

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents  
 Conducted March 24-27, 2012  
 Margin of Error ±3.7%

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

Very closely ..... 31%  
 Somewhat closely ..... 33%  
 Not too closely ..... 21%  
 Not at all ..... 15%

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

Generally headed in the right direction ..... 25%  
 Off on the wrong track ..... 58%  
 Not sure ..... 17%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	27%	38%	24%	11%
The economy	81%	15%	2%	2%
Immigration	43%	33%	18%	6%
The environment	37%	33%	20%	10%
Terrorism	45%	33%	16%	6%
Gay rights	18%	22%	25%	34%
Education	50%	36%	9%	4%
Health care	67%	23%	7%	3%
Social security	58%	32%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	57%	29%	10%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	33%	40%	20%	7%
Taxes	59%	31%	7%	3%
Medicare	54%	31%	12%	3%
Abortion	30%	28%	22%	19%

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

The war in Iraq .....	0%
The economy .....	38%
Immigration .....	4%
The environment .....	3%
Terrorism .....	3%
Gay rights .....	2%
Education .....	7%
Health care .....	11%
Social security .....	11%
The budget deficit .....	7%
The war in Afghanistan .....	1%
Taxes .....	4%
Medicare .....	3%
Abortion .....	3%

**5. Do you currently have health insurance?**

Yes .....	75%
No .....	24%
Not sure .....	2%

**6. What kind of health care coverage do you currently have?**

I have private insurance or belong to an HMO. ....	58%
I'm covered by a government plan, such as Medicare or Medicaid. ....	35%
Other .....	6%
Not sure .....	2%

**7. How satisfied are you with your health insurance coverage?**

Very satisfied .....	30%
Somewhat satisfied .....	36%
Somewhat dissatisfied .....	10%
Very dissatisfied .....	10%
Not sure .....	14%

**8. Do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to see to it that everyone has health care coverage?**

Yes .....	35%
No .....	49%
Not sure .....	16%

**9. In 2010, Congress passed a health care reform bill. Do you think that health care reform will increase or decrease the amount that you spend on health care?**

Increase a lot .....	35%
Increase a little .....	16%
No effect .....	19%
Decrease a little .....	8%
Decrease a lot .....	2%
Not sure .....	21%

**10. Do you think that you will receive better or worse care under the new health care system?**

A lot better .....	4%
A little better .....	8%
About the same .....	31%
A little worse .....	11%
A lot worse .....	27%
Not sure .....	18%

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

Expanded .....	22%
Kept the same .....	13%
Repealed .....	40%
Not sure .....	25%

12. Have you personally been affected by any changes to the health care system resulting from the health care reform law that was passed last year by Congress?

Yes .....	26%
No .....	47%
Not sure .....	26%

13. Have the changes that you experienced as a result of the health care legislation been positive or negative?

*Asked of individuals who indicated that they have been personally affected by the health care law*

Positive .....	22%
Neither positive, nor negative .....	13%
Negative .....	65%

14. Next, we'd like to ask you about some specific parts of the current health care law. Please tell us whether you favor or oppose the following provisions.

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Require all U.S. citizens and legal residents to have health insurance, or pay a tax penalty?	20%	57%	23%
Require employers to offer their employees health insurance, or pay a tax penalty?	41%	36%	23%
Require health plans to provide coverage for children up to age 26?	52%	27%	22%
Prevent insurers from charging more to cover people who are in poor health?	59%	21%	20%
Prevent insurers from imposing lifetime limits on benefits?	55%	17%	29%
Require all insurance policies to provide a minimum package of benefits?	60%	16%	24%
Provide a subsidy to help people with incomes of between \$29,000 and \$88,000 per year (for a family of 4) afford insurance?	48%	25%	27%
Guarantee access to insurance coverage for people with pre-existing conditions?	72%	9%	19%
Increase the Medicare payroll tax on earnings for upper-income Americans	51%	24%	25%

**15. Which party do you trust more to make the right decisions about health care?**

Democrats .....	33%
Republicans .....	24%
About the same .....	9%
Neither .....	25%
Not sure .....	9%

**16. How much have you heard about the shooting death of teenager Trayvon Martin in Florida?**

A lot .....	53%
A little .....	35%
Nothing at all .....	12%

**17. Do you think George Zimmerman, the man who shot Trayvon Martin and claims he acted in self-defense, should be arrested and tried for murder?**

*Asked of respondents who indicated that they had heard about the Trayvon Martin shooting*

Definitely yes .....	39%
Probably yes .....	22%
Probably no .....	7%
Definitely no .....	4%
Don't know enough about the case .....	27%

**18. There is a law in Florida – the Stand Your Ground law – that allows individuals to use deadly force if they believe they or others are threatened. They can do this both inside and outside their homes. There is no need for the individual to attempt to get away from the threat first. Some people say that this law is necessary to ensure that people can protect themselves without threat of prosecution. Other people say that the law encourages violence and can cause innocent people to get hurt. What do you think about this law?**

I support the law .....	31%
I support the idea behind the law but only if individuals are being attacked in their homes .....	37%
I do not support the law .....	17%
Not sure .....	14%

19. Overall, do you feel more threatened or less threatened by crime today than you did five years ago?

More .....	41%
Same .....	42%
Less .....	7%
No opinion .....	10%

20. How much have you heard about the murder of seventeen civilians in Afghanistan, allegedly committed by U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Robert Bales?

A lot .....	45%
A little .....	41%
Nothing at all .....	14%

21. If Sergeant Bales is found guilty of committing the murders, what do you think the appropriate punishment for him should be?

*Asked of respondents who indicated that they have heard about the shooting of civilians in Afghanistan*

The death penalty .....	27%
Life imprisonment without the possibility of parole .....	29%
Long-term imprisonment with the eventual possibility of parole .....	22%
Not sure .....	21%

22. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Barack Obama	27%	17%	9%	38%	9%
Mitt Romney	11%	25%	22%	25%	17%
Newt Gingrich	8%	19%	17%	39%	17%
Ron Paul	9%	24%	24%	21%	23%
Rick Santorum	13%	22%	17%	29%	18%

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

Strongly Approve .....	16%
Somewhat Approve .....	26%
Somewhat Disapprove .....	12%
Strongly Disapprove .....	37%
Not Sure .....	9%

**24. 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	18%	28%	15%	24%	16%
The economy	14%	21%	12%	40%	13%
Immigration	9%	19%	16%	35%	21%
The environment	10%	27%	16%	26%	21%
Terrorism	21%	26%	12%	26%	16%
Gay rights	10%	21%	14%	27%	29%
Education	13%	25%	14%	25%	21%
Health care	16%	21%	11%	39%	12%
Social security	11%	23%	16%	31%	19%
The budget deficit	9%	22%	13%	42%	15%
The war in Afghanistan	12%	27%	16%	30%	15%
Taxes	12%	23%	15%	33%	16%
Medicare	13%	21%	14%	33%	20%
Abortion	11%	18%	10%	29%	31%



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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	5%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	12%

26. Are you registered to vote as...

*Asked of registered voters who live in states with party registration*

Democrat	43%
Republican	37%
Other Party	0%
Independent/No Party	19%
Not sure	1%

27. 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	51%
Would like someone else to enter	29%
Not sure	20%

28. Who would you like to be the Republican nominee for President in 2012?

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

Mitt Romney	31%
Newt Gingrich	11%
Ron Paul	9%
Rick Santorum	31%
Other	12%
No preference	6%

**29. Romney vs. Gingrich two-way race**

*Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Not asked of respondents who support Romney or Gingrich, whose preference was determined from an earlier question*

Romney .....	58%
Gingrich .....	42%

**30. Romney vs. Santorum two-way race**

*Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Not asked of respondents who support Romney or Santorum, whose preference was determined from an earlier question*

Romney .....	49%
Santorum .....	51%

**31. Santorum vs. Gingrich two-way race**

*Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Not asked of respondents who support Santorum or Gingrich, whose preference was determined from an earlier question*

Gingrich .....	40%
Santorum .....	60%

**32. 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 .....	45%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Mitt Romney .....	2%
Mitt Romney .....	41%
Other .....	6%
Not sure .....	6%

33. 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 .....	1%
Newt Gingrich .....	39%
Other .....	4%
Not sure .....	6%

34. 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 .....	46%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Rick Santorum .....	2%
Rick Santorum .....	43%
Other .....	3%
Not sure .....	5%

35. 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 .....	43%
Lean Barack Obama .....	1%
Lean Ron Paul .....	3%
Ron Paul .....	39%
Other .....	8%
Not sure .....	6%

36. Regardless of who you would support, who do you think would win the presidential election if Mitt Romney became the Republican nominee?

Barack Obama .....	49%
Mitt Romney .....	45%
Someone else .....	6%

37. Regardless of who you would support, who do you think would win the presidential election if Rick Santorum became the Republican nominee?

Barack Obama .....	59%
Rick Santorum .....	35%
Someone else .....	6%

38. Regardless of who you would support, who do you think would win the presidential election if Newt Gingrich became the Republican nominee?

Barack Obama .....	64%
Newt Gingrich .....	29%
Someone else .....	8%

39. How easy is it for a woman to obtain an abortion in the area where you live?

Very easy .....	21%
Somewhat easy .....	18%
Not easy .....	9%
Don't know .....	52%

40. Compared to where you live, do you think it is easier or harder for a woman to obtain an abortion in other parts of the country?

Easier .....	11%
About the same .....	30%
Harder .....	13%
Don't know .....	46%

**41. Would you consider voting for a candidate for President who is pro-life?**

Yes .....	51%
No .....	16%
Not sure .....	33%

**42. Would you consider voting for a candidate for President who is pro-choice?**

Yes .....	57%
No .....	16%
Not sure .....	27%

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

Legal in all cases .....	26%
Legal/Illegal in some cases .....	53%
Illegal in all cases .....	14%
Not sure .....	7%

**44. What do you think is Barack Obama’s position on abortion? Do you think he believes abortion should be...**

Legal in all cases .....	35%
Legal/Illegal in some cases .....	27%
Illegal in all cases .....	5%
Not sure .....	33%

**45. What do you think is Mitt Romney’s position on abortion? Do you think he believes abortion should be...**

Legal in all cases .....	3%
Legal/Illegal in some cases .....	29%
Illegal in all cases .....	24%
Not sure .....	44%

46. What do you think is Rick Santorum’s position on abortion? Do you think he believes abortion should be...

Legal in all cases .....	2%
Legal/Illegal in some cases .....	9%
Illegal in all cases .....	53%
Not sure .....	36%

47. What do you think is Newt Gingrich’s position on abortion? Do you think he believes abortion should be...

Legal in all cases .....	3%
Legal/Illegal in some cases .....	22%
Illegal in all cases .....	31%
Not sure .....	45%

48. Over the last week, some conservative politicians have criticized Democrats for condemning conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh, who described a female Georgetown University law student as "a slut" and "a prostitute," but not condemning which liberal TV commentator who has made similar comments about Republican women?

Bill Maher .....	34%
Rachel Maddow .....	1%
Chris Matthews .....	2%
Didn’t hear which liberal commentator is being discussed .....	63%

49. In a TV interview this week, one of Mitt Romney’s campaign advisers compared the Romney campaign’s plan for switching from the Republican primary campaign into the campaign against President Obama to which children’s toy?

Slinky .....	1%
Etch-A-Sketch .....	51%
Rock ‘Em Sock ‘Em Robots .....	3%
Didn’t hear which toy was mentioned .....	45%

**50. Which of the following people has endorsed Mitt Romney in the presidential race?**

Sarah Palin .....	8%
Nancy Reagan .....	2%
Jeb Bush .....	41%
Didn't hear about endorsements from any of these people .....	49%

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

Yes .....	14%
No .....	65%
Not sure .....	21%

**52. Would you say Barack Obama is...**

Very liberal .....	34%
Liberal .....	18%
Moderate .....	26%
Conservative .....	3%
Very conservative .....	1%
Not sure .....	19%

**53. Would you say Mitt Romney is...**

Very liberal .....	2%
Liberal .....	5%
Moderate .....	27%
Conservative .....	30%
Very conservative .....	7%
Not sure .....	29%

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

Very liberal .....	1%
Liberal .....	4%
Moderate .....	7%
Conservative .....	22%
Very conservative .....	40%
Not sure .....	26%

**55. Do you think Barack Obama...**

Says what he believes .....	38%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	49%
Not sure .....	13%

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

Like a lot .....	32%
Like somewhat .....	28%
Dislike .....	27%
Not sure .....	13%

**57. Do you think Mitt Romney...**

Says what he believes .....	17%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	59%
Not sure .....	24%

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

Like a lot .....	10%
Like somewhat .....	30%
Dislike .....	32%
Not sure .....	28%



59. Do you think Rick Santorum...

Says what he believes .....	44%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	30%
Not sure .....	25%

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

Like a lot .....	14%
Like somewhat .....	25%
Dislike .....	32%
Not sure .....	28%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	37%	27%
Bold	30%	55%	16%
Effective	23%	45%	32%
Exciting	15%	63%	22%
Experienced	20%	44%	36%
Honest	29%	35%	35%
Hypocritical	31%	45%	24%
Inspiring	30%	48%	22%
Intelligent	55%	31%	13%
Partisan	25%	58%	17%
Patriotic	26%	43%	30%
Religious	17%	55%	29%
Sincere	32%	37%	31%
Steady	24%	58%	18%
Strong	29%	49%	22%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	29%	54%	17%
Bold	16%	73%	11%
Effective	17%	68%	15%
Exciting	5%	65%	30%
Experienced	34%	56%	10%
Honest	14%	60%	26%
Hypocritical	26%	60%	14%
Inspiring	10%	63%	27%
Intelligent	40%	52%	8%
Partisan	18%	72%	10%
Patriotic	29%	65%	6%
Religious	34%	59%	7%
Sincere	15%	61%	25%
Steady	17%	70%	13%
Strong	17%	72%	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	24%	55%	21%
Bold	16%	73%	12%
Effective	13%	65%	22%
Exciting	7%	66%	26%
Experienced	20%	65%	16%
Honest	29%	53%	17%
Hypocritical	22%	59%	19%
Inspiring	13%	64%	23%
Intelligent	28%	56%	16%
Partisan	23%	69%	8%
Patriotic	30%	62%	8%
Religious	49%	47%	4%
Sincere	29%	57%	14%
Steady	18%	69%	13%
Strong	15%	70%	14%

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

Getting better .....	23%
About the same .....	33%
Getting worse .....	36%
Not sure .....	8%

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

Higher .....	23%
About the same .....	32%
Lower .....	20%
Not sure .....	24%

**66. 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 .....	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	36%
Not sure .....	6%

**67. 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 .....	33%
Other .....	2%
Not sure .....	17%
I would not vote .....	11%

**68. Gender**

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

**69. Education**

No high school .....	12%
High school graduate .....	32%
Some college .....	23%
2-year college .....	7%
4-year college .....	16%
Post-graduate .....	9%

**70. Age**

18-29 .....	22%
30-44 .....	27%
45-64 .....	34%
65+ .....	17%

**71. Race**

White .....	71%
Black .....	12%
Hispanic .....	9%
Other .....	9%

**72. Region**

Northeast .....	19%
Midwest .....	21%
South .....	36%
West .....	23%

73. Party Identification

Democrat .....	36%
Lean Democrat .....	10%
Independent .....	17%
Lean Republican .....	10%
Republican .....	27%

<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	March 24-27, 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 0.2 to 6.4, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.68.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.7% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	26 questions not reported.