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Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: Arkansas

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Latinos in the 2012 Election: Arkansas

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

Hispanics in Arkansas' Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Arkansas ranks 33rd in the nation.⁴ About 182,000 Hispanics reside in Arkansas, 0.4% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Arkansas's population is 6% Hispanic, ranking 29th in Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 51,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Arkansas—ranking 37th in Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9

Table 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Arkansas, 2010

	U.S.	Arkansas	Arkansas state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	2,922	32
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	182	33
Percent Hispanic	16.4	6.2	29
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	2,130	32
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	51	37
Percent Hispanic	10.0	2.4	35
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	27.9	43*

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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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](#).

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.

million.

- Some 2% of Arkansas eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking 35th in Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- Fewer than three-in-ten (28%) Hispanics in Arkansas are eligible to vote, ranking Arkansas 43rd 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 Arkansas (35%) are ages 18 to 29, similar to the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 21% of all Arkansas eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Arkansas, 30% 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 Arkansas and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S overall.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Arkansas have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Arkansas are of Mexican origin, 7% of Puerto Rican origin and 20% claim other

Table 2

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Arkansas and the United States, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Arkansas	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	2,922	182
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	2,130	51
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	20.9	34.7
30-44	24.6	29.3	24.5	33.1
45-54	19.4	16.7	18.4	14.3
55-64	16.3	10.9	16.5	11.0
65 and older	18.2	10.4	19.7	6.9
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	48.3	53.9
Female	51.8	51.7	51.7	46.1
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	98.3	69.7
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	1.7	30.3
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	96.7	39.7
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	3.3	60.3
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	16.3	35.1
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	34.8	27.4
Some college	32.4	32.5	31.1	23.6
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	17.9	13.8
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	53.4	52.9
Never married	28.1	37.4	21.8	33.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	24.8	13.5
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	24.8	42.1
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	68.8	62.2
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	73.3
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	6.5
Cuban	---	4.8	---	0.5
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	5.9
Dominican	---	3.1	---	0.0
Other	---	16.2	---	13.8
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	32.0	31.7
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	22.6	22.1
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	19.6	21.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	11.1	9.2
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	14.8	15.7

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

- ***Educational Attainment.*** More than one-third of Latino eligible voters in Arkansas (35%) have not completed high school, more than double the 16% of all Arkansas eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- ***Homeownership.*** More than six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Arkansas (62%) live in owner-occupied homes, slightly more than the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%). Greater shares of all eligible voters in Arkansas and all eligible voters nationwide (both 69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Arkansas, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Arkansas by almost 34 to 1, and black eligible voters outnumber Hispanics by more than 6 to 1.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black and white eligible voters in Arkansas. Some 35% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29 compared with 27% of black eligible voters and 19% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of high school education than do black and white eligible voters in Arkansas. Some 35% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma compared with 22% of black eligible voters and 15% of white eligible voters. However, a slightly larger share of Hispanic (14%) than black (11%) eligible voters in Arkansas have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Table 3

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black
Total population (thousands)			
	182	2,176	462
Total eligible voter population (thousands)			
	51	1,704	322
Age			
18-29	34.7	19.1	27.1
30-44	33.1	23.4	28.1
45-54	14.3	18.5	18.7
55-64	11.0	17.1	13.9
65 and older	6.9	21.8	12.1
Gender			
Male	53.9	48.5	46.3
Female	46.1	51.5	53.7
Type of citizen			
Citizen by birth	69.7	99.5	99.8
Naturalized citizen	30.3	0.5	0.2
Language			
Speaks only English at home	39.7	98.6	99.3
Does not speak only English at home	60.3	1.4	0.7
Educational attainment			
Less than high school diploma	35.1	14.5	22.1
High school diploma or equivalent	27.4	34.9	36.7
Some college	23.6	31.3	30.4
Bachelor's degree or more	13.8	19.3	10.8
Marital Status			
Married	52.9	57.8	30.7
Never married	33.6	17.7	40.3
Divorced/separated/widowed	13.5	24.5	29.0
With child younger than 18 in home	42.1	24.5	24.3
Homeownership rate	62.2	73.2	47.1
Household income			
Less than \$30,000	31.7	29.0	48.0
\$30,000-\$49,999	22.1	23.0	20.5
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.3	20.2	15.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	9.2	11.5	9.1
\$100,000 or more	15.7	16.2	6.6

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

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

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- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (62%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black (47%) eligible voters in Arkansas, but they are less likely to do so than white (73%) eligible voters.