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Latinos in the 2016 Election: North Carolina

Factsheet

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Latinos in the 2016 Election: North Carolina

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in North Carolina.² All demographic data are based on Pew Research Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey.³

North Carolina Voter Registration Statistics

According to the [North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), voter registration statistics as of January 2, 2016, show that 131,000 Latinos are registered to vote statewide. Overall, Latinos make up 2% of the state's 6.4 million registered voters. The majority of voters in North Carolina are white—there are 4.5 million white registered voters, representing 70.5% of all registered voters in North Carolina. Additionally, more than two-in-ten registered voters in North Carolina are black (22.4%), with about 1.4 million voters statewide. The state does not report detailed information on Asian registered voters.

Registered Voters in North Carolina, by Race and Ethnicity, 2004-2016

In thousands

	Hispanic		White		Black		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2016*	131	2.0	4,538	70.5	1,443	22.4	6,436	100.00
2014	114	1.7	4,729	71.1	1,493	22.5	6,649	100.0
2010	79	1.3	4,535	73.1	1,339	21.6	6,201	100.0
2008	68	1.1	4,596	73.4	1,355	21.6	6,265	100.0
2006	30	0.5	4,161	76.4	1,097	20.1	5,450	100.0
2004	10	0.2	3,951	77.8	985	19.4	5,080	100.0

Note: *Data for 2016 as of January 2. For 2006 the latest available data are from April 1, and for 2004 the latest available date are from May 1. For all other years, data reflect the November voting-day reports. Percentages calculated before rounding. Hispanics are of any race. Totals for whites and blacks include Hispanics. Total includes some groups not shown separately (e.g., Native Americans). Data on Asians and party registration by race and ethnicity are not available.

Source: North Carolina State Board of Elections

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The number of Latinos registered to vote has increased more than twelvefold since 2004. It rose from 10,000 during the 2004 presidential election to 114,000 during the 2014 presidential

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 2014 [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 2014 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](#).

election and now stands at 131,000. The share of Latino registered voters in North Carolina has also risen since 2004, from 0.2% in 2004 to 2.0% today. In 2004, whites made up more than three-quarters of all registered voters in North Carolina (77.8%). That share has been dropping, and whites now make up about seven-in-ten of all registered voters in North Carolina (70.5%). The share of North Carolina's registered voters who are black has risen slightly—from 19.4% in 2004 to 22.4% today.

Hispanics in North Carolina's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in North Carolina ranks 11th in the nation. About 890,000 Hispanics reside in North Carolina, 1.6% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- North Carolina's population is 9% Hispanic, ranking 26th in Hispanic statewide population share nationally.
- There are 248,000 Hispanic eligible voters in North Carolina—ranking 17th in Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.9 million.

Population and Electorate in the United States and North Carolina, 2014

	U.S.	North Carolina	North Carolina state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	318,857	9,944	9
Hispanics (thousands)	55,251	890	11
Percent Hispanic	17.3	9.0	26
Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	224,963	7,201	9
Hispanics (thousands)	25,486	248	17
Percent Hispanic	11.3	3.4	32
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	46.1	27.8	51

Note: Percentages calculated before rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2014 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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- Some 3% of North Carolina eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking 32nd in Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Fully 28% of Hispanics in North Carolina are eligible to vote, ranking North Carolina last nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 80% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in North Carolina and the United States, 2014

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		North Carolina	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	318,857	55,251	9,944	890
Eligible voter population (thousands)	224,963	25,486	7,201	248
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.9	21.0	37.6
30-44	24.0	28.6	24.2	30.3
45-54	17.6	15.9	17.9	14.5
55-64	16.9	11.6	16.8	9.3
65 and older	19.8	11.0	20.0	8.3
Millennial (ages 18-33)	28.2	41.4	27.3	46.4
Gender				
Male	48.4	48.9	47.6	49.6
Female	51.6	51.1	52.4	50.4
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	91.4	75.2	96.5	71.9
Naturalized citizen	8.6	24.8	3.5	28.1
Language				
Speaks only English at home	85.2	31.7	94.4	33.7
Does not speak only English at home	14.8	68.3	5.6	66.3
Speaks Spanish at home	8.5	67.8	2.9	65.6
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	10.9	22.0	11.7	19.6
High school graduate	28.4	29.0	27.4	26.7
Two-year degree/Some college	32.7	33.5	34.2	35.0
Bachelor's degree or more	28.1	15.6	26.7	18.7
Marital status				
Married	49.6	42.5	50.4	50.5
Never married	29.9	40.1	27.7	34.2
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.6	17.4	21.9	15.2
With child younger than 18 in home	23.5	28.7	23.7	33.6
Homeownership rate	66.7	55.2	66.8	53.1
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	-	59.2	-	41.2
Puerto Rican	-	14.1	-	23.2
Cuban	-	4.6	-	4.8
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	4.4
Dominican	-	3.4	-	3.4
Other	-	16.1	-	23.0
Household income (in 2014 \$)				
Less than \$30,000	20.7	22.8	24.9	27.2
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.2	19.6	20.3	24.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.7	20.1	19.6	19.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.0	14.4	13.2	13.6
\$100,000 or more	29.5	23.1	22.0	14.9

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. High school graduate includes GEDs or equivalent. Homeownership rate and household income excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2014 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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Characteristics of Eligible Voters in North Carolina, by Race and Ethnicity, 2014

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	890	6,362	2,131	242
Eligible voter population (thousands)	248	5,092	1,573	112
Age				
18-29	37.6	18.8	24.4	24.5
30-44	30.3	22.8	26.6	34.1
45-54	14.5	18.1	17.9	19.4
55-64	9.3	17.6	16.2	13.8
65 and older	8.3	22.7	14.9	8.3
Millennial (ages 18-33)	46.4	24.6	31.2	32.3
Gender				
Male	49.6	48.3	45.1	48.3
Female	50.4	51.7	54.9	51.7
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	71.9	98.6	98.1	33.2
Naturalized citizen	28.1	1.4	1.9	66.8
Language				
Speaks only English at home	33.7	97.8	97.8	27.1
Does not speak only English at home	66.3	2.2	2.2	72.9
Speaks Spanish at home	65.6	0.7	0.6	0.3
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	19.6	9.8	15.8	12.0
High school graduate	26.7	26.3	32.1	17.3
Two-year degree/Some college	35.0	34.0	35.0	25.2
Bachelor's degree or more	18.7	29.9	17.2	45.6
Marital status				
Married	50.5	56.3	31.6	62.1
Never married	34.2	22.1	43.6	27.5
Divorced/separated/widowed	15.2	21.6	24.9	10.4
With child younger than 18 in home	33.6	23.3	22.8	36.0
Homeownership rate	53.1	73.3	48.7	73.7
Household income (in 2014 \$)				
Less than \$30,000	27.2	21.1	36.7	13.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	24.6	19.5	22.7	15.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.7	19.8	19.2	21.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.6	14.4	9.7	14.0
\$100,000 or more	14.9	25.4	11.7	35.3

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. High school graduate includes GEDs or equivalent. Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Homeownership rate and household income excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2014 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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