

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
 Conducted February 4-7, 2012  
 Margin of Error ±4%

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

Very closely ..... 28%  
 Somewhat closely ..... 34%  
 Not too closely ..... 23%  
 Not at all ..... 15%

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

Generally headed in the right direction ..... 26%  
 Off on the wrong track ..... 54%  
 Not sure ..... 19%

## 3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	24%	39%	25%	11%
The economy	78%	19%	2%	1%
Immigration	39%	35%	18%	9%
The environment	37%	42%	14%	7%
Terrorism	42%	37%	16%	5%
Gay rights	21%	25%	24%	30%
Education	53%	36%	8%	3%
Health care	67%	26%	5%	2%
Social security	59%	31%	8%	2%
The budget deficit	57%	31%	8%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	29%	42%	21%	8%
Taxes	60%	30%	7%	2%
Medicare	51%	36%	9%	3%
Abortion	29%	30%	22%	19%

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

The war in Iraq .....	0%
The economy .....	38%
Immigration .....	3%
The environment .....	4%
Terrorism .....	4%
Gay rights .....	2%
Education .....	8%
Health care .....	12%
Social security .....	9%
The budget deficit .....	9%
The war in Afghanistan .....	1%
Taxes .....	4%
Medicare .....	3%
Abortion .....	3%

5. How big of a problem is poverty in our society today?

A big problem .....	52%
Somewhat of a problem .....	38%
A small problem .....	9%
Not a problem at all .....	2%

6. Do you think the federal government is doing too much, not enough, or the right amount to combat poverty in our society today?

Too much .....	16%
The right amount .....	13%
Not enough .....	55%
Not sure .....	16%

**7. Do you think abortion should be...**

Legal in all cases .....	23%
Legal in most cases .....	26%
Illegal in most cases .....	28%
Illegal in all cases .....	11%
Not sure .....	12%

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

Strongly favor .....	29%
Somewhat favor .....	16%
Somewhat oppose .....	12%
Strongly oppose .....	32%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Favor .....	64%
Oppose .....	22%
Not sure .....	15%

**10. How serious a problem do you think global warming is?**

Very serious .....	30%
Somewhat serious .....	33%
Not very serious .....	27%
Not sure .....	10%

**11. Do you favor or oppose providing a legal way for illegal immigrants already in the United States to become U.S. citizens?**

Favor .....	36%
Oppose .....	39%
Unsure .....	25%

12. If you had to choose, which of the following measures would you prefer in order to balance the federal budget deficit?

Increase taxes .....	10%
Decrease government spending .....	50%
Both .....	33%
Neither .....	8%

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

Strongly Approve .....	17%
Somewhat Approve .....	25%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	15%
Strongly Disapprove .....	33%
Not Sure .....	10%

14. 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	24%	29%	16%	18%	14%
The economy	15%	22%	17%	36%	10%
Immigration	9%	21%	21%	30%	19%
The environment	11%	30%	18%	22%	20%
Terrorism	22%	29%	15%	19%	15%
Gay rights	12%	26%	12%	23%	27%
Education	14%	29%	18%	22%	17%
Health care	18%	23%	12%	36%	11%
Social security	12%	24%	17%	29%	18%
The budget deficit	12%	22%	16%	38%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	16%	32%	18%	19%	14%
Taxes	14%	22%	20%	31%	13%
Medicare	13%	23%	18%	27%	19%
Abortion	11%	20%	14%	23%	31%

15. 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	14%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	11%

16. Should Barack Obama be willing to compromise with the Republicans in order to get something accomplished, or should he stick to his position, without compromising, even if it means nothing is accomplished?

Stick to position	26%
Find a compromise	74%

17. Should Republicans be willing to compromise with Barack Obama in order to get something accomplished, or should they stick to their position, without compromising, even if it means nothing is accomplished?

Stick to position	20%
Find a compromise	80%

18. 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	28%
Yes, I usually vote in Republican primary elections	48%
No, I do not usually vote in primary elections	23%

19. 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	31%
Not sure	24%

20. 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 .....	32%
Newt Gingrich .....	23%
Ron Paul .....	16%
Rick Santorum .....	16%
Other .....	7%
No preference .....	6%

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

Mitt Romney .....	60%
Newt Gingrich .....	4%
Ron Paul .....	4%
Rick Santorum .....	2%
Not sure .....	30%

22. How enthusiastic would you say you are about voting for president in the upcoming *general* presidential election in November?

Extremely enthusiastic .....	20%
Very enthusiastic .....	17%
Somewhat enthusiastic .....	24%
Not too enthusiastic .....	17%
Not at all enthusiastic .....	22%

23. 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 .....	49%
Lean Barack Obama .....	2%
Lean Mitt Romney .....	1%
Mitt Romney .....	38%
Other .....	5%
Not sure .....	5%

24. 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 .....	53%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Newt Gingrich .....	2%
Newt Gingrich .....	34%
Other .....	5%
Not sure .....	5%

25. 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 .....	51%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Rick Santorum .....	2%
Rick Santorum .....	35%
Other .....	5%
Not sure .....	6%

26. 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 .....	49%
Lean Barack Obama .....	2%
Lean Ron Paul .....	2%
Ron Paul .....	37%
Other .....	4%
Not sure .....	6%

27. 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	6%	11%	19%	24%	40%
The candidate's race	4%	4%	7%	25%	61%
The candidate's experience	26%	39%	21%	5%	10%
The candidate's intelligence	41%	41%	7%	1%	10%
The candidate's marital fidelity	10%	19%	23%	19%	28%
The candidate's position on abortion	13%	25%	29%	16%	17%
The candidate's position on health care	31%	45%	12%	3%	10%
The candidate's position on economic issues	46%	36%	7%	1%	9%



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

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Neutral	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Planned Parenthood	25%	19%	19%	7%	16%	12%
Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation	21%	17%	22%	11%	11%	17%
American Cancer Society	35%	29%	17%	5%	3%	11%
NARAL Pro-Choice America	12%	13%	26%	7%	16%	27%
Chamber of Commerce	11%	20%	32%	10%	8%	20%
National Rifle Association (NRA)	20%	16%	23%	13%	14%	14%
AFL-CIO	9%	12%	24%	9%	17%	29%
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)	13%	14%	20%	10%	21%	21%

29. 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	46%
Somewhat agree	31%
Somewhat disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	4%
Not sure	11%

30. 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	31%	28%	17%	23%
Economic issues like taxing and spending	72%	10%	5%	12%
Social welfare issues like health care and social security	65%	15%	6%	13%
Foreign policy issues like the war on terror	25%	31%	22%	22%
Immigration issues	40%	26%	12%	22%

31. We'd like to get your feelings about some people in the news. Please tell me how favorable or unfavorable you are to each of the following.

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Neutral	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Barack Obama	23%	17%	11%	10%	30%	8%
George W. Bush	13%	15%	17%	14%	32%	9%
Mitt Romney	10%	18%	22%	16%	20%	15%
Ron Paul	10%	19%	26%	16%	15%	14%
Newt Gingrich	8%	14%	18%	13%	33%	14%
Rick Santorum	10%	14%	25%	10%	24%	17%
John McCain	7%	16%	25%	22%	18%	13%
Sarah Palin	8%	14%	19%	10%	40%	11%

32. Who do you think is most to blame for the current state of the national economy – the Bush Administration, the Obama Administration, Congress, or someone else?

The Bush Administration .....	39%
The Obama Administration .....	28%
Congress .....	21%
Someone else .....	12%

33. Although there are a number of qualities that people feel that children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. Listed below are pairs of desirable qualities. For each pair please mark which one you think is more important for a child to have.

Independence or respect for elders?

Independence .....	24%
Respect For Elders .....	76%

34. Obedience or self-reliance?

Obedience .....	42%
Self-Reliance .....	58%

35. Curiosity or good manners?

Curiosity .....	36%
Good Manners .....	64%

36. Being considerate or well behaved?

Being Considerate .....	63%
Well Behaved .....	37%

37. Disciplined or creative?

Disciplined .....	53%
Creative .....	47%

38. In thinking about your political views, how well do the following terms describe your views?

	Very well	Moderately well	Slightly well	Not at all well	Don't know
Libertarian	7%	15%	18%	32%	27%
Progressive	13%	21%	14%	27%	25%
Populist	4%	12%	14%	33%	37%
Liberal	13%	19%	15%	34%	19%
Conservative	21%	18%	17%	26%	18%

39. In which category would you place each of the following groups?

	Christian	Non-Christian	Some are Christian and some are not	Don't know
Mormons	35%	24%	14%	27%
Catholics	59%	8%	15%	18%
Seventh-Day Adventists	37%	12%	17%	34%
Baptists	67%	2%	12%	19%
Episcopalians	54%	5%	14%	27%
Evangelicals	57%	5%	15%	24%

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

Yes .....	11%
No .....	73%
Not sure .....	16%

41. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal .....	26%
Liberal .....	22%
Moderate .....	26%
Conservative .....	5%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	19%

42. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal .....	2%
Liberal .....	6%
Moderate .....	29%
Conservative .....	25%
Very conservative .....	10%
Not sure .....	27%

43. Would you say Newt Gingrich is...

Very liberal .....	2%
Liberal .....	5%
Moderate .....	11%
Conservative .....	28%
Very conservative .....	27%
Not sure .....	27%

44. Would you say Rick Santorum is...

Very liberal .....	1%
Liberal .....	3%
Moderate .....	8%
Conservative .....	23%
Very conservative .....	33%
Not sure .....	32%

**45. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	38%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	47%
Not sure .....	15%

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

Like a lot .....	33%
Like somewhat .....	29%
Dislike .....	23%
Not sure .....	15%

**47. Do you think Mitt Romney...**

Says what he believes .....	19%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	57%
Not sure .....	25%

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

Like a lot .....	10%
Like somewhat .....	30%
Dislike .....	30%
Not sure .....	31%

**49. Do you think Newt Gingrich...**

Says what he believes .....	29%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	47%
Not sure .....	24%

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

Like a lot .....	7%
Like somewhat .....	24%
Dislike .....	42%
Not sure .....	27%

**51. Do you think Rick Santorum...**

*Asked of half of respondents*

Says what he believes .....	38%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	29%
Not sure .....	33%

**52. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Rick Santorum as a person?**

*Asked of half of respondents*

Like a lot .....	10%
Like somewhat .....	25%
Dislike .....	21%
Not sure .....	43%

**53. Do you think Ron Paul...**

*Asked of half of respondents*

Says what he believes .....	57%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	18%
Not sure .....	25%

**54. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Ron Paul as a person?**

*Asked of half of respondents*

Like a lot .....	14%
Like somewhat .....	35%
Dislike .....	19%
Not sure .....	32%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	32%	38%	29%
Bold	29%	57%	15%
Effective	18%	49%	33%
Exciting	16%	64%	20%
Experienced	17%	51%	31%
Honest	30%	41%	29%
Hypocritical	28%	47%	24%
Inspiring	33%	46%	21%
Intelligent	57%	32%	11%
Partisan	23%	61%	16%
Patriotic	30%	46%	24%
Religious	16%	59%	25%
Sincere	32%	41%	28%
Steady	26%	61%	13%
Strong	29%	52%	19%

56. Which of these words would you use to describe Mitt Romney?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	28%	54%	17%
Bold	16%	72%	12%
Effective	17%	70%	13%
Exciting	4%	67%	29%
Experienced	29%	61%	10%
Honest	14%	60%	26%
Hypocritical	26%	59%	15%
Inspiring	8%	68%	24%
Intelligent	42%	52%	6%
Partisan	18%	72%	10%
Patriotic	26%	68%	6%
Religious	38%	56%	5%
Sincere	15%	58%	27%
Steady	17%	71%	12%
Strong	17%	73%	10%



57. Which of these words would you use to describe Newt Gingrich?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	44%	48%	9%
Bold	26%	66%	7%
Effective	12%	68%	20%
Exciting	8%	68%	24%
Experienced	35%	58%	7%
Honest	9%	55%	37%
Hypocritical	36%	55%	9%
Inspiring	7%	66%	27%
Intelligent	35%	54%	11%
Partisan	27%	67%	6%
Patriotic	24%	68%	9%
Religious	8%	72%	20%
Sincere	10%	57%	33%
Steady	9%	73%	18%
Strong	17%	73%	10%

58. Which of these words would you use to describe Rick Santorum?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	16%	63%	21%
Bold	12%	78%	10%
Effective	10%	74%	16%
Exciting	5%	71%	23%
Experienced	17%	68%	14%
Honest	24%	65%	11%
Hypocritical	13%	67%	20%
Inspiring	11%	69%	20%
Intelligent	29%	60%	11%
Partisan	20%	75%	5%
Patriotic	25%	71%	3%
Religious	35%	63%	2%
Sincere	27%	62%	11%
Steady	21%	72%	6%
Strong	14%	75%	11%

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

Getting better	25%
About the same	37%
Getting worse	29%
Not sure	9%

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

Higher	26%
About the same	37%
Lower	16%
Not sure	21%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	15%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	33%
Not sure	6%

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

The Democratic Party candidate	39%
The Republican Party candidate	30%
Other	3%
Not sure	14%
I would not vote	14%

**63. 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 .....	30%
Other .....	2%
Not sure .....	18%
I would not vote .....	13%

**64. Gender**

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

**65. Education**

No high school .....	6%
High school graduate .....	36%
Some college .....	26%
2-year college .....	6%
4-year college .....	17%
Post-graduate .....	9%

**66. Age**

18-29 .....	23%
30-44 .....	25%
45-64 .....	36%
65+ .....	15%

**67. Race**

White .....	73%
Black .....	10%
Hispanic .....	7%
Other .....	10%

**68. Region**

Northeast .....	20%
Midwest .....	23%
South .....	36%
West .....	21%

**69. Party Identification**

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

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	February 4-7, 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 6.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.79.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	23 questions not reported.