

State to survey public's trust in the court system

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Link: <https://kutv.com/news/local/state-to-survey-publics-trust-in-the-court-system>

(KUTV) — The Utah state court system wants to find out and is reaching out to the public with a survey to see how real people feel about criminal justice in the state.

Wednesday, we hit the streets to do our own informal trust and confidence survey by asking one question: Do you have trust in the criminal justice system?

Of the six people 2News asked, Lance King was the only person to confidently say yes, adding, "Well, I've only lived here for three years but I would guess so, yes."

Others, like Dylan Hughes are on the fence.

"I mean, it's 50/50. Sometimes I trust it, sometimes I don't," Hughes said.

The majority of people 2News talked to said things like, "Once you're in there, you can't get out," and, "I don't trust court systems."

While our poll was informal and unscientific, the state is undertaking a much more detailed survey asking trust and confidence questions.

"Yeah, I do think that that's a good idea," said Leah Farrell of the ACLU.

Farrell said she's interested to see the results in the face of [a highly publicized murder](#) of a beloved student athlete, where accountability policies are being investigated.



"When people's trust seems to be dropping, get more information out there for local judiciaries and local law enforcement to find ways to engage communities," Farrell said.

The survey is expected to be between 12 to 15 questions, which are still being crafted. The data will be used to examine court and criminal justice policy development.

The state did this survey in 2006 and 2012. 76 percent of those surveyed gave a positive review of the courts in 2006. 81 percent gave a favorable view in 2012.

Results of the most recent survey are expected in January of 2019.