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Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: Georgia

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Latinos in the 2012 Election: Georgia

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in Georgia.² All demographic data are based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey.³

Georgia Voter Registration Statistics

According to the [Georgia Secretary of State Elections Division](#), voter registration statistics as of October 2012 show that 111,000 Latinos are registered to vote statewide. Overall, Latinos make up only 1.8% of the state's 6.1 million registered voters. The majority of voters in Georgia are white—there are 3.6 million white registered voters, representing 58.9% of all registered voters in Georgia. Additionally, about three-in-ten registered voters in Georgia are black (29.9%), with about 1.8 million voters statewide. Asians represent a slightly smaller share of registered voters than Hispanics, with 87,000 registered statewide (1.4% of all registered voters in Georgia).

Table 1
Registered Voters in Georgia, by Race and Ethnicity, 2012

(in thousands)

	Hispanic		White		Black		Asian		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2012*	111	1.8	3,582	58.9	1,821	29.9	87	1.4	6,079	100.0
2010	91	1.6	3,543	61.2	1,715	29.6	75	1.3	5,792	100.0
2008	82	1.4	3,612	62.7	1,722	29.9	69	1.2	5,758	100.0
2006	50	1.0	3,411	66.4	1,437	28.0	48	0.9	5,134	100.0
2004	34	0.7	3,388	68.2	1,378	27.7	35	0.7	4,971	100.0

Notes: *Data for 2012 as of October. For all other years, data reflect the November numbers. Percentages calculated before rounding. Total includes some groups not shown separately (e.g., Native Americans). Information on party registration by race and ethnicity is not available.

Source: Georgia Secretary of State Elections Division
http://sos.georgia.gov/elections/voter_registration/racereport.pdf

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The number of Latinos registered to vote has tripled since 2004: It rose from 34,000 during the 2004 presidential election to 82,000 during the 2008 presidential election and now stands

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 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](#).

at 111,000. Their share of registered voters in Georgia has also risen since 2004, from just 0.7% in 2004 to 1.8% today. In 2004, whites made up more than two-thirds of all registered voters in Georgia (68%). That share has been dropping, and whites now make up fewer than six-in-ten of all registered voters in Georgia (59%).

Hispanics in Georgia's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Georgia is the 10th largest in the nation.⁴ About 856,000 Hispanics reside in Georgia, 1.7% of all Hispanics in the United States.

- Georgia's population is 9% Hispanic, ranking 24th in Hispanic population share nationally.

- There are 220,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Georgia—the 15th largest Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9 million.

- Some 3% of Georgia eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking 29th in Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- About a quarter (26%) of Hispanics in Georgia are eligible to vote, ranking Georgia 45th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, more than three-quarters (77%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Table 2

Population and Electorate in the United States and Georgia, 2010

	U.S.	Georgia	Georgia state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	9,713	9
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	856	10
Percent Hispanic	16.4	8.8	24
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	6,676	10
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	220	15
Percent Hispanic	10.0	3.3	29
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	25.7	45*

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 ACS (1% IPUMS sample)

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⁴ 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.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** More than one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Georgia (36%) are ages 18 to 29, somewhat more than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 22% of all Georgia eligible voters and of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Georgia, 30% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., and just 5% of all eligible voters in Georgia and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Georgia have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. More than four-in-ten (42%) Hispanic eligible voters in Georgia are of Mexican origin, 22% are of Puerto Rican origin, and 36% claim other Hispanic

Table 3
Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Georgia and the United States, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Georgia	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	9,713	856
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	6,676	220
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	22.0	36.1
30-44	24.6	29.3	27.4	32.3
45-54	19.4	16.7	19.7	16.1
55-64	16.3	10.9	15.7	8.9
65 and older	18.2	10.4	15.2	6.7
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	47.4	48.8
Female	51.8	51.7	52.6	51.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	95.3	69.7
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	4.7	30.3
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	93.4	30.7
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	6.6	69.3
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	14.6	23.8
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	29.9	26.2
Some college	32.4	32.5	30.6	30.0
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	24.9	20.0
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	50.4	53.3
Never married	28.1	37.4	28.3	32.7
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	21.3	14.1
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	26.8	36.4
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	68.0	60.6
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	41.9
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	22.3
Cuban	---	4.8	---	6.2
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	2.4
Dominican	---	3.1	---	4.1
Other	---	16.2	---	23.2
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	26.4	25.6
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	19.6	22.3
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	19.8	23.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	12.8	10.5
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	21.4	17.9

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

- ***Educational Attainment.*** About one-quarter of Latino eligible voters in Georgia (24%) have not completed high school, more than the 15% of all Georgia eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- ***Homeownership.*** Six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Georgia (61%) live in owner-occupied homes, similar to the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%). Slightly greater shares of all eligible voters in Georgia (68%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Georgia, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Georgia by 19 to 1, and black eligible voters outnumber Hispanics by more than 9 to 1. There are slightly more Hispanic eligible voters (220,000) than Asian eligible voters (134,000).
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black, Asian and white eligible voters in Georgia. Some 36% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 26% of black eligible voters, 25% 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 Georgia. Some 24% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 19% of black eligible voters, 12% of white eligible voters and 11% of Asian eligible voters. In terms of college education, however, a slightly larger share of Hispanic (20%) than black (17%) eligible voters have at

Table 4

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Georgia, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	856	5,419	2,950	313
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	220	4,190	2,048	134
Age				
18-29	36.1	19.1	25.7	25.2
30-44	32.3	25.5	30.8	29.1
45-54	16.1	19.8	19.7	23.5
55-64	8.9	17.2	13.7	13.2
65 and older	6.7	18.4	10.2	9.1
Gender				
Male	48.8	48.5	45.0	48.3
Female	51.2	51.5	55.0	51.7
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	69.7	98.4	96.5	25.6
Naturalized citizen	30.3	1.6	3.5	74.4
Language				
Speaks only English at home	30.7	97.3	96.8	22.5
Does not speak only English at home	69.3	2.7	3.2	77.5
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	23.8	12.3	18.6	11.1
High school diploma or equivalent	26.2	29.4	31.9	23.0
Some college	30.0	29.7	32.9	22.9
Bachelor's degree or more	20.0	28.6	16.6	43.0
Marital Status				
Married	53.3	58.7	32.5	63.8
Never married	32.7	20.6	43.3	26.8
Divorced/separated/widowed	14.1	20.7	24.2	9.4
With child younger than 18 in home	36.4	26.2	26.5	34.7
Homeownership rate	60.6	76.1	52.1	74.1
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	25.6	21.7	37.0	15.4
\$30,000-\$49,999	22.3	18.4	22.1	16.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	23.8	20.2	18.3	19.4
\$75,000-\$99,999	10.5	13.9	10.6	16.6
\$100,000 or more	17.9	25.8	12.0	31.9

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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least a bachelor's degree. A larger share of Asians (43%) and whites (29%) have bachelor's degrees or more.

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (61%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black (52%) eligible voters in Georgia, but they are less likely to do so than white (76%) or Asian (74%) eligible voters in Georgia.