

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

Key findings

Ninety-four percent of people in Los Angeles believe that access to attorneys for all people, including those in immigration court, is (somewhat or very) important. This belief is pervasive, held by:

- 96 percent of likely voters;
- 95 percent of people who self-identify as Democrats, 94 percent of those who self-identify as Republicans, and 92 percent of people who do not identify with either party; and
- 97 percent of Clinton voters, 93 percent of Trump voters, and 91 percent of people who voted for third-party candidates (among those who voted in the 2016 presidential election).

Ninety-two percent of people in Los Angeles support government-funded attorneys for people in immigration court. This support is widespread, existing among:

- 93 percent of likely voters;
- 95 percent of people who self-identify as Democrats, 90 percent of those who self-identify as Republicans, and 88 percent of people who do not identify with either party; and
- 97 percent of Clinton voters, 85 percent of Trump voters, and 91 percent of people who voted for third-party candidates.

Eighty-nine percent of people in Los Angeles support government-funded attorneys for people in immigration court *with criminal convictions*. This support is pervasive, found among:

- 90 percent of likely voters;
- 95 percent of people who self-identify as Democrats, 79 percent of those who self-identify as Republicans, and 84 percent of people who do not identify with either party; and
- 93 percent of Clinton voters, 81 percent of Trump voters, and 79 percent of people who voted for third-party candidates.

Even among people who oppose immigration to the United States, more than three out of four support the government funding attorneys for people in immigration court, including for people *with criminal convictions*.