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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Mississippi

Factsheet

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Mississippi

BY Anna Brown AND Eileen Patten

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in

Mississippi.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 Mississippi's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Mississippi is the 41st largest in the nation. About 76,000 Hispanics reside in Mississippi, 0.1% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Mississippi's population is 3% Hispanic, the 47th largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.

TABLE 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Mississippi, 2012

	U.S.	Mississippi	Mississippi state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	313,914	2,985	31
Hispanics (thousands)	52,932	76	41
Percent Hispanic	16.9	2.6	47
Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	220,111	2,204	31
Hispanics (thousands)	23,632	31	40
Percent Hispanic	10.7	1.4	48
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	44.6	40.9	28

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 31,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi—the 40th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.
- Some 1% of Mississippi eligible voters are Hispanic, the 48th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Some 41% of Hispanics in Mississippi are eligible to vote, ranking Mississippi 28th 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.** Some 36% of Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi 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 22% of all Mississippi eligible voters and of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi, 14% 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 Mississippi and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi have a similar Hispanic origin profile to Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi are of Mexican

TABLE 2

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Mississippi	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	313,914	52,932	2,985	76
Eligible voter population (thousands)	220,111	23,632	2,204	31
Age				
18-29	21.6	33.1	22.5	35.7
30-44	24.3	29.1	25.3	38.7
45-54	18.5	16.2	17.6	12.8
55-64	16.7	11.1	16.4	8.0
65 and older	18.9	10.5	18.2	4.8
Gender				
Male	48.4	48.9	47.3	55.0
Female	51.6	51.1	52.7	45.0
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	91.8	75.2	99.2	86.4
Naturalized citizen	8.2	24.8	0.8	13.6
Language				
Speaks only English at home	85.6	31.5	97.8	53.7
Does not speak only English at home	14.4	68.5	2.2	46.3
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	11.5	23.0	17.3	20.0
High school graduate	28.6	28.5	30.4	28.5
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	33.6	34.0	41.7
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	15.0	18.3	9.8
Marital status				
Married	50.0	42.9	46.6	42.5
Never married	29.1	39.1	29.8	39.9
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	18.0	23.7	17.6
With child younger than 18 in home	24.2	29.9	25.1	33.3
Homeownership rate	67.5	56.0	69.0	57.3
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	-	58.9	-	59.7
Puerto Rican	-	14.0	-	20.7
Cuban	-	4.8	-	1.5
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	3.6
Dominican	-	3.2	-	0.6
Other	-	16.5	-	13.9
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.2	25.1	33.4	34.8
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	20.2	21.6	26.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.1	20.5	19.0	18.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.6	10.2	7.3
\$100,000 or more	26.9	20.6	15.7	12.8

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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origin, 21% of Puerto Rican origin and 20% 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.** Two-in-ten Latino eligible voters in Mississippi have not completed high school, about the same as the 17% of all Mississippi eligible voters and the 23% of Hispanics nationwide who have not completed high school. Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi (10%) are less likely than U.S. Hispanic eligible voters (15%) and less likely than all eligible voters in Mississippi (18%) to have a bachelor's degree or more.
- **Homeownership.** About six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi (57%) live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 56% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Mississippi (69%) and eligible voters nationwide (67%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Mississippi, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi by about 43 to 1, and blacks outnumber Hispanics by 25 to 1.
- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white and black eligible voters in Mississippi. Some 36% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 19% of white eligible voters and 27% of black eligible voters.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of high school education than do white eligible voters in Mississippi. Some 20% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 14% of white eligible voters. About one-quarter (23%) of black eligible voters do not have a high school diploma. Hispanic eligible voters (10%) are about equally as likely as black (13%) and less likely than white eligible voters (22%) to have a bachelor's degree or more.

TABLE 3

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black
Total population (thousands)	76	1,718	1,125
Eligible voter population (thousands)	31	1,347	793
Age			
18-29	35.7	19.2	27.2
30-44	38.7	23.5	28.0
45-54	12.8	18.0	17.2
55-64	8.0	17.3	15.3
65 and older	4.8	22.1	12.3
Gender			
Male	55.0	48.4	45.2
Female	45.0	51.6	54.8
Type of citizen			
Citizen by birth	86.4	99.7	99.8
Naturalized citizen	13.6	0.3	0.2
Language			
Speaks only English at home	53.7	98.7	99.2
Does not speak only English at home	46.3	1.3	0.8
Educational attainment			
Less than high school graduate	20.0	13.7	23.4
High school graduate	28.5	30.2	31.0
Two-year degree/Some college	41.7	34.5	32.7
Bachelor's degree or more	9.8	21.6	12.9
Marital status			
Married	42.5	56.9	29.3
Never married	39.9	20.0	45.8
Divorced/separated/widowed	17.6	23.1	24.9
With child younger than 18 in home	33.3	25.0	25.0
Homeownership rate	57.3	76.8	56.3
Household income			
Less than \$30,000	34.8	25.0	48.0
\$30,000-\$49,999	26.8	20.6	23.3
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.3	21.0	15.6
\$75,000-\$99,999	7.3	12.5	6.6
\$100,000 or more	12.8	21.0	6.5

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 and blacks 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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- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (57%) are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white (77%) eligible voters. They are about equally as likely to live in owner-occupied homes as black eligible voters (56%).