

Monday, October 1, 2012; Updated November 5, 2012

Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: North Carolina

Seth Motel, Research Assistant

Eileen Patten, Research Assistant

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel (202) 419-3600

Fax (202) 419-3608

info@pewhispanic.org

www.pewhispanic.org

Copyright © 2012

Latinos in the 2012 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 Hispanic Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey.³

North Carolina Voter Registration Statistics

According to the [North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), voter registration statistics as of Nov. 3, 2012, show that 113,000 Latinos are registered to vote statewide. Overall, Latinos make up 1.7% of the state's 6.6 million registered voters. The majority of voters in North Carolina are white—there are 4.7 million white registered voters, representing 71.2% of all registered voters in North Carolina. Additionally, more than two-in-ten registered voters in North Carolina are black (22.4%), with about 1.5 million voters statewide. The state does not report detailed information on Asian registered voters.

The number of Latinos registered to vote has increased more than tenfold since 2004. It rose from 10,000 during the 2004 presidential election to 68,000 during the 2008 presidential

Table 1

Registered Voters in North Carolina, by Race and Ethnicity, 2012

(in thousands)

	Hispanic		White		Black		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2012*	113	1.7	4,721	71.2	1,487	22.4	6,632	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

Notes: *Data for 2012 as of Nov. 3. 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. 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
http://www.app.sboe.state.nc.us/webapps/voter_stats/

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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](#).

election and now stands at 113,000. The share of Latino registered voters in North Carolina has also risen since 2004, from 0.2% in 2004 to 1.7% 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 (71.2%).

Hispanics in North Carolina's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in North Carolina is the 11th largest in the nation.⁴ About 805,000 Hispanics reside in North Carolina, 1.6% of all Hispanics in the United States.

- North Carolina's population is 8% Hispanic, the 25th ranked Hispanic population share nationally.

- There are 196,000 Hispanic eligible voters in North Carolina—the 18th largest Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9 million.

- Some 3% of North Carolina eligible voters are Hispanic, the 32nd ranked Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.

- Less than one-fourth (24%) of Hispanics in North Carolina are eligible to vote, ranking 47th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, nearly eight-in-ten (79%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Table 2

Population and Electorate in the United States and North Carolina, 2010

	U.S.	North Carolina	North Carolina state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	9,562	10
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	805	11
Percent Hispanic	16.4	8.4	25
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	6,835	9
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	196	18
Percent Hispanic	10.0	2.9	32
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	24.4	47*

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)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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.** Some 37% of North Carolina Hispanic eligible voters are ages 18 to 29, above share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 21% of all North Carolina eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** About one-quarter of Hispanic eligible voters in North Carolina (26%) are naturalized U.S. citizens, compared with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. This rate is much higher than that of all eligible voters in the state (3%) and in the U.S. (8%).
- Hispanic Origin.** Like Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, the plurality of North Carolina Hispanic voters are Mexican. Fully 41% are of Mexican origin, another one-fourth (24%) are of Puerto Rican origin, and 35% claim some other Hispanic origin. Among all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters, about three-fifths are

Table 3

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in North Carolina and the United States, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		North Carolina	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	9,562	805
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	6,835	196
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	20.8	37.2
30-44	24.6	29.3	25.8	34.4
45-54	19.4	16.7	19.1	15.3
55-64	16.3	10.9	16.4	7.2
65 and older	18.2	10.4	17.9	5.9
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	47.5	49.7
Female	51.8	51.7	52.5	50.3
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	97.1	74.2
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	2.9	25.8
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	95.1	38.1
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	4.9	61.9
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	13.7	17.7
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	28.0	26.0
Some college	32.4	32.5	33.8	38.2
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	24.5	18.0
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	51.7	51.1
Never married	28.1	37.4	25.9	32.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	22.4	16.3
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	25.2	36.9
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	69.4	57.1
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	40.5
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	24.4
Cuban	---	4.8	---	5.7
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	3.3
Dominican	---	3.1	---	2.3
Other	---	16.2	---	23.8
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	27.3	25.2
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	21.4	25.5
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	20.5	21.2
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	12.8	12.3
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	18.0	15.8

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)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Mexican (59%), while 14% are Puerto Rican and 26% claim some other Hispanic origin.

- ***Educational Attainment.*** About two-in-ten (18%) Latino eligible voters in North Carolina have not completed high school. This is greater than the 14% rate for all eligible voters in North Carolina, but less than the rate for all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters (25%).
- ***Homeownership.*** More than half of Hispanic eligible voters in North Carolina (57%) live in owner-occupied homes, just below the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%). Greater shares of all eligible voters in North Carolina and all eligible voters nationwide (69% each) live in owner-occupied homes.

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

- Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in North Carolina by 25 to 1. In addition, black eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters by more than 7 to 1, while there are twice as many Hispanics as Asians among eligible voters (196,000 to 91,000).
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than Asian, black and white eligible voters in North Carolina. Some 37% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 28% of Asian eligible voters, 24% of black eligible voters and 19% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white and Asian eligible voters, but higher levels of education than black eligible voters in North Carolina. Some 18% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 20% of black eligible voters, 14% of Asian eligible voters and 11% of white eligible voters.

Table 4

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in North Carolina, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	805	6,230	2,017	207
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	196	4,920	1,459	91
Age				
18-29	37.2	18.6	24.2	27.9
30-44	34.4	24.5	28.0	30.3
45-54	15.3	19.2	19.3	20.1
55-64	7.2	17.4	15.1	13.4
65 and older	5.9	20.3	13.3	8.2
Gender				
Male	49.7	48.1	45.3	46.8
Female	50.3	51.9	54.7	53.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	74.2	98.8	98.8	26.6
Naturalized citizen	25.8	1.2	1.2	73.4
Language				
Speaks only English at home	38.1	97.8	98.1	26.1
Does not speak only English at home	61.9	2.2	1.9	73.9
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	17.7	11.5	19.7	13.9
High school diploma or equivalent	26.0	27.6	30.8	18.4
Some college	38.2	33.5	34.6	23.3
Bachelor's degree or more	18.0	27.5	14.9	44.4
Marital Status				
Married	51.1	57.6	32.9	60.4
Never married	32.6	20.8	40.9	28.3
Divorced/separated/widowed	16.3	21.6	26.2	11.3
With child younger than 18 in home	36.9	24.6	25.1	35.5
Homeownership rate	57.1	75.6	51.0	75.7
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	25.2	23.5	40.4	17.0
\$30,000-\$49,999	25.5	20.7	22.8	19.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.2	21.1	19.2	15.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	12.3	13.9	9.4	15.1
\$100,000 or more	15.8	20.8	8.2	32.6

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)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (57%) are slightly more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black (51%) eligible voters in North Carolina, but they are less likely to do so than white or Asian eligible voters in North Carolina (both 76%).