

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted December 10-13, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 4.1\%$

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%	16%	25%	14%
The economy	11%	22%	12%	45%	10%
Immigration	11%	19%	15%	37%	18%
The environment	12%	26%	14%	28%	20%
Terrorism	21%	25%	12%	25%	16%
Gay rights	15%	20%	12%	27%	27%
Education	14%	23%	15%	29%	18%
Health care	18%	17%	11%	43%	11%
Social security	13%	19%	16%	37%	16%
The budget deficit	10%	22%	12%	43%	13%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	27%	18%	26%	15%
Taxes	14%	22%	14%	38%	12%
Medicare	14%	18%	17%	36%	15%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	33%	43%	17%	7%
The economy	81%	14%	2%	3%
Immigration	45%	31%	17%	6%
The environment	41%	38%	13%	8%
Terrorism	49%	36%	9%	5%
Gay rights	22%	24%	26%	28%
Education	54%	31%	9%	6%
Health care	69%	22%	5%	4%
Social security	64%	26%	7%	3%
The budget deficit	59%	27%	9%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	34%	43%	15%	8%
Taxes	65%	28%	4%	2%
Medicare	56%	30%	10%	4%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	42%
Immigration	4%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	1%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	11%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	2%

4. 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	37%
Not Sure	9%

5. How much have you heard about the Social Security payroll tax cut for workers, which is scheduled to expire on December 31st unless Congress votes to extend it?

A great deal	30%
A little	41%
Nothing at all	29%

6. On January 1, 2012, the payroll tax rate, set at 4.2% for the last year, will revert to 6.2% unless Congress votes to extend it. Members of Congress are considering whether to extend or even expand the payroll tax cut. Do you think the payroll tax rate should be higher or lower than the current 4.2%, or should it be kept at the same rate as it is now?

Higher	11%
Kept the same	45%
Lower	19%
Not sure	25%

7. The payroll tax rate for workers is currently 4.2% on annual earnings up to \$106,800. How would you feel if the payroll tax rate for workers were set at the following rates?

		Satisfied but not enthusiastic	Dissatisfied but not angry	Angry	No opinion
3.1%	34%	21%	13%	10%	21%
4.2%	12%	52%	13%	4%	20%
6.2%	7%	18%	20%	34%	21%

8. Do you feel the following groups pay more than their fair share in federal income and payroll taxes, less than their fair share, or is the amount they pay about right?

	More than fair share	About right	Less than fair share	Not sure
Poor people	33%	27%	23%	17%
Middle class people	50%	35%	6%	10%
Wealthy people	18%	13%	58%	10%

9. How concerned are the following groups about issues that affect POOR people?

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
The Obama Administration	26%	22%	15%	21%	16%
The Republican Party	14%	17%	16%	39%	14%
The Democratic Party	23%	26%	18%	18%	16%

10. How concerned are the following groups about issues that affect MIDDLE CLASS people?

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
The Obama Administration	25%	22%	19%	22%	13%
The Republican Party	15%	21%	19%	33%	12%
The Democratic Party	21%	26%	21%	19%	13%

11. How concerned are the following groups about issues that affect WEALTHY people?

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure
The Obama Administration	24%	25%	17%	19%	14%
The Republican Party	54%	18%	7%	8%	14%
The Democratic Party	24%	26%	18%	18%	13%

12. How would you describe your own family's income?

Poor	37%
Middle Class	61%
Wealthy	1%

13. Are you personally or is someone in your household a federal employee?

Yes, I am a federal employee	2%
I am not a federal employee, but someone in my household is	7%
No	90%

14. Do you think that federal employees get paid more or less than private sector employees with similar qualifications?

More	48%
About the same	18%
Less	14%
Not sure	19%

15. On average, do you think that federal employees devote more or less effort to their jobs than private sector employees?

More	7%
About the same	32%
Less	44%
Not sure	17%

16. Do you think the size of the federal workforce is too large or too small?

Too large	47%
About right	20%
Too small	6%
Not sure	28%

17. What do you think will eventually happen in Iraq?

The United States will win the war in Iraq.	28%
The United States will withdraw from Iraq without winning.	72%

18. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Iraq?

Yes	51%
No	28%
Not sure	21%

19. Which of these do you think is most likely?

Iraq will become a stable democracy in the next year or two.	5%
Iraq will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two.	28%
Iraq will probably never become a stable democracy.	46%
Not sure	21%

20. How much responsibility do you think President Barack Obama has for the current situation in Iraq today?

Most	16%
Some	35%
Only a little	26%
None	11%
Not sure	11%

21. How much responsibility do you think former President George W. Bush has for the current situation in Iraq today?

Most	51%
Some	26%
Only a little	7%
None	5%
Not sure	11%

22. Are Iraqi civilians better off today than they were when the war in Iraq began?

Definitely yes	13%
Probably yes	36%
Probably no	20%
Definitely no	6%
Not sure	25%

23. What do you think will eventually happen in Afghanistan?

The United States will win the war in Afghanistan.	19%
The United States will withdraw from Afghanistan without winning.	81%

24. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Afghanistan?

Yes	37%
No	36%
Not sure	27%

25. Which of these do you think is most likely?

- Afghanistan will become a stable democracy in the next year or two. 2%
- Afghanistan will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two. 16%
- Afghanistan will probably never become a stable democracy. 62%
- Not sure 20%

26. If U.S. troops were removed from Afghanistan, do you think the Taliban would return to power?

- Yes 54%
- No 9%
- Not sure 37%

27. How much responsibility do you think President Barack Obama has for the current situation in Afghanistan today?

- Most 20%
- Some 42%
- Only a little 20%
- None 8%
- Not sure 10%

28. How much responsibility do you think former President George W. Bush has for the current situation in Afghanistan today?

- Most 38%
- Some 35%
- Only a little 10%
- None 6%
- Not sure 10%

29. Are Afghan civilians better off today than they were when the war in Afghanistan began?

Definitely yes	9%
Probably yes	32%
Probably no	23%
Definitely no	8%
Not sure	29%

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

Very closely	29%
Somewhat closely	34%
Not too closely	21%
Not at all	16%

31. 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	37%
Republican primary or caucus	41%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all	22%

32. 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	42%
Would like someone else to enter	28%
Not sure	30%

33. 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	18%
Newt Gingrich	29%
Michele Bachmann	7%
Jon Huntsman	2%
Ron Paul	14%
Rick Santorum	6%
Rick Perry	6%
Gary Johnson	0%
Other	8%
No preference	10%

34. 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	21%
Newt Gingrich	22%
Michele Bachmann	11%
Jon Huntsman	6%
Ron Paul	6%
Rick Santorum	8%
Rick Perry	8%
Gary Johnson	0%
Other	4%
No preference	12%

35. 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	77%
Someone else	13%
Not sure	10%

36. 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	43%
Lean Barack Obama	3%
Lean Mitt Romney	2%
Mitt Romney	41%
Other	6%
Not sure	6%

37. 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	2%
Lean Newt Gingrich	1%
Newt Gingrich	38%
Other	6%
Not sure	6%

38. 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	44%
Lean Barack Obama	3%
Lean Ron Paul	3%
Ron Paul	37%
Other	6%
Not sure	8%

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

A great deal	31%
A fair amount	35%
Not much	18%
Nothing at all	16%

40. 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%

41. 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	18%
Neither support, nor oppose	18%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	28%
Not sure	11%

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

A great deal	36%
A fair amount	34%
Not much	16%
Nothing at all	14%

43. 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%

44. 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	17%
Neither support, nor oppose	21%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	21%
Not sure	9%

45. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	30%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	20%

46. Do you think Barack Obama...

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

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

Like a lot	32%
Like somewhat	26%
Dislike	30%
Not sure	12%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	25%	52%	23%
Decisive	20%	50%	30%
Effective	17%	43%	40%
Experienced	16%	41%	42%
Honest	31%	38%	31%
In touch	24%	41%	35%
Inspiring	31%	42%	27%
Intelligent	54%	31%	15%
Partisan	23%	55%	22%
Patriotic	26%	44%	30%
Realistic	28%	39%	33%
Religious	15%	57%	28%
Sincere	32%	36%	32%
Strong	26%	47%	27%
Unifying	14%	47%	39%

49. 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	13%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	49%
Not sure	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	16%
Off on the wrong track	71%
Not sure	13%

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

Getting better	14%
About the same	37%
Getting worse	39%
Not sure	10%

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

Higher	16%
About the same	37%
Lower	23%
Not sure	24%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	9%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	41%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	44%
Not sure	6%

54. 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	38%
Other	3%
Not sure	15%
I would not vote	3%

55. 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	16%
I would not vote	4%

56. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

57. Education

No high school	14%
High school graduate	35%
Some college	21%
2-year college	6%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	8%

58. Age

18-29	20%
30-44	28%
45-64	36%
65+	16%

59. Race

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

60. Region

Northeast	18%
Midwest	25%
South	38%
West	19%

61. Party Identification

Democrat	31%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	27%
Lean Republican	8%
Republican	25%

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 10-13, 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 5.3, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.87.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.1% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	28 questions not reported.