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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Texas

Factsheet

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

BY Anna Brown AND Eileen Patten

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

- The Hispanic population in Texas is the second largest in the nation. About 10 million Hispanics reside in Texas, 18.8% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Texas's population is 38% Hispanic, the third largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.

TABLE 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Texas, 2012

	U.S.	Texas	Texas state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	313,914	26,059	2
Hispanics (thousands)	52,932	9,960	2
Percent Hispanic	16.9	38.2	3
Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	220,111	16,548	2
Hispanics (thousands)	23,632	4,540	2
Percent Hispanic	10.7	27.4	2
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	44.6	45.6	21

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 4.5 million Hispanic eligible voters in Texas—the second largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.
- Some 27% of Texas eligible voters are Hispanic, the second largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Some 46% of Hispanics in Texas are eligible to vote, ranking Texas 21st nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 79% of the state’s white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- **Age.** One-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Texas are ages 18 to 29, the same as the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (also 33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 24% of all Texas eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Texas, 17% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This is less than the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 8% of all eligible voters in Texas and of eligible voters in the U.S. overall are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Texas have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. About nine-in-ten (88%) are Mexican, greater than the 59% rate nationwide. An

TABLE 2

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Texas	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	313,914	52,932	26,059	9,960
Eligible voter population (thousands)	220,111	23,632	16,548	4,540
Age				
18-29	21.6	33.1	23.8	32.7
30-44	24.3	29.1	26.5	29.7
45-54	18.5	16.2	18.1	15.8
55-64	16.7	11.1	15.5	11.4
65 and older	18.9	10.5	16.1	10.4
Gender				
Male	48.4	48.9	48.8	49.2
Female	51.6	51.1	51.2	50.8
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	91.8	75.2	91.6	83.3
Naturalized citizen	8.2	24.8	8.4	16.7
Language				
Speaks only English at home	85.6	31.5	74.3	26.7
Does not speak only English at home	14.4	68.5	25.7	73.3
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	11.5	23.0	13.5	25.6
High school graduate	28.6	28.5	26.6	29.6
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	33.6	34.1	32.2
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	15.0	25.7	12.7
Marital status				
Married	50.0	42.9	51.1	46.6
Never married	29.1	39.1	27.9	34.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	18.0	21.0	18.8
With child younger than 18 in home	24.2	29.9	27.1	32.6
Homeownership rate	67.5	56.0	66.9	65.5
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	-	58.9	-	88.0
Puerto Rican	-	14.0	-	2.1
Cuban	-	4.8	-	0.7
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	1.5
Dominican	-	3.2	-	0.1
Other	-	16.5	-	7.6
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.2	25.1	21.7	25.8
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	20.2	18.2	21.5
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.1	20.5	19.3	21.6
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.6	13.9	13.8
\$100,000 or more	26.9	20.6	26.9	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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additional 2% are of Puerto Rican origin and 1% are Salvadoran. In the U.S., 14% of Hispanic eligible voters are Puerto Rican and 3% are Salvadoran.

- **Educational Attainment.** About one-quarter of Latino eligible voters in Texas (26%) have not completed high school, twice the 13% of all Texas eligible voters who have not completed high school and somewhat higher than the 23% of Hispanics nationwide who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** About two-thirds of Hispanic eligible voters in Texas (65%) live in owner-occupied homes, larger than the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (56%) and a somewhat smaller share than all eligible voters in the state (67%). Nationwide, 67% of eligible voters live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Texas, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** There are about twice as many white eligible voters as Hispanic eligible voters in Texas. Hispanic eligible voters outnumber black eligible voters by about 2 to 1 and Asian eligible voters by about 9 to 1.
- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white, black and Asian eligible voters in Texas. Some 33% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 19% of white eligible voters, 26% of black eligible voters and 21% of Asian eligible voters.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white, black and Asian eligible voters in Texas. Some 26% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 8% of white eligible voters, 13% of black eligible voters and 11% of Asian eligible voters.

TABLE 3

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	9,960	11,559	3,024	1,039
Eligible voter population (thousands)	4,540	9,106	2,136	499
Age				
18-29	32.7	19.0	25.8	20.6
30-44	29.7	23.8	29.7	33.1
45-54	15.8	18.9	18.8	20.5
55-64	11.4	17.8	14.6	14.6
65 and older	10.4	20.6	11.0	11.2
Gender				
Male	49.2	49.1	47.1	48.5
Female	50.8	50.9	52.9	51.5
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	83.3	98.2	96.6	24.4
Naturalized citizen	16.7	1.8	3.4	75.6
Language				
Speaks only English at home	26.7	95.7	95.5	20.6
Does not speak only English at home	73.3	4.3	4.5	79.4
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	25.6	7.7	13.3	11.3
High school graduate	29.6	25.0	31.0	13.4
Two-year degree/Some college	32.2	34.4	37.7	27.0
Bachelor's degree or more	12.7	32.8	17.9	48.2
Marital status				
Married	46.6	56.8	34.3	64.5
Never married	34.6	21.4	41.1	25.1
Divorced/separated/widowed	18.8	21.8	24.7	10.4
With child younger than 18 in home	32.6	24.3	25.1	35.3
Homeownership rate	65.5	72.1	46.9	76.6
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	25.8	17.5	32.5	13.0
\$30,000-\$49,999	21.5	16.2	20.6	13.5
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.6	18.6	18.8	15.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	14.3	12.2	14.1
\$100,000 or more	17.3	33.3	15.9	43.6

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. High school graduate includes GEDs or equivalent. 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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- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (65%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (47%) in Texas, but are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white (72%) or Asian (77%) eligible voters.