

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted January 7-10, 2012
Margin of Error $\pm 4\%$

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 war in Iraq	27%	24%	15%	22%	11%
The economy	13%	22%	14%	42%	9%
Immigration	9%	23%	16%	35%	16%
The environment	13%	28%	16%	26%	17%
Terrorism	21%	29%	14%	24%	13%
Gay rights	13%	24%	13%	23%	27%
Education	16%	26%	17%	26%	15%
Health care	18%	21%	12%	41%	9%
Social security	14%	24%	15%	33%	14%
The budget deficit	11%	21%	15%	43%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	15%	27%	19%	27%	11%
Taxes	14%	23%	18%	34%	11%
Medicare	15%	21%	16%	33%	15%
Abortion	14%	19%	13%	26%	28%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	29%	43%	20%	8%
The economy	77%	18%	3%	1%
Immigration	43%	36%	16%	5%
The environment	40%	36%	17%	6%
Terrorism	49%	32%	14%	5%
Gay rights	18%	26%	25%	30%
Education	53%	30%	12%	4%
Health care	69%	22%	6%	3%
Social security	64%	26%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	57%	31%	9%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	34%	41%	18%	6%
Taxes	62%	30%	7%	2%
Medicare	55%	31%	10%	4%
Abortion	32%	32%	21%	15%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	38%
Immigration	4%
The environment	4%
Terrorism	3%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	9%
Social security	14%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	2%

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

Strongly Approve	17%
Somewhat Approve	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	17%
Strongly Disapprove	35%
Not Sure	7%

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

Compromises to get things done.	61%
Sticks to their principles, no matter what.	39%

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

	Very liberal	Liberal	Slightly liberal	Moderate	Slightly conservative	Conservative	Very conservative	Not sure
Barack Obama	29%	17%	13%	18%	2%	3%	1%	19%
Hillary Clinton	18%	27%	11%	15%	3%	2%	1%	22%
Joe Biden	18%	24%	11%	14%	4%	3%	1%	25%
Bill Clinton	12%	28%	16%	17%	2%	3%	1%	21%
Mitt Romney	2%	3%	4%	16%	17%	21%	9%	28%
Newt Gingrich	2%	3%	3%	9%	11%	26%	21%	27%
Ron Paul	2%	3%	4%	11%	10%	20%	18%	32%
Rick Santorum	1%	1%	2%	6%	6%	20%	30%	34%
Jon Huntsman	1%	2%	2%	13%	13%	17%	6%	46%
Michele Bachmann	1%	2%	2%	6%	5%	17%	37%	31%
Sarah Palin	2%	3%	1%	6%	4%	24%	35%	25%
John McCain	3%	3%	5%	13%	15%	27%	12%	23%
George W. Bush	3%	3%	1%	9%	13%	31%	19%	21%

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

Very closely	28%
Somewhat closely	32%
Not too closely	27%
Not at all	13%

8. Do you usually vote in primary elections?

Asked of registered voters

Yes, I usually vote in Democratic primary elections	39%
Yes, I usually vote in Republican primary elections	37%
No, I do not usually vote in primary elections	25%

9. 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 usually vote in Republican primary elections

Satisfied with current field	45%
Would like someone else to enter	26%
Not sure	29%

10. If you had to choose between these two candidates for the Republican presidential nominee, who would you choose?

Rick Santorum	42%
Mitt Romney	58%

11. If you had to choose between these two candidates for the Republican presidential nominee, who would you choose?

Mitt Romney	66%
Newt Gingrich	34%

12. If you had to choose between these two candidates for the Republican presidential nominee, who would you choose?

Newt Gingrich	49%
Rick Perry	51%

13. 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 usually vote in Republican primary elections

Mitt Romney	26%
Newt Gingrich	15%
Jon Huntsman	6%
Ron Paul	15%
Rick Santorum	19%
Rick Perry	6%
Other	6%
No preference	7%

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

Asked of registered voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. List excludes first choice candidate.

Mitt Romney	22%
Newt Gingrich	24%
Jon Huntsman	6%
Ron Paul	7%
Rick Santorum	18%
Rick Perry	12%
Other	6%
No preference	4%

15. 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 usually vote in Democratic primary elections

Barack Obama	68%
Someone else	20%
Not sure	13%

16. 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	1%
Lean Mitt Romney	2%
Mitt Romney	41%
Other	7%
Not sure	4%

17. 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	42%
Lean Barack Obama	2%
Lean Ron Paul	3%
Ron Paul	38%
Other	9%
Not sure	6%

18. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Rick Santorum, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or Rick Santorum?

Asked of registered voters

Barack Obama	47%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Rick Santorum	1%
Rick Santorum	40%
Other	6%
Not sure	5%

19. Regardless of who you prefer, who do you think would win the Presidential election in November 2012 if the candidates were Barack Obama and Mitt Romney?

Obama would definitely win	15%
Obama would probably win	26%
Equally likely for each to win	18%
Romney would probably win	15%
Romney would definitely win	9%
Not sure	17%

20. Regardless of who you prefer, who do you think would win the Presidential election in November 2012 if the candidates were Barack Obama and Rick Santorum?

Obama would definitely win	27%
Obama would probably win	26%
Equally likely for each to win	11%
Santorum would probably win	10%
Santorum would definitely win	7%
Not sure	19%

21. Regardless of who you prefer, who do you think would win the Presidential election in November 2012 if the candidates were Barack Obama and Ron Paul?

Obama would definitely win	29%
Obama would probably win	27%
Equally likely for each to win	12%
Paul would probably win	9%
Paul would definitely win	5%
Not sure	18%

22. Which of the following presidential candidates have served in the U.S. House of Representatives? (Choose all that apply)

Rick Perry	12%
Newt Gingrich	67%
Mitt Romney	19%
Rick Santorum	31%
Ron Paul	41%
Barack Obama	22%

23. Which of the following presidential candidates have in the past supported a requirement that all residents purchase healthcare insurance (sometimes called an "individual mandate")? (Choose all that apply)

Rick Perry	7%
Newt Gingrich	21%
Mitt Romney	45%
Rick Santorum	5%
Ron Paul	6%
Barack Obama	66%

24. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	38%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	48%
Not sure	14%

25. Do you think Rick Santorum...

Says what he believes	40%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	24%
Not sure	36%

26. Do you think abortion should be...

Legal in all cases	28%
Legal/Illegal in some cases	50%
Illegal in all cases	14%
Not sure	8%

27. Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

Favor	40%
Oppose	44%
Not sure	16%

28. Do you think the health care reform bill should be expanded, kept the same, or repealed?

Expanded	26%
Kept the same	11%
Repealed	41%
Not sure	22%

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

Yes	12%
No	74%
Not sure	14%

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

Strongly support	11%
Somewhat support	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	17%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	26%
Not sure	20%

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

Yes 16%
 No 68%
 Not sure 17%

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

Strongly support 15%
 Somewhat support 19%
 Neither support, nor oppose 20%
 Somewhat oppose 9%
 Strongly oppose 17%
 Not sure 19%

33. How well do you think each the following describes Barack Obama?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all
Takes positions on issues and sticks by them	15%	37%	27%	22%
Is personally wealthy	43%	41%	11%	6%
Cares about people like me	21%	30%	19%	30%
Cares about the poor	25%	36%	15%	23%
Cares about the middle class	25%	30%	21%	24%
Cares about the wealthy	21%	37%	23%	18%

34. How well do you think each the following describes Mitt Romney?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all
Takes positions on issues and sticks by them	7%	33%	32%	28%
Is personally wealthy	64%	26%	5%	5%
Cares about people like me	8%	34%	28%	30%
Cares about the poor	6%	32%	33%	29%
Cares about the middle class	9%	40%	29%	22%
Cares about the wealthy	48%	36%	9%	6%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	28%	54%	18%
Decisive	21%	52%	27%
Effective	19%	44%	37%
Experienced	16%	44%	39%
Honest	30%	39%	31%
In touch	23%	47%	30%
Inspiring	32%	44%	23%
Intelligent	57%	30%	13%
Partisan	25%	57%	18%
Patriotic	27%	46%	27%
Realistic	27%	45%	28%
Religious	16%	59%	25%
Sincere	32%	38%	30%
Strong	26%	51%	23%
Unifying	15%	50%	36%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	12%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Not sure	10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	23%
Off on the wrong track	63%
Not sure	14%

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

Getting better	24%
About the same	36%
Getting worse	33%
Not sure	7%

39. How would you rate the condition of the national economy SINCE 2008?

Very good	3%
Fairly good	18%
Fairly bad	44%
Very bad	35%

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

Higher	22%
About the same	39%
Lower	18%
Not sure	22%

41. Overall, do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease the amount it spends?

Increase	6%
Keep the same	16%
Decrease	68%
Not sure	10%

42. Do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease taxes?

Increase	20%
Keep the same	30%
Decrease	40%
Not sure	11%

43. Do you favor increasing taxes on families making over \$250,000 per year?

Favor	63%
Oppose	22%
Not sure	15%

44. 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	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	37%
Not sure	5%

45. How worried are you about losing your job?

Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed

Very worried	10%
Somewhat worried	34%
Not very worried	56%

46. If you lost your job, how hard would it be for you to find a new job that paid as much as you are making now?

Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed

Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut.	39%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	39%
Not very hard	17%
Not sure	6%

47. Six months from now do you think there will be...

More jobs	22%
The same amount of jobs	40%
Fewer jobs	25%
Not sure	13%

48. How happy would you say you are with your current job?

Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed

Very happy	20%
Happy	39%
Neither happy nor unhappy	29%
Unhappy	9%
Very unhappy	3%

49. How would you guess your total family income to be six months from now?

Asked if respondent is full-time, part-time, or self-employed

Higher	17%
Same	67%
Lower	16%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	35%
The Republican Party candidate	31%
Other	4%
Not sure	17%
I would not vote	13%

51. 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	34%
The Republican Party candidate	32%
Other	3%
Not sure	19%
I would not vote	13%

52. Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or fundamentalist Christian, or not?

Asked of half of respondents

Yes	26%
No	74%

53. Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

Asked of half of respondents

Yes, describe myself that way	29%
No, do not describe myself that way	71%

54. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

55. Education

No high school	7%
High school graduate	38%
Some college	24%
2-year college	7%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	8%

56. Age

18-29	24%
30-44	23%
45-64	39%
65+	15%

57. Race

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

58. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	23%
South	36%
West	22%

59. Party Identification

Democrat	32%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	26%
Lean Republican	9%
Republican	23%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	January 7-10, 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 0.5 to 5.9, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.79.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	9 questions not reported.