

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
 Conducted February 11-14, 2012  
 Margin of Error  $\pm 3.5\%$

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

Very closely ..... 32%  
 Somewhat closely ..... 35%  
 Not too closely ..... 21%  
 Not at all ..... 13%

## 2. Would you say things in this country today are...

Generally headed in the right direction ..... 28%  
 Off on the wrong track ..... 56%  
 Not sure ..... 15%

## 3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	23%	39%	27%	11%
The economy	77%	18%	3%	1%
Immigration	36%	38%	19%	6%
The environment	34%	39%	20%	7%
Terrorism	42%	37%	16%	4%
Gay rights	18%	25%	25%	32%
Education	52%	34%	10%	4%
Health care	64%	27%	7%	2%
Social security	56%	33%	9%	2%
The budget deficit	54%	33%	8%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	28%	44%	21%	7%
Taxes	57%	33%	8%	3%
Medicare	50%	35%	12%	3%
Abortion	29%	31%	22%	18%

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

The war in Iraq .....	1%
The economy .....	38%
Immigration .....	3%
The environment .....	3%
Terrorism .....	2%
Gay rights .....	3%
Education .....	5%
Health care .....	12%
Social security .....	13%
The budget deficit .....	9%
The war in Afghanistan .....	1%
Taxes .....	4%
Medicare .....	2%
Abortion .....	2%

5. Do you support or oppose requiring employers to provide health care plans that cover the cost of contraceptives for their employees?

Support .....	47%
Oppose .....	30%
Not sure .....	23%

6. Do you support or oppose giving churches and other religious organizations an exemption so that they would NOT be required to cover the cost of contraceptives for their employees?

*Asked of individuals who answered that they support requiring health insurance plans to cover the cost of contraceptives*

Support .....	25%
Oppose .....	51%
Not sure .....	24%

7. Do you support or oppose giving institutions associated with religious organizations, such as charities, hospitals, and schools, an exemption so that they would NOT be required to cover the cost of contraceptives for their employees?

*Asked of individuals who answered that they support requiring health insurance plans to cover the cost of contraceptives*

Support .....	19%
Oppose .....	60%
Not sure .....	21%

8. Would you support or oppose requiring employers to provide health care plans that cover the cost of contraceptives for their employees IF you knew that all religious organizations and all charities, hospitals and schools associated with religious organizations would be given an exemption from the requirement?

*Asked of individuals who answered that they oppose requiring health insurance plans to cover the cost of contraceptives*

Support .....	13%
Oppose .....	78%
Not sure .....	9%

9. Do you support or oppose making the so-called "morning after" pill, which reduces the chance of pregnancy after sexual intercourse, available for over-the-counter purchase at drug stores for females of all ages?

Support .....	47%
Oppose .....	31%
Not sure .....	21%

10. How much have you heard about the Social Security payroll tax cut for workers, which is scheduled to expire on February 28th unless Congress votes to extend it?

A great deal .....	23%
A little .....	43%
Nothing at all .....	34%

11. On March 1, 2012, the payroll tax rate, set at 4.2% for the last year, will revert to 6.2% unless Congress votes to extend it. Members of Congress are considering whether to extend or even expand the payroll tax cut. Do you think the payroll tax rate should be higher or lower than the current 4.2%, or should it be kept at the same rate as it is now?

Higher .....	11%
Kept the same .....	47%
Lower .....	18%
Not sure .....	25%

12. The payroll tax rate for workers is currently 4.2% on annual earnings up to \$106,800. How would you feel if the payroll tax rate for workers were set at the following rates?

		Satisfied but not enthusiastic	Dissatisfied but not angry	Angry	No opinion
3.1%	34%	23%	12%	7%	23%
4.2%	11%	49%	14%	4%	21%
6.2%	7%	17%	22%	32%	22%

13. The U.S. Congress is currently trying to reach an agreement on how to pay for extending the payroll tax cut, unemployment benefits, and current levels of Medicare payments to doctors. Below are a variety of methods that have been proposed to help pay for these policies. Please indicate which of these methods you would support (check all that apply).

Capping the length of time unemployment benefits are available at 93 weeks .....	21%
Capping the length of time unemployment benefits are available at 59 weeks. ....	32%
Permitting states to require drug testing as a condition for getting unemployment benefits .....	50%
Implementing a year-long salary freeze for federal employees .....	44%
Making wealthier individuals pay higher premiums for Medicare .....	50%
Raising taxes on individuals making over one million dollars a year .....	61%
Requiring people getting unemployment benefits to have a high school diploma/GED or be enrolled in a GED program. ....	34%

14. Do you feel the following groups pay more than their fair share in federal income and payroll taxes, less than their fair share, or is the amount they pay about right?

	More than fair share	About right	Less than fair share	Not sure
Poor people	31%	30%	23%	16%
Middle class people	51%	35%	4%	10%
Wealthy people	16%	14%	59%	11%

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

Favor	60%
Oppose	24%
Not sure	16%

16. How serious a problem do you think global warming is?

Very serious	30%
Somewhat serious	31%
Not very serious	30%
Not sure	10%

17. Do you favor or oppose providing a legal way for illegal immigrants already in the United States to become U.S. citizens?

Favor	41%
Oppose	38%
Unsure	21%

18. If you had to choose, which of the following measures would you prefer in order to balance the federal budget deficit?

Increase taxes	6%
Decrease government spending	52%
Both	33%
Neither	10%

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

Strongly Approve .....	18%
Somewhat Approve .....	25%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	14%
Strongly Disapprove .....	33%
Not Sure .....	10%

20. 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%	26%	15%	19%	17%
The economy	14%	23%	14%	36%	13%
Immigration	10%	21%	18%	30%	21%
The environment	12%	25%	17%	23%	23%
Terrorism	23%	28%	14%	17%	18%
Gay rights	12%	23%	14%	22%	29%
Education	15%	28%	16%	21%	19%
Health care	18%	20%	12%	36%	13%
Social security	13%	22%	18%	28%	19%
The budget deficit	12%	21%	16%	36%	15%
The war in Afghanistan	17%	27%	21%	19%	16%
Taxes	14%	21%	17%	31%	17%
Medicare	12%	22%	16%	29%	20%
Abortion	13%	20%	13%	24%	30%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	11%

22. 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	25%
Yes, I usually vote in Republican primary elections	50%
No, I do not usually vote in primary elections	24%

23. 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	49%
Would like someone else to enter	30%
Not sure	22%

24. 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	27%
Newt Gingrich	16%
Ron Paul	14%
Rick Santorum	29%
Other	8%
No preference	6%

25. Many Republicans claim they are looking for a "true conservative" in the presidential contest. To what extent do you believe it is important that a "true conservative" be a true Christian guided by Christian beliefs and morals?

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

Not important .....	25%
Somewhat important .....	26%
Important .....	19%
Very important .....	29%

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

Mitt Romney .....	50%
Newt Gingrich .....	4%
Ron Paul .....	3%
Rick Santorum .....	11%
Not sure .....	33%

27. 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 .....	2%
Mitt Romney .....	40%
Other .....	5%
Not sure .....	5%



28. 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 .....	2%
Lean Newt Gingrich .....	2%
Newt Gingrich .....	35%
Other .....	5%
Not sure .....	6%

29. 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 .....	48%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Rick Santorum .....	1%
Rick Santorum .....	41%
Other .....	4%
Not sure .....	5%

30. 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 .....	47%
Lean Barack Obama .....	2%
Lean Ron Paul .....	3%
Ron Paul .....	38%
Other .....	5%
Not sure .....	6%

31. Which of the following statements about Newt Gingrich are factually correct? Please check all that apply.

Former U.S. Senator .....	15%
Former Governor .....	4%
Former Speaker of the U.S. House .....	68%
Formerly a professor .....	17%
Worked as a paid consultant for various interest groups .....	47%
Ran the 2002 Winter Olympics .....	1%
Is Christian .....	31%
Is Catholic .....	25%
Is Mormon .....	1%

32. Which of the following statements about Rick Santorum are factually correct? Please check all that apply.

Former U.S. Senator .....	51%
Former Governor .....	12%
Former Speaker of the U.S. House .....	4%
Formerly a professor .....	2%
Worked as a paid consultant for various interest groups .....	13%
Ran the 2002 Winter Olympics .....	1%
Is Christian .....	35%
Is Catholic .....	25%
Is Mormon .....	4%

33. Which of the following statements about Mitt Romney are factually correct? Please check all that apply.

Former U.S. Senator .....	9%
Former Governor .....	61%
Former Speaker of the U.S. House .....	3%
Formerly a professor .....	2%
Worked as a paid consultant for various interest groups .....	17%
Ran the 2002 Winter Olympics .....	32%
Is Christian .....	9%
Is Catholic .....	3%
Is Mormon .....	63%

34. Which Republican candidate for president was punished for ethics violations by the U.S. House of Representatives?

Mitt Romney .....	2%
Newt Gingrich .....	62%
Ron Paul .....	2%
Rick Santorum .....	1%
Don't know .....	33%

35. Which Republican candidate for president keeps a bank account in the Cayman Islands?

Mitt Romney .....	54%
Newt Gingrich .....	4%
Ron Paul .....	1%
Rick Santorum .....	2%
Don't know .....	39%

36. Which Republican candidate for president was defeated for re-election in 2006 by 18 percent?

Mitt Romney .....	14%
Newt Gingrich .....	7%
Ron Paul .....	4%
Rick Santorum .....	27%
Don't know .....	48%

37. Which Republican candidate for president paid just 15% in income taxes last year?

Mitt Romney .....	55%
Newt Gingrich .....	3%
Ron Paul .....	2%
Rick Santorum .....	2%
Don't know .....	39%

38. Which Republican candidate for president worked with Nancy Pelosi on global warming?

Mitt Romney .....	3%
Newt Gingrich .....	40%
Ron Paul .....	3%
Rick Santorum .....	3%
Don't know .....	52%

39. Which Republican candidate for president voted for earmarks in the U.S. Senate?

Mitt Romney .....	3%
Newt Gingrich .....	9%
Ron Paul .....	3%
Rick Santorum .....	31%
Don't know .....	55%

**40. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said which of the following?**

- "I'm not concerned about hurting the feelings of the leaders of Iran." .....2%
- "I'm not concerned about the very poor." .....56%
- "I'm not concerned about what Newt Gingrich says about my personal character." .....9%
- Didn't hear about any of these statements .....34%

**41. President Obama has done which of the following?**

- Traveled to Berlin to meet with European leaders about the debt problems in the Euro Zone. The talks produced no progress on resolving the debt crisis. ..5%
- Presented his proposal for the 2013 federal budget. The president's budget arrived one week later than required by law. ....5%
- Decided that under the health care reform law religiously affiliated employers - including Catholic charities, hospitals, and schools - must provide and pay for health insurance coverage that covers birth control. ....55%
- Didn't hear about any of these .....36%

**42. Which of the following people has endorsed Romney in the presidential race?**

- Chuck Norris .....3%
- Donald Trump .....60%
- Jeb Bush .....2%
- Didn't hear about endorsements from any of these people .....35%

**43. Which of the following people has endorsed President Obama in the presidential race?**

- Saul Alinsky .....4%
- Clint Eastwood .....9%
- Scarlett Johansson .....12%
- Didn't hear about endorsements from any of these people .....75%

44. Among those Republicans listed below, with whom would you most like to have a cup of coffee?

Mitt Romney .....	10%
Newt Gingrich .....	10%
Ron Paul .....	16%
Rick Santorum .....	14%
Would rather drink coffee alone .....	49%

45. Among those Democrats listed below, with whom would you most like to have a cup of coffee?

Barack Obama .....	33%
Hillary Clinton .....	23%
Nancy Pelosi .....	1%
Joe Biden .....	5%
Would rather drink coffee alone .....	38%

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

Yes .....	13%
No .....	71%
Not sure .....	16%

47. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal .....	29%
Liberal .....	22%
Moderate .....	26%
Conservative .....	5%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	17%

**48. Would you say Mitt Romney is...**

Very liberal .....	2%
Liberal .....	6%
Moderate .....	28%
Conservative .....	29%
Very conservative .....	9%
Not sure .....	26%

**49. Would you say Newt Gingrich is...**

Very liberal .....	2%
Liberal .....	4%
Moderate .....	13%
Conservative .....	31%
Very conservative .....	24%
Not sure .....	26%

**50. Would you say Rick Santorum is...**

Very liberal .....	1%
Liberal .....	3%
Moderate .....	8%
Conservative .....	26%
Very conservative .....	34%
Not sure .....	28%

**51. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	41%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	47%
Not sure .....	13%

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

Like a lot .....	31%
Like somewhat .....	30%
Dislike .....	25%
Not sure .....	13%

53. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes .....	15%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	60%
Not sure .....	25%

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

Like a lot .....	7%
Like somewhat .....	31%
Dislike .....	33%
Not sure .....	29%

55. Do you think Newt Gingrich...

Says what he believes .....	31%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	45%
Not sure .....	25%

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

Like a lot .....	6%
Like somewhat .....	21%
Dislike .....	48%
Not sure .....	25%



**57. Do you think Rick Santorum...**

Says what he believes .....	45%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	23%
Not sure .....	32%

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

Like a lot .....	15%
Like somewhat .....	23%
Dislike .....	26%
Not sure .....	36%

**59. Do you think Ron Paul...**

Says what he believes .....	56%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	16%
Not sure .....	28%

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

Like a lot .....	14%
Like somewhat .....	31%
Dislike .....	21%
Not sure .....	35%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	33%	41%	26%
Bold	29%	58%	14%
Effective	21%	47%	32%
Exciting	16%	66%	18%
Experienced	17%	47%	36%
Honest	32%	39%	29%
Hypocritical	29%	47%	24%
Inspiring	33%	48%	20%
Intelligent	60%	31%	10%
Partisan	24%	62%	14%
Patriotic	29%	45%	27%
Religious	14%	59%	27%
Sincere	33%	41%	26%
Steady	27%	59%	15%
Strong	27%	55%	18%

62. Which of these words would you use to describe Mitt Romney?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	32%	54%	14%
Bold	13%	73%	14%
Effective	15%	71%	14%
Exciting	4%	65%	31%
Experienced	30%	60%	10%
Honest	11%	62%	28%
Hypocritical	29%	60%	12%
Inspiring	6%	68%	26%
Intelligent	44%	49%	8%
Partisan	15%	76%	9%
Patriotic	25%	69%	6%
Religious	39%	57%	4%
Sincere	11%	62%	26%
Steady	14%	73%	13%
Strong	14%	74%	12%

63. Which of these words would you use to describe Newt Gingrich?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	47%	46%	7%
Bold	26%	67%	8%
Effective	15%	65%	20%
Exciting	9%	69%	22%
Experienced	39%	55%	6%
Honest	8%	54%	38%
Hypocritical	37%	54%	9%
Inspiring	9%	65%	25%
Intelligent	38%	51%	11%
Partisan	24%	68%	8%
Patriotic	25%	67%	9%
Religious	11%	74%	15%
Sincere	9%	59%	32%
Steady	9%	72%	19%
Strong	17%	72%	11%

64. Which of these words would you use to describe Rick Santorum?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	14%	65%	21%
Bold	12%	77%	11%
Effective	11%	72%	17%
Exciting	8%	69%	23%
Experienced	18%	69%	13%
Honest	28%	61%	11%
Hypocritical	14%	67%	19%
Inspiring	12%	71%	17%
Intelligent	31%	58%	11%
Partisan	18%	75%	7%
Patriotic	29%	66%	5%
Religious	41%	56%	2%
Sincere	28%	62%	10%
Steady	22%	71%	7%
Strong	14%	75%	11%

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

Getting better .....	27%
About the same .....	35%
Getting worse .....	30%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Higher .....	22%
About the same .....	37%
Lower .....	17%
Not sure .....	24%

**67. 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 .....	47%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	31%
Not sure .....	8%

**68. Are you currently up-to-date on your mortgage payments?**

*Asked of respondents who indicated they have mortgage payments*

Yes .....	93%
No .....	7%

**69. Have you fallen behind on your mortgage payments one time or more in the past 12 months?**

*Asked of respondents who indicated they have mortgage payments*

Yes .....	12%
No .....	88%

70. Looking ahead, how likely is it that you will have problems meeting your mortgage payments in the next year or so?

*Asked of respondents who indicated they have mortgage payments*

Very likely	7%
Somewhat likely	14%
Not very likely	36%
Not at all likely	33%
Don't know	10%

71. Generally speaking, have problems with mortgages and foreclosures had a big impact, small impact, or no real impact on your neighborhood or town?

Big impact	35%
Small impact	40%
No real impact	25%

72. President Obama announced a \$25 billion dollar settlement under which major mortgage banks agree to pay to help some homeowners reduce what they owe on their mortgage, to help others refinance their mortgage at a lower rate, and to offer reimbursements of up to \$2000 on some who have had their homes foreclosed. Do you support or oppose this settlement?

Support	41%
Oppose	25%
Not sure	34%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	39%
The Republican Party candidate	32%
Other	2%
Not sure	16%
I would not vote	12%

**74. 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 .....	31%
Other .....	1%
Not sure .....	20%
I would not vote .....	12%

**75. Gender**

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

**76. Education**

No high school .....	13%
High school graduate .....	29%
Some college .....	23%
2-year college .....	9%
4-year college .....	16%
Post-graduate .....	9%

**77. Age**

18-29 .....	22%
30-44 .....	26%
45-64 .....	34%
65+ .....	18%

**78. Race**

White .....	75%
Black .....	10%
Hispanic .....	7%
Other .....	7%

79. Region

Northeast .....	19%
Midwest .....	22%
South .....	37%
West .....	21%

80. Party Identification

Democrat .....	33%
Lean Democrat .....	12%
Independent .....	21%
Lean Republican .....	9%
Republican .....	24%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	February 11-14, 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 0.6 to 3, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.55.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.5% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	25 questions not reported.