

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted January 21-24, 2012
Margin of Error $\pm 3.8\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	26%
Off on the wrong track	60%
Not sure	14%

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

Very closely	31%
Somewhat closely	34%
Not too closely	24%
Not at all	11%

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

Strongly Approve	15%
Somewhat Approve	29%
Somewhat Disapprove	16%
Strongly Disapprove	33%
Not Sure	6%

4. 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	23%	25%	15%	23%	13%
The economy	12%	23%	17%	39%	9%
Immigration	9%	22%	19%	32%	18%
The environment	12%	30%	14%	25%	19%
Terrorism	21%	26%	18%	22%	12%
Gay rights	13%	24%	16%	21%	25%
Education	13%	27%	19%	26%	15%
Health care	18%	21%	13%	39%	9%
Social security	13%	23%	18%	31%	16%
The budget deficit	10%	21%	20%	38%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	29%	21%	23%	14%
Taxes	14%	23%	18%	33%	12%
Medicare	13%	22%	18%	32%	16%
Abortion	14%	20%	13%	25%	28%

5. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	27%	41%	22%	9%
The economy	78%	19%	2%	1%
Immigration	39%	37%	18%	6%
The environment	38%	41%	15%	5%
Terrorism	46%	35%	14%	5%
Gay rights	22%	27%	22%	30%
Education	54%	35%	8%	2%
Health care	68%	26%	5%	1%
Social security	57%	33%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	58%	31%	9%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	28%	45%	19%	8%
Taxes	63%	32%	3%	2%
Medicare	51%	35%	11%	2%
Abortion	34%	32%	19%	15%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	40%
Immigration	4%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	3%
Education	6%
Health care	10%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	3%

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	29%
Yes, I usually vote in Republican primary elections	49%
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	58%
Would like someone else to enter	22%
Not sure	21%

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	31%
Newt Gingrich	29%
Ron Paul	13%
Rick Santorum	11%
Other	7%
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	17%
Newt Gingrich	31%
Ron Paul	9%
Rick Santorum	29%
Other	6%
No preference	8%

11. Would you support the following candidates *in the general election* if they became the Republican nominee for president? Please check all that apply.

Asked of eligible registered voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Respondents were asked about the two candidates who were not their first or second choice.

Mitt Romney	33%
Newt Gingrich	19%
Ron Paul	27%
Rick Santorum	34%
I would not support either of these candidates in the general election	26%

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	69%
Someone else	18%
Not sure	13%

13. Regardless of who you prefer, who do you think will win the Republican nomination for president in 2012?

Mitt Romney	44%
Newt Gingrich	17%
Ron Paul	6%
Rick Santorum	3%
Other	1%
No preference	28%

14. 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	2%
Lean Mitt Romney	2%
Mitt Romney	39%
Other	5%
Not sure	7%

15. 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	48%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich	2%
Newt Gingrich	37%
Other	5%
Not sure	7%

16. 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	2%
Lean Rick Santorum	2%
Rick Santorum	37%
Other	4%
Not sure	7%

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	45%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Ron Paul	2%
Ron Paul	38%
Other	6%
Not sure	7%

18. In choosing candidates for president, how important are the following things?

	Most important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Do not care
The candidate's religion	5%	10%	20%	28%	36%
The candidate's race	3%	5%	6%	23%	63%
The candidate's experience	26%	43%	22%	3%	6%
The candidate's intelligence	42%	44%	7%	1%	6%
The candidate's marital fidelity	9%	17%	29%	20%	25%
The candidate's position on abortion	14%	27%	27%	16%	16%
The candidate's position on health care	33%	48%	12%	2%	6%
The candidate's position on economic issues	47%	39%	8%	1%	6%

19. Please indicate whether you think the following people pay more than their fair share, their fair share, or less than their fair share of federal taxes.

	More than fair share	Fair share	Less than fair share	Don't know
Barack Obama	7%	31%	31%	31%
Mitt Romney	6%	19%	48%	28%
Rick Santorum	5%	25%	30%	39%
Bill Gates	11%	24%	36%	29%
Newt Gingrich	6%	24%	38%	31%
Most people	28%	40%	13%	18%
People like yourself	39%	42%	4%	14%

20. What sort of information do you think all candidates for president should be required to make public? Please select all that apply.

School records and grades	30%
College records and grades	43%
Tax returns	70%
Passport records	38%
Voter registration records	42%
Criminal history records	84%
Other	16%
None of these	8%

21. Do you think Mitt Romney mostly *created* jobs or *eliminated* jobs during his tenure at Bain Capital?

Created jobs	21%
Eliminated jobs	32%
Not sure	47%

22. Which of the following presidential candidates have released their tax returns for public viewing?

Barack Obama	35%
Mitt Romney	13%
Newt Gingrich	37%
Ron Paul	20%
Rick Santorum	21%
None of these	35%

23. Policymakers in Washington have recently been debating whether to allow construction of a large oil pipeline, known as the Keystone Pipeline, across the central United States. What is your opinion on whether or not the Keystone pipeline should be constructed?

It should be constructed	31%
It should be constructed, but only after a careful government review of environmental impacts	30%
It should not be constructed	15%
Don't know	24%

24. Congress is currently debating the Stop Online Policy Act, also known as SOPA, which would give the federal government new powers to prevent access to foreign websites displaying pirated content. Do you support or oppose passage of SOPA?

Support	16%
Oppose	54%
Don't know	30%

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

Yes	12%
No	69%
Not sure	18%

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

Strongly support	11%
Somewhat support	15%
Neither support, nor oppose	21%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	23%
Not sure	23%

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

Yes	11%
No	69%
Not sure	20%

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

Strongly support	13%
Somewhat support	18%
Neither support, nor oppose	20%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	20%
Not sure	21%

29. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	28%
Liberal	23%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	16%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	30%	51%	19%
Decisive	21%	52%	27%
Effective	21%	44%	34%
Experienced	19%	46%	35%
Honest	34%	36%	30%
In touch	24%	48%	28%
Inspiring	34%	43%	23%
Intelligent	57%	28%	14%
Partisan	24%	58%	19%
Patriotic	34%	40%	26%
Realistic	29%	43%	28%
Religious	16%	58%	26%
Sincere	35%	38%	27%
Strong	26%	51%	23%
Unifying	15%	50%	35%

31. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	3%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	28%
Very conservative	12%
Not sure	28%

32. Would you say Newt Gingrich is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	3%
Moderate	13%
Conservative	33%
Very conservative	24%
Not sure	24%

33. Would you say Rick Santorum is...

Very liberal	2%
Liberal	2%
Moderate	8%
Conservative	23%
Very conservative	34%
Not sure	32%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	11%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	11%

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

Getting better	23%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	34%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	23%
About the same	37%
Lower	17%
Not sure	22%

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

Favor	61%
Oppose	23%
Not sure	16%

38. 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	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	36%
Not sure	5%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	36%
The Republican Party candidate	32%
Other	2%
Not sure	18%
I would not vote	13%

40. 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	35%
The Republican Party candidate	31%
Other	1%
Not sure	20%
I would not vote	14%

41. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

42. Education

No high school	8%
High school graduate	35%
Some college	24%
2-year college	9%
4-year college	15%
Post-graduate	9%

43. Age

18-29	22%
30-44	28%
45-64	35%
65+	15%

44. Race

White	72%
Black	11%
Hispanic	8%
Other	9%

45. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	23%
South	36%
West	23%

46. Party Identification

Democrat	33%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	25%
Lean Republican	8%
Republican	25%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	January 21-24, 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 5.3, 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	25 questions not reported.