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Latinos in the 2014 Election: South Carolina

Factsheet

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

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Latinos in the 2014 Election: South Carolina

BY Anna Brown AND Eileen Patten

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

South Carolina.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 South Carolina's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in South Carolina is the 29th largest in the nation. About 247,000 Hispanics reside in South Carolina, 0.5% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- South Carolina's population is 5% Hispanic, the 34th largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.

TABLE 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and South Carolina, 2012

	U.S.	South Carolina	South Carolina state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	313,914	4,724	24
Hispanics (thousands)	52,932	247	29
Percent Hispanic	16.9	5.2	34
Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	220,111	3,514	24
Hispanics (thousands)	23,632	82	31
Percent Hispanic	10.7	2.3	38
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	44.6	33.1	44

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 82,000 Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina—the 31st largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.
- Some 2% of South Carolina eligible voters are Hispanic, the 38th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Some 33% of Hispanics in South Carolina are eligible to vote, ranking South Carolina 44th 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 four-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina (38%) are ages 18 to 29, slightly higher than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) and the share of all South Carolina eligible voters (21%) and of all U.S. eligible voters (22%) in that age range.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina, 23% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 2% of all eligible voters in South Carolina and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Some three-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina are of Mexican origin, 29% of

TABLE 2

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in South Carolina and the United States, 2012

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		South Carolina	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	313,914	52,932	4,724	247
Eligible voter population (thousands)	220,111	23,632	3,514	82
Age				
18-29	21.6	33.1	21.4	37.7
30-44	24.3	29.1	24.1	33.7
45-54	18.5	16.2	17.9	12.3
55-64	16.7	11.1	17.0	9.0
65 and older	18.9	10.5	19.6	7.3
Gender				
Male	48.4	48.9	47.6	51.8
Female	51.6	51.1	52.4	48.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	91.8	75.2	97.8	77.4
Naturalized citizen	8.2	24.8	2.2	22.6
Language				
Speaks only English at home	85.6	31.5	96.1	41.8
Does not speak only English at home	14.4	68.5	3.9	58.2
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	11.5	23.0	14.5	16.3
High school graduate	28.6	28.5	30.1	25.9
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	33.6	32.4	36.6
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	15.0	22.9	21.1
Marital status				
Married	50.0	42.9	49.1	46.6
Never married	29.1	39.1	28.7	38.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	18.0	22.2	15.4
With child younger than 18 in home	24.2	29.9	23.5	28.3
Homeownership rate				
	67.5	56.0	69.3	54.8
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	-	58.9	-	30.3
Puerto Rican	-	14.0	-	29.2
Cuban	-	4.8	-	9.6
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	1.6
Dominican	-	3.2	-	4.5
Other	-	16.5	-	24.7
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.2	25.1	27.9	25.1
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	20.2	21.1	20.3
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.1	20.5	20.0	22.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.6	12.4	13.1
\$100,000 or more	26.9	20.6	18.5	19.1

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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Puerto Rican origin and 40% 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 16% of Latino eligible voters in South Carolina have not completed high school, about the same as the 15% of all South Carolina eligible voters who have not completed high school and lower than the 23% of Hispanics nationwide who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** Some 55% of Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 56% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in South Carolina (69%) and eligible voters nationwide (67%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in South Carolina, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina by 29 to 1, and black eligible voters outnumber Hispanics by nearly 12 to 1. There are more than twice as many Hispanic eligible voters (82,000) as Asian eligible voters (33,000).

- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white, black and Asian eligible voters in South Carolina. Some 38% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 19% of white eligible voters, 25% of black eligible voters and 29% of Asian eligible voters.

- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of high school education than do white eligible voters in South Carolina. Some 16% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 12% of white eligible voters. A similar share of Asian eligible voters (17%) and a slightly higher share of black eligible

TABLE 3

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

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	247	3,015	1,295	59
Eligible voter population (thousands)	82	2,394	953	33
Age				
18-29	37.7	19.0	24.8	28.8
30-44	33.7	22.9	25.9	33.3
45-54	12.3	17.9	18.4	16.8
55-64	9.0	17.8	16.3	11.5
65 and older	7.3	22.4	14.6	9.6
Gender				
Male	51.8	48.3	45.4	43.2
Female	48.2	51.7	54.6	56.8
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	77.4	98.9	99.4	35.3
Naturalized citizen	22.6	1.1	0.6	64.7
Language				
Speaks only English at home	41.8	98.1	98.6	30.3
Does not speak only English at home	58.2	1.9	1.4	69.7
Educational attainment				
Less than high school graduate	16.3	11.7	21.4	16.5
High school graduate	25.9	28.3	34.9	23.1
Two-year degree/Some college	36.6	32.9	31.2	25.8
Bachelor's degree or more	21.1	27.2	12.5	34.6
Marital status				
Married	46.6	56.4	31.6	57.0
Never married	38.0	21.8	44.2	30.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	15.4	21.8	24.2	13.0
With child younger than 18 in home	28.3	23.2	23.5	32.8
Homeownership rate	54.8	75.5	55.4	70.1
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	25.1	22.9	40.8	29.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	20.3	19.8	25.0	12.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	22.3	20.8	17.9	19.2
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.1	13.9	8.6	14.2
\$100,000 or more	19.1	22.6	7.7	24.7

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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voters (21%) have not graduated from high school. A larger share of Hispanics (21%) than blacks (12%) have a bachelor's degree or more. About one-quarter of white eligible voters (27%) and 35% of Asian eligible voters in South Carolina have at least a bachelor's degree.

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (55%) are equally likely to live in owner-occupied homes as black eligible voters (also 55%) in South Carolina, but are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white (75%) or Asian (70%) eligible voters.