

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
Conducted January 28-31, 2012  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.5\%$

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

Very closely .....	32%
Somewhat closely .....	36%
Not too closely .....	18%
Not at all .....	13%

## 2. Would you say things in this country today are...

Generally headed in the right direction .....	26%
Off on the wrong track .....	58%
Not sure .....	16%

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

Strongly Approve .....	16%
Somewhat Approve .....	28%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	16%
Strongly Disapprove .....	32%
Not Sure .....	8%

4. 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	26%	28%	14%	18%	15%
The economy	14%	22%	16%	37%	12%
Immigration	9%	21%	20%	31%	18%
The environment	12%	30%	15%	23%	20%
Terrorism	22%	29%	12%	20%	16%
Gay rights	14%	25%	9%	22%	30%
Education	15%	25%	18%	22%	20%
Health care	18%	21%	13%	37%	11%
Social security	13%	22%	17%	31%	18%
The budget deficit	11%	21%	16%	38%	14%
The war in Afghanistan	13%	31%	18%	22%	16%
Taxes	15%	21%	15%	34%	15%
Medicare	13%	23%	17%	30%	17%
Abortion	13%	20%	10%	23%	33%

5. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	29%	41%	22%	8%
The economy	80%	16%	3%	1%
Immigration	41%	38%	15%	6%
The environment	39%	40%	14%	7%
Terrorism	47%	34%	13%	6%
Gay rights	20%	25%	24%	31%
Education	55%	30%	10%	4%
Health care	69%	23%	5%	2%
Social security	60%	28%	8%	3%
The budget deficit	57%	29%	9%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	32%	42%	19%	7%
Taxes	63%	29%	5%	2%
Medicare	53%	31%	12%	4%
Abortion	32%	30%	23%	15%

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

The war in Iraq	0%
The economy	40%
Immigration	3%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	6%
Health care	12%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	5%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	3%

**7. Do you usually vote in primary elections?**

*Asked of registered voters. Respondents may only choose from list of primaries that they are eligible to participate in.*

Yes, I usually vote in Democratic primary elections .....	27%
Yes, I usually vote in Republican primary elections .....	51%
No, I do not usually vote in primary elections .....	22%

**8. 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 .....	44%
Would like someone else to enter .....	30%
Not sure .....	26%

**9. If you had to choose one, which of these individuals would you want to be the Republican nominee for president in 2012?**

*Asked of eligible registered voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections*

Mitt Romney .....	29%
Newt Gingrich .....	23%
Ron Paul .....	14%
Rick Santorum .....	20%
Other .....	5%
No preference .....	8%

**10. Regardless of who you prefer, who do you think will win the Republican nomination for president in 2012?**

Mitt Romney .....	48%
Newt Gingrich .....	12%
Ron Paul .....	4%
Rick Santorum .....	4%
Not sure .....	32%

11. 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 .....	48%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Mitt Romney .....	1%
Mitt Romney .....	39%
Other .....	5%
Not sure .....	5%

12. 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 .....	51%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich .....	1%
Newt Gingrich .....	36%
Other .....	5%
Not sure .....	7%

13. 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 .....	49%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Rick Santorum .....	2%
Rick Santorum .....	38%
Other .....	4%
Not sure .....	6%

14. 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 .....	47%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Ron Paul .....	2%
Ron Paul .....	38%
Other .....	5%
Not sure .....	7%

15. In choosing candidates for president, how important are the following things?

	Most important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Do not care
The candidate's religion	5%	12%	22%	22%	39%
The candidate's race	3%	7%	7%	22%	62%
The candidate's experience	24%	45%	21%	3%	7%
The candidate's intelligence	39%	44%	10%	1%	6%
The candidate's marital fidelity	7%	21%	27%	19%	25%
The candidate's position on abortion	13%	28%	26%	17%	16%
The candidate's position on health care	32%	44%	15%	2%	6%
The candidate's position on economic issues	48%	38%	8%	1%	6%

**16. Did you listen to President Obama’s State of the Union address last Tuesday?**

Yes, listened to all of it ..... 26%  
 Yes, listened to part of it ..... 25%  
 No, did not listen to it ..... 49%

**17. Would you describe President’s Obama address as combative, conciliatory, or in between?**

*Asked of respondents who listened to all or part of the State of the Union address*

Combative ..... 25%  
 In between ..... 56%  
 Conciliatory ..... 9%  
 Don’t know ..... 10%

**18. Do you agree or disagree with the so-called "Buffett Rule," which states that American making over one million dollars a year should not pay a lower tax rate than middle-income Americans?**

Agree ..... 61%  
 Disagree ..... 23%  
 Don’t know ..... 16%

**19. How much is each of the following people or groups to blame for the poor economic conditions of the past few years?**

	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	Not at all
President Obama	22%	13%	22%	20%	22%
President Bush	34%	20%	26%	13%	8%
Democrats in the U.S. Congress	25%	20%	30%	17%	7%
Republicans in the U.S. Congress	30%	21%	31%	13%	5%
Wall Street bankers	43%	24%	21%	8%	4%
Consumers who borrowed too much money	25%	27%	28%	14%	6%

20. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

There is a growing divide in the United States between elites and ordinary people.

Strongly agree	47%
Somewhat agree	27%
Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	3%
Not sure	13%

21. Do you think the divide between elites and ordinary people on each of these types of issues is...

	Big	Small	There is no divide	Not sure
Morality issues like abortion and gay marriage	29%	28%	20%	23%
Economic issues like taxing and spending	72%	10%	5%	13%
Social welfare issues like health care and social security	65%	15%	6%	14%
Foreign policy issues like the war on terror	28%	31%	21%	21%
Immigration issues	34%	31%	14%	22%

22. What concerns you more these days?

That the income gap between more successful Americans and average Americans is growing	25%
That more successful Americans and average Americans are no longer treating each other as equals in their day-to-day lives	13%
Both equally	37%
Neither	24%



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

Yes .....	12%
No .....	73%
Not sure .....	15%

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

Strongly support .....	11%
Somewhat support .....	16%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	21%
Somewhat oppose .....	9%
Strongly oppose .....	24%
Not sure .....	19%

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

Yes .....	13%
No .....	72%
Not sure .....	15%

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

Strongly support .....	13%
Somewhat support .....	18%
Neither support, nor oppose .....	19%
Somewhat oppose .....	10%
Strongly oppose .....	18%
Not sure .....	21%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	27%	53%	19%
Decisive	21%	53%	26%
Effective	20%	45%	36%
Experienced	17%	47%	36%
Honest	33%	37%	30%
In touch	24%	45%	31%
Inspiring	33%	42%	25%
Intelligent	56%	30%	14%
Partisan	25%	55%	21%
Patriotic	31%	43%	25%
Realistic	28%	43%	28%
Religious	14%	59%	27%
Sincere	36%	36%	29%
Strong	28%	50%	22%
Unifying	15%	49%	36%

28. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	28%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	6%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	19%

29. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	1%
Liberal	6%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	29%
Very conservative	12%
Not sure	27%

**30. Would you say Newt Gingrich is...**

Very liberal .....	3%
Liberal .....	5%
Moderate .....	10%
Conservative .....	30%
Very conservative .....	26%
Not sure .....	27%

**31. Would you say Rick Santorum is...**

Very liberal .....	1%
Liberal .....	2%
Moderate .....	7%
Conservative .....	24%
Very conservative .....	35%
Not sure .....	31%

**32. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following groups?**

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Neutral	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable
The media	4%	15%	34%	23%	25%
Wall Street Bankers	3%	6%	34%	26%	31%
Muslims	6%	11%	51%	19%	13%
Mormons	8%	14%	56%	15%	7%
Blacks	16%	20%	54%	7%	2%
Hispanics	15%	20%	55%	7%	3%
Whites	22%	24%	51%	2%	1%
Evangelical Christians	13%	16%	44%	16%	11%
Universities	18%	30%	37%	12%	4%
Community Colleges	26%	32%	36%	5%	1%

**33. How much of the time do you think you can trust the media to report the news fairly?**

Just about always	3%
Most of the time	26%
Only some of the time	44%
Almost never	27%

**34. 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	29%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	10%

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

Getting better	22%
About the same	38%
Getting worse	31%
Not sure	8%

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

Higher	20%
About the same	39%
Lower	19%
Not sure	22%

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

Favor	58%
Oppose	24%
Not sure	18%

**38. Would you say that you and your family are...**

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	13%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	47%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	34%
Not sure .....	5%

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

The Democratic Party candidate .....	38%
The Republican Party candidate .....	32%
Other .....	3%
Not sure .....	15%
I would not vote .....	12%

**40. 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 .....	37%
The Republican Party candidate .....	31%
Other .....	2%
Not sure .....	19%
I would not vote .....	12%

**41. Gender**

Male .....	48%
Female .....	52%

**42. Education**

No high school .....	8%
High school graduate .....	33%
Some college .....	24%
2-year college .....	9%
4-year college .....	17%
Post-graduate .....	9%

**43. Age**

18-29 .....	23%
30-44 .....	27%
45-64 .....	35%
65+ .....	15%

**44. Race**

White .....	72%
Black .....	11%
Hispanic .....	9%
Other .....	9%

**45. Region**

Northeast .....	20%
Midwest .....	23%
South .....	34%
West .....	22%

46. Party Identification

Democrat .....	33%
Lean Democrat .....	11%
Independent .....	23%
Lean Republican .....	8%
Republican .....	26%

<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	January 28-31, 2012
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	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.
<b>Weighting</b>	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 0.6 to 2.7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.51.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.5% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	27 questions not reported.