

**Public Opinion Poll
on National Values
& New Laws
SEPTEMBER 2022**

**BELIZE
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Executive Summary

A public opinion poll, commissioned by the National AIDS Commission, on national values and discrimination, equality and hate crimes legislation, was conducted in Belize between 25 June – 25 July 2022.

622 people were interviewed across all six Districts: Belize, Orange Walk, Cayo, Corozal, Stann Creek and Toledo.

The poll was carried out by Borge y Asociados, a Central American company with over 25 years of experience in social and market research.

Two previous, similar polls were conducted in 2020 and 2021.

Key Findings

This poll shows that Belizeans are tolerant and accept others for who they are and who they love. Morale is high in the country even though Belizeans have experienced hardship beyond the pandemic, with catastrophic events like flooding caused by torrential rains. Despite the odds, we pull together and we look out for each other.

A new law has been proposed that will prohibit discrimination based on, for example, how able-bodied someone is, what race or religion they are, or their sexual orientation. The number of people whose lives will be better if this law becomes reality goes beyond any individual group and will benefit the entire country. This is evidenced by **an overwhelming 90% of those surveyed supporting such a law** because it will help protect all Belizeans and reflect our society at its best.

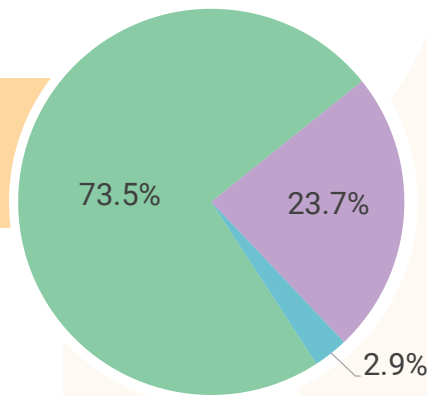
Compellingly, two out of three people feel it's time for this law because it will have a positive impact on their personal lives, regardless of whether they belong to a marginalized group.

Belizean Attitudes to Diversity and Inclusion

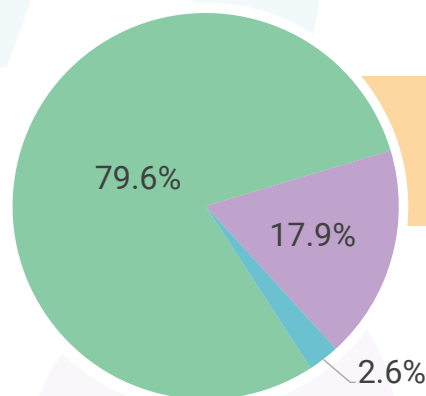
- Almost all Belizeans, 94.7%, believe that people living with disabilities should be protected from discrimination in the workplace. This result has remained consistently high across the three-year polling period.
- Three out of four people believe that being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender shouldn't be a reason to lose your job or be on the receiving end of discrimination from your family.
- A majority of Belizeans, 79.6%, agreed that the quality of your work is more important than how you live your life.

Nobody should be fired from their job or kicked out of their home just because they are LGBT.

- AGREE/STRONGLY AGREE
- DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE
- DON'T KNOW/NO ANSWER



We should judge people on the quality of their work, not on who they are or how they live their life.



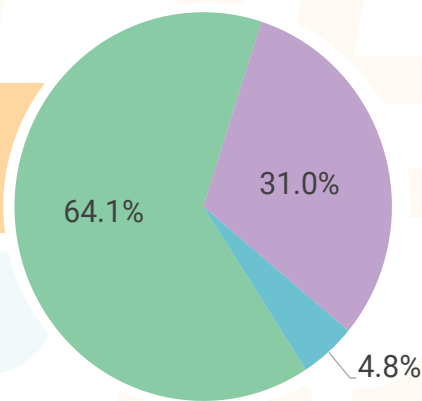
- AGREE/STRONGLY AGREE
- DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE
- DON'T KNOW/NO ANSWER

Views on New Laws that Protect All Of Us

- Most Belizeans clearly oppose all discrimination.
- Two thirds of people are in favor of new laws that protect all of us at work and in public spaces.

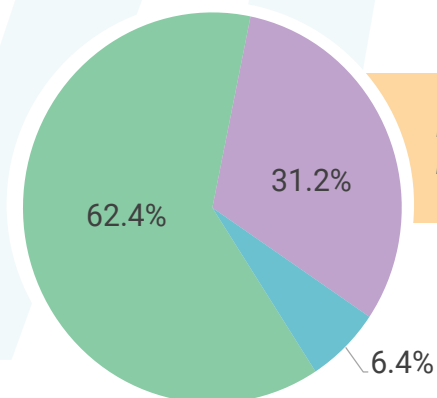
Generally speaking, will you Strongly Support, Support, Oppose or Strongly Oppose new laws that protect all of us at work and in public spaces?

- SUPPORT/STRONGLY SUPPORT
- OPPOSE/STRONGLY OPPOSE
- DON'T KNOW/NO ANSWER



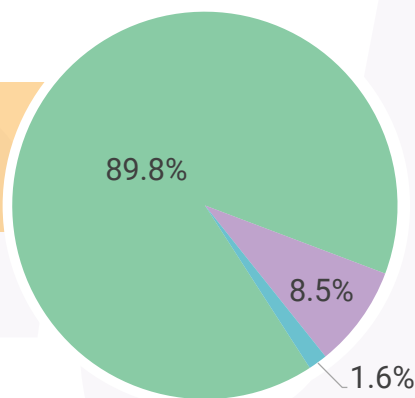
If passed, what kind of impact might this legislation have on your personal life?

- VERY POSITIVE/SOMEWHAT POSITIVE
- VERY NEGATIVE/SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE
- DON'T KNOW/NO ANSWER



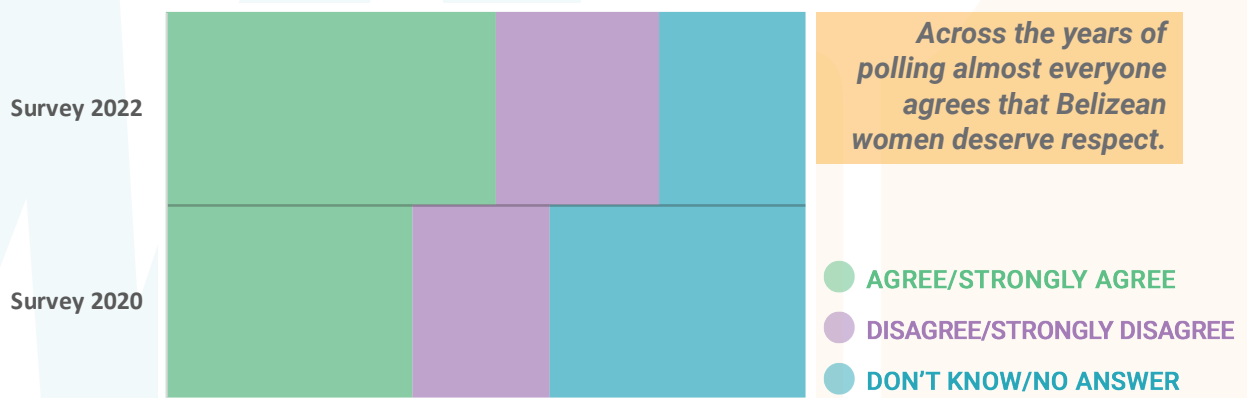
It's time for laws that protect all of us and reflect our Belizean society at its best. Do you Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree or Strongly Disagree with this statement?

- AGREE/STRONGLY AGREE
- DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE
- DON'T KNOW/NO ANSWER



Belizeans are Concerned about Hate Crimes, Welcome their Neighbors and Favor Fairness

- Three out of four people think hate crimes should attract longer sentences than crimes that are not motivated by bias and prejudice.
- A majority of people feel positive and welcoming about the idea of a gay person, a person who is disabled, or someone from another race living next door to them.
- The results indicate strong support for equal rights for women, with 88.4% agreeing that women and men should earn the same pay for the same job, and 98.7% agreeing that women in the workforce should receive support during pregnancy and while breastfeeding.



Conclusion

When asked if it's time for laws that protect everyone and reflect Belizean society at its best, 9 out of 10 of respondents agreed.

It is clear from these results that progressive attitudes are widespread in Belize, and that there is both empathy towards minorities, and a desire for laws that prevent discrimination against anyone.

Those surveyed across all three years show that Belize is a modern and democratic society which recognizes the rights of all its citizens. The results of this recent and thorough poll confirm that there is overwhelming and compelling majority support for equal opportunities legislation.

Methodology

- Sample: Registered voters were obtained from the Elections and Boundaries Department
- Sampling method: Random sampling of voting centers
- Collection technique: Face to face, by mobile device for data collection
- Margin of error: +/- 3.9%
- Dates of polling: June 25 - July 25 2022
- Population under study: Men and women over 18 years

Sample Size	
Belize	182
Cayo	144
Orange Walk	79
Corozal	72
Stann Creek	81
Toledo	64
TOTAL	622