

Monday, October 1, 2012

Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: Massachusetts

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: Massachusetts

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in Massachusetts.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 Massachusetts's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Massachusetts is the 15th largest in the nation.⁴ About 631,000 Hispanics reside in Massachusetts, 1.2% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Massachusetts's population is 10% Hispanic, the 18th largest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 299,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts—the 11th largest Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9

Table 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Massachusetts, 2010

	U.S.	Massachusetts	Massachusetts state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	6,557	14
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	631	15
Percent Hispanic	16.4	9.6	18
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	4,674	16
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	299	11
Percent Hispanic	10.0	6.4	15
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	47.4	12*

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)

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](#).

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 6% of Massachusetts eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking 15th in Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- Nearly half (47%) of Hispanics in Massachusetts are eligible to vote, ranking Massachusetts 12th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, nearly eight-in-ten (78%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** About one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts (34%) 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 Massachusetts eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts, 25% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 10% of all eligible voters in Massachusetts and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. More than half (54%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts are of Puerto Rican origin, 17% are of Dominican origin, 5% are Mexican, and 24%

Table 2

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Massachusetts	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	6,557	631
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	4,674	299
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	21.0	33.9
30-44	24.6	29.3	23.8	32.8
45-54	19.4	16.7	20.1	15.7
55-64	16.3	10.9	16.4	9.8
65 and older	18.2	10.4	18.7	7.9
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	47.3	45.4
Female	51.8	51.7	52.7	54.6
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	90.4	75.4
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	9.6	24.6
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	84.7	23.0
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	15.3	77.0
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	9.5	28.4
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	26.4	30.3
Some college	32.4	32.5	27.7	26.3
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	36.4	15.0
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	48.5	33.5
Never married	28.1	37.4	32.3	46.9
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	19.2	19.6
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	24.3	31.3
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	67.0	33.7
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	5.2
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	54.1
Cuban	---	4.8	---	2.6
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	2.5
Dominican	---	3.1	---	16.8
Other	---	16.2	---	18.8
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	18.0	37.4
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	13.6	19.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	16.9	16.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	14.8	9.9
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	36.8	16.7

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)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, only 14% are Puerto Rican, 3% are Dominican, 59% are Mexican, and 23% are of some other Hispanic origin.

- ***Educational Attainment.*** Nearly three-in-ten Latino eligible voters in Massachusetts (28%) have not completed high school, about triple the 10% of all Massachusetts eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- ***Homeownership.*** About one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts (34%) live in owner-occupied homes, significantly less than the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%). Greater shares of all eligible voters in Massachusetts (67%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Massachusetts, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts by 13 to 1. There is a similar number of Hispanic (299,000) and black (235,000) eligible voters in Massachusetts, and Hispanic eligible voters outnumber Asians by almost 2 to 1.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black, Asian and white eligible voters in Massachusetts. Some 34% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 27% of black and Asian eligible voters and 19% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do Asian, black and white eligible voters in Massachusetts. Some 28% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 16% of Asian eligible voters, 14% of black eligible voters and 7% of white eligible voters.

Table 3

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	631	5,002	411	351
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	299	3,894	235	165
Age				
18-29	33.9	19.0	27.3	26.5
30-44	32.8	22.5	28.1	31.2
45-54	15.7	20.6	18.5	19.4
55-64	9.8	17.4	13.5	11.9
65 and older	7.9	20.4	12.5	11.0
Gender				
Male	45.4	47.5	47.1	46.3
Female	54.6	52.5	52.9	53.7
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	75.4	95.2	75.9	29.7
Naturalized citizen	24.6	4.8	24.1	70.3
Language				
Speaks only English at home	23.0	92.8	77.4	21.5
Does not speak only English at home	77.0	7.2	22.6	78.5
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	28.4	7.4	14.0	16.1
High school diploma or equivalent	30.3	26.2	29.9	17.4
Some college	26.3	27.7	35.8	19.2
Bachelor's degree or more	15.0	38.7	20.3	47.3
Marital Status				
Married	33.5	50.7	29.7	57.2
Never married	46.9	29.7	49.5	33.5
Divorced/separated/widowed	19.6	19.5	20.9	9.3
With child younger than 18 in home	31.3	23.5	25.2	32.1
Homeownership rate	33.7	71.6	41.6	65.1
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	37.4	15.8	26.8	17.0
\$30,000-\$49,999	19.2	13.0	16.9	10.7
\$50,000-\$74,999	16.8	16.9	17.6	17.5
\$75,000-\$99,999	9.9	15.2	14.7	14.0
\$100,000 or more	16.7	39.1	24.0	40.8

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 (34%) are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black (42%), Asian (65%) or white (72%) eligible voters in Massachusetts.