

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted December 3-6, 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	21%	24%	17%	27%	11%
The economy	11%	21%	15%	47%	7%
Immigration	10%	20%	14%	42%	14%
The environment	12%	27%	16%	28%	17%
Terrorism	21%	27%	16%	26%	10%
Gay rights	14%	23%	11%	27%	26%
Education	14%	27%	14%	30%	15%
Health care	18%	20%	12%	44%	6%
Social security	14%	21%	15%	37%	12%
The budget deficit	10%	20%	15%	46%	8%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	25%	19%	30%	11%
Taxes	15%	21%	16%	39%	9%
Medicare	14%	21%	16%	36%	13%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	38%	39%	17%	6%
The economy	84%	13%	2%	1%
Immigration	48%	35%	14%	4%
The environment	42%	37%	15%	6%
Terrorism	51%	33%	12%	4%
Gay rights	23%	25%	25%	27%
Education	56%	30%	9%	4%
Health care	73%	21%	3%	2%
Social security	67%	24%	8%	2%
The budget deficit	63%	26%	7%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	41%	39%	15%	5%
Taxes	63%	30%	5%	1%
Medicare	58%	28%	12%	2%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	43%
Immigration	5%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	1%
Education	5%
Health care	9%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	4%

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

Strongly Approve	14%
Somewhat Approve	26%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	41%
Not Sure	6%

5. Workers are currently receiving a Social Security payroll tax cut that is scheduled to expire on December 31st. Congress is considering whether to extend, and possibly expand, the payroll tax cut. Would you support or oppose extending the payroll tax cut?

Support extending and expanding the payroll tax cut	26%
Support extending the current payroll tax cut	25%
Oppose extending the payroll tax cut	16%
Not sure	33%

6. Should Congress pay for the extension of the payroll tax cut through spending cuts or by raising new revenues?

Asked if respondent supports extending payroll tax cut

Spending cuts	41%
Raising new revenues	24%
Both	29%
Neither	6%

7. Members of Congress have proposed various ways of paying for the payroll tax cut. Would you support or oppose the following measures?

Asked if respondent supports extending payroll tax cut

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support, nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Raising taxes on those with more than \$1 million in annual taxable income	58%	9%	10%	6%	16%	0%
Reducing the size of the federal workforce through attrition by 10%, or 200,000 jobs	31%	17%	16%	15%	19%	2%
Extending the current two-year pay freeze on federal workers for another three years	33%	18%	22%	15%	10%	2%

8. How would you rank the following historical events from most to least important? Drag the most important event to the top position on the right and the least important to the bottom.

	Ranked 1st	Ranked 2nd	Ranked 3rd	Ranked 4th	Ranked 5th
Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, bringing the United States into World War Two (December 7, 1941)	30%	27%	25%	12%	6%
The "9/11" terrorist attacks on New York and Washington D.C. (September 11, 2001)	42%	20%	17%	12%	9%
Fall of the Berlin Wall (November 1989) and dissolution of the Soviet Union (1990-91)	5%	13%	17%	31%	35%
Atomic weapons used by the United States against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War Two (August 1945)	14%	25%	24%	23%	14%
Assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy (November 22, 1963)	9%	16%	18%	22%	35%

9. When the U.S. arrests terror suspects who are U.S. citizens, should they be treated as U.S. citizens, with the rights the Constitution gives citizens, or should they be treated as enemy combatants, without any of those rights?

Should be treated as U.S. citizens	27%
Should be treated as enemy combatants	39%
Depends on the case	26%
Not sure	8%

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

Very closely	33%
Somewhat closely	34%
Not too closely	22%
Not at all	11%

11. Which of these individuals do you think has the best chance of winning the Republican presidential nomination in 2012?

Mitt Romney	30%
Newt Gingrich	24%
Michele Bachmann	1%
Jon Huntsman	1%
Ron Paul	3%
Rick Santorum	0%
Rick Perry	3%
Gary Johnson	1%
Not sure	36%

12. Do you think the following people say what they believe or say what they think people want to hear?

	Says what he believes	Says what he thinks people want to hear
Mitt Romney	25%	75%
Newt Gingrich	39%	61%
Rick Perry	34%	66%
Herman Cain	39%	61%

13. 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	36%
Republican primary or caucus	44%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all	20%

14. 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	45%
Would like someone else to enter	21%
Not sure	34%

15. How confident are you that Republicans will pick a nominee for president in 2012 who will have a strong chance of defeating Barack Obama?

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

Very confident	29%
Somewhat confident	40%
Not too confident	18%
Not at all confident	9%
Not sure	4%

16. 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	15%
Newt Gingrich	31%
Michele Bachmann	6%
Jon Huntsman	6%
Ron Paul	11%
Rick Santorum	7%
Rick Perry	9%
Gary Johnson	2%
Other	5%
No preference	9%

17. 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	20%
Newt Gingrich	17%
Michele Bachmann	15%
Jon Huntsman	4%
Ron Paul	9%
Rick Santorum	8%
Rick Perry	10%
Gary Johnson	4%
Other	4%
No preference	9%

18. 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	78%
Someone else	9%
Not sure	13%

19. 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	2%
Mitt Romney	42%
Other	4%
Not sure	6%

20. 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	45%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich	2%
Newt Gingrich	40%
Other	5%
Not sure	6%

21. 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	45%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Ron Paul	3%
Ron Paul	41%
Other	4%
Not sure	6%

22. How much have you heard or read about the allegations that Herman Cain carried on an extra-marital affair for 13 years that ended shortly before he entered the race for the Republican nomination for president?

A great deal	55%
A little	32%
Nothing at all	13%

23. Do you believe the allegations that Herman Cain carried on a long-term extra-marital affair?

Asked if respondent is aware of allegations of infidelity against Cain

Yes	53%
No	18%
Not sure	29%

24. How many politicians do you think cheat in their marriages?

Most	31%
Some	49%
A few	11%
Not sure	9%

25. Are Democratic or Republican politicians more likely to be unfaithful?

Democratic politicians	7%
Both the same	87%
Republican politicians	6%

26. Overall, do the news media focus more on political scandals when they involve Democratic politicians or Republican politicians?

Democratic politicians	8%
Republican politicians	30%
No difference in media treatment of Democratic and Republican politicians	52%
Not sure	9%

27. Would you consider voting for a candidate for President who had had an extra-marital affair?

Yes	41%
No	27%
Not sure	32%

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

Yes	22%
No	50%
Not sure	29%

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

A great deal	39%
A fair amount	30%
Not much	23%
Nothing at all	8%

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

Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Yes	20%
No	80%

31. 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	21%
Somewhat support	12%
Neither support, nor oppose	22%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	26%
Not sure	10%

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

A great deal	40%
A fair amount	30%
Not much	19%
Nothing at all	11%

33. 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	17%
No	83%

34. 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	17%
Somewhat support	22%
Neither support, nor oppose	20%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	22%
Not sure	10%

35. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	33%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	7%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	13%

36. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes 43%
 Says what he thinks people want to hear 57%

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

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

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	27%	49%	24%
Decisive	20%	50%	30%
Effective	18%	45%	37%
Experienced	16%	43%	42%
Honest	31%	36%	33%
In touch	24%	43%	33%
Inspiring	30%	46%	24%
Intelligent	57%	29%	14%
Partisan	25%	54%	21%
Patriotic	28%	45%	27%
Realistic	28%	42%	30%
Religious	15%	56%	29%
Sincere	31%	37%	31%
Strong	25%	49%	26%
Unifying	13%	50%	37%

39. 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	12%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	50%
Not sure	9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	16%
Off on the wrong track	73%
Not sure	11%

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

Getting better	16%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	41%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	18%
About the same	32%
Lower	25%
Not sure	25%

43. 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	41%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	43%
Not sure	4%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	41%
The Republican Party candidate	40%
Other	3%
Not sure	14%
I would not vote	2%

45. 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	39%
Other	2%
Not sure	16%
I would not vote	2%

46. Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%

47. Education

No high school	14%
High school graduate	30%
Some college	23%
2-year college	8%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	9%

48. Age

18-29	25%
30-44	22%
45-64	36%
65+	17%

49. Race

White	75%
Black	10%
Hispanic	8%
Other	7%

50. Region

Northeast	18%
Midwest	22%
South	38%
West	22%

51. Party Identification

Democrat	31%
Lean Democrat	12%
Independent	18%
Lean Republican	13%
Republican	26%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 3-6, 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 0.4 to 7, 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	26 questions not reported.