

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted July 21-23, 2012
 Margin of Error ±4.1%

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

Very closely	36%
Somewhat closely	30%
Not too closely	21%
Not at all	13%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	25%
Off on the wrong track	60%
Not sure	15%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	79%	17%	2%	2%
Immigration	41%	33%	18%	8%
The environment	35%	34%	21%	11%
Terrorism	43%	35%	15%	7%
Gay rights	18%	24%	24%	34%
Education	52%	32%	10%	6%
Health care	63%	26%	6%	4%
Social security	58%	31%	9%	3%
The budget deficit	59%	27%	9%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	30%	41%	20%	8%
Taxes	60%	30%	6%	4%
Medicare	51%	34%	11%	4%
Abortion	31%	28%	22%	19%

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

The economy	40%
Immigration	3%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	1%
Education	4%
Health care	11%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	11%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	3%

5. How much is each of the following people or groups to blame for the poor economic conditions of the past few years?

	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	Not at all
President Obama	33%	12%	18%	18%	18%
President Bush	33%	15%	27%	15%	10%
Democrats in the U.S. Congress	31%	18%	28%	14%	8%
Republicans in the U.S. Congress	35%	17%	30%	12%	7%
Wall Street bankers	44%	20%	23%	10%	4%
Consumers who borrowed too much money	26%	22%	31%	14%	7%

6. Do you think it is still possible to start out poor in this country, work hard, and become rich?

Definitely yes	28%
Probably yes	36%
Probably no	20%
Definitely no	7%
Not sure	8%

7. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Anyone can succeed in America if they try	30%	34%	17%	12%	7%
If you succeed in America, it's partly because others helped you out	17%	30%	25%	14%	15%
If you don't succeed in America, it's usually your own fault	14%	23%	29%	19%	14%
People who succeed in America have an obligation to give back to our society	27%	25%	26%	12%	10%

8. How much have you heard about Friday's mass shooting in Aurora, Colorado?

A lot	66%
A little	31%
Nothing at all	4%

9. Do you think that violent movies, tv shows, and video games are partly to blame for mass shootings in America?

Definitely yes	14%
Probably yes	28%
Probably no	27%
Definitely no	21%
Not sure	10%

10. Do you think gun control laws should be made more or less strict than they are now?

More strict	43%
No change	32%
Less strict	18%
Not sure	7%

11. Do you favor or oppose the following gun control measures?

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Preventing persons with a history of mental illness from owning guns	81%	7%	13%
Banning semi-automatic weapons	50%	32%	18%
Banning the sale of all handguns, except those that are issued to law enforcement officers	18%	65%	17%
Banning the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons that hold more than 10 rounds	54%	27%	20%
Requiring people who purchase handguns to wait five days before they receive that gun	70%	16%	14%
Requiring gun owners to register their guns with a national gun registry	61%	27%	12%
Limiting the number of handguns a person can own	42%	44%	14%
Preventing people from carrying a concealed gun in public	35%	48%	17%
Requiring people to obtain a police permit before buying a handgun	53%	30%	17%

12. Do you or does anyone in your household own a gun?

Personally own a gun	21%
Don't personally own a gun, but someone in the household owns a gun .	12%
No one in the household owns a gun	61%
Not sure	6%

13. 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	24%	21%	11%	37%	6%
Mitt Romney	17%	21%	21%	31%	10%
Tim Pawlenty	6%	16%	21%	11%	46%
Rob Portman	5%	12%	11%	9%	63%
Bobby Jindal	13%	14%	13%	17%	42%
Paul Ryan	15%	13%	10%	19%	43%
Condoleezza Rice	17%	31%	21%	13%	19%
Marco Rubio	16%	14%	14%	14%	42%

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

Strongly Approve	15%
Somewhat Approve	26%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	39%
Not Sure	6%

15. 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	11%	24%	11%	42%	11%
Immigration	11%	21%	13%	39%	15%
The environment	11%	25%	13%	29%	22%
Terrorism	19%	26%	11%	26%	18%
Gay rights	14%	21%	12%	36%	17%
Education	14%	24%	16%	29%	18%
Health care	19%	19%	9%	42%	11%
Social security	12%	21%	13%	33%	20%
The budget deficit	10%	20%	13%	44%	13%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	27%	17%	26%	16%
Taxes	17%	21%	12%	38%	13%
Medicare	14%	21%	13%	35%	17%
Abortion	12%	20%	12%	30%	25%

16. 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	16%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	9%

17. How enthusiastic are you about voting for president in the upcoming presidential election in November?

Asked of registered voters

Extremely enthusiastic	32%
Very enthusiastic	20%
Somewhat enthusiastic	19%
Not too enthusiastic	16%
Not at all enthusiastic	12%

18. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, who would you vote for?

Asked of registered voters. Respondents who initially answered 'not sure' but indicated they were leaning toward Obama or Romney in a follow-up question are counted as Obama or Romney supporters

Barack Obama	44%
Mitt Romney	45%
Other	5%
Not sure	6%

19. Which of the following best describes why you are supporting [Barack Obama/Mitt Romney] in the presidential election?

Asked of registered voters who indicate they plan to vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney

I'm a big fan of [Obama/Romney]	32%
I like [Obama/Romney], but I have some concerns about him	42%
I don't like [Obama/Romney] that much; I'm mostly voting against [other candidate]	24%
Not sure	2%

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	15%
Obama will probably win	31%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win	18%
Romney will probably win	14%
Romney will definitely win	10%
Don't know	12%

21. 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	37%
The Republican Party candidate	36%
Other	1%
Not sure	16%
I would not vote	10%

22. How important do you feel it is that Romney release additional years of his tax returns?

Extremely important	26%
Very important	12%
Moderately important	10%
Slightly important	8%
Not at all important	31%
Don't know	14%

23. If Romney does not release additional tax returns, will that make you...

A lot less likely to vote for Romney	28%
A little less likely to vote for Romney	4%
Neither less likely nor more likely to vote for Romney	46%
A little more likely to vote for Romney	3%
A lot more likely to vote for Romney	6%
Don't know	14%

24. Do you think the Mormon religion is Christian, or is it not Christian?

Is Christian	50%
Is not Christian	50%

25. Would you be more likely, less likely, or equally likely to support a candidate for president who had the following characteristics?

	A lot more likely	A little more likely	Equally likely	A little less likely	A lot less likely
Catholic	5%	7%	73%	7%	8%
Jew	5%	5%	76%	8%	6%
Mormon	3%	3%	63%	15%	16%
Muslim	2%	1%	37%	22%	37%
Person with no religion	7%	5%	46%	18%	24%
Evangelical or "born again" Christian	13%	8%	52%	10%	17%
Christian, not evangelical or "born again"	8%	11%	70%	7%	5%
Woman	9%	8%	72%	6%	5%
Gay or lesbian	3%	4%	46%	16%	32%
Black	5%	4%	78%	7%	7%
Hispanic	4%	3%	74%	8%	10%

26. What is Mitt Romney's religion?

Protestant	3%
Catholic	6%
Jewish	0%
Muslim	0%
Mormon	73%
Something else	6%
Not religious	11%

27. What is Barack Obama's religion?

Protestant	30%
Catholic	8%
Jewish	0%
Muslim	23%
Mormon	0%
Something else	18%
Not religious	20%

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

Yes	13%
No	71%
Not sure	16%

29. Thinking about politics these days, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Very liberal	4%
Liberal	12%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	25%
Very Conservative	9%
Not sure	17%

30. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	35%
Liberal	19%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	17%

31. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	4%
Moderate	21%
Conservative	34%
Very conservative	15%
Not sure	23%

32. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	40%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	49%
Not sure	11%

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

Like a lot	29%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	32%
Not sure	12%

34. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	27%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	55%
Not sure	18%

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

Like a lot	13%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	38%
Not sure	22%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	39%	36%	25%
Bold	29%	55%	16%
Effective	23%	44%	33%
Exciting	16%	63%	21%
Experienced	16%	48%	36%
Honest	28%	38%	34%
Hypocritical	36%	39%	25%
Inspiring	30%	48%	22%
Intelligent	53%	33%	14%
Partisan	26%	59%	15%
Patriotic	27%	42%	31%
Religious	14%	58%	28%
Sincere	30%	40%	30%
Steady	26%	56%	17%
Strong	28%	51%	21%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	43%	22%
Bold	16%	70%	14%
Effective	22%	61%	16%
Exciting	7%	60%	33%
Experienced	38%	51%	11%
Honest	22%	47%	31%
Hypocritical	32%	48%	21%
Inspiring	10%	61%	29%
Intelligent	45%	46%	10%
Partisan	21%	69%	11%
Patriotic	35%	55%	10%
Religious	42%	51%	7%
Sincere	23%	48%	29%
Steady	21%	65%	14%
Strong	23%	65%	12%

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

Getting better	19%
About the same	34%
Getting worse	42%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	17%
About the same	38%
Lower	23%
Not sure	22%

40. 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	47%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	33%
Not sure	5%

41. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

42. Education

No high school	12%
High school graduate	31%
Some college	21%
2-year college	10%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	9%

43. Age

18-29	21%
30-44	26%
45-64	35%
65+	18%

44. Race

White	71%
Black	12%
Hispanic	9%
Other	9%

45. Region

Northeast	18%
Midwest	23%
South	37%
West	22%

46. Party Identification

Democrat	34%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	20%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	27%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 21-23, 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 0.1 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.86.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.1% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	22 questions not reported.