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Latinos in the 2014 Election: District of Columbia

Factsheet

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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Latinos in the 2014 Election: District of Columbia

BY Anna Brown AND Eileen Patten

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in the District of Columbia.² All demographic data are based on Pew Research Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in the District of Columbia's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in the District of Columbia ranks 42nd in the nation. About 63,000 Hispanics reside in District of Columbia, 0.1% of all Hispanics in the United States.

- The District of Columbia's population is 10% Hispanic, the 19th largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.

TABLE 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and the District of Columbia, 2012

	U.S.	District of Columbia	District of Columbia state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	313,914	632	49
Hispanics (thousands)	52,932	63	42
Percent Hispanic	16.9	10.0	19
Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	220,111	473	50
Hispanics (thousands)	23,632	26	43
Percent Hispanic	10.7	5.5	21
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	44.6	41.2	27

Note: Percentages calculated before rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2012 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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¹ 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.

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

³ This statistical profile of eligible voters is based on the Census Bureau's 2012 [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 2012 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](#).

- There are 26,000 Hispanic eligible voters in the District of Columbia—ranking 43rd in terms of Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.
- Some 5% of District of Columbia eligible voters are Hispanic, the 21st largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Some 41% of Hispanics in the District of Columbia are eligible to vote, ranking the District of Columbia 27th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 85% of the District’s white population and 75% of the District’s black population are eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- **Age.** About one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in the District of Columbia (35%) are ages 18 to 29, about the same as the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) and of all District of Columbia eligible voters (30%) in that age range. By contrast, only 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in the District of Columbia, one-third are naturalized U.S. citizens, greater than the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S. Just 7% of all eligible voters in the District of Columbia and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in the District of Columbia have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters

TABLE 2

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in the District of Columbia and the United States, 2012

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		D.C.	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	313,914	52,932	632	63
Eligible voter population (thousands)	220,111	23,632	473	26
Age				
18-29	21.6	33.1	30.2	35.2
30-44	24.3	29.1	27.5	30.5
45-54	18.5	16.2	14.4	14.5
55-64	16.7	11.1	13.5	10.2
65 and older	18.9	10.5	14.5	9.7
Gender				
Male	48.4	48.9	46.4	54.7
Female	51.6	51.1	53.6	45.3
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	91.8	75.2	92.8	66.7
Naturalized citizen	8.2	24.8	7.2	33.3
Language				
Speaks only English at home	85.6	31.5	89.7	33.9
Does not speak only English at home	14.4	68.5	10.3	66.1
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	11.5	23.0	10.1	19.0
High school graduate	28.6	28.5	19.0	18.7
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	33.6	21.4	20.6
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	15.0	49.5	41.8
Marital status				
Married	50.0	42.9	26.4	21.5
Never married	29.1	39.1	57.2	61.7
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	18.0	16.4	16.7
With child younger than 18 in home	24.2	29.9	13.5	11.1
Homeownership rate	67.5	56.0	41.5	33.5
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	-	58.9	-	16.0
Puerto Rican	-	14.0	-	12.6
Cuban	-	4.8	-	3.8
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	27.1
Dominican	-	3.2	-	4.0
Other	-	16.5	-	36.4
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.2	25.1	20.7	13.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	20.2	12.6	22.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.1	20.5	12.1	9.9
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.6	10.8	12.1
\$100,000 or more	26.9	20.6	43.8	42.8

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. High school graduate includes GEDs or equivalent.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2012 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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nationwide. Only 16% of Hispanic eligible voters in the District of Columbia are of Mexican origin, about one-quarter (27%) are of Salvadoran origin, and 57% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, 59% are Mexican, 3% are Salvadoran, and 39% are of some other Hispanic origin.

- **Educational Attainment.** About two-in-ten Latino eligible voters in the District of Columbia (19%) have not completed high school, double the 10% of all District of Columbia eligible voters who have not completed high school and about the same as the 23% of Hispanics nationwide who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** One-third of Hispanic eligible voters in the District of Columbia live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 56% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in District of Columbia (41%) and all eligible voters nationwide (67%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in the District of Columbia, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** Black eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in the District of Columbia by about 9 to 1, and white eligible voters outnumber Hispanics in the District of Columbia by about 7 to 1.
- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black eligible voters in the District of Columbia. Some 35% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 24% of black eligible voters. A similar share (36%) of white eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white eligible voters in the District of Columbia. Some 19% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with just 1% of white eligible voters. Some 17% of black eligible voters do not have a high school

TABLE 3

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in the District of Columbia and the United States, by Race and Ethnicity, 2012

	Hispanic	Black	White
Total population (thousands)	63	309	223
Eligible voter population (thousands)	26	233	189
Age			
18-29	35.2	24.0	36.2
30-44	30.5	22.7	31.4
45-54	14.5	18.1	10.3
55-64	10.2	17.0	10.3
65 and older	9.7	18.2	11.7
Gender			
Male	54.7	43.6	49.0
Female	45.3	56.4	51.0
Type of citizen			
Citizen by birth	66.7	95.5	96.4
Naturalized citizen	33.3	4.5	3.6
Language			
Speaks only English at home	33.9	95.9	93.3
Does not speak only English at home	66.1	4.1	6.7
Educational attainment			
Less than high school graduate	19.0	17.3	0.7
High school graduate	18.7	32.6	3.8
Two-year degree/Some college	20.6	28.2	12.5
Bachelor's degree or more	41.8	22.0	83.0
Marital status			
Married	21.5	20.8	34.2
Never married	61.7	55.9	57.4
Divorced/separated/widowed	16.7	23.3	8.5
With child younger than 18 in home	11.1	15.4	11.8
Homeownership rate	33.5	40.7	43.7
Household income			
Less than \$30,000	13.3	33.2	7.6
\$30,000-\$49,999	22.0	15.5	8.1
\$50,000-\$74,999	9.9	15.0	8.6
\$75,000-\$99,999	12.1	10.4	11.1
\$100,000 or more	42.8	25.9	64.6

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. High school graduate includes GEDs or equivalent. Blacks and whites include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2012 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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diploma. Hispanics are more likely to have at least a bachelor's degree than blacks (42% vs. 22%), but less likely than whites (83%).

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (33%) are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (41%) and white eligible voters (44%) in the District of Columbia.