

Public Support in Denver and Colorado 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 Colorado. The survey was administered online in January 2020 and included 1,000 adults (18 years and older) living in the state. The results are statistically weighted to be representative of the Colorado population with regard to age, education, gender, household income, race and ethnicity, and region of residence (percentage living in the Denver metro area and percentage of those living in Colorado outside of the Denver metro area). The survey asked respondents about the importance of access to attorneys and whether they supported or opposed government-funded legal representation for people in immigration court, among other questions.

Key findings

Denver metro area:

Ninety-four percent of people residing in the Denver metro area believe that access to attorneys for all people, *including those in immigration court*, is (somewhat or very) important.

Eighty-seven percent of people residing in the Denver metro area support government-funded attorneys for everyone, *including people in immigration court*.

Colorado State (including Denver):

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

- 90 percent of people residing outside of the Denver metro area;
- 93 percent of likely voters;
- 97 percent of people who self-identify as Democrats, 89 percent of those who self-identify as Republicans, and 91 percent of people who do not identify with either party; and
- nearly all Clinton voters (99.99 percent), 88 percent of Trump voters, and 87 percent of those who voted for third-party candidates (among those who voted in the 2016 presidential election).

Eighty-five percent of people in Colorado support government-funded attorneys for everyone, *including people in immigration court*. This support is widespread, existing among:

- 82 percent of people residing outside of the Denver metro area;
- 82 percent of likely voters;

- 91 percent of people who self-identify as Democrats, 71 percent of those who self-identify as Republicans, and 90 percent of people who do not identify with either party; and
- 96 percent of Clinton voters, 73 percent of Trump voters, and 78 percent of those who voted for third-party candidates.

Even among people who oppose immigration to the United States, 69 percent support the government funding attorneys for all, including people in immigration court.