

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted January 14-17, 2012
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	24%	26%	16%	24%	9%
The economy	13%	22%	17%	41%	7%
Immigration	9%	22%	17%	37%	15%
The environment	11%	28%	19%	24%	17%
Terrorism	21%	30%	15%	24%	11%
Gay rights	14%	25%	13%	23%	25%
Education	14%	28%	18%	25%	16%
Health care	19%	21%	12%	41%	6%
Social security	14%	23%	19%	32%	12%
The budget deficit	10%	21%	18%	44%	7%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	27%	23%	24%	13%
Taxes	13%	23%	19%	35%	9%
Medicare	13%	23%	18%	33%	13%
Abortion	14%	22%	11%	24%	30%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	26%	45%	18%	10%
The economy	81%	17%	1%	1%
Immigration	41%	37%	16%	7%
The environment	42%	37%	12%	9%
Terrorism	47%	34%	13%	6%
Gay rights	20%	25%	23%	32%
Education	54%	33%	9%	5%
Health care	71%	22%	4%	3%
Social security	62%	28%	6%	4%
The budget deficit	60%	27%	8%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	31%	44%	16%	10%
Taxes	65%	29%	4%	2%
Medicare	55%	29%	11%	4%
Abortion	29%	31%	22%	18%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	40%
Immigration	4%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	11%
Social security	10%
The budget deficit	11%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	4%
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	14%
Strongly Disapprove	36%
Not Sure	7%

5. Would you say the following people are liberal or conservative? Place each person on the scale.

Respondent placed item on scale from 0 - "Liberal" to 100 - "Conservative". (Mean)

Myself	53
Mitt Romney	62
Newt Gingrich	68
Ron Paul	64
Rick Santorum	75
Jon Huntsman	60
Barack Obama	25
Hillary Clinton	27

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

Very closely	31%
Somewhat closely	32%
Not too closely	26%
Not at all	12%

7. Do you usually vote in primary elections?

Asked of registered voters. Respondents may only choose from list of primaries that they are eligible to participate in.

Yes, I usually vote in Democratic primary elections	30%
Yes, I usually vote in Republican primary elections	47%
No, I do not usually vote in primary elections	23%

8. 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	45%
Would like someone else to enter	30%
Not sure	25%

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

Asked of eligible registered voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections

Mitt Romney	28%
Newt Gingrich	20%
Jon Huntsman	5%
Ron Paul	9%
Rick Santorum	18%
Rick Perry	3%
Other	8%
No preference	9%

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

Asked of eligible registered voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections

Mitt Romney	24%
Newt Gingrich	15%
Jon Huntsman	7%
Ron Paul	7%
Rick Santorum	18%
Rick Perry	12%
Other	4%
No preference	10%

11. Preferred Republican nominee for President excluding Jon Huntsman (displaying second choice candidate for Jon Huntsman supporters)

Asked of eligible registered voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections

Mitt Romney	31%
Newt Gingrich	21%
Ron Paul	10%
Rick Santorum	18%
Rick Perry	3%
Other	9%
No preference	9%

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

Asked of eligible registered voters who usually vote in Democratic primary elections

Barack Obama	72%
Someone else	17%
Not sure	11%

13. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following groups?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Neutral	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Christians	39%	20%	31%	6%	4%
Mormons	13%	15%	47%	16%	10%
Muslims	5%	11%	43%	20%	21%
Jews	22%	24%	45%	4%	4%

14. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Neutral	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Barack Obama	22%	20%	15%	11%	32%
Mitt Romney	9%	19%	35%	20%	17%
Newt Gingrich	7%	13%	32%	17%	31%
Rick Santorum	9%	15%	41%	11%	24%
Jon Huntsman	4%	17%	57%	13%	9%

15. 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	1%
Lean Mitt Romney	2%
Mitt Romney	42%
Other	3%
Not sure	5%

16. 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	51%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich	1%
Newt Gingrich	35%
Other	5%
Not sure	6%

17. What is Mitt Romney's religion? Is he...?

Mormon	65%
Christian	4%
Jewish	0%
Muslim	1%
Catholic	3%
Not sure	28%

18. What is Barack Obama's religion? Is he...?

Mormon	0%
Christian	50%
Jewish	0%
Muslim	19%
Catholic	2%
Not sure	28%

19. What is Rick Santorum's religion? Is he...?

Mormon	1%
Christian	28%
Jewish	1%
Muslim	0%
Catholic	24%
Not sure	47%

20. 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	49%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Rick Santorum	2%
Rick Santorum	38%
Other	3%
Not sure	6%

21. 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	18%	34%	24%	24%
Is personally wealthy	43%	42%	10%	5%
Cares about people like me	21%	28%	20%	31%
Cares about the poor	26%	33%	21%	20%
Cares about the middle class	24%	30%	22%	24%
Cares about the wealthy	22%	38%	23%	17%

22. 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	6%	35%	33%	25%
Is personally wealthy	63%	25%	7%	4%
Cares about people like me	9%	34%	28%	28%
Cares about the poor	7%	34%	29%	30%
Cares about the middle class	10%	39%	28%	23%
Cares about the wealthy	47%	40%	9%	4%

23. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	41%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	48%
Not sure	12%

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	34%
Dislike	23%
Not sure	11%

25. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	18%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	58%
Not sure	24%

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

Like a lot	10%
Like somewhat	34%
Dislike	28%
Not sure	29%

27. Do you think Rick Santorum...

Asked of half of respondents

Says what he believes	38%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	28%
Not sure	34%

28. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Rick Santorum as a person?

Asked of half of respondents

Like a lot	11%
Like somewhat	22%
Dislike	27%
Not sure	39%

29. Do you think Ron Paul...

Asked of half of respondents

Says what he believes	51%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	18%
Not sure	32%

30. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Ron Paul as a person?

Asked of half of respondents

Like a lot	11%
Like somewhat	31%
Dislike	23%
Not sure	34%

31. Do you think President Obama should keep Joe Biden as his vice-presidential running mate in the 2012 election, or should he choose someone new?

Keep Joe Biden	37%
Choose someone new	24%
No opinion	40%

32. In your opinion, would Hillary Clinton be a good or a bad choice as President Obama's vice presidential running mate in 2012?

Very good	27%
Good	23%
Neither good, nor bad	22%
Bad	7%
Very bad	10%
Not sure	12%

33. How likely is it that Hillary Clinton will be President Obama's vice presidential running mate in the next election?

Very likely	6%
Somewhat likely	20%
Somewhat unlikely	24%
Very unlikely	29%
Not sure	21%

34. The U.S. has been holding suspected terrorists at a military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Do you think the U.S. should continue to operate the prison or close it down?

Continue to operate	50%
Close down	28%
Not sure	23%

35. Do you favor or oppose holding trials for the terrorist suspects being held at Guantanamo?

Favor strongly	31%
Favor somewhat	27%
Oppose somewhat	8%
Oppose strongly	11%
Not sure	23%

36. If trials are held for terrorist suspects, should they be held in U.S. courts or military tribunals?

U.S. courts	26%
Military tribunals	53%
Not sure	21%

37. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama has handled the prison at Guantanamo?

Approve strongly	6%
Approve somewhat	24%
Disapprove somewhat	20%
Disapprove strongly	16%
Not sure	35%

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

Yes	13%
No	69%
Not sure	18%

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

Strongly support	14%
Somewhat support	15%
Neither support, nor oppose	15%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	25%
Not sure	21%

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

Yes	12%
No	71%
Not sure	17%

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

Strongly support	15%
Somewhat support	17%
Neither support, nor oppose	19%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	20%
Not sure	21%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	30%	50%	20%
Decisive	18%	55%	26%
Effective	20%	44%	36%
Experienced	17%	44%	39%
Honest	30%	39%	30%
In touch	24%	44%	31%
Inspiring	31%	44%	25%
Intelligent	57%	32%	11%
Partisan	26%	54%	20%
Patriotic	31%	41%	28%
Realistic	30%	42%	28%
Religious	16%	57%	28%
Sincere	32%	42%	26%
Strong	27%	50%	23%
Unifying	15%	47%	38%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	20%
Off on the wrong track	66%
Not sure	14%

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

Getting better	20%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	36%
Not sure	6%

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

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

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

Favor	62%
Oppose	25%
Not sure	14%

48. 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	42%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	40%
Not sure	5%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	38%
The Republican Party candidate	34%
Other	2%
Not sure	15%
I would not vote	11%

50. 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	33%
Other	1%
Not sure	19%
I would not vote	11%

51. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

52. Education

No high school	7%
High school graduate	36%
Some college	26%
2-year college	7%
4-year college	15%
Post-graduate	9%

53. Age

18-29	24%
30-44	22%
45-64	38%
65+	16%

54. Race

White	72%
Black	10%
Hispanic	8%
Other	10%

55. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	26%
South	34%
West	24%

56. Party Identification

Democrat	33%
Lean Democrat	12%
Independent	20%
Lean Republican	9%
Republican	26%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	January 14-17, 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 0.5 to 4.5, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.72.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.8% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	19 questions not reported.