

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
 Conducted February 18-21, 2012
 Margin of Error ±3.9%

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

Very closely 32%
 Somewhat closely 36%
 Not too closely 22%
 Not at all 10%

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

Generally headed in the right direction 29%
 Off on the wrong track 56%
 Not sure 15%

3. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	24%	41%	25%	10%
The economy	81%	16%	2%	1%
Immigration	42%	35%	17%	6%
The environment	35%	41%	17%	7%
Terrorism	44%	36%	15%	5%
Gay rights	18%	26%	27%	29%
Education	54%	33%	9%	4%
Health care	67%	25%	5%	2%
Social security	62%	28%	8%	1%
The budget deficit	57%	29%	11%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	29%	45%	19%	7%
Taxes	59%	33%	6%	1%
Medicare	54%	31%	12%	3%
Abortion	24%	31%	27%	18%

4. 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	11%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	11%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	4%
Medicare	4%
Abortion	1%

5. In your view, are women in today’s society more encouraged to pursue a successful career or raise a good family?

More encouraged to pursue a successful career	40%
More encouraged to raise a good family	7%
Both about equally	45%
Not sure	8%

6. Do you think it’s possible for a woman to have a full-time job and do a good job raising a family?

Yes, it’s possible	73%
No, it’s not possible	14%
Not sure	13%

7. Do you think political candidates running for office talk too much or too little about their religious beliefs?

Talk too much	46%
Talk about the right amount	35%
Talk too little	19%

8. Do you favor or oppose permitting people who are openly gay or lesbian to serve in the military?

Favor	56%
Oppose	22%
Not sure	22%

9. Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?

The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word	25%
The Bible is the word of God, but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word	40%
The Bible is a book written by men and is not the word of God	25%
Not sure	10%

10. Which do you think is more likely to actually be the explanation for the origin of human life on Earth?

The theory of evolution as outlined by Darwin and other scientists	25%
The Biblical account of creation as told in the Bible	37%
Both are true	22%
Not sure	16%

11. Do you favor or oppose the teaching of creationism or intelligent design in public schools?

Favor	36%
Oppose	31%
Not sure	34%

12. Do you support or oppose allowing women in the military to serve in ground units that engage in close combat?

Strongly support	23%
Somewhat support	23%
Neither support, nor oppose	23%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	12%
Not sure	6%

13. Regardless of whether they should be legal or not, which of the following things do you personally consider to be morally acceptable or morally wrong?

	Morally acceptable	Morally wrong	Depends/not sure
Birth control	78%	7%	14%
Divorce	58%	14%	28%
The death penalty	52%	20%	28%
Premarital sex	48%	30%	22%
Gay or lesbian relations	43%	40%	17%
Doctor-assisted suicide	37%	32%	31%
Abortion	31%	38%	31%
Gambling	52%	19%	29%

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

Favor	63%
Oppose	25%
Not sure	12%

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

Very serious	31%
Somewhat serious	31%
Not very serious	30%
Not sure	7%

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

Favor	40%
Oppose	37%
Unsure	24%

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

Increase taxes	9%
Decrease government spending	51%
Both	34%
Neither	6%

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

Strongly Approve	19%
Somewhat Approve	26%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	34%
Not Sure	6%

19. 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%	30%	14%	18%	14%
The economy	16%	24%	13%	36%	10%
Immigration	10%	24%	16%	33%	17%
The environment	11%	34%	13%	23%	19%
Terrorism	24%	30%	13%	19%	14%
Gay rights	13%	28%	12%	24%	24%
Education	15%	32%	15%	21%	17%
Health care	21%	22%	11%	37%	8%
Social security	14%	23%	18%	28%	17%
The budget deficit	12%	26%	14%	37%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	17%	31%	17%	21%	14%
Taxes	17%	26%	15%	31%	11%
Medicare	14%	27%	16%	27%	16%
Abortion	12%	22%	13%	25%	28%

20. 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	24%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Not sure	9%

21. 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	48%
Would like someone else to enter	29%
Not sure	22%

22. 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	25%
Newt Gingrich	16%
Ron Paul	10%
Rick Santorum	34%
Other	7%
No preference	8%

23. Romney vs. Gingrich two-way race, imputed

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Respondents who did not name Romney or Gingrich as their preferred Republican nominee were asked whom they would want to be the Republican nominee if Romney or Gingrich were the only two available options. The first choice and Romney-Gingrich hypothetical questions were combined to create this measure.

Romney	55%
Gingrich	45%

24. Romney vs. Santorum two-way race, imputed

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Respondents who did not name Romney or Santorum as their preferred Republican nominee were asked whom they would want to be the Republican nominee if Romney or Santorum were the only two available options. The first choice and Romney-Santorum hypothetical questions were combined to create this measure.

Romney	41%
Santorum	59%

25. Santorum vs. Gingrich two-way race, imputed

Asked of eligible voters who usually vote in Republican primary elections. Respondents who did not name Santorum or Gingrich as their preferred Republican nominee were asked whom they would want to be the Republican nominee if Santorum or Gingrich were the only two available options. The first choice and Santorum-Gingrich hypothetical questions were combined to create this measure.

Gingrich	38%
Santorum	62%

26. 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	2%
Mitt Romney	39%
Other	5%
Not sure	5%

27. 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	3%
Newt Gingrich	33%
Other	6%
Not sure	6%

28. 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	50%
Lean Barack Obama	1%
Lean Rick Santorum	1%
Rick Santorum	40%
Other	4%
Not sure	4%

29. 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	2%
Lean Ron Paul	3%
Ron Paul	34%
Other	7%
Not sure	7%

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

Barack Obama	55%
Mitt Romney	40%
Someone else	5%

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

Barack Obama	60%
Rick Santorum	34%
Someone else	6%

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

Barack Obama	67%
Newt Gingrich	26%
Someone else	8%

33. Has Barack Obama done more to unite the country, or has he done more to divide the country?

Unite	32%
Divide	42%
Not sure	25%

34. 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	29%	22%	9%	32%	8%
Mitt Romney	9%	24%	26%	25%	15%
Newt Gingrich	9%	18%	18%	39%	15%
Ron Paul	11%	26%	25%	17%	21%
Rick Santorum	16%	23%	14%	28%	19%

35. How well do you think each the following describes Rick Santorum?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all
Takes positions on issues and sticks by them	27%	41%	20%	11%
Is personally wealthy	23%	55%	16%	6%
Cares about people like me	14%	32%	24%	30%
Cares about the poor	14%	35%	26%	25%
Cares about the middle class	17%	39%	26%	18%
Cares about the wealthy	32%	50%	12%	6%

36. 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	6%	28%	32%	34%
Is personally wealthy	73%	15%	5%	7%
Cares about people like me	8%	25%	29%	37%
Cares about the poor	7%	23%	31%	40%
Cares about the middle class	10%	31%	31%	28%
Cares about the wealthy	54%	32%	6%	7%

37. How much can people like you affect what the government does?

A great amount	12%
A lot	15%
A moderate amount	25%
A little	28%
Not at all	20%

38. How often do politics and government seem so complicated that you can't really understand what's going on?

All the time	9%
Most of the time	17%
About half of the time	22%
Some of the time	37%
Never	14%

39. Would you say that the government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?

Run by a few big interests	88%
Run for the benefit of all the people	12%

40. How does the United States federal government usually finance a budget deficit?

Printing more money	38%
Imposing import quotas	7%
Borrowing from the public	48%
Expanding public-works projects	6%

41. On which of the following does the U.S. federal government spend the LEAST money?

Foreign aid	36%
Medicare	21%
National defense	10%
Social security	33%

42. President Obama has done which of the following?

- President Obama traveled to Berlin to meet with European leaders about the debt problems in the Euro Zone. The talks produced no progress on resolving the debt crisis. 8%
- President Obama presented his proposal for the 2013 federal budget. The president's budget included major reforms to Social Security. 9%
- President Obama decided that under the health care reform law religiously affiliated employers - including Catholic charities, hospitals, and schools - must provide and pay for health insurance coverage that covers birth control. . 57%
- Didn't hear about any of these 26%

43. In response to criticism of his decision to require religiously affiliated employers - including Catholic charities, hospitals, and schools - to provide and pay for health insurance that covers birth control, President Obama has...

- Defended the decision and insisted that there will be no changes to the policy 7%
- Changed to policy to make Catholic employers exempt from the requirement, but other religiously affiliated employers must provide birth control coverage. 7%
- Decided that religiously affiliated employers can still decline to offer birth control coverage but insurance companies will be required to enroll interested employees in a birth control benefit and cover the cost. 73%
- Didn't hear about any of these 13%

44. Which of the following people has described himself as "severely conservative"?

- Rush Limbaugh 22%
- Stephen Colbert 4%
- Mitt Romney 28%
- Have not heard anyone say this 46%

45. Which one of the following statements is closest to Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum’s position on birth control?

- I’m fine with it within a marriage but not outside of the husband-wife relationship because it encourages premarital sex. 11%
- It’s not okay because it’s a license to do things in the sexual realm that is counter to how things are supposed to be. 27%
- Contraception. It’s working just fine. Just leave it alone. 6%
- Have not heard yet about Santorum’s position on birth control 55%

46. Which of the following people has endorsed Rick Santorum in the presidential race?

- Dave Mustaine, the leader of the heavy metal band Megadeth 13%
- Jeremy Lin, a player on the New York Knicks 3%
- Sarah Palin, former Republican vice-presidential candidate 11%
- Didn’t hear about endorsements from any of these people 74%

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

- Yes 13%
- No 69%
- Not sure 17%

48. Would you say Barack Obama is...

- Very liberal 31%
- Liberal 22%
- Moderate 26%
- Conservative 4%
- Very conservative 2%
- Not sure 16%

49. Would you say Rick Santorum is...

Very liberal	1%
Liberal	2%
Moderate	8%
Conservative	29%
Very conservative	34%
Not sure	25%

50. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	41%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	47%
Not sure	12%

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

Like a lot	37%
Like somewhat	30%
Dislike	22%
Not sure	11%

52. Do you think Rick Santorum...

Says what he believes	47%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	25%
Not sure	28%

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

Like a lot	15%
Like somewhat	27%
Dislike	30%
Not sure	28%

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

Getting better	29%
About the same	33%
Getting worse	31%
Not sure	6%

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

Higher	25%
About the same	36%
Lower	19%
Not sure	21%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	19%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	44%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	33%
Not sure	4%

57. 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	39%
The Republican Party candidate	31%
Other	1%
Not sure	19%
I would not vote	10%

58. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

59. Education

No high school	10%
High school graduate	35%
Some college	23%
2-year college	7%
4-year college	16%
Post-graduate	9%

60. Age

18-29	20%
30-44	27%
45-64	35%
65+	19%

61. Race

White	71%
Black	12%
Hispanic	8%
Other	9%

62. Region

Northeast	20%
Midwest	24%
South	35%
West	22%

63. Party Identification

Democrat	36%
Lean Democrat	11%
Independent	18%
Lean Republican	9%
Republican	26%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	February 18-21, 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 0.3 to 6.8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.77.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.9% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	21 questions not reported.