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich .....	3%
Newt Gingrich .....	34%
Other .....	6%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Yes .....	9%
No .....	75%
Not sure .....	16%

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

Strongly support .....	8%
Somewhat support .....	16%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	23%
Somewhat oppose .....	7%
Strongly oppose .....	25%
Not sure .....	21%

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

Yes .....	11%
No .....	73%
Not sure .....	16%

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

Strongly support .....	12%
Somewhat support .....	21%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	23%
Somewhat oppose .....	9%
Strongly oppose .....	16%
Not sure .....	19%

**30. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	39%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	49%
Not sure .....	12%

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

Like a lot .....	31%
Like somewhat .....	31%
Dislike .....	24%
Not sure .....	13%

**32. Do you think Newt Gingrich...**

Says what he believes .....	28%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	41%
Not sure .....	32%

**33. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Newt Gingrich as a person?**

Like a lot .....	6%
Like somewhat .....	24%
Dislike .....	40%
Not sure .....	30%

**34. Do you think Mitt Romney...**

Says what he believes .....	20%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	48%
Not sure .....	32%

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

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

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	27%	54%	19%
Decisive	21%	53%	26%
Effective	19%	48%	33%
Experienced	15%	48%	37%
Honest	31%	42%	27%
In touch	24%	48%	28%
Inspiring	31%	46%	23%
Intelligent	59%	30%	11%
Partisan	20%	61%	19%
Patriotic	32%	45%	23%
Realistic	29%	46%	26%
Religious	14%	59%	26%
Sincere	34%	40%	26%
Strong	26%	48%	26%
Unifying	13%	52%	35%

**37. 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 .....	15%
Somewhat disapprove .....	23%
Strongly disapprove .....	45%
Not sure .....	10%

**38. Would you say the Republican Party is...**

Very liberal .....	3%
Liberal .....	4%
Moderate .....	12%
Conservative .....	29%
Very conservative .....	30%
Not sure .....	22%

**39. Would you say the Democratic Party is...**

Very liberal .....	21%
Liberal .....	31%
Moderate .....	22%
Conservative .....	4%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	20%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	23%
Off on the wrong track .....	62%
Not sure .....	16%

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

Getting better .....	21%
About the same .....	45%
Getting worse .....	27%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Higher .....	21%
About the same .....	37%
Lower .....	18%
Not sure .....	24%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	14%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	41%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	40%
Not sure .....	5%

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

The Democratic Party candidate .....	36%
The Republican Party candidate .....	30%
Other .....	2%
Not sure .....	20%
I would not vote .....	12%

**45. 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 .....	36%
The Republican Party candidate .....	27%
Other .....	2%
Not sure .....	23%
I would not vote .....	13%

**46. Gender**

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

**47. Education**

No high school .....	7%
High school graduate .....	38%
Some college .....	23%
2-year college .....	7%
4-year college .....	16%
Post-graduate .....	9%

**48. Age**

18-29 .....	25%
30-44 .....	20%
45-64 .....	37%
65+ .....	17%

**49. Race**

White .....	73%
Black .....	11%
Hispanic .....	9%
Other .....	8%

50. Region

Northeast .....	19%
Midwest .....	24%
South .....	34%
West .....	23%

51. Party Identification

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

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	December 31, 2011 - January 3, 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 0.4 to 4.5, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.74.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	26 questions not reported.