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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Florida

Factsheet

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Florida

BY Anna Brown AND Eileen Patten

This profile provides Florida voter registration data, including party affiliation, as reported by the Florida Division of Elections through July 28, 2014. It also provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in Florida.² All demographic data are based on Pew Research Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 American Community Survey.³

Florida Voter Registration Statistics

According to the [Florida Department of State Division of Elections](#), 1,706,000

Latinos were registered to vote statewide as of book closing on July 28, 2014 for the primary election. Overall, Latinos make up 14.4% of the state's more than 11.8 million active registered voters. Among Latino registered voters, 467,000 are registered as Republicans, making up 11.3% of all Republican registered voters. And 653,000 Latino registered voters are registered as Democrats, representing 14.2% of all Democratic registered voters.

TABLE 1

Party Affiliation among Hispanic Active Registered Voters in Florida, 2006 to 2014

In thousands

	Republicans	Democrats	Other Party	No Party Affiliation	Total
2014*	467	653	28	559	1,706
2012	476	645	26	513	1,660
2010	445	551	25	405	1,426
2008	446	513	24	373	1,355
2006	414	370	17	313	1,114

Note: *Data for 2014 as of primary election book-closing date (July 28, 2014). For all other years, data reflect the general election book-closing numbers.

Source: Florida Department of State Division of Elections
<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voter-registration/statistics/elections.shtml>

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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 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](#).

As recently as 2006, more Hispanics in Florida were registered as Republicans (37%) than as Democrats (33%). By 2008, the balance tipped over to the Democrats. The gap between Hispanics who are registered as Democrats (38%) and those registered as Republicans (27%) is wider now than in 2010.

Geographically, the majority of Hispanic Republican registered voters are located in South Florida. According to the Division of Elections, 56% (263,000) are in Miami-Dade County alone. By contrast, among the state's Hispanic Democratic registered voters, a smaller share, 33% (216,000), are registered to vote in Miami-Dade County.

Hispanics have grown from 10.7% of the registered voters in 2006 to 14.4% today. They outnumber black registered voters (13.5%). The share of white eligible voters has declined from 2006, when they composed 72.0% of registered voters. Whites today make up about two-thirds (66.1%) of registered voters, and Asians are an additional 1.7% of the state's registered voters.

TABLE 2

Active Registered Voters in Florida, by Race and Ethnicity, 2006 to 2014

In thousands

	Hispanic		White		Black		Asian		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2014*	1,706	14.4	7,800	66.1	1,594	13.5	202	1.7	11,808	100.0
2012	1,660	13.9	7,939	66.5	1,620	13.6	194	1.6	11,934	100.0
2010	1,426	12.7	7,693	68.6	1,460	13.0	165	1.5	11,217	100.0
2008	1,355	12.0	7,773	69.1	1,469	13.1	151	1.3	11,248	100.0
2006	1,114	10.7	7,509	72.0	1,248	12.0	120	1.1	10,434	100.0

Note: *Data for 2014 as of primary election book-closing date (July 28, 2014). For all other years, data reflect the general election book-closing numbers. "Asian" includes Pacific Islanders. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Percentages calculated before rounding. Total includes some groups not shown separately (e.g., Native Americans).

Source: Florida Department of State Division of Elections

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voter-registration/statistics/elections.shtml>

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Hispanics in Florida's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Florida is the third largest in the nation. About 4.5 million Hispanics reside in Florida, 8.5% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Florida's population is 23% Hispanic, the sixth largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.
- There are 2.3 million Hispanic eligible voters in Florida—the third largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.

TABLE 3

Population and Electorate in the United States and Florida, 2012

	U.S.	Florida	Florida state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	313,914	19,318	4
Hispanics (thousands)	52,932	4,484	3
Percent Hispanic	16.9	23.2	6
Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	220,111	13,640	3
Hispanics (thousands)	23,632	2,328	3
Percent Hispanic	10.7	17.1	5
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	44.6	51.9	11

Note: Percentages calculated before rounding.

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

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- Some 17% of Florida eligible voters are Hispanic, the fifth largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- About half (52%) of Hispanics in Florida are eligible to vote, ranking Florida 11th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 81% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- **Age.** One-quarter of Hispanic eligible voters in Florida are ages 18 to 29, a smaller share than all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. Some 19% of all Florida eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Florida, 43% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This is greater than the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., 14% of all eligible voters in Florida and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall who are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Florida have a different Hispanic origin profile to Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Only 9% of Hispanic eligible voters in Florida are of Mexican

TABLE 4

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Florida and the United States, 2012

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Florida	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	313,914	52,932	19,318	4,484
Eligible voter population (thousands)	220,111	23,632	13,640	2,328
Age				
18-29	21.6	33.1	19.5	25.5
30-44	24.3	29.1	22.0	27.8
45-54	18.5	16.2	17.7	17.6
55-64	16.7	11.1	16.6	12.2
65 and older	18.9	10.5	24.3	16.9
Gender				
Male	48.4	48.9	48.1	47.4
Female	51.6	51.1	51.9	52.6
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	91.8	75.2	86.3	56.6
Naturalized citizen	8.2	24.8	13.7	43.4
Language				
Speaks only English at home	85.6	31.5	79.2	16.8
Does not speak only English at home	14.4	68.5	20.8	83.2
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	11.5	23.0	12.0	18.3
High school graduate	28.6	28.5	29.8	27.6
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	33.6	33.0	33.2
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	15.0	25.2	21.0
Marital status				
Married	50.0	42.9	47.7	45.6
Never married	29.1	39.1	27.7	32.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	18.0	24.5	22.4
With child younger than 18 in home	24.2	29.9	20.2	26.3
Homeownership rate	67.5	56.0	68.8	62.8
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	-	58.9	-	9.5
Puerto Rican	-	14.0	-	26.8
Cuban	-	4.8	-	31.7
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	1.0
Dominican	-	3.2	-	4.7
Other	-	16.5	-	26.4
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.2	25.1	25.1	27.5
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	20.2	20.8	22.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.1	20.5	19.9	20.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.6	12.7	12.2
\$100,000 or more	26.9	20.6	21.5	18.1

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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origin, 27% are of Puerto Rican origin, 32% are of Cuban origin and 32% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, 59% are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican, 5% are of Cuban origin and 22% are of some other Hispanic origin.

- **Educational Attainment.** About two-in-ten Latino eligible voters in Florida (18%) have not completed high school. That is lower than the rate for Latino eligible voters nationwide—23%—but greater than the rate for all U.S. eligible voters (11%) or all eligible voters in Florida (12%).
- **Homeownership.** About six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Florida (63%) live in owner-occupied homes. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Florida (69%) and all eligible voters nationwide (67%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Florida, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Florida by about 4 to 1. There are more Hispanic (2.3 million) voters than black (1.9 million) eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters outnumber Asian eligible voters by 9 to 1.
- **Age.** Black eligible voters are younger than Hispanic, white or Asian eligible voters in Florida—28% of black eligible voters are ages 18 to 29, compared with 25% of Hispanic, 16% of white and 20% of Asian eligible voters.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of high school education than do white and Asian eligible voters in Florida, and about the same level of high school education as black eligible voters. Some 18% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high

TABLE 5

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	4,484	10,970	2,975	478
Eligible voter population (thousands)	2,328	8,925	1,911	256
Age				
18-29	25.5	15.7	28.1	20.4
30-44	27.8	19.2	26.8	27.7
45-54	17.6	17.6	18.1	19.7
55-64	12.2	18.3	14.1	16.5
65 and older	16.9	29.2	12.8	15.8
Gender				
Male	47.4	48.6	47.0	44.4
Female	52.6	51.4	53.0	55.6
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	56.6	96.2	84.8	24.5
Naturalized citizen	43.4	3.8	15.2	75.5
Language				
Speaks only English at home	16.8	94.8	88.7	29.4
Does not speak only English at home	83.2	5.2	11.3	70.6
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	18.3	8.9	18.9	13.2
High school graduate	27.6	30.0	33.6	18.3
Two-year degree/Some college	33.2	33.1	32.6	24.8
Bachelor's degree or more	21.0	28.0	14.9	43.6
Marital status				
Married	45.6	51.7	31.2	61.7
Never married	32.0	22.6	45.6	25.1
Divorced/separated/widowed	22.4	25.8	23.2	13.2
With child younger than 18 in home	26.3	17.7	22.8	30.1
Homeownership rate	62.8	73.9	51.5	81.4
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	27.5	22.3	36.2	17.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	22.0	20.0	23.3	18.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.3	20.1	18.8	17.5
\$75,000-\$99,999	12.2	13.4	10.2	13.2
\$100,000 or more	18.1	24.1	11.5	33.8

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, blacks and Asians 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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school diploma, compared with 9% of white, 19% of black and 13% of Asian eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters (21%) are less likely to have at least a bachelor's degree than white (28%) or Asian (44%) eligible voters, but more likely than black eligible voters (15%).

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (63%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (51%) in Florida, but are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white (74%) or Asian (81%) eligible voters.