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# Latinos in the 2014 Election: Virginia

## *Factsheet*

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

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 Virginia.<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 Virginia's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Virginia is the 15th largest in the nation. About 687,000 Hispanics reside in Virginia, 1.3% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Virginia's population is 8% Hispanic, the 28th largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.

TABLE 1

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

	U.S.	Virginia	Virginia state rank
<b>Total population (all ages)</b>			
All (thousands)	313,914	8,186	12
Hispanics (thousands)	52,932	687	15
Percent Hispanic	16.9	8.4	28
<b>Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)</b>			
All (thousands)	220,111	5,883	12
Hispanics (thousands)	23,632	271	15
Percent Hispanic	10.7	4.6	24
<b>Eligibility of Hispanic population</b>			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	44.6	39.5	31

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 271,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Virginia—the 15th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.4 million.
- Some 5% of Virginia eligible voters are Hispanic, the 24th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Some 39% of Hispanics in Virginia are eligible to vote, ranking Virginia 31st 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 Virginia (37%) are ages 18 to 29, higher than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) and the share of all Virginia eligible voters and of all U.S. eligible voters (both 22%) in that age range.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Virginia, 34% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This is a larger share than the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 7% of all eligible voters in Virginia and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Virginia have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. About one-quarter (24%) are of Mexican origin. Two-in-ten (22%) are Puerto

TABLE 2

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

*% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)*

	U.S.		Virginia	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	313,914	52,932	8,186	687
<b>Eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	220,111	23,632	5,883	271
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	21.6	33.1	21.8	36.6
30-44	24.3	29.1	25.1	33.1
45-54	18.5	16.2	19.2	16.2
55-64	16.7	11.1	16.3	7.8
65 and older	18.9	10.5	17.6	6.3
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	48.4	48.9	48.4	49.1
Female	51.6	51.1	51.6	50.9
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	91.8	75.2	92.7	65.9
Naturalized citizen	8.2	24.8	7.3	34.1
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	85.6	31.5	90.1	36.0
Does not speak only English at home	14.4	68.5	9.9	64.0
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school graduate	11.5	23.0	10.6	13.6
High school graduate	28.6	28.5	26.2	23.4
Two-year degree/Some college	32.8	33.6	30.6	34.4
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	15.0	32.6	28.6
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	50.0	42.9	52.1	49.4
Never married	29.1	39.1	28.2	36.5
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	18.0	19.7	14.2
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	24.2	29.9	24.9	34.4
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	67.5	56.0	68.4	57.4
<b>Hispanic origin</b>				
Mexican	-	58.9	-	24.1
Puerto Rican	-	14.0	-	21.9
Cuban	-	4.8	-	3.7
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	12.4
Dominican	-	3.2	-	3.4
Other	-	16.5	-	34.6
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$30,000	22.2	25.1	17.7	10.1
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	20.2	15.5	14.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.1	20.5	18.2	20.4
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.6	14.0	16.5
\$100,000 or more	26.9	20.6	34.6	38.1

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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Rican, 12% are Salvadoran, and 42% are of another Hispanic origin. By contrast, Hispanic eligible voters nationwide are 59% Mexican, 14% Puerto Rican, 3% Salvadoran, and 25% of another Hispanic origin.

- **Educational Attainment.** Some 14% of Latino eligible voters in Virginia have not completed high school, higher than the 11% of all Virginia eligible voters who have not completed high school but lower than the 23% of Hispanics nationwide who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** More than half of Hispanic eligible voters (57%) in Virginia live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 56% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Virginia (68%) and eligible voters nationwide (67%) live in owner-occupied homes.

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

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Virginia by a margin of 15 to 1. Hispanic eligible voters are outnumbered by black eligible voters by about 4 to 1, but Hispanics are about the same size as Asians among eligible voters.

- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white, black and Asian eligible voters in Virginia. Some 37% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 20% of white eligible voters, 25% of black eligible voters and 20% of Asian eligible voters.

- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white and Asian eligible voters in Virginia, but higher levels than black eligible voters. Some 14% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 9% of white eligible voters, 16% of black eligible voters and 8% of Asian eligible voters.

TABLE 3

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

*% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)*

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	687	5,236	1,552	469
<b>Eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	271	4,126	1,133	231
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	36.6	19.8	24.9	20.0
30-44	33.1	23.6	26.5	33.2
45-54	16.2	19.2	19.9	19.8
55-64	7.8	17.4	15.2	14.3
65 and older	6.3	20.0	13.5	12.8
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	49.1	49.0	46.4	46.7
Female	50.9	51.0	53.6	53.3
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	65.9	97.6	96.2	21.8
Naturalized citizen	34.1	2.4	3.8	78.2
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	36.0	96.3	95.5	21.7
Does not speak only English at home	64.0	3.7	4.5	78.3
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school graduate	13.6	9.0	16.4	8.0
High school graduate	23.4	25.6	31.6	14.9
Two-year degree/Some college	34.4	29.6	34.4	22.8
Bachelor's degree or more	28.6	35.9	17.6	54.2
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	49.4	57.0	33.7	64.2
Never married	36.5	23.7	42.2	24.7
Divorced/separated/widowed	14.2	19.3	24.1	11.0
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	34.4	24.2	22.9	35.5
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	57.4	73.7	51.6	76.4
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$30,000	10.1	16.0	27.9	8.6
\$30,000-\$49,999	14.9	15.1	18.6	8.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.4	17.7	20.3	14.2
\$75,000-\$99,999	16.5	14.2	12.9	12.5
\$100,000 or more	38.1	37.0	20.3	55.8

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 (57%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (52%) in Virginia, but are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white (74%) or Asian (76%) eligible voters.