

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
 Conducted July 14-16, 2012  
 Margin of Error ±4.1%

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

Very closely .....	34%
Somewhat closely .....	34%
Not too closely .....	20%
Not at all .....	12%

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

Generally headed in the right direction .....	27%
Off on the wrong track .....	58%
Not sure .....	15%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	80%	17%	3%	1%
Immigration	39%	36%	19%	6%
The environment	35%	37%	18%	10%
Terrorism	43%	34%	15%	7%
Gay rights	19%	22%	23%	36%
Education	54%	31%	11%	4%
Health care	66%	24%	7%	3%
Social security	58%	31%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	57%	29%	10%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	28%	40%	23%	9%
Taxes	58%	31%	8%	3%
Medicare	52%	35%	10%	4%
Abortion	28%	29%	23%	20%

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

The economy .....	40%
Immigration .....	3%
The environment .....	3%
Terrorism .....	1%
Gay rights .....	1%
Education .....	8%
Health care .....	13%
Social security .....	11%
The budget deficit .....	8%
The war in Afghanistan .....	0%
Taxes .....	4%
Medicare .....	3%
Abortion .....	4%

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

Favor .....	57%
Oppose .....	28%
Not sure .....	15%

6. Do you think the federal budget can be balanced without raising taxes on families earning under \$250,000?

Yes .....	51%
No .....	26%
Not sure .....	23%

7. Do you think the federal budget can be balanced without cutting spending on Social Security and Medicare?

Yes .....	57%
No .....	21%
Not sure .....	22%

8. If Congress and the President don't reach a deal on tax rates by the end of the year, income tax rates will go up for all Americans. President Obama and the Democrats in Congress want to extend current tax rates for individuals making under \$200,000 a year (and families making under \$250,000 a year) but allow the tax rates for income above those amounts to go up. The Republicans in Congress want to extend current tax rates for all taxpayers, including high earners.

If you had to choose, would you rather have a congressperson who...

- Compromises to reach a deal on the tax rates soon ..... 62%
- Sticks to his or her principles no matter what ..... 38%

9. 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	28%	20%	9%	35%	7%
Mitt Romney	20%	19%	17%	32%	13%
Tim Pawlenty	8%	17%	14%	14%	47%
Rob Portman	6%	11%	10%	9%	64%
Bobby Jindal	13%	12%	14%	15%	47%
Paul Ryan	13%	15%	10%	19%	43%
Condoleezza Rice	22%	31%	20%	11%	17%
Marco Rubio	16%	13%	13%	15%	43%

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

- Strongly Approve ..... 19%
- Somewhat Approve ..... 26%
- Somewhat Disapprove ..... 13%
- Strongly Disapprove ..... 37%
- Not Sure ..... 5%

11. 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	15%	23%	12%	39%	11%
Immigration	14%	23%	15%	35%	13%
The environment	14%	26%	16%	23%	21%
Terrorism	25%	28%	13%	20%	14%
Gay rights	21%	19%	8%	31%	21%
Education	16%	26%	15%	21%	21%
Health care	24%	17%	9%	39%	11%
Social security	15%	22%	16%	28%	19%
The budget deficit	13%	21%	14%	39%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	18%	28%	18%	22%	15%
Taxes	20%	24%	11%	33%	12%
Medicare	17%	21%	15%	29%	18%
Abortion	15%	19%	12%	27%	27%

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

Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	8%

13. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the following Federal government agencies and institutions are handling their jobs?

	Strongly approve	Some-what approve	Neither approve nor disapprove	Some-what disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Not sure
Supreme Court	8%	21%	22%	20%	18%	11%
Pentagon/Military	17%	27%	25%	11%	8%	12%
Department of Homeland Security/Transportation Security Administration (TSA)	7%	18%	24%	19%	20%	12%
Border Patrol	12%	24%	26%	14%	13%	11%
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	7%	17%	26%	13%	22%	15%
Federal Reserve Board	6%	13%	27%	17%	19%	19%
Internal Revenue Service (IRS)	5%	15%	30%	17%	20%	13%

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

*Asked of registered voters*

Extremely enthusiastic	37%
Very enthusiastic	20%
Somewhat enthusiastic	21%
Not too enthusiastic	13%
Not at all enthusiastic	8%

15. 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	47%
Mitt Romney	44%
Other	4%
Not sure	5%

16. 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	29%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win	18%
Romney will probably win	15%
Romney will definitely win	9%
Don't know	14%

17. 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	38%
The Republican Party candidate	34%
Other	2%
Not sure	14%
I would not vote	11%

18. Before Mitt Romney became Governor of Massachusetts, he was the CEO of Bain Capital. Do you think Romney mostly *created* or *eliminated* jobs when he ran Bain Capital?

Created many jobs	16%
Created a few jobs	8%
Neither created nor eliminated jobs	12%
Eliminated a few jobs	8%
Eliminated many jobs	28%
Not sure	29%

19. To be an effective President, is it more important for someone to have had experience in politics or business?

Experience in politics is more important	17%
Both equally important	58%
Experience in business is more important	16%
Not sure	10%

20. How important a factor is Mitt Romney's choice of a Vice Presidential candidate to your decision to vote in November?

Not important	41%
Slightly important	21%
Moderately important	21%
Very important	18%

21. What positions have the following people held? Please check all that apply.

	U.S. Senator	U.S. Representative	Governor	Secretary of State	Don't know
Rob Portman	18%	6%	6%	0%	70%
Tim Pawlenty	6%	8%	35%	0%	53%
Bobby Jindal	3%	7%	44%	0%	50%
Paul Ryan	11%	32%	3%	1%	52%
Condoleezza Rice	2%	3%	1%	73%	22%
Marco Rubio	32%	10%	12%	1%	47%

22. Which of these persons is...

	Rob Portman	Tim Pawlenty	Bobby Jindal	Paul Ryan	Condoleezza Rice	Marco Rubio	Not sure
Most qualified to be Vice-President	3%	5%	5%	6%	31%	6%	44%
Least qualified to be Vice-President	5%	6%	5%	9%	6%	9%	60%

23. Who do you think Mitt Romney will choose as his Vice Presidential running mate?

Rob Portman .....	5%
Tim Pawlenty .....	4%
Bobby Jindal .....	1%
Paul Ryan .....	3%
Condoleezza Rice .....	12%
Marco Rubio .....	12%
Someone else .....	10%
Not sure .....	53%

24. Which party do you think is most likely to control the U.S. Senate after the election in November?

Democratic Party .....	34%
Republican Party .....	34%
Not sure .....	32%

25. Which party do you think is most likely to control the U.S. House of Representatives after the election in November?

Democratic Party .....	22%
Republican Party .....	44%
Not sure .....	33%



26. Which of the following would you say are 'progressive'? Please check all that apply.

Barack Obama	47%
Mitt Romney	10%
Ron Paul	11%
Sarah Palin	8%
Hillary Clinton	48%
Nancy Pelosi	37%
John Boehner	4%
Chris Christie	7%
Michael Bloomberg	21%
Oprah Winfrey	44%
Ronald Reagan	13%
Rush Limbaugh	5%
Glenn Beck	4%
Jon Stewart	32%
Jesse Jackson	35%
Anderson Cooper	31%
Don't know	27%

27. Which of the following would you say are 'progressive'? Please check all that apply.

The Democratic Party	44%
The Supreme Court	13%
The National Rifle Association	8%
Trade unions	30%
The Southern Baptist Convention	6%
MoveOn.org	34%
Fox News	11%
MSNBC	33%
Don't know	34%

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

Yes	15%
No	69%
Not sure	16%

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

Very liberal .....	5%
Liberal .....	12%
Moderate .....	33%
Conservative .....	26%
Very Conservative .....	8%
Not sure .....	16%

30. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal .....	36%
Liberal .....	22%
Moderate .....	23%
Conservative .....	4%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	15%

31. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal .....	6%
Liberal .....	3%
Moderate .....	21%
Conservative .....	33%
Very conservative .....	18%
Not sure .....	19%

**32. How well do you think each the following describes Barack Obama?**

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all
Is personally wealthy	44%	40%	11%	5%
Cares about people like me	28%	26%	15%	31%
Cares about the poor	36%	27%	16%	21%
Cares about the middle class	32%	27%	17%	24%
Cares about the wealthy	20%	35%	22%	22%

**33. How well do you think each the following describes Mitt Romney?**

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all
Is personally wealthy	78%	15%	3%	4%
Cares about people like me	17%	26%	20%	37%
Cares about the poor	15%	25%	22%	39%
Cares about the middle class	16%	31%	22%	30%
Cares about the wealthy	57%	32%	6%	5%

**34. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	42%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	49%
Not sure .....	9%

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

Like a lot .....	34%
Like somewhat .....	27%
Dislike .....	30%
Not sure .....	9%

**36. Do you think Mitt Romney...**

Says what he believes .....	27%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	57%
Not sure .....	16%

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

Like a lot .....	13%
Like somewhat .....	30%
Dislike .....	36%
Not sure .....	21%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	37%	33%	30%
Bold	30%	56%	14%
Effective	24%	45%	31%
Exciting	18%	61%	21%
Experienced	24%	45%	31%
Honest	32%	35%	32%
Hypocritical	33%	41%	27%
Inspiring	34%	45%	21%
Intelligent	57%	30%	13%
Partisan	25%	60%	15%
Patriotic	28%	43%	29%
Religious	17%	56%	27%
Sincere	32%	39%	29%
Steady	26%	56%	18%
Strong	29%	52%	19%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	37%	39%	23%
Bold	20%	65%	15%
Effective	25%	56%	19%
Exciting	7%	57%	36%
Experienced	41%	48%	11%
Honest	23%	44%	33%
Hypocritical	34%	46%	20%
Inspiring	12%	57%	31%
Intelligent	47%	42%	12%
Partisan	25%	61%	14%
Patriotic	36%	54%	11%
Religious	43%	50%	6%
Sincere	19%	49%	32%
Steady	25%	61%	15%
Strong	26%	60%	14%

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

Getting better .....	20%
About the same .....	36%
Getting worse .....	37%
Not sure .....	7%

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

Higher .....	18%
About the same .....	36%
Lower .....	18%
Not sure .....	28%

**42. 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 .....	48%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	33%
Not sure .....	5%

**43. Gender**

Male .....	49%
Female .....	51%

**44. Education**

No high school .....	13%
High school graduate .....	31%
Some college .....	22%
2-year college .....	8%
4-year college .....	17%
Post-graduate .....	9%

**45. Age**

18-29 .....	20%
30-44 .....	27%
45-64 .....	35%
65+ .....	18%

**46. Race**

White .....	74%
Black .....	11%
Hispanic .....	8%
Other .....	6%

**47. Region**

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

**48. Party Identification**

Democrat .....	35%
Lean Democrat .....	8%
Independent .....	20%
Lean Republican .....	9%
Republican .....	28%

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	July 14-16, 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 0.2 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.87.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.1% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	34 questions not reported.