

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted November 12-15, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 3.7\%$

1. 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	20%	27%	16%	24%	14%
The economy	10%	23%	14%	42%	10%
Immigration	8%	21%	17%	36%	19%
The environment	11%	28%	18%	25%	18%
Terrorism	22%	26%	15%	23%	14%
Gay rights	14%	25%	13%	22%	27%
Education	14%	27%	16%	26%	17%
Health care	15%	21%	12%	40%	12%
Social security	11%	23%	19%	33%	14%
The budget deficit	10%	21%	15%	42%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	28%	19%	25%	15%
Taxes	13%	20%	17%	36%	14%
Medicare	12%	23%	18%	33%	14%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	35%	41%	17%	6%
The economy	80%	15%	3%	2%
Immigration	45%	34%	15%	7%
The environment	47%	33%	14%	6%
Terrorism	52%	31%	11%	5%
Gay rights	23%	26%	25%	26%
Education	56%	31%	9%	4%
Health care	71%	24%	4%	2%
Social security	64%	28%	6%	2%
The budget deficit	61%	27%	8%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	37%	42%	16%	5%
Taxes	64%	28%	5%	3%
Medicare	57%	30%	10%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	39%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	7%
Health care	12%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	3%

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

Strongly Approve	14%
Somewhat Approve	29%
Somewhat Disapprove	17%
Strongly Disapprove	34%
Not Sure	6%

5. How closely do you follow College football?

Very closely	11%
Somewhat closely	17%
Not very closely	26%
Not at all	46%

6. How much have you heard or read about the sexual abuse scandal at Penn State University involving a former assistant football coach?

A great deal	49%
A little	39%
Nothing at all	12%

7. How would you rate the job Penn State did in handling allegations of child abuse by former assistant football coach, Jerry Sandusky, when administration officials first learned of the charges?

Asked if respondent is aware of Penn State scandal

Excellent	5%
Good	9%
Only Fair	10%
Poor	57%
Not sure	19%

8. How would you rate the job Penn State University has done in handling the response to the sexual abuse scandal since news of allegations against Jerry Sandusky became public?

Asked if respondent is aware of Penn State scandal

Excellent	8%
Good	21%
Only Fair	27%
Poor	26%
Not sure	19%

9. Do you think Penn State officials had enough information to act earlier in order to prevent at least some cases of sexual abuse by Jerry Sandusky?

Asked if respondent is aware of Penn State scandal

Yes, could have prevented some cases of abuse	67%
No, could not have prevented any cases of abuse	3%
Not sure	29%

10. Do you agree or disagree with Penn State University's decision to fire head coach Coach Joe Paterno for failing to notify the police about an alleged sexual assault after he learned about it from an eyewitness?

Asked if respondent is aware of Penn State scandal

Strongly agree	44%
Somewhat agree	17%
Somewhat disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	11%
Not sure	17%

11. Some people say that Penn State should cancel the rest of its football season while it handles the aftermath of the sexual abuse scandal. Would you support or oppose this?

Asked if respondent is aware of Penn State scandal

Strongly support	13%
Somewhat support	10%
Somewhat oppose	20%
Strongly oppose	33%
Not sure	24%

12. How much have you heard or read about the so-called "super committee," a bi-partisan group of members of Congress that is currently working on a deficit reduction plan?

A great deal	25%
A little	36%
Nothing at all	39%

13. As part of the debt ceiling increase legislation, Congress created a 12-person committee equally divided between members of the House and the Senate and between Republicans and Democrats. They are to report their recommendations for reducing the deficit on November 23rd. If they do not, or if their recommendations are not enacted, there will automatically be large across-the-board budget cuts, including for defense, Social Security and Medicare. Do you approve or disapprove the creation of this "super committee"?

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	29%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	22%
No opinion	24%

14. How likely do you think it is that the super committee will be able to agree on its recommendations?

Very likely	3%
Somewhat likely	18%
Somewhat unlikely	28%
Very unlikely	32%
Not sure	20%

15. If the super committee members are NOT able to agree on recommendations to reduce the deficit, who would you blame more for the failure?

Republican members of the committee	24%
Democratic members of the committee	15%
Both equally	44%
Not sure	18%

16. If the super committee DOES come to an agreement, how likely do you think it is that the Congress will support its recommendations?

Very likely	5%
Somewhat likely	25%
Somewhat unlikely	30%
Very unlikely	17%
Not sure	23%

17. Would you be more or less likely to vote for a Congressional candidate if you learned that he or she had signed a pledge NOT to raise taxes?

More likely	33%
Makes no difference	25%
Less likely	22%
Not sure	20%

18. Are you personally or is someone in your household a member of a labor union?

Yes, I personally belong to a union	7%
I do not belong to a union, but someone in my household does	10%
No	82%

19. Are you personally or is someone in your household a public sector employee?

Yes, I am a public employee	9%
I am not a public employee, but someone in my household is	8%
No	83%

20. Through collective bargaining, workers are able to act as a group to negotiate such things as wages, benefits, and working conditions. Do you support or oppose the right of public employees to collective bargaining?

Support collective bargaining on all employment issues	28%
Support collective bargaining on a limited range of employment issues ..	27%
Oppose collective bargaining on all employment issues	16%
Not sure	29%

21. Do you approve or disapprove of labor unions?

Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	19%
Neither approve, nor disapprove	32%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	16%

22. Would you say labor unions have too much or too little influence on the policies of the Obama Administration?

Too much	39%
About the right amount	46%
Too little	15%

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

Very closely	29%
Somewhat closely	34%
Not too closely	22%
Not at all	15%

24. In the upcoming primary elections, are you more likely to vote in a Democratic presidential primary or caucus, or a Republican primary or caucus, or aren't you likely to vote in a primary or caucus at all?

Asked of registered voters

Democratic primary or caucus	39%
Republican primary or caucus	42%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all	20%

25. 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 are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

Satisfied with current field	50%
Would like someone else to enter	23%
Not sure	27%

26. If you had to choose one, which of these individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

Mitt Romney	19%
Newt Gingrich	23%
Michele Bachmann	5%
Jon Huntsman	5%
Ron Paul	7%
Herman Cain	21%
Rick Santorum	2%
Rick Perry	6%
Gary Johnson	1%
Other	4%
No preference	6%

27. And which of these individuals would be your SECOND choice to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Republican primary or caucus

Mitt Romney	19%
Newt Gingrich	19%
Michele Bachmann	5%
Jon Huntsman	4%
Ron Paul	14%
Herman Cain	15%
Rick Santorum	3%
Rick Perry	8%
Gary Johnson	0%
Other	2%
No preference	10%

28. In the 2012 presidential election, would you prefer that Barack Obama or someone else run as the Democratic nominee for president?

Asked of registered voters who are likely to vote in a Democratic primary or caucus

Barack Obama	72%
Someone else	14%
Not sure	14%

29. 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	44%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Mitt Romney	2%
Mitt Romney	39%
Other	7%
Not sure	7%

30. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Herman Cain, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Herman Cain?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	47%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Herman Cain	2%
Herman Cain	36%
Other	6%
Not sure	8%

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	46%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich	2%
Newt Gingrich	39%
Other	5%
Not sure	8%

32. How much have you heard or read about the allegations that Herman Cain sexually harassed several female employees while serving as the head of the National Restaurant Association in the 1990's?

A great deal	54%
A little	30%
Nothing at all	15%

33. Do you think Herman Cain is guilty of sexually harassing female employees while he led the National Restaurant Association?

Asked if respondent is aware of allegations against Cain

Guilty	38%
Not guilty	23%
Not sure	39%

34. Herman Cain accused his opponents of spreading the stories about Cain’s unwanted sexual advances as part of a smear campaign against him. Do you agree or disagree that the stories are part of a smear campaign organized by his opponents?

Asked if respondent is aware of allegations against Cain

Agree	35%
Disagree	33%
Not sure	32%

35. Would you consider voting for a candidate for President who had been accused of sexual harassment?

Yes	25%
No	45%
Not sure	30%

36. How much have you heard or read about the political movement known as the Tea Party?

A great deal	36%
A fair amount	31%
Not much	21%
Nothing at all	12%

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

Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Yes	16%
No	84%

38. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?

Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Strongly support	16%
Somewhat support	15%
Neither support, nor oppose	18%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	29%
Not sure	12%

39. How much have you heard or read about the protest movement known as the Occupy Wall Street movement?

A great deal	37%
A fair amount	30%
Not much	16%
Nothing at all	17%

40. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Occupy Wall Street movement?

Asked if respondent is aware of Occupy Wall Street movement

Yes	19%
No	81%

41. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Occupy Wall Street movement?

Asked if respondent is aware of Occupy Wall Street movement

Strongly support	21%
Somewhat support	21%
Neither support, nor oppose	17%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	20%
Not sure	11%

42. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	27%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	20%

43. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes 42%
 Says what he thinks people want to hear 58%

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

Like a lot 33%
 Like somewhat 28%
 Dislike 26%
 Not sure 13%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	26%	53%	21%
Decisive	19%	52%	29%
Effective	19%	43%	38%
Experienced	15%	47%	38%
Honest	31%	37%	32%
In touch	22%	45%	32%
Inspiring	32%	45%	23%
Intelligent	55%	30%	15%
Partisan	22%	58%	20%
Patriotic	32%	42%	27%
Realistic	26%	45%	29%
Religious	15%	60%	25%
Sincere	33%	39%	28%
Strong	28%	47%	25%
Unifying	14%	51%	34%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	5%
Neither approve nor disapprove	14%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	17%
Off on the wrong track	68%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	15%
About the same	37%
Getting worse	41%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	18%
About the same	34%
Lower	26%
Not sure	22%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	13%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	41%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	41%
Not sure	5%

51. Do you favor or oppose repealing President Obama’s health care reform law passed last year by Congress?

Strongly favor	22%
Favor	13%
Neither favor, nor oppose	30%
Oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	22%

52. How satisfied are you with your health insurance coverage?

Very satisfied	26%
Somewhat satisfied	38%
Somewhat dissatisfied	11%
Very dissatisfied	12%
Not sure	14%

53. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for...

Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	42%
The Republican Party candidate	39%
Other	3%
Not sure	14%
I would not vote	1%

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

Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	40%
The Republican Party candidate	37%
Other	2%
Not sure	20%
I would not vote	1%

55. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

56. Education

No high school	12%
High school graduate	32%
Some college	25%
2-year college	5%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	10%

57. Age

18-29	25%
30-44	27%
45-64	33%
65+	15%

58. Race

White	75%
Black	11%
Hispanic	7%
Other	7%

59. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	21%
South	40%
West	22%

60. Party Identification

Democrat	32%
Lean Democrat	11%
Independent	25%
Lean Republican	8%
Republican	24%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	November 12-15, 2011
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 0.5 to 3.7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.64.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	24 questions not reported.