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Latinos in the 2014 Election: Oklahoma

Factsheet

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

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

Oklahoma.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 Oklahoma's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Oklahoma is the 24th largest in the nation. About 356,000 Hispanics reside in Oklahoma, 0.7% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Oklahoma's population is 9% Hispanic, the 23rd largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.

TABLE 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Oklahoma, 2012

	U.S.	Oklahoma	Oklahoma state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	313,914	3,815	28
Hispanics (thousands)	52,932	356	24
Percent Hispanic	16.9	9.3	23
Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	220,111	2,746	28
Hispanics (thousands)	23,632	124	25
Percent Hispanic	10.7	4.5	25
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	44.6	34.7	43

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 124,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Oklahoma—the 25th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.
- Some 5% of Oklahoma eligible voters are Hispanic, the 25th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Some 35% of Hispanics in Oklahoma are eligible to vote, ranking Oklahoma 43rd 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.** Some 36% of Hispanic eligible voters in Oklahoma 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 Oklahoma eligible voters and of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Oklahoma, 16% 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 Oklahoma and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Oklahoma have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Some 79% of Hispanic eligible voters in Oklahoma are of

TABLE 2

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Oklahoma	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	313,914	52,932	3,815	356
Eligible voter population (thousands)	220,111	23,632	2,746	124
Age				
18-29	21.6	33.1	22.1	35.7
30-44	24.3	29.1	24.5	33.7
45-54	18.5	16.2	17.7	15.2
55-64	16.7	11.1	16.5	9.1
65 and older	18.9	10.5	19.2	6.3
Gender				
Male	48.4	48.9	48.7	49.7
Female	51.6	51.1	51.3	50.3
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	91.8	75.2	97.7	83.9
Naturalized citizen	8.2	24.8	2.3	16.1
Language				
Speaks only English at home	85.6	31.5	94.8	48.2
Does not speak only English at home	14.4	68.5	5.2	51.8
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	11.5	23.0	12.1	26.4
High school graduate	28.6	28.5	32.6	32.9
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	33.6	33.3	28.5
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	15.0	22.0	12.2
Marital status				
Married	50.0	42.9	51.6	46.8
Never married	29.1	39.1	23.7	33.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	18.0	24.6	19.6
With child younger than 18 in home	24.2	29.9	25.2	37.8
Homeownership rate	67.5	56.0	67.7	57.1
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	-	58.9	-	78.5
Puerto Rican	-	14.0	-	5.5
Cuban	-	4.8	-	1.4
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	0.5
Dominican	-	3.2	-	0.2
Other	-	16.5	-	13.9
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.2	25.1	26.7	31.2
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	20.2	20.1	26.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.1	20.5	20.4	20.2
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.6	13.8	10.1
\$100,000 or more	26.9	20.6	19.0	12.3

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

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

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Mexican origin, 5% are of Puerto Rican origin, and 16% 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 Oklahoma (26%) have not completed high school, twice the 12% of all Oklahoma eligible voters who have not completed high school and somewhat higher than the 23% of Hispanics nationwide who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** About six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Oklahoma (57%) live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 56% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Oklahoma (68%) and eligible voters nationwide (67%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Oklahoma, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Oklahoma by 17 to 1. There are slightly larger eligible voter populations among blacks (193,000) and Native Americans (189,000) than among Hispanics (124,000) in Oklahoma.

TABLE 3

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Native American
Total population (thousands)	356	2,586	270	278
Eligible voter population (thousands)	124	2,055	193	189
Age				
18-29	35.7	19.8	26.6	25.6
30-44	33.7	22.8	28.3	29.1
45-54	15.2	17.9	18.1	17.8
55-64	9.1	17.6	15.1	14.8
65 and older	6.3	21.9	11.9	12.7
Gender				
Male	49.7	48.6	50.0	48.6
Female	50.3	51.4	50.0	51.4
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	83.9	99.2	98.4	100.0
Naturalized citizen	16.1	0.8	1.6	<0.05
Language				
Speaks only English at home	48.2	98.4	96.8	92.9
Does not speak only English at home	51.8	1.6	3.2	7.1
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	26.4	10.7	12.4	17.1
High school graduate	32.9	32.9	33.0	33.2
Two-year degree/Some college	28.5	32.4	39.1	35.7
Bachelor's degree or more	12.2	24.0	15.4	14.0
Marital status				
Married	46.8	55.1	30.5	47.4
Never married	33.6	20.1	44.0	27.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	19.6	24.8	25.5	25.6
With child younger than 18 in home	37.8	23.9	24.7	29.3
Homeownership rate	57.1	71.4	44.5	66.0
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	31.2	24.5	39.8	32.2
\$30,000-\$49,999	26.2	19.5	20.5	23.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.2	20.9	17.0	18.6
\$75,000-\$99,999	10.1	14.3	12.2	13.1
\$100,000 or more	12.3	20.9	10.5	13.0

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 Native Americans 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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voters have at least a bachelor's degree, while 15% of black and 24% of white eligible voters do.

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (57%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (44%) in Oklahoma, but are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white (71%) or Native American (66%) eligible voters.