

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted January 7-10, 2012
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	26%	24%	16%	23%	11%
The economy	13%	21%	15%	42%	9%
Immigration	9%	23%	16%	36%	16%
The environment	12%	28%	16%	26%	17%
Terrorism	21%	27%	14%	24%	13%
Gay rights	14%	23%	13%	24%	26%
Education	15%	27%	17%	26%	14%
Health care	17%	21%	12%	41%	9%
Social security	14%	24%	15%	33%	14%
The budget deficit	12%	20%	16%	43%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	16%	26%	20%	27%	11%
Taxes	14%	23%	19%	33%	11%
Medicare	14%	21%	17%	33%	15%
Abortion	14%	18%	13%	27%	27%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	30%	42%	20%	8%
The economy	78%	19%	3%	1%
Immigration	43%	36%	16%	5%
The environment	41%	35%	18%	6%
Terrorism	49%	33%	13%	4%
Gay rights	18%	26%	25%	30%
Education	54%	30%	13%	4%
Health care	69%	23%	6%	3%
Social security	64%	26%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	57%	32%	8%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	35%	40%	18%	6%
Taxes	62%	30%	7%	1%
Medicare	55%	32%	10%	4%
Abortion	32%	33%	21%	14%

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	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	9%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
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	17%
Somewhat Approve	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	17%
Strongly Disapprove	36%
Not Sure	7%

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

Compromises to get things done.	61%
Sticks to their principles, no matter what.	39%

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

	Very liberal	Liberal	Slightly liberal	Moderate	Slightly conservative	Conservative	Very conservative	Not sure
Barack Obama	28%	17%	13%	17%	2%	2%	1%	19%
Hillary Clinton	18%	27%	12%	15%	4%	2%	1%	22%
Joe Biden	19%	23%	11%	14%	4%	3%	2%	25%
Bill Clinton	11%	28%	16%	17%	3%	3%	1%	21%
Mitt Romney	2%	4%	4%	16%	17%	21%	9%	28%
Newt Gingrich	2%	2%	2%	9%	11%	26%	20%	27%
Ron Paul	3%	3%	4%	11%	9%	20%	18%	32%
Rick Santorum	1%	2%	2%	6%	6%	20%	30%	34%
Jon Huntsman	1%	2%	3%	12%	13%	17%	6%	46%
Michele Bachmann	1%	2%	2%	5%	5%	17%	37%	31%
Sarah Palin	2%	3%	1%	6%	5%	24%	35%	25%
John McCain	2%	3%	5%	12%	16%	27%	12%	23%
George W. Bush	3%	3%	1%	9%	13%	31%	19%	21%

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

Very closely	29%
Somewhat closely	31%
Not too closely	27%
Not at all	13%

8. Do you usually vote in primary elections?

Asked of registered voters

Yes, I usually vote in Democratic primary elections	39%
Yes, I usually vote in Republican primary elections	37%
No, I do not usually vote in primary elections	25%

9. 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	47%
Would like someone else to enter	25%
Not sure	29%

10. If you had to choose between these two candidates for the Republican presidential nominee, who would you choose?

Rick Santorum	42%
Mitt Romney	58%

11. If you had to choose between these two candidates for the Republican presidential nominee, who would you choose?

Mitt Romney	65%
Newt Gingrich	35%

12. If you had to choose between these two candidates for the Republican presidential nominee, who would you choose?

Newt Gingrich	49%
Rick Perry	51%

13. 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 usually vote in Republican primary elections

Mitt Romney	24%
Newt Gingrich	17%
Jon Huntsman	6%
Ron Paul	15%
Rick Santorum	19%
Rick Perry	6%
Other	6%
No preference	7%

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

Asked of registered voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. List excludes first choice candidate.

Mitt Romney	23%
Newt Gingrich	23%
Jon Huntsman	6%
Ron Paul	7%
Rick Santorum	19%
Rick Perry	13%
Other	5%
No preference	5%

15. 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 usually vote in Democratic primary elections

Barack Obama	69%
Someone else	19%
Not sure	11%

16. 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	1%
Lean Mitt Romney	2%
Mitt Romney	42%
Other	7%
Not sure	5%

17. 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	43%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Ron Paul	3%
Ron Paul	38%
Other	9%
Not sure	6%

18. 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	47%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Rick Santorum	1%
Rick Santorum	40%
Other	5%
Not sure	6%

19. Regardless of who you prefer, who do you think would win the Presidential election in November 2012 if the candidates were Barack Obama and Mitt Romney?

Obama would definitely win	15%
Obama would probably win	26%
Equally likely for each to win	18%
Romney would probably win	15%
Romney would definitely win	9%
Not sure	18%

20. Regardless of who you prefer, who do you think would win the Presidential election in November 2012 if the candidates were Barack Obama and Rick Santorum?

Obama would definitely win	26%
Obama would probably win	27%
Equally likely for each to win	10%
Santorum would probably win	11%
Santorum would definitely win	7%
Not sure	19%

21. Regardless of who you prefer, who do you think would win the Presidential election in November 2012 if the candidates were Barack Obama and Ron Paul?

Obama would definitely win	28%
Obama would probably win	27%
Equally likely for each to win	12%
Paul would probably win	9%
Paul would definitely win	5%
Not sure	19%

22. Which of the following presidential candidates have served in the U.S. House of Representatives? (Choose all that apply)

Rick Perry	13%
Newt Gingrich	67%
Mitt Romney	18%
Rick Santorum	30%
Ron Paul	41%
Barack Obama	22%

23. Which of the following presidential candidates have in the past supported a requirement that all residents purchase healthcare insurance (sometimes called an “individual mandate”)? (Choose all that apply)

Rick Perry	7%
Newt Gingrich	21%
Mitt Romney	46%
Rick Santorum	5%
Ron Paul	7%
Barack Obama	66%

24. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	38%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	48%
Not sure	14%

25. Do you think Rick Santorum...

Says what he believes	40%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	24%
Not sure	35%

26. Do you think abortion should be...

Legal in all cases	28%
Legal/Illegal in some cases	51%
Illegal in all cases	14%
Not sure	8%

27. Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

Favor	40%
Oppose	44%
Not sure	16%

28. Do you think the health care reform bill should be expanded, kept the same, or repealed?

Expanded	26%
Kept the same	11%
Repealed	42%
Not sure	22%

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

Yes	12%
No	74%
Not sure	15%

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

Strongly support	10%
Somewhat support	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	18%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	26%
Not sure	21%

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

Yes 15%
 No 67%
 Not sure 18%

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

Strongly support 16%
 Somewhat support 18%
 Neither support, nor oppose 20%
 Somewhat oppose 10%
 Strongly oppose 17%
 Not sure 20%

33. How well do you think each the following describes Barack Obama?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all
Takes positions on issues and sticks by them	15%	36%	26%	22%
Is personally wealthy	43%	41%	11%	6%
Cares about people like me	22%	29%	19%	30%
Cares about the poor	26%	36%	15%	23%
Cares about the middle class	25%	31%	21%	23%
Cares about the wealthy	21%	37%	23%	19%

34. How well do you think each the following describes Mitt Romney?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all
Takes positions on issues and sticks by them	7%	33%	33%	27%
Is personally wealthy	64%	25%	6%	5%
Cares about people like me	8%	34%	28%	29%
Cares about the poor	6%	32%	34%	29%
Cares about the middle class	9%	40%	29%	22%
Cares about the wealthy	48%	37%	10%	6%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	29%	54%	18%
Decisive	21%	52%	27%
Effective	20%	44%	36%
Experienced	17%	44%	39%
Honest	30%	39%	31%
In touch	23%	47%	30%
Inspiring	32%	44%	23%
Intelligent	57%	30%	13%
Partisan	24%	58%	17%
Patriotic	27%	46%	27%
Realistic	27%	46%	28%
Religious	17%	58%	25%
Sincere	32%	38%	30%
Strong	26%	51%	23%
Unifying	15%	50%	35%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	12%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	12%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	23%
Off on the wrong track	63%
Not sure	14%

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

Getting better	25%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	32%
Not sure	7%

39. How would you rate the condition of the national economy SINCE 2008?

Very good	2%
Fairly good	18%
Fairly bad	44%
Very bad	36%

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

Higher	22%
About the same	37%
Lower	18%
Not sure	23%

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

Increase	6%
Keep the same	15%
Decrease	68%
Not sure	10%

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

Increase	19%
Keep the same	31%
Decrease	39%
Not sure	11%

43. Do you favor increasing taxes on families making over \$250,000 per year?

Favor	62%
Oppose	22%
Not sure	16%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	12%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	38%
Not sure	5%

45. How worried are you about losing your job?

Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed

Very worried	10%
Somewhat worried	35%
Not very worried	56%

46. If you lost your job, how hard would it be for you to find a new job that paid as much as you are making now?

Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed

Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut.	38%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	41%
Not very hard	15%
Not sure	6%

47. Six months from now do you think there will be...

More jobs	23%
The same amount of jobs	39%
Fewer jobs	25%
Not sure	13%

48. How happy would you say you are with your current job?

Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed

Very happy	20%
Happy	38%
Neither happy nor unhappy	30%
Unhappy	9%
Very unhappy	4%

49. How would you guess your total family income to be six months from now?

Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed

Higher	17%
Same	67%
Lower	16%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	35%
The Republican Party candidate	32%
Other	4%
Not sure	16%
I would not vote	13%

51. 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	34%
The Republican Party candidate	32%
Other	3%
Not sure	19%
I would not vote	13%

52. Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or fundamentalist Christian, or not?

Asked of half of respondents

Yes	26%
No	74%

53. Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

Asked of half of respondents

Yes, describe myself that way	30%
No, do not describe myself that way	70%

54. Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%

55. Education

No high school	7%
High school graduate	38%
Some college	24%
2-year college	7%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	8%

56. Age

18-29	24%
30-44	22%
45-64	39%
65+	15%

57. Race

White	74%
Black	11%
Hispanic	8%
Other	7%

58. Region

Northeast	20%
Midwest	22%
South	37%
West	21%

59. Party Identification

Democrat	30%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	27%
Lean Republican	9%
Republican	24%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	January 7-10, 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 0.4 to 5.9, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.81.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	9 questions not reported.