

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted April 7-10, 2012
 Margin of Error ±4%

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

Very closely 31%
 Somewhat closely 33%
 Not too closely 22%
 Not at all 14%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 26%
 Off on the wrong track 58%
 Not sure 16%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	27%	34%	25%	14%
The economy	80%	16%	2%	2%
Immigration	39%	34%	17%	10%
The environment	36%	36%	18%	10%
Terrorism	43%	34%	16%	8%
Gay rights	16%	24%	26%	33%
Education	53%	30%	11%	6%
Health care	63%	25%	7%	4%
Social security	59%	30%	7%	4%
The budget deficit	57%	28%	9%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	32%	39%	20%	9%
Taxes	58%	31%	7%	4%
Medicare	52%	33%	10%	5%
Abortion	28%	27%	24%	20%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	38%
Immigration	3%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	1%
Education	5%
Health care	13%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	11%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	4%
Abortion	3%

5. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

Just about always	2%
Most of the time	10%
Some of the time	42%
Almost never	40%
Don't Know	7%

6. Which part of the government do you trust **MOST** to do what's right?

Congress	5%
The Supreme Court	25%
The President	24%
Political parties	4%
Don't Know	43%

7. Which part of the government do you trust LEAST to do what's right?

Congress	26%
The Supreme Court	4%
The President	26%
Political parties	22%
Don't Know	22%

8. Which of the following comes closest to your opinion about the justices on the U.S. Supreme Court?

Supreme Court justices usually decide their cases based on legal analysis without much regard to politics and ideology	33%
Supreme court justices usually decide their cases based on their political ideologies	38%
Not sure	30%

9. As you may know, the Supreme Court has the power to strike down laws passed by Congress or state legislatures if it considers the laws to be unconstitutional. Do you think the Supreme Court uses this power too much, too little, or about the right amount?

Too much	14%
About the right amount	41%
Too little	17%
Not sure	29%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Barack Obama	26%	20%	9%	37%	8%
Mitt Romney	13%	26%	20%	27%	15%
Rick Santorum	9%	22%	18%	33%	18%

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

Strongly Approve	17%
Somewhat Approve	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	37%
Not Sure	9%

12. 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	21%	26%	15%	22%	15%
The economy	16%	22%	11%	42%	10%
Immigration	8%	23%	18%	31%	20%
The environment	11%	27%	15%	26%	20%
Terrorism	22%	27%	13%	22%	15%
Gay rights	9%	23%	13%	25%	30%
Education	15%	26%	20%	23%	16%
Health care	18%	21%	9%	41%	11%
Social securitys	13%	22%	16%	30%	19%
The budget deficit	11%	21%	15%	40%	13%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	30%	17%	25%	14%
Taxes	13%	23%	15%	34%	14%
Medicare	14%	22%	16%	30%	19%
Abortion	11%	20%	13%	27%	29%

13. 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	25%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	14%

14. Are you registered to vote as...

Asked of registered voters who live in states with party registration

Democrat	40%
Republican	36%
Other Party	1%
Independent/No Party	21%
Not sure	2%

15. 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	29%
Not sure	22%

16. Who would you like to be the Republican nominee for President in 2012?

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

Mitt Romney	36%
Newt Gingrich	10%
Ron Paul	15%
Rick Santorum	18%
Other	13%
No preference	8%

17. Romney vs. Santorum two-way race

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Not asked of respondents who support Romney or Santorum, whose preference was determined from an earlier question

Romney	58%
Santorum	42%

18. What would you prefer to see happen in the Republican nomination campaign?

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections

All candidates except Romney drop out, allowing Romney to focus on the general election	38%
Newt Gingrich drops out, leaving Rick Santorum as the main challenger to Mitt Romney	25%
The current field of candidates all stay in the race until one clinches the nomination	37%

19. How would you feel if Mitt Romney became the Republican nominee for President?

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections

Excited	11%
Satisfied	54%
Dissatisfied	29%
Angry	6%

20. 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	1%
Lean Mitt Romney	1%
Mitt Romney	42%
Other	6%
Not sure	5%

21. 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	46%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Rick Santorum	3%
Rick Santorum	38%
Other	7%
Not sure	5%

22. Regardless of who you would support, who do you think would win the presidential election if Mitt Romney became the Republican nominee?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	54%
Mitt Romney	40%
Someone else	6%

23. Regardless of who you would support, who do you think would win the presidential election if Rick Santorum became the Republican nominee?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	65%
Rick Santorum	29%
Someone else	7%

24. 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	20%	31%	21%	28%
Is personally wealthy	37%	44%	14%	6%
Cares about people like me	24%	24%	21%	31%
Cares about the poor	27%	29%	20%	23%
Cares about the middle class	27%	26%	21%	26%
Cares about the wealthy	22%	39%	21%	19%

25. 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	9%	29%	32%	29%
Is personally wealthy	71%	17%	6%	6%
Cares about people like me	11%	27%	31%	32%
Cares about the poor	11%	24%	30%	35%
Cares about the middle class	12%	33%	29%	26%
Cares about the wealthy	54%	31%	10%	5%

26. Which party do you think would be better for ...

	Democrats	About the same	Republicans	Not sure
Women	39%	24%	21%	15%
Blacks	47%	20%	16%	17%
The poor	44%	20%	20%	16%
Gays and Lesbians	52%	20%	8%	20%

27. Some groups of people tend to vote mostly for Democrats or Republicans, while other groups are about equally split between the parties. How do you think the following groups tend to vote?

	Mostly Democratic	Some-what Democratic	Evenly Split	Some-what Republican	Mostly Republican	Don't know
Men	3%	6%	33%	28%	13%	16%
Women	13%	30%	33%	5%	2%	16%
Whites	3%	5%	37%	27%	12%	15%
Blacks	49%	21%	11%	2%	1%	15%
Hispanics	26%	32%	17%	4%	1%	19%
Young people	26%	28%	24%	3%	2%	16%
Old people	8%	10%	23%	22%	22%	15%

28. Do you think the Republican party is "waging a war against women"?

Yes	24%
No	50%
Not sure	26%

29. Do you think the Democratic Party is "waging a war against religious freedom?"

Yes	29%
No	48%
Not sure	23%

30. Please give us your best guess to the following question. How had the unemployment rate in the country changed from January 2009, when President Obama first took office, to February 2012?

Unemployment decreased by 1% or more.	19%
Unemployment decreased by between 0% and 1%.	13%
Unemployment increased by between 0% and 1%.	7%
Unemployment increased by between 1% and 2%.	16%
Unemployment increased by between 2% and 3%.	14%
Unemployment increased by more than 3%.	31%

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

Yes	14%
No	73%
Not sure	13%

32. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	32%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	16%

33. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	6%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	33%
Very conservative	13%
Not sure	21%

34. Would you say Rick Santorum is...

Very liberal	2%
Liberal	3%
Moderate	9%
Conservative	26%
Very conservative	38%
Not sure	22%

35. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	39%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	51%
Not sure	10%

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	30%
Dislike	27%
Not sure	11%

37. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	20%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	61%
Not sure	19%

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

Like a lot	11%
Like somewhat	31%
Dislike	34%
Not sure	24%

39. Do you think Rick Santorum...

Says what he believes	47%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	33%
Not sure	20%

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

Like a lot	11%
Like somewhat	29%
Dislike	35%
Not sure	25%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	37%	35%	28%
Bold	32%	53%	14%
Effective	25%	46%	29%
Exciting	18%	65%	17%
Experienced	21%	47%	32%
Honest	32%	35%	33%
Hypocritical	30%	44%	26%
Inspiring	33%	48%	19%
Intelligent	57%	32%	11%
Partisan	26%	59%	15%
Patriotic	27%	45%	27%
Religious	18%	55%	27%
Sincere	32%	39%	29%
Steady	27%	56%	16%
Strong	30%	52%	18%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	35%	48%	17%
Bold	18%	68%	13%
Effective	20%	62%	18%
Exciting	8%	60%	32%
Experienced	35%	56%	9%
Honest	16%	55%	29%
Hypocritical	29%	56%	15%
Inspiring	11%	59%	30%
Intelligent	45%	47%	9%
Partisan	21%	71%	8%
Patriotic	31%	61%	8%
Religious	37%	59%	4%
Sincere	17%	56%	27%
Steady	18%	66%	16%
Strong	19%	67%	14%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	28%	51%	21%
Bold	20%	69%	10%
Effective	10%	67%	23%
Exciting	8%	70%	22%
Experienced	16%	68%	16%
Honest	27%	55%	18%
Hypocritical	22%	58%	20%
Inspiring	12%	65%	23%
Intelligent	27%	55%	18%
Partisan	25%	68%	8%
Patriotic	32%	60%	8%
Religious	49%	48%	4%
Sincere	27%	56%	17%
Steady	19%	69%	12%
Strong	14%	72%	14%

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

Getting better	25%
About the same	35%
Getting worse	32%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	24%
About the same	31%
Lower	21%
Not sure	24%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	15%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	35%
Not sure	4%

47. 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	30%
Other	1%
Not sure	22%
I would not vote	12%

48. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

49. Education

No high school	13%
High school graduate	31%
Some college	23%
2-year college	8%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	9%

50. Age

18-29	21%
30-44	27%
45-64	35%
65+	18%

51. Race

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

52. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	21%
South	34%
West	26%

53. Party Identification

Democrat	35%
Lean Democrat	11%
Independent	19%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	25%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	April 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 0.3 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.8.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	33 questions not reported.