

Public Support in Sacramento, California, 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 Sacramento 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 Sacramento population with regard to age, education, household income, and race and ethnicity. However, people who are 65 years and older, those who did not graduate from high school, people who identify as male, and white people are underrepresented, while those aged 18 to 24 years, college graduates, and women are overrepresented.

Key findings

Five in seven people in the Sacramento metropolitan area, or 72 percent, support government-funded attorneys for immigrants facing deportation.

Seven in 10 likely voters, or 70 percent, support government-funded attorneys for immigrants facing deportation.

Support for government-funded attorneys increases substantially when lawyers for people in immigration court are framed as part of a larger system of government-funded attorneys for all, with 90 percent of respondents expressing support.