

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted December 31, 2011 - January 3, 2012
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	Some-what approve	Some-what disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The economy	11%	24%	16%	39%	10%
Immigration	9%	22%	20%	33%	16%
The environment	10%	31%	18%	21%	19%
Terrorism	20%	31%	14%	20%	14%
Gay rights	13%	25%	14%	20%	28%
Education	13%	30%	20%	21%	16%
Health care	18%	21%	14%	37%	10%
Social security	14%	20%	21%	30%	15%
The budget deficit	10%	22%	18%	39%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	30%	22%	22%	12%
Taxes	13%	25%	17%	32%	12%
Medicare	14%	23%	20%	28%	15%
Abortion	12%	22%	13%	20%	33%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	78%	19%	2%	1%
Immigration	42%	34%	19%	5%
The environment	41%	38%	14%	7%
Terrorism	47%	35%	12%	6%
Gay rights	21%	25%	26%	28%
Education	51%	36%	9%	4%
Health care	69%	26%	4%	2%
Social security	62%	30%	6%	2%
The budget deficit	60%	28%	8%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	34%	44%	16%	6%
Taxes	63%	29%	7%	1%
Medicare	55%	32%	9%	4%
Abortion	32%	31%	22%	15%

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

The economy	37%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	4%
Education	5%
Health care	13%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	2%

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

Strongly Approve	15%
Somewhat Approve	28%
Somewhat Disapprove	16%
Strongly Disapprove	31%
Not Sure	10%

5. If you had to choose, would you rather have a member of Congress who...

Compromises to get things done.	67%
Sticks to their principles, no matter what.	33%

6. Would you say the following people are liberal or conservative?

	Ex-tremely liberal	Very liberal	Slightly liberal	Moderate	Slightly conservative	Very conservative	Ex-tremely conservative	Not sure
Barack Obama	24%	15%	17%	16%	4%	2%	1%	20%
Hillary Clinton	14%	22%	17%	17%	4%	2%	2%	22%
Joe Biden	16%	18%	15%	15%	4%	3%	2%	28%
Bill Clinton	8%	22%	22%	19%	3%	2%	1%	21%
Mitt Romney	2%	2%	3%	14%	21%	20%	9%	30%
Newt Gingrich	2%	2%	4%	8%	13%	23%	17%	32%
Ron Paul	3%	4%	4%	8%	10%	15%	21%	36%
Rick Santorum	1%	0%	2%	5%	8%	18%	23%	43%
Jon Huntsman	1%	1%	2%	13%	14%	11%	5%	53%
Michele Bachmann	1%	1%	2%	4%	5%	15%	36%	34%
Sarah Palin	3%	2%	2%	4%	6%	20%	38%	25%
John McCain	2%	2%	5%	15%	18%	24%	9%	24%
George W. Bush	3%	1%	3%	9%	18%	29%	16%	21%

7. Looking back at 2011, how would you describe the year for the world?

A very good year	1%
A good year	22%
A bad year	55%
A very bad year	22%

8. Looking back at 2011, how would you describe the year for you and your family?

A very good year	3%
A good year	43%
A bad year	40%
A very bad year	14%

9. What's your feeling about the year ahead? Generally speaking, are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2012 will be for the world?

Very optimistic	7%
Somewhat optimistic	28%
Neither optimistic, nor pessimistic	33%
Somewhat pessimistic	22%
Very pessimistic	9%

10. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2012 will be for you and your family?

Very optimistic	13%
Somewhat optimistic	31%
Neither optimistic, nor pessimistic	32%
Somewhat pessimistic	19%
Very pessimistic	6%

11. Since taking office, do you think Barack Obama has accomplished...

More than I expected	12%
About what I expected	34%
Less than I expected	42%
Not sure	12%

12. As a President, how do you think Barack Obama will go down in history?

Outstanding	6%
Above Average	23%
Average	19%
Below Average	18%
Poor	24%
Not Sure	10%

13. Would you say Barack Obama is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	12%
Somewhat strong	34%
Somewhat weak	26%
Very weak	28%

14. How much progress has Barack Obama made in achieving the following campaign promises?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
Changing the partisan tone in Washington	3%	12%	18%	53%	15%
Improving the U.S. image in the world	17%	19%	16%	37%	10%
Improving the economy	6%	24%	21%	41%	8%

15. Looking ahead to 2012, how much progress do you think Barack Obama will make in achieving these campaign promises?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
Changing the partisan tone in Washington	4%	16%	18%	46%	15%
Improving the U.S. image in the world	14%	20%	16%	36%	14%
Improving the economy	9%	26%	19%	34%	12%

16. Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does in a year?

More than usual	2%
About the same	23%
Less than usual	58%
Not sure	16%

17. Who is more to blame for Congress achieving less than it usually does in a year?

Asked if respondent says Congress accomplished less than usual

Republicans in Congress	42%
Democrats in Congress	10%
Both equally	46%
Neither	1%
Not sure	1%

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

Very closely	26%
Somewhat closely	33%
Not too closely	25%
Not at all	16%

19. 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	38%
Don't plan to vote in a primary or caucus at all	25%

20. 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	41%
Would like someone else to enter	28%
Not sure	31%

21. 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	30%
Newt Gingrich	17%
Michele Bachmann	2%
Jon Huntsman	5%
Ron Paul	13%
Rick Santorum	8%
Rick Perry	8%
Other	8%
No preference	9%

22. 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. List excludes first choice candidate.

Mitt Romney	16%
Newt Gingrich	23%
Michele Bachmann	8%
Jon Huntsman	12%
Ron Paul	6%
Rick Santorum	10%
Rick Perry	7%
Other	4%
No preference	14%

23. 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	12%
Not sure	11%

24. 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	47%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Mitt Romney	1%
Mitt Romney	39%
Other	5%
Not sure	6%

25. 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	50%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich	3%
Newt Gingrich	34%
Other	6%
Not sure	6%

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

Yes	9%
No	75%
Not sure	16%

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

Strongly support	8%
Somewhat support	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	23%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	25%
Not sure	21%

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

Yes	11%
No	73%
Not sure	16%

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

Strongly support	12%
Somewhat support	21%
Neither support, nor oppose	23%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	16%
Not sure	19%

30. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	39%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	49%
Not sure	12%

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

Like a lot	31%
Like somewhat	31%
Dislike	24%
Not sure	13%

32. Do you think Newt Gingrich...

Says what he believes	28%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	41%
Not sure	32%

33. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Newt Gingrich as a person?

Like a lot	6%
Like somewhat	24%
Dislike	40%
Not sure	30%

34. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes	20%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	48%
Not sure	32%

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

Like a lot	9%
Like somewhat	31%
Dislike	25%
Not sure	34%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	27%	54%	19%
Decisive	21%	53%	26%
Effective	19%	48%	33%
Experienced	15%	48%	37%
Honest	31%	42%	27%
In touch	24%	48%	28%
Inspiring	31%	46%	23%
Intelligent	59%	30%	11%
Partisan	20%	61%	19%
Patriotic	32%	45%	23%
Realistic	29%	46%	26%
Religious	14%	59%	26%
Sincere	34%	40%	26%
Strong	26%	48%	26%
Unifying	13%	52%	35%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Not sure	10%

38. Would you say the Republican Party is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	4%
Moderate	12%
Conservative	29%
Very conservative	30%
Not sure	22%

39. Would you say the Democratic Party is...

Very liberal	21%
Liberal	31%
Moderate	22%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	20%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	23%
Off on the wrong track	62%
Not sure	16%

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

Getting better	21%
About the same	45%
Getting worse	27%
Not sure	7%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	37%
Lower	18%
Not sure	24%

43. 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	41%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	40%
Not sure	5%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	36%
The Republican Party candidate	30%
Other	2%
Not sure	20%
I would not vote	12%

45. 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	36%
The Republican Party candidate	27%
Other	2%
Not sure	23%
I would not vote	13%

46. Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%

47. Education

No high school	7%
High school graduate	38%
Some college	23%
2-year college	7%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	9%

48. Age

18-29	25%
30-44	20%
45-64	37%
65+	17%

49. Race

White	73%
Black	11%
Hispanic	9%
Other	8%

50. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	24%
South	34%
West	23%

51. Party Identification

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

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 31, 2011 - January 3, 2012
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 4.5, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.74.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	26 questions not reported.