

# The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample            1000 General Population Respondents  
 Conducted        November 3-5, 2012  
 Margin of Error   ±4.6%

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

Very closely ..... 55%  
 Somewhat closely ..... 30%  
 Not too closely ..... 12%  
 Not at all ..... 4%

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

Generally headed in the right direction ..... 38%  
 Off on the wrong track ..... 54%  
 Not sure ..... 9%

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

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	82%	15%	2%	2%
Immigration	39%	36%	19%	6%
The environment	38%	34%	20%	8%
Terrorism	49%	34%	12%	5%
Gay rights	22%	21%	23%	33%
Education	55%	32%	8%	4%
Health care	68%	24%	5%	3%
Social security	60%	31%	7%	2%
The budget deficit	60%	28%	9%	3%
The war in Afghanistan	33%	43%	20%	4%
Taxes	62%	31%	5%	1%
Medicare	55%	32%	10%	3%
Abortion	33%	30%	21%	16%

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

The economy .....	39%
Immigration .....	3%
The environment .....	4%
Terrorism .....	2%
Gay rights .....	1%
Education .....	6%
Health care .....	10%
Social security .....	11%
The budget deficit .....	11%
The war in Afghanistan .....	0%
Taxes .....	5%
Medicare .....	3%
Abortion .....	5%

5. If Barack Obama were re-elected president in 2012, would the economy get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

Get better .....	37%
About the same .....	18%
Get worse .....	39%
Not sure .....	6%

6. If Mitt Romney were elected president in 2012, would the economy get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

Get better .....	38%
About the same .....	15%
Get worse .....	37%
Not sure .....	10%

**7. 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	36%	15%	7%	39%	2%
Mitt Romney	26%	20%	15%	36%	4%
Paul Ryan	28%	15%	14%	33%	11%
Joe Biden	23%	19%	15%	35%	7%

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

Strongly Approve	25%
Somewhat Approve	20%
Somewhat Disapprove	11%
Strongly Disapprove	40%
Not Sure	4%

**9. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling these specific issues?**

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The economy	21%	22%	10%	42%	5%
Immigration	15%	25%	15%	35%	10%
The environment	18%	29%	16%	26%	12%
Terrorism	28%	23%	11%	30%	8%
Gay rights	22%	22%	9%	30%	18%
Education	23%	27%	17%	23%	10%
Health care	27%	18%	8%	42%	5%
Social security	21%	22%	13%	33%	11%
The budget deficit	17%	23%	9%	45%	6%
The war in Afghanistan	23%	27%	18%	25%	7%
Taxes	23%	22%	13%	35%	7%
Medicare	23%	21%	12%	34%	10%
Abortion	23%	21%	10%	31%	14%

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

Strongly approve .....	2%
Somewhat approve .....	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove .....	14%
Somewhat disapprove .....	29%
Strongly disapprove .....	39%
Not sure .....	9%

**11. How often would you say you vote?**

*Asked of registered voters*

Always .....	60%
Nearly always .....	31%
Part of the time .....	5%
Seldom .....	3%
Never .....	0%
Don't know .....	1%

**12. How enthusiastic are you about voting in the 2012 Presidential election?**

*Asked of registered voters*

Extremely enthusiastic .....	46%
Very enthusiastic .....	27%
Somewhat enthusiastic .....	11%
Not too enthusiastic .....	10%
Not at all enthusiastic .....	5%

**13. Who will you vote for in the 2012 Presidential election?**

*Asked of registered voters. Those responding "not sure" were asked a followup question about which way they leaned, and they were allocated to the candidate to which they lean.*

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Barack Obama	49%	49%
Mitt Romney	45%	47%
Other	3%	2%
Not sure	3%	3%

**14. How sure are you about your plans to vote for [Obama/Romney]?**

*Asked of Obama/Romney supporters*

- I will definitely vote for [Obama/Romney]. My mind is made up ..... 96%
- I will probably vote for [Obama/Romney], but I could change my mind .....3%
- I'm leaning toward voting for [Obama/Romney] ..... 2%

**15. Would you say you are mostly voting for [Obama/Romney] or against [other candidate]?**

*Asked of Obama/Romney supporters*

- I'm mostly voting for [Obama/Romney] ..... 69%
- I'm mostly voting against [other candidate] ..... 29%
- Not sure ..... 1%

**16. 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 ..... 17%
- Obama will probably win ..... 27%
- Obama and Romney are equally likely to win ..... 19%
- Romney will probably win ..... 16%
- Romney will definitely win ..... 11%
- Don't know ..... 10%

**17. If an election for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?**

	Registered Voters	Likely voters
The Democratic Party candidate	45%	44%
The Republican Party candidate	42%	44%
Other	2%	2%
Not sure	10%	9%
I would not vote	1%	1%

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

Yes .....	18%
No .....	68%
Not sure .....	13%

**19. How well do you think each the following describes Barack Obama?**

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not very well	Not well at all
Takes positions on issues and sticks by them	30%	28%	18%	25%
Is personally wealthy	39%	43%	13%	5%
Cares about people like me	34%	20%	15%	31%
Cares about the poor	38%	24%	17%	21%
Cares about the middle class	36%	21%	17%	26%
Cares about the wealthy	21%	35%	19%	25%

**20. 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	16%	28%	21%	35%
Is personally wealthy	84%	9%	3%	5%
Cares about people like me	24%	20%	20%	36%
Cares about the poor	20%	21%	19%	40%
Cares about the middle class	24%	23%	18%	35%
Cares about the wealthy	63%	25%	7%	5%

21. Were you or anybody you know directly affected by Hurricane Sandy, which hit the East Coast this past week?

Yes, me personally. ....	8%
Yes, a close relative. ....	15%
Yes, a close friend. ....	6%
Yes, a more distant friend or relative. ....	18%
No, nobody I know. ....	52%

22. How would you rate President Obama's response to Hurricane Sandy?

Excellent .....	38%
Good .....	22%
Fair .....	17%
Poor .....	13%
Not sure .....	10%

23. How would you rate Mitt Romney's response to Hurricane Sandy?

Excellent .....	16%
Good .....	22%
Fair .....	15%
Poor .....	24%
Not sure .....	23%

24. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Very liberal .....	6%
Liberal .....	18%
Moderate .....	31%
Conservative .....	24%
Very Conservative .....	15%
Not sure .....	7%

25. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal .....	40%
Liberal .....	22%
Moderate .....	25%
Conservative .....	2%
Very conservative .....	2%
Not sure .....	9%

26. Would you say Mitt Romney is...

Very liberal .....	3%
Liberal .....	4%
Moderate .....	18%
Conservative .....	36%
Very conservative .....	23%
Not sure .....	17%

27. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes .....	47%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	48%
Not sure .....	4%

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

Like a lot .....	40%
Like somewhat .....	22%
Dislike .....	31%
Not sure .....	7%

29. Do you think Mitt Romney...

Says what he believes .....	34%
Says what he thinks people want to hear .....	57%
Not sure .....	10%



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

Like a lot .....	21%
Like somewhat .....	28%
Dislike .....	41%
Not sure .....	11%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	40%	25%	35%
Bold	30%	54%	16%
Effective	32%	37%	31%
Exciting	21%	59%	21%
Experienced	30%	38%	33%
Honest	38%	26%	36%
Hypocritical	34%	35%	31%
Inspiring	35%	42%	23%
Intelligent	60%	26%	13%
Partisan	30%	49%	21%
Patriotic	33%	37%	30%
Religious	20%	48%	32%
Sincere	39%	29%	31%
Steady	33%	46%	20%
Strong	35%	41%	24%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	42%	27%	31%
Bold	30%	58%	13%
Effective	32%	48%	20%
Exciting	12%	55%	33%
Experienced	41%	42%	17%
Honest	28%	34%	38%
Hypocritical	38%	35%	27%
Inspiring	21%	49%	31%
Intelligent	52%	39%	9%
Partisan	29%	52%	19%
Patriotic	42%	46%	13%
Religious	59%	37%	3%
Sincere	28%	39%	33%
Steady	29%	54%	18%
Strong	33%	50%	16%

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

Getting better	31%
About the same	25%
Getting worse	40%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	25%
About the same	31%
Lower	17%
Not sure	27%

**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 .....	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	34%
Not sure .....	4%

**36. Gender**

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

**37. Education**

No high school .....	7%
High school graduate .....	38%
Some college .....	23%
2-year college .....	8%
4-year college .....	16%
Post-graduate .....	8%

**38. Age**

18-29 .....	22%
30-44 .....	25%
45-64 .....	36%
65+ .....	17%

**39. Race**

White .....	64%
Black .....	15%
Hispanic .....	14%
Other .....	7%

40. Region

Northeast .....	16%
Midwest .....	21%
South .....	37%
West .....	26%

41. Party Identification

Democrat .....	35%
Lean Democrat .....	9%
Independent .....	14%
Lean Republican .....	10%
Republican .....	32%

## ***The Economist/YouGov Poll***



<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	November 3-5, 2012
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
<b>Sampling method</b>	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2010 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2010 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement. Religion, political interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Pew Religion in American Life Survey.
<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 to 6.8, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.08.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1000
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 4.6% (adjusted for weighting)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	27 questions not reported.