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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Massachusetts

Factsheet

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Massachusetts

BY Anna Brown AND Eileen Patten

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in

Massachusetts.² All demographic data are based on Pew Research Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Massachusetts's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Massachusetts is the 16th largest in the nation. About 674,000 Hispanics reside in Massachusetts, 1.3% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Massachusetts's population is 10% Hispanic, the 18th largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.

TABLE 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Massachusetts, 2012

	U.S.	Massachusetts	Massachusetts state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	313,914	6,646	14
Hispanics (thousands)	52,932	674	16
Percent Hispanic	16.9	10.1	18
Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	220,111	4,802	15
Hispanics (thousands)	23,632	336	11
Percent Hispanic	10.7	7.0	16
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	44.6	49.8	13

Note: Percentages calculated before rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2012 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 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 336,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts—the 11th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.
- Some 7% of Massachusetts eligible voters are Hispanic, the 16th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Half of Hispanics in Massachusetts are eligible to vote, ranking Massachusetts 13th 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 Massachusetts (35%) are ages 18 to 29, slightly higher than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) and the share of all Massachusetts eligible voters (21%) and of all U.S. eligible voters (22%) in that age range.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts, 24% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 10% of all eligible voters in Massachusetts and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. More than half (53%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts are of

TABLE 2

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Massachusetts	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	313,914	52,932	6,646	674
Eligible voter population (thousands)	220,111	23,632	4,802	336
Age				
18-29	21.6	33.1	21.4	35.1
30-44	24.3	29.1	23.2	31.2
45-54	18.5	16.2	19.4	15.7
55-64	16.7	11.1	16.9	10.2
65 and older	18.9	10.5	19.2	7.8
Gender				
Male	48.4	48.9	47.5	45.1
Female	51.6	51.1	52.5	54.9
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	91.8	75.2	89.7	75.7
Naturalized citizen	8.2	24.8	10.3	24.3
Language				
Speaks only English at home	85.6	31.5	83.5	21.8
Does not speak only English at home	14.4	68.5	16.5	78.2
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	11.5	23.0	9.0	27.1
High school graduate	28.6	28.5	26.3	27.6
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	33.6	28.1	30.3
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	15.0	36.6	15.0
Marital status				
Married	50.0	42.9	47.8	31.5
Never married	29.1	39.1	33.0	50.2
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	18.0	19.2	18.3
With child younger than 18 in home	24.2	29.9	23.2	29.8
Homeownership rate				
	67.5	56.0	66.4	32.4
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	-	58.9	-	6.1
Puerto Rican	-	14.0	-	52.7
Cuban	-	4.8	-	2.7
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	3.4
Dominican	-	3.2	-	15.7
Other	-	16.5	-	19.5
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.2	25.1	17.4	38.6
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	20.2	13.2	17.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.1	20.5	16.1	16.1
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.6	14.1	9.0
\$100,000 or more	26.9	20.6	39.2	18.4

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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Puerto Rican origin, 16% are of Dominican origin, 6% are Mexican, and 26% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, only 14% are Puerto Rican, 3% are Dominican, 59% are Mexican, and 24% are of some other Hispanic origin.

- **Educational Attainment.** About one-quarter of Latino eligible voters in Massachusetts (27%) have not completed high school, triple the 9% of all Massachusetts eligible voters who have not completed high school and slightly higher than the 23% of Hispanics nationwide who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** About one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts (32%) live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 56% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Massachusetts (66%) and eligible voters nationwide (67%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Massachusetts, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts by 12 to 1. There are similar numbers of Hispanic (336,000) and black (248,000) eligible voters in Massachusetts, and Hispanic eligible voters outnumber Asians by almost 2 to 1.
- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white, black and Asian eligible voters in Massachusetts. Some 35% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 19% of white eligible voters, 28% of black eligible voters and 29% of Asian eligible voters.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white, black and Asian eligible voters in Massachusetts. Some 27% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 7% of white eligible voters, 15% of black eligible voters and 14% of Asian eligible voters.

TABLE 3

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	674	4,999	425	384
Eligible voter population (thousands)	336	3,948	248	185
Age				
18-29	35.1	19.2	27.8	29.2
30-44	31.2	21.8	28.4	30.4
45-54	15.7	19.9	18.7	17.0
55-64	10.2	18.0	13.7	12.7
65 and older	7.8	21.1	11.4	10.7
Gender				
Male	45.1	47.7	46.8	48.6
Female	54.9	52.3	53.2	51.4
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	75.7	94.8	73.0	33.1
Naturalized citizen	24.3	5.2	27.0	66.9
Language				
Speaks only English at home	21.8	92.3	73.8	23.7
Does not speak only English at home	78.2	7.7	26.2	76.3
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	27.1	6.7	15.2	14.1
High school graduate	27.6	26.4	29.4	17.5
Two-year degree/Some college	30.3	27.7	35.1	20.2
Bachelor's degree or more	15.0	39.2	20.3	48.2
Marital status				
Married	31.5	50.5	28.8	55.3
Never married	50.2	30.0	49.4	35.4
Divorced/separated/widowed	18.3	19.6	21.8	9.3
With child younger than 18 in home	29.8	22.2	24.7	30.8
Homeownership rate	32.4	71.5	39.8	62.1
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	38.6	14.8	28.6	17.5
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	12.6	16.2	11.7
\$50,000-\$74,999	16.1	16.0	18.7	14.1
\$75,000-\$99,999	9.0	14.7	12.6	13.0
\$100,000 or more	18.4	41.9	23.9	43.7

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 (32%) are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white (72%), black (40%) or Asian (62%) eligible voters in Massachusetts.