

Public Support in Columbus, Ohio, 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 Columbus 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 Columbus population with regard to age, educational attainment, gender, household income, and race and ethnicity.

Key findings

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

- 67 percent of likely voters;
- 84 percent of people who self-identify as Democrats, 48 percent of those who self-identify as Republicans, and 74 percent of people who do not identify with either party; and
- 85 percent of Biden supporters and nearly half (43 percent) of 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 84 percent of respondents expressing support.