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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Missouri

Factsheet

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Missouri

BY Anna Brown AND Eileen Patten

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

- The Hispanic population in Missouri is the 30th largest in the nation. About 218,000 Hispanics reside in Missouri, 0.4% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Missouri's population is 4% Hispanic, the 41st largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.

TABLE 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Missouri, 2012

	U.S.	Missouri	Missouri state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	313,914	6,022	18
Hispanics (thousands)	52,932	218	30
Percent Hispanic	16.9	3.6	41
Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	220,111	4,503	17
Hispanics (thousands)	23,632	97	28
Percent Hispanic	10.7	2.1	39
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	44.6	44.3	23

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 97,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Missouri—the 28th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.
- Some 2% of Missouri eligible voters are Hispanic, the 39th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Some 44% of Hispanics in Missouri are eligible to vote, ranking Missouri 23rd nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 78% of the state’s white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- **Age.** About one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Missouri (36%) 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 21% of all Missouri eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Missouri, 15% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This is less than the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 2% of all eligible voters in Missouri and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Missouri have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Some 71% of Hispanic eligible voters in Missouri are of Mexican origin, 8% are of

TABLE 2

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Missouri	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	313,914	52,932	6,022	218
Eligible voter population (thousands)	220,111	23,632	4,503	97
Age				
18-29	21.6	33.1	21.2	35.9
30-44	24.3	29.1	23.8	28.2
45-54	18.5	16.2	18.7	16.6
55-64	16.7	11.1	16.8	9.2
65 and older	18.9	10.5	19.5	10.0
Gender				
Male	48.4	48.9	48.2	49.2
Female	51.6	51.1	51.8	50.8
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	91.8	75.2	98.0	84.9
Naturalized citizen	8.2	24.8	2.0	15.1
Language				
Speaks only English at home	85.6	31.5	96.3	60.2
Does not speak only English at home	14.4	68.5	3.7	39.8
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	11.5	23.0	11.9	15.2
High school graduate	28.6	28.5	31.8	29.7
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	33.6	32.7	35.8
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	15.0	23.6	19.3
Marital status				
Married	50.0	42.9	51.3	45.9
Never married	29.1	39.1	26.2	36.8
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	18.0	22.5	17.3
With child younger than 18 in home	24.2	29.9	24.2	31.2
Homeownership rate				
	67.5	56.0	69.6	59.0
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	-	58.9	-	71.2
Puerto Rican	-	14.0	-	7.7
Cuban	-	4.8	-	2.2
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	0.1
Dominican	-	3.2	-	1.0
Other	-	16.5	-	17.7
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.2	25.1	25.9	27.2
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	20.2	20.6	21.3
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.1	20.5	20.1	18.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.6	13.6	15.2
\$100,000 or more	26.9	20.6	19.9	18.0

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, and 21% 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.** Some 15% of Latino eligible voters in Missouri have not completed high school, higher than the 12% of all Missouri eligible voters who have not completed high school and a smaller share than the 23% of Hispanics nationwide who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** About six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Missouri (59%) live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 56% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Missouri (70%) and eligible voters nationwide (67%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Missouri, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Missouri by 39 to 1, and blacks outnumber Hispanics by more than 5 to 1. There are about twice as many Hispanic (97,000) as Asian (43,000) eligible voters.
- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white, black and Asian eligible voters in Missouri. Some 36% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 20% of white eligible voters, 27% of black eligible voters and 25% of Asian eligible voters.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white eligible voters in Missouri. Some 15% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma: higher than the 11% of white eligible voters but lower than the 18% of black eligible voters. Roughly equal shares of Hispanic and Asian eligible voters (16%) have no high school diploma. A slightly larger share of Hispanics compared with blacks have

TABLE 3

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	218	4,852	693	100
Eligible voter population (thousands)	97	3,788	493	43
Age				
18-29	35.9	19.9	26.5	25.2
30-44	28.2	23.2	26.7	29.2
45-54	16.6	18.8	18.8	18.2
55-64	9.2	17.3	14.6	16.2
65 and older	10.0	20.8	13.4	11.2
Gender				
Male	49.2	48.5	46.0	44.3
Female	50.8	51.5	54.0	55.7
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	84.9	99.2	98.1	29.9
Naturalized citizen	15.1	0.8	1.9	70.1
Language				
Speaks only English at home	60.2	97.9	97.6	34.3
Does not speak only English at home	39.8	2.1	2.4	65.7
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	15.2	10.9	18.0	16.1
High school graduate	29.7	32.2	30.6	20.4
Two-year degree/Some college	35.8	31.9	37.8	23.6
Bachelor's degree or more	19.3	25.0	13.6	40.0
Marital status				
Married	45.9	54.9	27.0	56.6
Never married	36.8	22.7	48.8	29.4
Divorced/separated/widowed	17.3	22.4	24.3	14.0
With child younger than 18 in home	31.2	24.0	23.1	30.0
Homeownership rate	59.0	73.4	44.0	73.4
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	27.2	23.8	41.9	16.6
\$30,000-\$49,999	21.3	20.7	21.4	8.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.3	20.6	16.3	22.1
\$75,000-\$99,999	15.2	14.0	9.5	16.5
\$100,000 or more	18.0	20.9	10.9	36.0

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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a bachelor's degree or more (19% vs. 14%), but Hispanics have a lower rate of bachelor's degrees than whites (25%) or Asians (40%).

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (59%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (44%) in Missouri, but are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white or Asian (both 73%) eligible voters.