

Public Support in Atlanta, Georgia, for Government-Funded Attorneys in Immigration Court

The Vera Institute of Justice (Vera) partnered with the survey firm Lucid to conduct a public opinion poll to explore attitudes toward government-funded attorneys for people in immigration court in the Atlanta metropolitan area. The survey was administered online in August 2020 and included 1,000 adults (18 years and older) living in the area. The survey sample approximates the Atlanta population with regard to age, educational attainment, gender, household income, and race and ethnicity. However, people who did not graduate from high school and men are underrepresented, while women are slightly overrepresented.

Key findings

Two in three people in the Atlanta metropolitan area, or 69 percent, support government-funded attorneys for immigrants facing deportation. This support is widespread, existing among:

- 65 percent of likely voters;
- 82 percent of people who self-identify as Democrats, nearly half (49 percent) of those who self-identify as Republicans, and 72 percent of people who do not identify with either party; and
- 81 percent of Joe Biden supporters and nearly half (48 percent) of Donald Trump supporters (among those who indicated on the pre-election survey that they intended to vote in the 2020 presidential election).

Support for government-funded attorneys increases substantially when attorneys for people in immigration court are framed as part of a larger system of government-funded attorneys for all, with 86 percent of respondents expressing support.