

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted March 31-April 3, 2012
 Margin of Error ±3.8%

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

Very closely 33%
 Somewhat closely 36%
 Not too closely 20%
 Not at all 12%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 28%
 Off on the wrong track 57%
 Not sure 16%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	25%	39%	25%	11%
The economy	82%	15%	2%	1%
Immigration	38%	38%	18%	6%
The environment	38%	38%	15%	9%
Terrorism	44%	37%	14%	5%
Gay rights	19%	26%	24%	30%
Education	53%	34%	10%	4%
Health care	66%	25%	7%	2%
Social security	57%	32%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	61%	29%	8%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	31%	44%	17%	8%
Taxes	59%	32%	7%	2%
Medicare	53%	34%	11%	3%
Abortion	29%	32%	22%	17%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	36%
Immigration	3%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	12%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	12%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	2%
Abortion	3%

5. Do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to see to it that everyone has health care coverage?

Yes	39%
No	45%
Not sure	16%

6. In 2010, Congress passed a health care reform bill. Do you think that health care reform will increase or decrease the amount that you spend on health care?

Increase a lot	33%
Increase a little	13%
No effect	18%
Decrease a little	8%
Decrease a lot	6%
Not sure	22%

7. Do you think that you will receive better or worse care under the new health care system?

A lot better	7%
A little better	8%
About the same	30%
A little worse	12%
A lot worse	27%
Not sure	16%

8. Do you think the health care reform law should be expanded, kept the same, or repealed?

Expanded	23%
Kept the same	11%
Repealed	41%
Not sure	26%

9. As you may know, this past week the Supreme Court held hearings over whether the health care reform passed by Congress is constitutional. How closely did you follow these hearings?

Extremely closely	15%
Somewhat closely	35%
Not that closely	25%
Not at all	25%

10. In the Supreme Court hearings on the health care law, the court considered the question of whether Congress can require all Americans to purchase health care. Do you think the law's requirement that all Americans purchase health care is constitutional?

Yes, it is constitutional	24%
No, it is unconstitutional	54%
Not sure	22%

11. What do you think the Supreme Court will decide on the health care law?

It will keep all of the law	9%
It will strike down the individual mandate but will keep most of the law ...	30%
It will strike down all of the law	20%
Not sure	42%

12. Do you think the Massachusetts Health Care Reform Law, which was passed by the Massachusetts legislature in 2006 and requires all residents of that state to purchase health care, is constitutional?

Yes	32%
No	35%
Not sure	33%

13. Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

Strongly favor	30%
Somewhat favor	16%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	30%
Not sure	14%

14. What if some people on both sides of the gay marriage debate proposed not to decide the question at the national level, leaving it up to the states instead? That way more liberal states would be free to make gay marriage legal and more conservative states would be free to make it illegal. Would you find this compromise acceptable, or do you think we need to have one marriage policy for the whole country?

I would find this compromise acceptable	37%
We need to have one marriage policy for the whole country	63%

15. Do you think abortion should be...

Legal in all cases	28%
Legal/Illegal in some cases	47%
Illegal in all cases	16%
Not sure	10%

16. What if some people on both sides of the abortion debate proposed not to decide the question at the national level, leaving it up to the states instead? That way more liberal states would be free to make gay marriage legal and more conservative states would be free to make it illegal. Would you find this compromise acceptable, or do you think we need to have one marriage policy for the whole country?

I would find this compromise acceptable	34%
We need to have one abortion policy for the whole country	66%

17. Which of the following countries do you consider to be friend or enemy of the United States?

	Ally of U.S.	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy of the U.S.	Not sure
Pakistan	2%	7%	39%	26%	26%
Russia	3%	27%	33%	13%	25%
Iran	1%	2%	23%	56%	18%
China	4%	27%	30%	15%	25%
Israel	47%	20%	7%	5%	21%
Egypt	6%	22%	30%	9%	33%
Saudi Arabia	9%	27%	24%	12%	28%
Jordan	6%	27%	21%	8%	38%
Yemen	2%	10%	26%	19%	43%
Cuba	1%	8%	45%	22%	24%

18. 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%	11%	36%	7%
Mitt Romney	11%	25%	22%	26%	15%
Newt Gingrich	7%	18%	20%	39%	16%
Ron Paul	11%	26%	26%	17%	20%
Rick Santorum	12%	23%	16%	32%	17%

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

Strongly Approve	16%
Somewhat Approve	25%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	36%
Not Sure	9%

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	21%	26%	16%	22%	16%
The economy	14%	23%	13%	38%	13%
Immigration	8%	21%	17%	32%	21%
The environment	9%	27%	18%	23%	23%
Terrorism	21%	26%	15%	21%	17%
Gay rights	10%	24%	15%	25%	27%
Education	13%	29%	15%	22%	21%
Health care	18%	18%	11%	40%	13%
Social securitys	13%	22%	18%	27%	20%
The budget deficit	11%	21%	14%	39%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	11%	27%	22%	25%	16%
Taxes	13%	23%	17%	32%	16%
Medicare	14%	23%	15%	29%	19%
Abortion	11%	21%	13%	24%	32%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	6%
Neither approve nor disapprove	14%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	13%

22. Are you registered to vote as...

Asked of registered voters who live in states with party registration

Democrat	40%
Republican	35%
Other Party	1%
Independent/No Party	23%
Not sure	1%

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	50%
Would like someone else to enter	27%
Not sure	23%

24. 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	29%
Newt Gingrich	12%
Ron Paul	14%
Rick Santorum	26%
Other	12%
No preference	6%

25. Romney vs. Gingrich two-way race

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

Romney	64%
Gingrich	36%

26. 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	50%
Santorum	50%

27. Santorum vs. Gingrich two-way race

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

Gingrich	40%
Santorum	60%

28. 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	26%
Newt Gingrich drops out, leaving Rick Santorum as the main challenger to Mitt Romney	32%
The current field of candidates all stay in the race until one clinches the nomination	42%

29. 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	49%
Dissatisfied	35%
Angry	4%

30. 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	46%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Mitt Romney	1%
Mitt Romney	43%
Other	5%
Not sure	4%

31. 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	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich	2%
Newt Gingrich	36%
Other	6%
Not sure	4%

32. 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	2%
Rick Santorum	40%
Other	5%
Not sure	5%

33. 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	46%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Ron Paul	2%
Ron Paul	39%
Other	6%
Not sure	5%

34. 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	53%
Mitt Romney	42%
Someone else	5%

35. 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	64%
Rick Santorum	31%
Someone else	5%

36. Regardless of who you would support, who do you think would win the presidential election if Newt Gingrich became the Republican nominee?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	68%
Newt Gingrich	25%
Someone else	7%

37. In a TV interview last week, one of Mitt Romney's campaign advisers compared the Romney campaign's plan for switching from the Republican primary campaign into the campaign against President Obama to which children's toy?

Slinky	2%
Etch-A-Sketch	55%
Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots	1%
Didn't hear which toy was mentioned	41%

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

Yes	14%
No	70%
Not sure	16%

39. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	31%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	17%

40. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	6%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	31%
Very conservative	9%
Not sure	24%

41. Would you say Rick Santorum is...

Very liberal	2%
Liberal	2%
Moderate	7%
Conservative	24%
Very conservative	41%
Not sure	24%

42. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	26%
Not sure	14%

44. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	19%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	57%
Not sure	24%

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

Like a lot	8%
Like somewhat	31%
Dislike	34%
Not sure	27%

46. Do you think Rick Santorum...

Says what he believes	47%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	29%
Not sure	24%

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

Like a lot	14%
Like somewhat	22%
Dislike	37%
Not sure	28%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	36%	28%
Bold	29%	57%	14%
Effective	23%	45%	32%
Exciting	16%	65%	20%
Experienced	17%	48%	35%
Honest	30%	37%	32%
Hypocritical	32%	43%	25%
Inspiring	32%	48%	20%
Intelligent	58%	31%	11%
Partisan	27%	58%	15%
Patriotic	29%	46%	25%
Religious	15%	60%	25%
Sincere	34%	40%	27%
Steady	27%	58%	14%
Strong	29%	50%	21%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	34%	50%	17%
Bold	14%	71%	14%
Effective	18%	67%	14%
Exciting	5%	62%	32%
Experienced	34%	56%	10%
Honest	16%	56%	28%
Hypocritical	29%	54%	17%
Inspiring	10%	61%	29%
Intelligent	42%	48%	9%
Partisan	20%	70%	10%
Patriotic	28%	65%	6%
Religious	37%	59%	5%
Sincere	15%	58%	27%
Steady	19%	68%	13%
Strong	17%	72%	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	25%	55%	20%
Bold	18%	71%	11%
Effective	12%	65%	23%
Exciting	7%	66%	27%
Experienced	17%	64%	19%
Honest	26%	57%	17%
Hypocritical	21%	61%	17%
Inspiring	12%	63%	25%
Intelligent	28%	56%	17%
Partisan	25%	68%	8%
Patriotic	28%	64%	7%
Religious	50%	47%	3%
Sincere	27%	58%	14%
Steady	17%	70%	13%
Strong	17%	71%	11%

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

Getting better	27%
About the same	37%
Getting worse	29%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	25%
About the same	35%
Lower	15%
Not sure	25%

53. 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	50%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	30%
Not sure	5%

54. 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	34%
The Republican Party candidate	34%
Other	2%
Not sure	18%
I would not vote	12%

55. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

56. Education

No high school	14%
High school graduate	29%
Some college	24%
2-year college	8%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	9%

57. Age

18-29	21%
30-44	27%
45-64	34%
65+	18%

58. Race

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

59. Region

Northeast	20%
Midwest	24%
South	36%
West	21%

60. Party Identification

Democrat	33%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	20%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	27%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	March 31-April 3, 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 4.9, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.69.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.8% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	26 questions not reported.