

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted November 26-29, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 3.9\%$

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	18%	26%	17%	25%	14%
The economy	11%	20%	14%	43%	12%
Immigration	10%	20%	16%	36%	18%
The environment	11%	27%	17%	26%	19%
Terrorism	22%	24%	14%	24%	17%
Gay rights	14%	21%	11%	26%	27%
Education	15%	26%	17%	26%	17%
Health care	19%	18%	13%	40%	11%
Social security	14%	19%	17%	32%	18%
The budget deficit	10%	18%	15%	43%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	25%	19%	26%	15%
Taxes	14%	18%	15%	39%	14%
Medicare	14%	20%	16%	33%	17%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	38%	37%	18%	7%
The economy	79%	17%	3%	2%
Immigration	44%	33%	16%	6%
The environment	42%	36%	15%	6%
Terrorism	52%	28%	13%	7%
Gay rights	24%	24%	27%	25%
Education	55%	32%	9%	4%
Health care	72%	21%	5%	2%
Social security	63%	26%	9%	2%
The budget deficit	61%	27%	8%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	39%	38%	16%	7%
Taxes	64%	26%	8%	2%
Medicare	57%	29%	11%	3%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	42%
Immigration	4%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	1%
Education	5%
Health care	12%
Social security	15%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	3%

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

Strongly Approve	15%
Somewhat Approve	23%
Somewhat Disapprove	17%
Strongly Disapprove	34%
Not Sure	11%

5. Did you spend at least one night away from home during the Thanksgiving holiday?

Yes, traveled more than 100 miles from home	10%
Yes, traveled less than 100 miles from home	9%
No, did not spend any nights away from home	81%

6. What is the main type of transportation you used to reach your destination over the Thanksgiving holiday?

Asked if respondent will travel more than 100 miles from home

Plane	18%
Car	77%
Bus, train, or other public transportation	5%
None of the above	0%

7. Did you shop for sale items on the day after Thanksgiving, also known as "Black Friday"?

Yes	22%
No	78%

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

Very closely	31%
Somewhat closely	30%
Not too closely	25%
Not at all	14%

9. 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	40%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all	21%

10. 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	51%
Would like someone else to enter	23%
Not sure	26%

11. 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	17%
Newt Gingrich	25%
Michele Bachmann	5%
Jon Huntsman	5%
Ron Paul	9%
Herman Cain	15%
Rick Santorum	3%
Rick Perry	5%
Gary Johnson	0%
Other	5%
No preference	10%

12. Preferred Republican nominee for President excluding Herman Cain (displaying second choice candidate for Herman Cain supporters)

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

Mitt Romney	19%
Newt Gingrich	32%
Michele Bachmann	8%
Jon Huntsman	6%
Ron Paul	10%
Rick Santorum	4%
Rick Perry	6%
Gary Johnson	1%
Other	5%
No preference	11%

13. 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	17%
Newt Gingrich	21%
Michele Bachmann	8%
Jon Huntsman	4%
Ron Paul	7%
Herman Cain	19%
Rick Santorum	6%
Rick Perry	5%
Gary Johnson	3%
Other	4%
No preference	7%

14. 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	76%
Someone else	11%
Not sure	12%

15. 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	45%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Mitt Romney	3%
Mitt Romney	39%
Other	6%
Not sure	6%

16. 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	48%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Herman Cain	2%
Herman Cain	36%
Other	5%
Not sure	6%

17. 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	47%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich	2%
Newt Gingrich	38%
Other	6%
Not sure	6%

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

A great deal	32%
A fair amount	34%
Not much	24%
Nothing at all	10%

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

Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Yes	17%
No	83%

20. 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	17%
Neither support, nor oppose	20%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	29%
Not sure	11%

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

A great deal	32%
A fair amount	39%
Not much	17%
Nothing at all	12%

22. 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	15%
No	85%

23. 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	18%
Somewhat support	20%
Neither support, nor oppose	19%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	20%
Not sure	12%

24. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	19%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	20%

25. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	47%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	53%

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

Like a lot	33%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	25%
Not sure	14%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	26%	53%	20%
Decisive	20%	54%	26%
Effective	19%	47%	34%
Experienced	16%	47%	37%
Honest	32%	40%	28%
In touch	26%	44%	30%
Inspiring	31%	46%	23%
Intelligent	55%	32%	13%
Partisan	24%	57%	19%
Patriotic	29%	44%	27%
Realistic	31%	41%	28%
Religious	16%	58%	26%
Sincere	34%	40%	26%
Strong	28%	47%	25%
Unifying	12%	51%	37%

28. 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	15%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	16%
Off on the wrong track	67%
Not sure	17%

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

Getting better	15%
About the same	37%
Getting worse	39%
Not sure	9%

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

Higher	16%
About the same	32%
Lower	26%
Not sure	26%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	12%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	40%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	41%
Not sure	7%

33. If an election for president was going to be held now, would you vote for...
Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	43%
The Republican Party candidate	36%
Other	5%
Not sure	13%
I would not vote	3%

34. 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	41%
The Republican Party candidate	36%
Other	3%
Not sure	17%
I would not vote	3%

35. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

36. Education

No high school	13%
High school graduate	31%
Some college	24%
2-year college	6%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	10%

37. Age

18-29	24%
30-44	23%
45-64	37%
65+	16%

38. Race

White	73%
Black	11%
Hispanic	7%
Other	8%

39. Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	24%
South	37%
West	22%

40. Party Identification

Democrat	33%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	25%
Lean Republican	9%
Republican	24%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	November 26-29, 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 5.5, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.78.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	24 questions not reported.