

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted May 5-7, 2012
 Margin of Error $\pm 4.1\%$

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

Very closely 31%
 Somewhat closely 32%
 Not too closely 25%
 Not at all 12%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 27%
 Off on the wrong track 58%
 Not sure 15%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	25%	38%	24%	12%
The economy	80%	15%	3%	2%
Immigration	38%	33%	21%	8%
The environment	38%	32%	20%	9%
Terrorism	44%	32%	17%	6%
Gay rights	17%	25%	26%	33%
Education	52%	32%	11%	5%
Health care	67%	23%	7%	2%
Social security	61%	26%	10%	3%
The budget deficit	57%	27%	12%	4%
The war in Afghanistan	31%	40%	21%	8%
Taxes	61%	29%	8%	2%
Medicare	52%	32%	11%	4%
Abortion	26%	25%	30%	19%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	38%
Immigration	4%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	1%
Education	7%
Health care	12%
Social security	12%
The budget deficit	9%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	3%
Medicare	4%
Abortion	3%

5. Which region of the world do you think will be most critical to American security and prosperity in the next ten years?

Asia	21%
Latin America	8%
Europe	7%
Middle East	32%
Africa	3%
Not sure	29%

6. How likely do you think it is that the U.S. will still be the world's strongest country thirty years from now?

Very likely	17%
Somewhat likely	33%
Somewhat unlikely	24%
Very unlikely	12%
Not sure	15%

7. How much have you heard about the dispute between the U.S. and China concerning the Chinese activist Chen Guangcheng?

A lot	25%
A little	46%
Nothing at all	29%

8. Do you think American officials have done enough to ensure the safety of Chen Guangcheng and his family?

Asked of respondents who indicated they had heard about the dispute concerning Chen Guangcheng

Yes	29%
No	29%
Not sure	43%

9. In general, do you think China's rapid economic rise has been a good thing or a bad thing for the United States?

A good thing	7%
A bad thing	29%
Both good and bad	48%
Not sure	16%

10. Which of the following is closest to your own view of how the United States should respond to China's rise?

The United States should work closely with China to promote international cooperation and stability	23%
The United States should form a military alliance in Asia to counter China's growing clout in the region	3%
The United States should focus on restoring its economic strength at home so that it is better able to deal with China in the future	61%
Not sure	12%

11. This week, President Obama’s reelection campaign ran a television ad suggesting that Mitt Romney, the Republican presidential candidate, would not have issued the order to kill the terrorist Osama Bin Laden. In response, Mitt Romney said he would have issued the order. Romney’s campaign criticized the president for making Osama Bin Laden’s death into a campaign issue. On this issue, who do you agree more with?

Obama	26%
Romney	37%
I do not agree with either the Obama campaign’s suggestion or the Romney campaign’s response.	26%
Not sure	11%

12. Policymakers in Washington have recently been debating whether to allow construction of a large oil pipeline, known as the Keystone Pipeline, across the central United States. What is your opinion on whether or not the Keystone pipeline should be constructed?

It should be constructed	36%
It should be constructed, but only after a careful government review of its environmental impacts	31%
It should not be constructed	15%
Don’t know	18%

13. When the U.S. federal government spends more money than it collects, the difference is called the federal budget deficit. The federal government currently has a deficit. Do you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose the federal government doing things now to reduce the budget deficit?

Favor	63%
Neither favor nor oppose	29%
Oppose	8%

14. Here are some ideas for reducing the federal government’s budget deficit. Do you favor or oppose these ideas?

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neutral	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Raising taxes on all taxpayers	3%	12%	17%	22%	46%
Raising taxes on those making more than \$250,000 per year	44%	15%	11%	12%	18%
Less spending on the military	25%	21%	16%	17%	22%
Less spending on government activities besides the military	53%	28%	8%	7%	5%

15. 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	27%	13%	21%	21%	18%
President Bush	34%	20%	24%	15%	7%
Democrats in the U.S. Congress	31%	19%	27%	16%	7%
Republicans in the U.S. Congress	32%	21%	29%	14%	4%
Wall Street bankers	44%	22%	22%	9%	4%
Consumers who borrowed too much money	23%	28%	27%	16%	5%

16. 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	28%	20%	11%	37%	5%
Mitt Romney	12%	28%	22%	29%	10%

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

Strongly Approve	16%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	35%
Not Sure	8%

18. 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	20%	29%	20%	20%	11%
The economy	12%	23%	16%	38%	10%
Immigration	9%	22%	16%	35%	18%
The environment	10%	29%	18%	26%	17%
Terrorism	21%	32%	15%	20%	12%
Gay rights	9%	23%	16%	25%	27%
Education	15%	27%	19%	24%	16%
Health care	19%	19%	11%	41%	10%
Social security	14%	20%	17%	30%	19%
The budget deficit	11%	21%	17%	39%	12%
The war in Afghanistan	14%	30%	20%	23%	13%
Taxes	16%	21%	16%	35%	12%
Medicare	12%	20%	18%	32%	18%
Abortion	10%	20%	15%	26%	30%

19. 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	14%
Somewhat disapprove	25%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	9%

20. If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, who would you vote for?

Asked of registered voters. Respondents who initially answered 'not sure' but indicated they were leaning toward Obama or Romney in a follow-up question are counted as Obama or Romney supporters

Barack Obama	44%
Mitt Romney	43%
Other	6%
Not sure	7%

21. Regardless of which candidate you support, who do you think is most likely to win the Presidential election in November?

Asked of registered voters

Obama will definitely win	14%
Obama will probably win	33%
Obama and Romney are equally likely to win	16%
Romney will probably win	18%
Romney will definitely win	8%
Don't know	11%

22. How much do you know about each of the following people?

	Know a lot	Know a little	Have not heard of this person
Chris Christie	29%	35%	36%
Rob Portman	5%	23%	71%
Paul Ryan	23%	31%	45%
Rick Santorum	42%	47%	11%
Bob McDonnell	9%	23%	68%
Rand Paul	22%	45%	32%
Mitch Daniels	14%	32%	55%
Jim DeMint	15%	26%	60%
Marco Rubio	22%	33%	44%
Nikki Haley	12%	23%	65%
Condoleezza Rice	45%	43%	13%
Sarah Palin	53%	39%	8%
Jeb Bush	32%	51%	18%
David Petraeus	26%	35%	39%

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

Asked of respondents who indicated they had heard of each of the following people

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Chris Christie	21%	33%	28%	18%
Rob Portman	8%	43%	35%	14%
Paul Ryan	20%	28%	24%	27%
Rick Santorum	14%	30%	26%	30%
Bob McDonnell	10%	37%	34%	19%
Rand Paul	11%	33%	35%	22%
Mitch Daniels	10%	38%	31%	21%
Jim DeMint	12%	39%	23%	26%
Marco Rubio	24%	29%	29%	18%
Nikki Haley	13%	36%	30%	21%
Condoleezza Rice	26%	39%	23%	11%
Sarah Palin	17%	23%	22%	38%
Jeb Bush	11%	36%	31%	22%
David Petraeus	29%	47%	19%	5%

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

Yes	13%
No	72%
Not sure	15%

25. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	32%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	24%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	16%

26. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	6%
Moderate	23%
Conservative	32%
Very conservative	16%
Not sure	21%

27. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	36%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	53%
Not sure	11%

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

Like a lot	34%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	28%
Not sure	11%

29. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes 20%
 Says what he thinks people want to hear 65%
 Not sure 16%

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

Like a lot 10%
 Like somewhat 34%
 Dislike 36%
 Not sure 20%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	35%	29%
Bold	32%	53%	15%
Effective	24%	45%	31%
Exciting	16%	62%	22%
Experienced	20%	47%	33%
Honest	32%	37%	31%
Hypocritical	31%	41%	28%
Inspiring	33%	45%	22%
Intelligent	60%	30%	11%
Partisan	25%	59%	17%
Patriotic	30%	44%	26%
Religious	14%	60%	26%
Sincere	32%	40%	28%
Steady	27%	58%	15%
Strong	28%	51%	21%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	36%	46%	18%
Bold	18%	68%	14%
Effective	19%	62%	19%
Exciting	6%	60%	33%
Experienced	36%	53%	11%
Honest	17%	53%	31%
Hypocritical	34%	49%	18%
Inspiring	11%	58%	31%
Intelligent	43%	46%	11%
Partisan	24%	65%	11%
Patriotic	30%	60%	10%
Religious	39%	55%	6%
Sincere	18%	52%	30%
Steady	20%	65%	15%
Strong	21%	67%	12%

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

Getting better	21%
About the same	40%
Getting worse	31%
Not sure	8%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	39%
Lower	18%
Not sure	23%

35. Would you say that you and your family are...

Better off financially than you were a year ago	17%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	47%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	33%
Not sure	4%

36. 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	33%
Other	2%
Not sure	20%
I would not vote	9%

37. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

38. Education

No high school	12%
High school graduate	31%
Some college	24%
2-year college	7%
4-year college	17%
Post-graduate	9%

39. Age

18-29	21%
30-44	27%
45-64	35%
65+	17%

40. Race

White	70%
Black	11%
Hispanic	8%
Other	10%

41. Region

Northeast	18%
Midwest	23%
South	37%
West	22%

42. Party Identification

Democrat	34%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	19%
Lean Republican	10%
Republican	27%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	May 5-7, 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 0.2 to 7, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.87.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.1% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	30 questions not reported.