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Factsheet

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## Latinos in the 2012 Election: Rhode Island

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## Latinos in the 2012 Election: Rhode Island

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters<sup>1</sup> and other major groups of eligible voters in Rhode Island.<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 Rhode Island's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Rhode Island ranks 37th in the nation.<sup>4</sup> About 131,000 Hispanics reside in Rhode Island, 0.3% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Rhode Island's population is 12% Hispanic, the 13th largest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 54,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Rhode Island—ranks 35th in Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California

Table 1

#### Population and Electorate in the United States and Rhode Island, 2010

	U.S.	Rhode Island	Rhode Island state rank
<b>Total population (all ages)</b>			
All (thousands)	309,350	1,053	43
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	131	37
Percent Hispanic	16.4	12.5	13
<b>Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)</b>			
All (thousands)	214,972	768	43
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	54	35
Percent Hispanic	10.0	7.1	13
<b>Eligibility of Hispanic population</b>			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	41.3	21*

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.

ranks first with 5.9 million.

- Some 7% of Rhode Island eligible voters are Hispanic, the 13th largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- More than four-in-ten (41%) Hispanics in Rhode Island are eligible to vote, ranking Rhode Island 21st nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, more than eight-in-ten (81%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** Fully 37% of Hispanic eligible voters in Rhode Island are ages 18 to 29, greater than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 22% of all Rhode Island eligible voters and of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Rhode Island, one-third (33%) are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 8% of all eligible voters in the state and nationwide.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Rhode Island have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Puerto Ricans make up 41% of Hispanic eligible voters and Dominicans are another 28%, while those of Mexican origin total 7%. This is a contrast to the U.S. overall, where nearly

Table 2

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Rhode Island	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	309,350	50,730	1,053	131
<b>Total eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	214,972	21,509	768	54
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	21.6	32.8	21.7	36.6
30-44	24.6	29.3	23.3	34.0
45-54	19.4	16.7	19.6	15.3
55-64	16.3	10.9	16.5	8.9
65 and older	18.2	10.4	18.9	5.2
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	48.2	48.3	47.1	44.2
Female	51.8	51.7	52.9	55.8
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	91.9	66.5
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	8.1	33.5
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	85.2	16.3
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	14.8	83.7
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	13.0	26.8
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	27.4	31.6
Some college	32.4	32.5	31.1	31.7
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	28.5	9.8
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	50.9	44.7	45.5	36.9
Never married	28.1	37.4	32.6	45.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	21.9	18.1
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	25.0	31.1	22.4	34.9
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	68.8	58.2	64.8	38.2
<b>Hispanic origin</b>				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	7.3
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	40.5
Cuban	---	4.8	---	1.0
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	0.8
Dominican	---	3.1	---	28.3
Other	---	16.2	---	22.1
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	21.9	38.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	15.8	24.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	19.0	15.0
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	15.8	13.8
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	27.5	8.8

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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six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters (59%) are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican, and 3% are Dominican.

- ***Educational Attainment.*** More than one-quarter of Latino eligible voters in Rhode Island (27%) have not completed high school, about double the 13% of all Rhode Island eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- ***Homeownership.*** Some 38% of Hispanic eligible voters in Rhode Island live in owner-occupied homes, less than the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%). Greater shares of all eligible voters in Rhode Island (65%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Rhode Island, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Rhode Island by a 12-to-1 margin. However, there are more Hispanic eligible voters in the state (about 54,000) than black eligible voters (34,000).
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black and white eligible voters in Rhode Island. Some 37% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 32% of black eligible voters and 20% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do black and white eligible voters in Rhode Island. Some 27% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 21% of black eligible voters and 11% of white eligible voters.

Table 3

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>			
	131	804	55
<b>Total eligible voter population (thousands)</b>			
	54	650	34
<b>Age</b>			
18-29	36.6	19.6	32.3
30-44	34.0	21.9	28.0
45-54	15.3	20.0	17.8
55-64	8.9	17.4	13.7
65 and older	5.2	21.0	8.2
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	44.2	47.3	47.5
Female	55.8	52.7	52.5
<b>Type of citizen</b>			
Citizen by birth	66.5	96.1	76.7
Naturalized citizen	33.5	3.9	23.3
<b>Language</b>			
Speaks only English at home	16.3	93.0	77.9
Does not speak only English at home	83.7	7.0	22.1
<b>Educational attainment</b>			
Less than high school diploma	26.8	11.3	21.2
High school diploma or equivalent	31.6	27.2	26.6
Some college	31.7	30.8	37.6
Bachelor's degree or more	9.8	30.7	14.7
<b>Marital Status</b>			
Married	36.9	47.1	30.7
Never married	45.0	30.3	49.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	18.1	22.6	19.7
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>			
	34.9	20.8	30.7
<b>Homeownership rate</b>			
	38.2	69.1	37.2
<b>Household income</b>			
Less than \$30,000	38.3	19.1	50.7
\$30,000-\$49,999	24.2	15.0	12.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	15.0	19.3	19.4
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	16.5	8.1
\$100,000 or more	8.8	30.1	9.6

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 (38%) are slightly more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black (37%) eligible voters in Rhode Island, but they are less likely to do so than white (69%) eligible voters.