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# Latinos in the 2014 Election: Arkansas

## *Factsheet*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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# Latinos in the 2014 Election: Arkansas

BY Anna Brown AND Eileen Patten

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters<sup>1</sup> and other major groups of eligible voters in Arkansas.<sup>2</sup> All demographic data are based on Pew Research Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 American Community Survey.<sup>3</sup>

## Hispanics in Arkansas's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Arkansas ranks 32nd in the nation. About 197,000 Hispanics reside in Arkansas, 0.4% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Arkansas's population is 7% Hispanic, ranking 29th in Hispanic statewide population share nationally.

TABLE 1

### Population and Electorate in the United States and Arkansas, 2012

|  | U.S.    | Arkansas | Arkansas state rank |
|--|---------|----------|---------------------|
| <b>Total population (all ages)</b>                                 |         |          |                     |
| All (thousands)  | 313,914 | 2,949    | 32                  |
| Hispanics (thousands)  | 52,932  | 197      | 32                  |
| Percent Hispanic   | 16.9    | 6.7      | 29                  |
| <b>Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)</b> |         |          |                     |
| All (thousands)  | 220,111 | 2,162    | 32                  |
| Hispanics (thousands)  | 23,632  | 63       | 34                  |
| Percent Hispanic   | 10.7    | 2.9      | 33                  |
| <b>Eligibility of Hispanic population</b>                          |         |          |                     |
| Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote                    | 44.6    | 32.0     | 47                  |

Note: Percentages calculated before rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2012 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 2012 [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 2012 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](#).

- There are 63,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Arkansas—ranking 34th in Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.
- Some 3% of Arkansas eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking 33rd in Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- About one-third (32%) of Hispanics in Arkansas are eligible to vote, ranking Arkansas 47th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 79% of the state’s white population is eligible to vote.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- **Age.** About one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Arkansas (36%) are ages 18 to 29, roughly equal 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, higher than the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S. Just 2% of all eligible voters in Arkansas and 8% in the U.S. overall are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Arkansas have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. About three-quarters (77%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Arkansas are of Mexican origin, 5% are of Puerto

TABLE 2

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Arkansas and the United States, 2012

*% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)*

|  | U.S.    |           | Arkansas |           |
|--|---------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|  | All     | Hispanics | All      | Hispanics |
| <b>Total population (thousands)</b>          | 313,914 | 52,932    | 2,949    | 197       |
| <b>Eligible voter population (thousands)</b> | 220,111 | 23,632    | 2,162    | 63        |
| <b>Age</b>                                   |         |           |          |           |
| 18-29  | 21.6    | 33.1      | 21.1     | 36.4      |
| 30-44  | 24.3    | 29.1      | 24.2     | 34.5      |
| 45-54  | 18.5    | 16.2      | 17.7     | 15.8      |
| 55-64  | 16.7    | 11.1      | 16.7     | 7.0       |
| 65 and older                                 | 18.9    | 10.5      | 20.3     | 6.3       |
| <b>Gender</b>                                |         |           |          |           |
| Male   | 48.4    | 48.9      | 48.2     | 52.9      |
| Female                                       | 51.6    | 51.1      | 51.8     | 47.1      |
| <b>Type of citizen</b>                       |         |           |          |           |
| Citizen by birth                             | 91.8    | 75.2      | 98.1     | 70.2      |
| Naturalized citizen                          | 8.2     | 24.8      | 1.9      | 29.8      |
| <b>Language</b>                              |         |           |          |           |
| Speaks only English at home                  | 85.6    | 31.5      | 96.6     | 46.9      |
| Does not speak only English at home          | 14.4    | 68.5      | 3.4      | 53.1      |
| <b>Educational attainment</b>                |         |           |          |           |
| Less than high school graduate               | 11.5    | 23.0      | 13.8     | 27.7      |
| High school graduate                         | 28.6    | 28.5      | 35.9     | 34.8      |
| Two-year degree/Some college                 | 32.8    | 33.6      | 30.9     | 27.3      |
| Bachelor's degree or more                    | 27.2    | 15.0      | 19.4     | 10.3      |
| <b>Marital status</b>                        |         |           |          |           |
| Married                                      | 50.0    | 42.9      | 52.4     | 49.2      |
| Never married                                | 29.1    | 39.1      | 23.2     | 33.9      |
| Divorced/separated/widowed                   | 20.9    | 18.0      | 24.4     | 16.9      |
| <b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>    | 24.2    | 29.9      | 24.3     | 37.9      |
| <b>Homeownership rate</b>                    | 67.5    | 56.0      | 67.5     | 52.9      |
| <b>Hispanic origin</b>                       |         |           |          |           |
| Mexican                                      | -       | 58.9      | -        | 76.6      |
| Puerto Rican                                 | -       | 14.0      | -        | 5.0       |
| Cuban  | -       | 4.8       | -        | 0.5       |
| Salvadoran                                   | -       | 2.6       | -        | 4.1       |
| Dominican                                    | -       | 3.2       | -        | <0.05     |
| Other  | -       | 16.5      | -        | 13.7      |
| <b>Household income</b>                      |         |           |          |           |
| Less than \$30,000                           | 22.2    | 25.1      | 30.7     | 30.9      |
| \$30,000-\$49,999                            | 17.9    | 20.2      | 21.7     | 27.2      |
| \$50,000-\$74,999                            | 19.1    | 20.5      | 20.3     | 18.6      |
| \$75,000-\$99,999                            | 13.8    | 13.6      | 12.0     | 11.8      |
| \$100,000 or more                            | 26.9    | 20.6      | 15.3     | 11.5      |

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. High school graduate includes GEDs or equivalent.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2012 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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Rican origin, and 18% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, 59% are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican, and 27% are of some other Hispanic origin.

- **Educational Attainment.** About three-in-ten Latino eligible voters in Arkansas (28%) have not completed high school, double the 14% of all Arkansas eligible voters who have not completed high school and higher than the 23% of Hispanic eligible voters nationwide who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** About half of Hispanic eligible voters in Arkansas (53%) live in owner-occupied homes, around the same as the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (56%). Greater shares of all eligible voters in Arkansas (68%) and all eligible voters nationwide (67%) 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 about 27 to 1, and black eligible voters outnumber Hispanics by about 5 to 1.
- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white and black eligible voters in Arkansas. Some 36% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 19% of white eligible voters and 28% of black eligible voters.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white and black eligible voters in Arkansas. Some 28% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 12% of white eligible voters and 19% of black eligible voters.
- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (53%) are more likely than black eligible voters (47%) but less likely than white eligible voters (72%) to live in owner-occupied homes in Arkansas.

TABLE 3

### Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Arkansas and the United States, by Race and Ethnicity, 2012

*% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)*

|  | Hispanic | White | Black |
|--|----------|-------|-------|
| <b>Total population (thousands)</b>          | 197      | 2,182 | 460   |
| <b>Eligible voter population (thousands)</b> | 63       | 1,714 | 325   |
| <b>Age</b>                                   |          |       |       |
| 18-29  | 36.4     | 19.1  | 28.1  |
| 30-44  | 34.5     | 23.1  | 27.4  |
| 45-54  | 15.8     | 17.9  | 17.5  |
| 55-64  | 7.0      | 17.2  | 15.5  |
| 65 and older                                 | 6.3      | 22.7  | 11.4  |
| <b>Gender</b>                                |          |       |       |
| Male   | 52.9     | 48.5  | 46.4  |
| Female                                       | 47.1     | 51.5  | 53.6  |
| <b>Type of citizen</b>                       |          |       |       |
| Citizen by birth                             | 70.2     | 99.5  | 99.8  |
| Naturalized citizen                          | 29.8     | 0.5   | 0.2   |
| <b>Language</b>                              |          |       |       |
| Speaks only English at home                  | 46.9     | 98.8  | 98.7  |
| Does not speak only English at home          | 53.1     | 1.2   | 1.3   |
| <b>Educational attainment</b>                |          |       |       |
| Less than high school graduate               | 27.7     | 12.3  | 19.2  |
| High school graduate                         | 34.8     | 35.8  | 37.9  |
| Two-year degree/Some college                 | 27.3     | 31.1  | 30.2  |
| Bachelor's degree or more                    | 10.3     | 20.8  | 12.6  |
| <b>Marital status</b>                        |          |       |       |
| Married                                      | 49.2     | 57.0  | 29.3  |
| Never married                                | 33.9     | 18.7  | 44.3  |
| Divorced/separated/widowed                   | 16.9     | 24.3  | 26.4  |
| <b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>    | 37.9     | 24.0  | 23.0  |
| <b>Homeownership rate</b>                    | 52.9     | 72.1  | 46.6  |
| <b>Household income</b>                      |          |       |       |
| Less than \$30,000                           | 30.9     | 27.8  | 46.2  |
| \$30,000-\$49,999                            | 27.2     | 21.0  | 23.7  |
| \$50,000-\$74,999                            | 18.6     | 21.3  | 15.8  |
| \$75,000-\$99,999                            | 11.8     | 12.7  | 8.2   |
| \$100,000 or more                            | 11.5     | 17.2  | 6.2   |

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. High school graduate includes GEDs or equivalent. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2012 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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