

Public Support in Austin, Texas, 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 Austin metropolitan area. The survey was administered online in August 2020 and included 1,000 adults (18 years and older) living in the area. The results are statistically weighted to be representative of the Austin population with regard to age, education, gender, household income, and race and ethnicity.

Key findings

Five in seven people in the Austin metropolitan area, or 71 percent, support government-funded attorneys for immigrants facing deportation. This support is widespread, existing among:

- 69 percent of likely voters;
- 84 percent of people who self-identify as Democrats, 50 percent of those who self-identify as Republicans, and 71 percent of people who do not identify with either party; and
- 83 percent of Clinton voters, 48 percent of Trump voters, and 66 percent of those who voted for third-party candidates (among those who voted in the 2016 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 expressing support.