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Factsheet

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## Latinos in the 2012 Election: Louisiana

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## Latinos in the 2012 Election: Louisiana

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters<sup>1</sup> and other major groups of eligible voters in Louisiana.<sup>2</sup> All demographic data are based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey.<sup>3</sup>

### Hispanics in Louisiana's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Louisiana ranks 31st in the nation.<sup>4</sup> About 194,000 Hispanics reside in Louisiana, 0.4% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Louisiana's population is 4% Hispanic, ranking 39th in Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 86,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Louisiana—ranking 28th in Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9

Table 1

#### Population and Electorate in the United States and Louisiana, 2010

	U.S.	Louisiana	Louisiana state rank
<b>Total population (all ages)</b>			
All (thousands)	309,350	4,544	25
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	194	31
Percent Hispanic	16.4	4.3	39
<b>Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)</b>			
All (thousands)	214,972	3,331	25
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	86	28
Percent Hispanic	10.0	2.6	34
<b>Eligibility of Hispanic population</b>			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	44.2	16*

Notes: Percentages calculated before rounding. \*Rankings for "Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote" are based on the District of Columbia and the 46 states whose Hispanic samples in the 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) are large enough to generate reliable estimates. All other rankings are based on the District of Columbia and the 50 states.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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<sup>1</sup> Eligible voters are defined as U.S. citizens ages 18 and older. Eligible voters are not the same as registered voters. To cast a vote, in all states except North Dakota, an eligible voter must first register to vote.

<sup>2</sup> The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably. References to other races and ethnicities are to the non-Hispanic components of those populations.

<sup>3</sup> This statistical profile of eligible voters is based on the Census Bureau's 2010 [American Community Survey](#) (ACS). The ACS is the largest household survey in the United States, with a sample of about 3 million addresses. The data used for this statistical profile come from the 2010 ACS Integrated Public Use Microdata Series ([IPUMS](#)), representing a 1% sample of the U.S. population. Like any survey, estimates from the ACS are subject to sampling error and (potentially) measurement error. More information is available on [ACS sampling strategy](#) and [associated error](#).

<sup>4</sup> Rankings for "Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote" are based on the District of Columbia and the 46 states whose Hispanic samples in the 2010 ACS are large enough to generate reliable estimates. All other rankings are based on the District of Columbia and the 50 states.

million.

- Some 3% of Louisiana eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking 34th in Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- Some 44% of Hispanics in Louisiana are eligible to vote, ranking Louisiana 16th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, nearly eight-in-ten (78%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** Three-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters (30%) in Louisiana are ages 18 to 29, similar to the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 23% of all Louisiana eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Louisiana, 26% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This is similar to the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S. Just 2% of all eligible voters in Louisiana and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall are naturalized citizens.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Louisiana have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Just more than a third (37%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Louisiana are of Mexican origin, 7% of Puerto Rican origin and

Table 2

### Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Louisiana and the United States, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Louisiana	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	309,350	50,730	4,544	194
<b>Total eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	214,972	21,509	3,331	86
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	21.6	32.8	23.2	29.6
30-44	24.6	29.3	25.0	28.2
45-54	19.4	16.7	19.0	16.2
55-64	16.3	10.9	16.1	12.6
65 and older	18.2	10.4	16.6	13.5
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	48.2	48.3	48.0	51.6
Female	51.8	51.7	52.0	48.4
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	98.2	74.0
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	1.8	26.0
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	92.7	47.7
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	7.3	52.3
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	17.9	18.3
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	34.5	28.5
Some college	32.4	32.5	28.3	30.7
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	19.3	22.5
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	50.9	44.7	47.0	50.3
Never married	28.1	37.4	30.1	33.5
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	22.9	16.2
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	25.0	31.1	25.4	25.3
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	68.8	58.2	69.7	59.1
<b>Hispanic origin</b>				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	37.2
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	7.3
Cuban	---	4.8	---	5.9
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	3.0
Dominican	---	3.1	---	0.8
Other	---	16.2	---	45.7
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	28.7	20.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	19.8	19.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	18.5	24.1
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	12.9	10.6
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	20.1	24.7

Notes: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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55% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, a greater share are Mexican (59%) or Puerto Rican (14%), and 26% are of some other Hispanic origin.

- ***Educational Attainment.*** Nearly two-in-ten Latino eligible voters in Louisiana (18%) have not completed high school, the same share as that of all Louisiana eligible voters, but below the 25% of all Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S. without a high school diploma.
- ***Homeownership.*** About six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Louisiana (59%) live in owner-occupied homes, similar to the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%). Greater shares of all eligible voters in Louisiana (70%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Louisiana, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Louisiana by 25 to 1, and blacks outnumber Hispanics by about 12 to 1. There are more than twice as many Hispanic eligible voters (86,000) as Asian eligible voters (33,000) in Louisiana.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black and white eligible voters in Louisiana. Some 30% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29 compared with 27% of black eligible voters and 21% of white eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters are slightly less likely than Asian eligible voters (33%) in Louisiana to be younger than 30.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of high school education than do white eligible voters in Louisiana. Some 18% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 14% of white eligible voters. However, an equal 23% of Hispanics and whites have a bachelor's degree or more. While just under

Table 3

### Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Louisiana, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	194	2,741	1,449	67
<b>Total eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	86	2,142	1,018	33
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	29.6	20.8	27.1	33.2
30-44	28.2	23.8	27.4	29.4
45-54	16.2	19.4	18.7	13.3
55-64	12.6	16.9	14.8	15.0
65 and older	13.5	19.2	12.2	9.1
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	51.6	48.7	45.9	52.3
Female	48.4	51.3	54.1	47.7
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	74.0	99.4	99.7	34.8
Naturalized citizen	26.0	0.6	0.3	65.2
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	47.7	93.6	97.4	22.0
Does not speak only English at home	52.3	6.4	2.6	78.0
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school diploma	18.3	14.1	25.5	18.0
High school diploma or equivalent	28.5	34.6	35.5	15.0
Some college	30.7	28.6	27.4	29.3
Bachelor's degree or more	22.5	22.7	11.5	37.6
<b>Marital Status</b>				
Married	50.3	55.3	29.2	54.0
Never married	33.5	22.2	45.9	36.9
Divorced/separated/widowed	16.2	22.5	24.9	9.1
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	25.3	25.1	25.7	33.0
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	59.1	77.2	54.6	79.7
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$30,000	20.9	22.6	42.8	17.4
\$30,000-\$49,999	19.6	18.7	22.3	16.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	24.1	19.1	16.6	18.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	10.6	14.7	9.2	15.6
\$100,000 or more	24.7	24.7	9.2	32.7

Notes: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Hispanics are of any race. Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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two-in-ten (18%) eligible voters who are Hispanic or Asian have not completed high school, Asians (38%) have a higher share of college graduates. Black eligible voters in Louisiana are more likely than all other racial or ethnic groups to have less than a high school diploma (26%) and are least likely to be college graduates (12%).

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (59%) are somewhat more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black (55%) eligible voters, but they are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than Asian (80%) and white (77%) eligible voters in Louisiana.