

Legal Representation Poll: Prince George’s County*

$n = 475$ likely voters; +/- 4.4%

May 19 - May 21

1 Summary

A large majority of likely voters in Prince George’s County, 66.9%, support or strongly support paying for legal representation for everyone who cannot afford an attorney, including detained immigrants and immigrants facing deportation.

Prince George’s County is a heavily Democratic county, as Democratic voters account for 78.8% of all registered voters and 72.8% of all likely voters. Support for paying for legal representation is not, however, limited to Democratic voters. 69.6% of registered Democratic voters support or strongly support paying for legal representation for everyone who cannot afford an attorney, including detained immigrants and immigrants facing deportation, 60.7% of registered Independents support or strongly support, and 58.8% of registered Republicans support or strongly support.

After providing voters with more information about how the immigration court system works, the most resonant message was: “Immigration law is among the most complex areas of law. The vast majority of immigrants do not have a lawyer in immigration court and are expected to defend themselves against government attorneys. Studies show that immigrants facing deportation who have a lawyer are up to ten times more likely to be succeed in immigration court than those without a lawyer—this means that people are able to return to their families, jobs, and communities in the United States.” After hearing this information, support for paying for legal representation for everyone who cannot afford an attorney, including detained immigrants and immigrants facing deportation increases to 77.3%.

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- 66.9% support or strongly support Prince George’s County paying for legal representation for everyone who cannot afford an attorney, including detained immigrants and immigrants facing deportation;
- Majorities of registered Democratic voters (69.6%), registered Independent voters (60.7%), and registered Republican voters (58.8%) support or strongly support paying for legal representation for everyone who cannot afford an attorney, including detained immigrants and immigrants facing deportation;
- When voters learn that “the vast majority of immigrants do not have a lawyer in immigration court and are expected to defend themselves against government attorneys,” support for Prince George’s County paying for legal representation for everyone who cannot afford an attorney, including detained immigrants and immigrants facing deportation, increases to 77.3%;
- 92.6% feel that it is important or very important for people to have access to legal representation and due process in a court of law;
- Large majorities of registered Democratic voters (94.6%), registered Independent voters (91.1%), and registered Republican voters (80.4%) feel that it is important or very important for people to have access to legal representation and due process in a court of law;
- 93.1% feel that it is important or very important for low-income people to have access to legal representation and due process in a court of law;
- Large majorities of registered Democratic voters (94.3%), registered Independent voters (94.6%), and registered Republican voters (84.3%) feel that it is important or very important for low-income people to have access to legal representation and due process in a court of law.

2 Methodology

This survey was fielded from May 19 to May 21. Likely voters were identified using a voter file obtained from NationBuilder. 275,418 out of the 610,851 active voters in the voter file were identified as likely voters. These voters, who comprised the sample frame, were randomly selected to participate in the survey. All surveys were conducted via phone by America’s Survey Company (ASC). The margin of error is 4.4%.