

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted October 20-22, 2012
 Margin of Error ±4.9%

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

Very closely 48%
 Somewhat closely 36%
 Not too closely 12%
 Not at all 4%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 34%
 Off on the wrong track 57%
 Not sure 9%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	83%	15%	1%	1%
Immigration	40%	40%	17%	3%
The environment	36%	37%	17%	10%
Terrorism	51%	35%	10%	4%
Gay rights	23%	22%	23%	32%
Education	54%	36%	8%	2%
Health care	67%	27%	4%	1%
Social security	62%	30%	8%	1%
The budget deficit	58%	30%	8%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	37%	41%	17%	5%
Taxes	64%	29%	6%	1%
Medicare	57%	32%	9%	2%
Abortion	33%	31%	22%	14%

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

The economy	47%
Immigration	3%
The environment	2%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	10%
Social security	9%
The budget deficit	8%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	3%

5. Did you watch the second Presidential debate between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney this past Tuesday?

Yes, I watched all of it	47%
Yes, I watched parts of it	25%
No, I didn't watch it	28%

6. Who do you think won the second Presidential debate?

Asked of respondents who watched all or parts of second Presidential debate

Obama won	49%
It was a tie	17%
Romney won	30%
Not sure	4%

7. Did the second Presidential debate change your opinion of either candidate? Check all that apply.

Asked of respondents who watched all or parts of second Presidential debate

It made me more favorable towards Barack Obama	27%
It made me more favorable towards Mitt Romney	23%
It made me less favorable towards Barack Obama	12%
It made me less favorable toward Mitt Romney	11%
It didn't change my opinion of either candidate.	40%

8. If Barack Obama were reelected president in 2012, would the U.S. become more or less safe from foreign threats?

More safe from foreign threats	24%
About the same	35%
Less safe from foreign threats	36%
Not sure	5%

9. If Mitt Romney were elected president in 2012, would the U.S. become more or less safe from foreign threats?

More safe from foreign threats	31%
About the same	28%
Less safe from foreign threats	29%
Not sure	12%

10. If Barack Obama were reelected president in 2012, would the U.S. become more or less respected by other countries?

More respected by other countries	26%
About the same	33%
Less respected by other countries	36%
Not sure	5%

11. If Mitt Romney were elected president in 2012, would the U.S. become more or less respected by other countries?

More respected by other countries	31%
About the same	20%
Less respected by other countries	37%
Not sure	12%

12. 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	33%	16%	10%	39%	3%
Mitt Romney	26%	21%	14%	34%	5%
Paul Ryan	28%	20%	11%	32%	10%
Joe Biden	24%	18%	14%	37%	7%
Hillary Clinton	33%	24%	18%	22%	3%

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

Strongly Approve	21%
Somewhat Approve	23%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	40%
Not Sure	1%

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling these specific issues?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The economy	18%	23%	12%	42%	5%
Immigration	16%	22%	16%	36%	10%
The environment	17%	28%	16%	25%	15%
Terrorism	26%	21%	13%	32%	8%
Gay rights	21%	20%	9%	29%	20%
Education	21%	26%	19%	23%	11%
Health care	28%	18%	10%	41%	4%
Social security	21%	24%	14%	32%	10%
The budget deficit	15%	21%	13%	44%	7%
The war in Afghanistan	18%	27%	19%	26%	9%
Taxes	20%	22%	16%	35%	8%
Medicare	23%	21%	13%	34%	9%
Abortion	20%	20%	10%	31%	18%

15. 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	19%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	6%

16. How enthusiastic are you about voting in the 2012 Presidential election?

Asked of registered voters

Extremely enthusiastic	39%
Very enthusiastic	27%
Somewhat enthusiastic	17%
Not too enthusiastic	10%
Not at all enthusiastic	7%

17. Who will you vote for in the 2012 Presidential election?

Asked of registered voters. Those responding "not sure" were asked a followup question about which way they leaned, and they were allocated to the candidate to which they lean.

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Barack Obama	47%	48%
Mitt Romney	45%	46%
Other	5%	4%
Not sure	2%	2%

18. How sure are you about your plans to vote for [Obama/Romney]?

Asked of Obama/Romney supporters

I will definitely vote for [Obama/Romney]. My mind is made up	93%
I will probably vote for [Obama/Romney], but I could change my mind	5%
I'm leaning toward voting for [Obama/Romney]	2%

19. Would you say you are mostly voting for [Obama/Romney] or against [other candidate]?

Asked of Obama/Romney supporters

I'm mostly voting for [Obama/Romney]	63%
I'm mostly voting against [other candidate]	36%
Not sure	1%

20. Regardless of which candidate you support, who do you think is most likely to win the Presidential election in November?

Asked of registered voters

Obama will definitely win	16%
Obama will probably win	29%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win	18%
Romney will probably win	16%
Romney will definitely win	13%
Don't know	9%

21. If an election for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?

	Registered Voters	Likely voters
The Democratic Party candidate	43%	44%
The Republican Party candidate	41%	42%
Other	2%	2%
Not sure	13%	12%
I would not vote	2%	0%

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

Yes	14%
No	72%
Not sure	14%

23. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Very liberal	6%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	32%
Conservative	23%
Very Conservative	16%
Not sure	7%

24. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	38%
Liberal	22%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	3%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	11%

25. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	4%
Moderate	15%
Conservative	39%
Very conservative	25%
Not sure	14%

26. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	43%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	51%
Not sure	6%

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

Like a lot	37%
Like somewhat	23%
Dislike	34%
Not sure	7%

28. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	37%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	54%
Not sure	9%

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

Like a lot	21%
Like somewhat	31%
Dislike	39%
Not sure	8%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	41%	28%	31%
Bold	32%	49%	19%
Effective	27%	38%	35%
Exciting	19%	59%	22%
Experienced	27%	39%	33%
Honest	32%	31%	36%
Hypocritical	35%	39%	26%
Inspiring	35%	39%	26%
Intelligent	58%	27%	15%
Partisan	30%	55%	15%
Patriotic	31%	35%	34%
Religious	17%	51%	33%
Sincere	34%	34%	32%
Steady	30%	52%	18%
Strong	33%	43%	24%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	42%	26%	32%
Bold	29%	55%	16%
Effective	32%	52%	16%
Exciting	15%	53%	32%
Experienced	42%	45%	13%
Honest	28%	37%	35%
Hypocritical	37%	36%	27%
Inspiring	20%	52%	28%
Intelligent	56%	34%	10%
Partisan	27%	59%	14%
Patriotic	48%	44%	8%
Religious	63%	33%	5%
Sincere	27%	41%	32%
Steady	27%	57%	16%
Strong	35%	50%	16%

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

Getting better	29%
About the same	28%
Getting worse	39%
Not sure	3%

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

Higher	24%
About the same	37%
Lower	16%
Not sure	23%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	17%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	43%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	37%
Not sure	3%

35. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

36. Education

No high school	4%
High school graduate	36%
Some college	22%
2-year college	10%
4-year college	20%
Post-graduate	8%

37. Age

18-29	27%
30-44	23%
45-64	34%
65+	16%

38. Race

White	68%
Black	16%
Hispanic	11%
Other	5%

39. Region

Northeast	14%
Midwest	20%
South	42%
West	24%

40. Party Identification

Democrat	35%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	14%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	34%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	October 20-22, 2012
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2010 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2010 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement. Religion, political interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Pew Religion in American Life Survey.
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 to 8.5, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.22.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	27 questions not reported.