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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Kentucky

Factsheet

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Kentucky

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This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in Kentucky.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 Kentucky's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Kentucky is the 38th largest in the nation. About 134,000 Hispanics reside in Kentucky, 0.3% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Kentucky's population is 3% Hispanic, the 44th largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.

TABLE 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Kentucky, 2012

	U.S.	Kentucky	Kentucky state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	313,914	4,380	26
Hispanics (thousands)	52,932	134	38
Percent Hispanic	16.9	3.1	44
Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	220,111	3,291	26
Hispanics (thousands)	23,632	51	39
Percent Hispanic	10.7	1.6	47
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	44.6	38.3	35

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 51,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Kentucky—the 39th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.
- Some 2% of Kentucky eligible voters are Hispanic, the 47th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Some 38% of Hispanics in Kentucky are eligible to vote, ranking Kentucky 35th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 78% of the state’s white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- **Age.** About one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Kentucky (36%) are ages 18 to 29, about the same as the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 21% of all Kentucky eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Kentucky, 17% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This is less than the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 1% of all eligible voters in Kentucky and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Kentucky have a roughly similar Hispanic origin profile to Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Half of Hispanic eligible voters (54%) in Kentucky are of Mexican origin, 20% of

TABLE 2

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Kentucky and the United States, 2012

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Kentucky	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	313,914	52,932	4,380	134
Eligible voter population (thousands)	220,111	23,632	3,291	51
Age				
18-29	21.6	33.1	20.7	36.0
30-44	24.3	29.1	24.9	29.2
45-54	18.5	16.2	18.8	17.6
55-64	16.7	11.1	17.0	9.2
65 and older	18.9	10.5	18.6	7.9
Gender				
Male	48.4	48.9	48.4	46.6
Female	51.6	51.1	51.6	53.4
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	91.8	75.2	98.8	82.6
Naturalized citizen	8.2	24.8	1.2	17.4
Language				
Speaks only English at home	85.6	31.5	97.3	52.9
Does not speak only English at home	14.4	68.5	2.7	47.1
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	11.5	23.0	15.6	14.4
High school graduate	28.6	28.5	34.5	28.8
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	33.6	30.1	33.1
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	15.0	19.7	23.6
Marital status				
Married	50.0	42.9	52.1	42.4
Never married	29.1	39.1	24.4	37.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	18.0	23.4	20.6
With child younger than 18 in home	24.2	29.9	24.8	27.0
Homeownership rate	67.5	56.0	69.1	52.6
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	-	58.9	-	53.5
Puerto Rican	-	14.0	-	20.0
Cuban	-	4.8	-	5.0
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	1.0
Dominican	-	3.2	-	1.2
Other	-	16.5	-	19.4
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.2	25.1	29.7	26.1
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	20.2	20.0	25.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.1	20.5	20.1	20.6
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.6	12.2	10.2
\$100,000 or more	26.9	20.6	18.1	17.3

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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Puerto Rican origin and 26% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, 59% are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican, and 27% are of some other Hispanic origin.

- **Educational Attainment.** Less than two-in-ten Latino eligible voters in Kentucky (14%) have not completed high school, about the same as the 16% of all Kentucky eligible voters who have not completed high school and less than the 23% of Hispanics nationwide who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** About half of Hispanic eligible voters in Kentucky (53%) live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 56% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Kentucky (69%) and eligible voters nationwide (67%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Kentucky, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Kentucky by 57 to 1, and black eligible voters outnumber Hispanics by about 5 to 1. There are more than twice as many Hispanic eligible voters as there are Asian eligible voters.

- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white, black and Asian eligible voters in Kentucky. Some 36% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 20% of white eligible voters, 28% of black eligible voters and 22% of Asian eligible voters.

- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic, white, black and Asian eligible voters in Kentucky have similar levels of high school education. However, the share of Hispanic eligible voters in Kentucky with a bachelor's degree or more (24%) is higher than that of blacks (12%). A larger share of Asian eligible voters (46%) have at least a bachelor's degree. Hispanics and whites have roughly similar levels of bachelor's degree attainment (24%

TABLE 3

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	134	3,760	349	55
Eligible voter population (thousands)	51	2,930	249	21
Age				
18-29	36.0	19.6	28.1	21.7
30-44	29.2	24.6	26.1	43.6
45-54	17.6	18.9	18.6	13.1
55-64	9.2	17.4	15.3	10.6
65 and older	7.9	19.5	12.0	10.9
Gender				
Male	46.6	48.5	48.9	44.2
Female	53.4	51.5	51.1	55.8
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	82.6	99.6	98.6	32.2
Naturalized citizen	17.4	0.4	1.4	67.8
Language				
Speaks only English at home	52.9	98.6	97.7	32.0
Does not speak only English at home	47.1	1.4	2.3	68.0
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	14.4	15.7	15.3	10.5
High school graduate	28.8	34.8	34.8	15.2
Two-year degree/Some college	33.1	29.3	37.7	28.8
Bachelor's degree or more	23.6	20.2	12.2	45.5
Marital status				
Married	42.4	54.4	28.7	57.9
Never married	37.0	22.2	45.9	30.1
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.6	23.4	25.4	12.0
With child younger than 18 in home	27.0	24.8	22.9	37.1
Homeownership rate	52.6	72.1	38.0	63.3
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	26.1	28.6	44.3	14.8
\$30,000-\$49,999	25.8	19.8	21.0	19.3
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.6	20.4	15.9	21.5
\$75,000-\$99,999	10.2	12.5	7.6	14.2
\$100,000 or more	17.3	18.6	11.2	30.2

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. High school graduate includes GEDs or equivalent. Whites, blacks and Asians 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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and 20%, respectively). A larger share of Asian eligible voters (46%) have at least a bachelor's degree.

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (53%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (44%) in Kentucky, but are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white (72%) or Asian (63%) eligible voters.