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Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: Utah

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Latinos in the 2012 Election: Utah

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

- The Hispanic population in Utah is ranked 34th in the nation.⁴ About 362,000 Hispanics reside in Utah, 0.7% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Utah's population is 13% Hispanic, the 12th largest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 123,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Utah—which ranks 24th in Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9

Table 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Utah, 2010

	U.S.	Utah	Utah state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	2,776	34
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	362	22
Percent Hispanic	16.4	13.0	12
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	1,768	35
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	123	24
Percent Hispanic	10.0	7.0	14
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	34.1	35*

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 7% of Utah eligible voters are Hispanic, the 14th largest Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- More than one-in-three (34%) Hispanics in Utah are eligible to vote, ranking Utah 35th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 70% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- **Age.** About four-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Utah (39%) are ages 18 to 29, greater than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 29% of all Utah eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Utah, 24% are naturalized U.S. citizens, about the same as Hispanic eligible voters in the nation (25%). Only 4% of all eligible voters in Utah are naturalized citizens, as are 8% of all U.S. eligible voters.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Like Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, a majority of Hispanic eligible voters in Utah are Mexican. About seven-in-ten (69%) Hispanic eligible voters in Utah are of Mexican origin, compared to 59% in the total U.S. Puerto Ricans compose 3% of the Hispanic eligible voter

Table 2

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Utah	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	2,776	362
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	1,768	123
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	28.7	39.1
30-44	24.6	29.3	27.7	29.4
45-54	19.4	16.7	16.4	15.1
55-64	16.3	10.9	13.3	9.7
65 and older	18.2	10.4	13.9	6.7
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	49.4	50.8
Female	51.8	51.7	50.6	49.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	96.1	76.5
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	3.9	23.5
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	91.0	49.7
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	9.0	50.3
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	8.0	25.2
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	25.1	33.1
Some college	32.4	32.5	40.8	30.1
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	26.1	11.5
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	60.8	50.2
Never married	28.1	37.4	23.5	32.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	15.7	17.2
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	34.8	37.2
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	72.7	58.7
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	68.9
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	3.2
Cuban	---	4.8	---	1.6
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	2.1
Dominican	---	3.1	---	0.3
Other	---	16.2	---	23.9
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	18.2	25.4
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	18.3	23.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	22.6	23.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	15.7	12.0
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	25.1	15.2

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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population in Utah, compared to 14% in the nation as a whole. Fully 28% of Hispanics in Utah are of another Hispanic origin, compared to 26% of Hispanics nationwide.

- **Educational Attainment.** One-in-four Latino eligible voters in Utah (25%) have not completed high school, more than triple the 8% of all Utah eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** More than half of Hispanic eligible voters in Utah (59%) live in owner-occupied homes, just above the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%). Greater shares of all eligible voters in Utah (73%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Utah, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Utah by more than 12 to 1. There are about five times as many Hispanic eligible voters as Asian eligible voters in the state.
- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white and Asian eligible voters in Utah. Nearly four-in-ten (39%) Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 27% of white eligible voters and 25% of Asian eligible voters.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do Asian and white eligible voters in Utah. Fully 25% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 7% of Asian eligible voters and 6% of white eligible voters.

Table 3

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Asian
Total population (thousands)			
	362	2,230	53
Total eligible voter population (thousands)			
	123	1,553	25
Age			
18-29	39.1	27.4	25.4
30-44	29.4	27.5	32.9
45-54	15.1	16.5	18.0
55-64	9.7	13.8	14.1
65 and older	6.7	14.8	9.6
Gender			
Male	50.8	49.5	44.6
Female	49.2	50.5	55.4
Type of citizen			
Citizen by birth	76.5	98.6	45.2
Naturalized citizen	23.5	1.4	54.8
Language			
Speaks only English at home	49.7	95.9	39.7
Does not speak only English at home	50.3	4.1	60.3
Educational attainment			
Less than high school diploma	25.2	6.4	7.3
High school diploma or equivalent	33.1	24.3	21.3
Some college	30.1	41.8	37.4
Bachelor's degree or more	11.5	27.4	34.0
Marital Status			
Married	50.2	62.4	60.2
Never married	32.6	21.9	25.7
Divorced/separated/widowed	17.2	15.7	14.1
With child younger than 18 in home			
	37.2	34.8	36.8
Homeownership rate			
	58.7	74.6	79.7
Household income			
Less than \$30,000	25.4	17.2	19.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	23.6	17.9	14.3
\$50,000-\$74,999	23.8	22.7	20.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	12.0	16.1	17.0
\$100,000 or more	15.2	26.1	28.1

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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- ***Homeownership.*** Less than six-in-ten (59%) Hispanic eligible voters in Utah live in owner-occupied homes. This is a smaller rate than that of eligible voters in Utah who are Asian (80%) or white (75%).