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Factsheet

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## Latinos in the 2012 Election: Tennessee

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## Latinos in the 2012 Election: Tennessee

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters<sup>1</sup> and other major groups of eligible voters in Tennessee.<sup>2</sup> All demographic data are based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey.<sup>3</sup>

### Hispanics in Tennessee's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Tennessee ranks 27th in the nation.<sup>4</sup> About 287,000 Hispanics reside in Tennessee, 0.6% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Tennessee's population is 5% Hispanic, ranking 37th in Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 76,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Tennessee—ranking 30th in Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9

Table 1

#### Population and Electorate in the United States and Tennessee, 2010

	U.S.	Tennessee	Tennessee state rank
<b>Total population (all ages)</b>			
All (thousands)	309,350	6,357	17
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	287	27
Percent Hispanic	16.4	4.5	37
<b>Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)</b>			
All (thousands)	214,972	4,689	15
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	76	30
Percent Hispanic	10.0	1.6	43
<b>Eligibility of Hispanic population</b>			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	26.6	44*

Notes: Percentages calculated before rounding. \*Rankings for "Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote" are based on the District of Columbia and the 46 states whose Hispanic samples in the 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) are large enough to generate reliable estimates. All other rankings are based on the District of Columbia and the 50 states.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> This statistical profile of eligible voters is based on the Census Bureau's 2010 [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 2010 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](#).

<sup>4</sup> Rankings for "Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote" are based on the District of Columbia and the 46 states whose Hispanic samples in the 2010 ACS are large enough to generate reliable estimates. All other rankings are based on the District of Columbia and the 50 states.

million.

- Only 2% of Tennessee eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking 43rd in Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- Fewer than one-third of Hispanics in Tennessee (27%) are eligible to vote, ranking Tennessee 44th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, more than three-quarters (78%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** More than one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Tennessee (35%) are ages 18 to 29, greater than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 21% of all Tennessee eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Tennessee, 24% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 2% of all eligible voters in Tennessee and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S overall.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Tennessee have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Nearly half (47%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Tennessee are of Mexican origin, 17% of Puerto Rican origin and 35% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all

Table 2

### Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Tennessee and the United States, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Tennessee	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	309,350	50,730	6,357	287
<b>Total eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	214,972	21,509	4,689	76
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	21.6	32.8	20.6	35.4
30-44	24.6	29.3	25.4	33.0
45-54	19.4	16.7	19.2	14.2
55-64	16.3	10.9	16.7	8.8
65 and older	18.2	10.4	18.2	8.6
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	48.2	48.3	47.6	44.9
Female	51.8	51.7	52.4	55.1
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	98.1	76.4
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	1.9	23.6
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	96.6	39.6
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	3.4	60.4
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	15.5	21.7
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	33.8	27.6
Some college	32.4	32.5	29.6	32.6
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	21.2	18.1
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	50.9	44.7	52.5	53.9
Never married	28.1	37.4	24.0	27.8
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	23.5	18.3
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	25.0	31.1	24.8	35.2
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	68.8	58.2	70.4	55.3
<b>Hispanic origin</b>				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	47.2
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	17.4
Cuban	---	4.8	---	5.6
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	1.6
Dominican	---	3.1	---	2.3
Other	---	16.2	---	25.9
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	28.9	30.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	21.5	21.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	20.4	25.4
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	12.1	8.3
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	17.1	13.8

Notes: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, six-in-ten (59%) are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican and about one-quarter (26%) are of some other Hispanic origin.

- ***Educational Attainment.*** Two-in-ten Latino eligible voters in Tennessee (22%) have not completed high school, more than the 15% of all Tennessee eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- ***Homeownership.*** Some 55% of Hispanic eligible voters in Tennessee live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 58% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Tennessee (70%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Tennessee, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Tennessee by almost 50 to 1, and black eligible voters outnumber Hispanics by almost 10 to 1. There are almost twice as many Hispanic eligible voters (76,000) as Asian eligible voters (40,000).

- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black, Asian and white eligible voters in Tennessee. Some 35% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 27% of black eligible voters, 22% of Asian eligible voters and 19% of white eligible voters.

- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of high school education than do black, white and Asian eligible voters in Tennessee. Some 22% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 18% of black eligible voters, 15% of white eligible voters and 13% of Asian eligible voters. However, a larger share of Hispanic (18%) than black (14%) eligible voters in Tennessee

Table 3

### Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Tennessee, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	287	4,806	1,061	92
<b>Total eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	76	3,769	746	40
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	35.4	18.9	26.7	22.2
30-44	33.0	24.5	28.6	32.0
45-54	14.2	19.3	19.0	20.4
55-64	8.8	17.4	14.4	16.0
65 and older	8.6	19.9	11.4	9.5
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	44.9	48.1	45.2	45.2
Female	55.1	51.9	54.8	54.8
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	76.4	99.2	98.3	29.9
Naturalized citizen	23.6	0.8	1.7	70.1
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	39.6	98.4	97.6	29.2
Does not speak only English at home	60.4	1.6	2.4	70.8
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school diploma	21.7	14.8	18.3	12.9
High school diploma or equivalent	27.6	33.9	34.3	20.8
Some college	32.6	28.8	33.5	24.6
Bachelor's degree or more	18.1	22.5	13.9	41.7
<b>Marital Status</b>				
Married	53.9	57.1	28.8	66.6
Never married	27.8	19.6	45.4	24.4
Divorced/separated/widowed	18.3	23.2	25.8	9.0
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	35.2	24.6	23.9	36.9
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	55.3	74.7	50.7	78.6
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$30,000	30.9	26.9	38.7	16.5
\$30,000-\$49,999	21.6	21.4	22.4	16.3
\$50,000-\$74,999	25.4	20.6	18.7	20.5
\$75,000-\$99,999	8.3	12.8	9.1	13.1
\$100,000 or more	13.8	18.3	11.1	33.6

Notes: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Hispanics are of any race. Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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have a bachelor's degree or more. More than two-in-ten white (22%) and more than four-in-ten Asian (42%) eligible voters in Tennessee have at least a bachelor's degree.

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (55%) are slightly more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (51%) in Tennessee, but they are less likely to do so than Asian (79%) or white (75%) Tennessee eligible voters.