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# Latinos in the 2014 Election: Illinois

## *Factsheet*

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

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

Illinois.<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 Illinois's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Illinois is the fifth largest in the nation. About 2.1 million Hispanics reside in Illinois, 4% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Illinois's population is 16% Hispanic, the 10th largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.

TABLE 1

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

	U.S.	Illinois	Illinois state rank
<b>Total population (all ages)</b>			
All (thousands)	313,914	12,875	5
Hispanics (thousands)	52,932	2,099	5
Percent Hispanic	16.9	16.3	10
<b>Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)</b>			
All (thousands)	220,111	8,930	6
Hispanics (thousands)	23,632	846	6
Percent Hispanic	10.7	9.5	11
<b>Eligibility of Hispanic population</b>			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	44.6	40.3	29

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 846,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois—the sixth largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.
- Some one-in-ten Illinois eligible voters (9%) are Hispanic, the 11th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Some 40% of Hispanics in Illinois are eligible to vote, ranking Illinois 29th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, more than three-quarters (78%) of the state’s white population is eligible to vote.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- **Age.** About one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois (34%) are ages 18 to 29, about the same as the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 22% of all Illinois eligible voters and all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois, 29% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This is greater than the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., 9% of all eligible voters in Illinois and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. About seven-in-ten (71%) Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois are of Mexican origin, 15% are of Puerto Rican origin, and 13%

TABLE 2

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

*% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)*

	U.S.		Illinois	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	313,914	52,932	12,875	2,099
<b>Eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	220,111	23,632	8,930	846
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	21.6	33.1	21.6	34.4
30-44	24.3	29.1	24.7	31.0
45-54	18.5	16.2	19.0	16.3
55-64	16.7	11.1	16.4	10.1
65 and older	18.9	10.5	18.3	8.1
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	48.4	48.9	48.0	50.5
Female	51.6	51.1	52.0	49.5
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	91.8	75.2	91.1	70.8
Naturalized citizen	8.2	24.8	8.9	29.2
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	85.6	31.5	84.9	26.4
Does not speak only English at home	14.4	68.5	15.1	73.6
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school graduate	11.5	23.0	10.2	24.2
High school graduate	28.6	28.5	27.3	28.3
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	33.6	32.8	32.8
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	15.0	29.7	14.7
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	50.0	42.9	49.3	42.8
Never married	29.1	39.1	31.2	41.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	18.0	19.5	15.5
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	24.2	29.9	24.3	31.1
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	67.5	56.0	70.7	64.5
<b>Hispanic origin</b>				
Mexican	-	58.9	-	71.3
Puerto Rican	-	14.0	-	15.2
Cuban	-	4.8	-	1.7
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	0.5
Dominican	-	3.2	-	0.3
Other	-	16.5	-	11.0
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$30,000	22.2	25.1	20.7	20.4
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	20.2	16.5	19.5
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.1	20.5	18.5	21.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.6	14.4	14.9
\$100,000 or more	26.9	20.6	29.9	23.4

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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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 one-quarter of Latino eligible voters in Illinois (24%) have not completed high school, more than twice the 10% of all Illinois eligible voters who have not completed high school and about the same as the 23% of Hispanics nationwide who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** About two-thirds of Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois (65%) live in owner-occupied homes, greater than the 56% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Illinois (71%) and eligible voters nationwide (67%) live in owner-occupied homes.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Illinois, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois by more than 7 to 1, and black eligible voters outnumber Hispanics by almost 2 to 1. The number of Hispanic eligible voters is about triple the number of Asian eligible voters.
- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white, black and Asian eligible voters in Illinois. Some 34% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 19% of white eligible voters, 26% of black eligible voters and 19% of Asian eligible voters.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white, black and Asian eligible voters in Illinois. Some 24% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 7% of white eligible voters, 17% of black eligible voters and 7% of Asian eligible voters.

TABLE 3

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

*% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)*

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	2,099	8,092	1,829	603
<b>Eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	846	6,330	1,327	307
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	34.4	18.8	25.8	19.3
30-44	31.0	23.2	26.1	30.8
45-54	16.3	19.5	18.8	17.5
55-64	10.1	17.6	15.2	17.5
65 and older	8.1	20.8	14.2	14.8
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	50.5	48.4	45.3	46.1
Female	49.5	51.6	54.7	53.9
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	70.8	95.5	98.0	26.2
Naturalized citizen	29.2	4.5	2.0	73.8
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	26.4	93.3	97.1	21.4
Does not speak only English at home	73.6	6.7	2.9	78.6
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school graduate	24.2	7.1	16.8	7.2
High school graduate	28.3	27.5	29.8	12.2
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	32.4	36.9	21.5
Bachelor's degree or more	14.7	33.1	16.6	59.1
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	42.8	54.7	25.5	63.9
Never married	41.6	25.7	51.0	26.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	15.5	19.6	23.6	10.1
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	31.1	23.5	21.9	31.3
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	64.5	77.1	44.1	74.9
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$30,000	20.4	17.2	39.5	13.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	19.5	15.8	18.9	11.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.8	18.7	15.7	14.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.9	15.2	11.0	13.8
\$100,000 or more	23.4	33.1	14.9	46.3

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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- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (65%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (44%) in Illinois, but are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white (77%) or Asian (75%) eligible voters.