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# Latinos in the 2016 Election: Florida

*Factsheet*

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# Latinos in the 2016 Election: Florida

This profile provides Florida voter registration data, including party affiliation, as reported by the Florida Division of Elections through February 16, 2016. It also provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters<sup>1</sup> and other major groups of eligible voters in Florida.<sup>2</sup> All demographic data are based on Pew Research Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey.<sup>3</sup>

## Florida Voter Registration Statistics

According to the [Florida Department of State Division of Elections](#), 1,795,000 Latinos were registered to vote statewide as of presidential preference primary book closing on February 16, 2016. Overall, Latinos make up 14.9% of the state's more than 12 million active registered voters. Among Latino registered voters, 479,000 are registered as Republicans, making up 11.2% of all Republican registered voters. And 678,000 Latino registered voters are registered as Democrats, representing 14.8% of all Democratic registered voters.

### Party Affiliation among Hispanic Active Registered Voters in Florida, 2006 to 2016

*In thousands*

	Republicans	Democrats	Other Party	No Party Affiliation	Total
2016	479	678	28	610	1,795
2014	471	662	28	575	1,737
2012	476	645	26	513	1,660
2010	445	551	25	405	1,426
2008	446	513	24	373	1,355
2006	414	370	17	313	1,114

Note: 2016 data reflect the presidential primary book-closing numbers. 2014 and earlier data reflect the general election book-closing numbers.

Source: Florida Department of State Division of Elections

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As recently as 2006, more Hispanics in Florida were registered as Republicans (37%) than as Democrats (33%). By 2008, the balance tipped over to the Democrats. The gap between Hispanics

<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 2014 [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 2014 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](#).

who are registered as Democrats (38%) and those registered as Republicans (27%) is wider now than in 2010.

Geographically, the majority of Hispanic Republican registered voters are located in South Florida. According to the Division of Elections, 54% (260,000) are in Miami-Dade County alone. By contrast, among the state's Hispanic Democratic registered voters, a smaller share, 31% (213,000), are registered to vote in Miami-Dade County.

## Active Registered Voters in Florida, by Race and Ethnicity, 2006 to 2016

*In thousands*

	Hispanic		White		Black		Asian		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2016	1,795	14.9	7,925	65.7	1,606	13.3	215	1.8	12,061	100.0
2014	1,737	14.6	7,866	65.9	1,610	13.5	205	1.7	11,932	100.0
2012	1,660	13.9	7,939	66.5	1,620	13.6	194	1.6	11,934	100.0
2010	1,426	12.7	7,693	68.6	1,460	13.0	165	1.5	11,217	100.0
2008	1,355	12.0	7,773	69.1	1,469	13.1	151	1.3	11,248	100.0
2006	1,114	10.7	7,509	72.0	1,248	12.0	120	1.1	10,434	100.0

Note: 2016 data reflect the presidential primary book-closing numbers. 2014 and earlier data reflect the general election book-closing numbers. "Asian" includes Pacific Islanders. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Percentages calculated before rounding. Total includes some groups not shown separately (e.g., Native Americans).

Source: Florida Department of State Division of Elections

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Hispanics have grown from 10.7% of the registered voters in 2006 to 14.9% today. They outnumber black registered voters (13.3%). The share of white eligible voters has declined from 2006, when they composed 72.0% of registered voters. Whites today make up about two-thirds (65.7%) of registered voters, and Asians are an additional 1.8% of the state's registered voters.

## Hispanics in Florida's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Florida is the third largest in the nation. About 4.8 million Hispanics reside in Florida, 8.7% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Florida's population is 24% Hispanic, the sixth largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.
- There are 2.6 million Hispanic eligible voters in Florida—the third largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.9 million.

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### Population and Electorate in the United States and Florida, 2014

	U.S.	Florida	Florida state rank
<b>Total population (all ages)</b>			
All (thousands)	318,857	19,893	3
Hispanics (thousands)	55,251	4,790	3
Percent Hispanic	17.3	24.1	6
<b>Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)</b>			
All (thousands)	224,963	14,157	3
Hispanics (thousands)	25,486	2,557	3
Percent Hispanic	11.3	18.1	5
<b>Eligibility of Hispanic population</b>			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	46.1	53.4	9

Note: Percentages calculated before rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2014 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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- Some 18% of Florida eligible voters are Hispanic, the fifth largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- About half (53%) of Hispanics in Florida are eligible to vote, ranking Florida 9th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 82% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- **Age.** One-quarter of Hispanic eligible voters in Florida are ages 18 to 29, a smaller share than all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. Some 19% of all Florida eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Florida, 43% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This is greater than the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., 15% of all eligible voters in Florida and 9% of eligible voters in the U.S overall who are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Florida have a different Hispanic origin profile to Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Only 9% of Hispanic eligible voters in Florida are of Mexican origin, 27% are of Puerto Rican origin, 31% are of Cuban origin and 32% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, 59% are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican, 5% are of Cuban origin and 22% are of some other Hispanic origin.
- **Educational Attainment.** About two-in-ten Latino eligible voters in Florida (17%) have not completed high school. That is lower than the rate for Latino eligible voters nationwide—22%—but greater than the rate for all U.S. eligible voters (11%) or all eligible voters in Florida (12%).
- **Homeownership.** About six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Florida (61%) live in owner-occupied homes. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Florida and all eligible voters nationwide (both 67%) live in owner-occupied homes.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Florida and the United States, 2014

*% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)*

	U.S.		Florida	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	318,857	55,251	19,893	4,790
<b>Eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	224,963	25,486	14,157	2,557
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	21.6	32.9	19.3	24.8
30-44	24.0	28.6	21.6	27.1
45-54	17.6	15.9	16.9	17.5
55-64	16.9	11.6	16.7	13.1
65 and older	19.8	11.0	25.4	17.6
<b>Millennial (ages 18-33)</b>	28.2	41.4	25.1	32.1
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	48.4	48.9	48.0	47.2
Female	51.6	51.1	52.0	52.8
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	91.4	75.2	85.3	56.6
Naturalized citizen	8.6	24.8	14.7	43.4
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	85.2	31.7	78.4	17.6
Does not speak only English at home	14.8	68.3	21.6	82.4
Speaks Spanish at home	8.5	67.8	16.0	82.0
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school graduate	10.9	22.0	11.5	17.5
High school graduate	28.4	29.0	29.4	27.2
Two-year degree/Some college	32.7	33.5	33.2	33.5
Bachelor's degree or more	28.1	15.6	25.9	21.8
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	49.6	42.5	47.3	45.0
Never married	29.9	40.1	28.4	32.7
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.6	17.4	24.3	22.3
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	23.5	28.7	19.3	25.6
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	66.7	55.2	67.2	61.0
<b>Hispanic origin</b>				
Mexican	-	59.2	-	9.5
Puerto Rican	-	14.1	-	27.5
Cuban	-	4.6	-	30.7
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	0.9
Dominican	-	3.4	-	5.3
Other	-	16.1	-	26.1
<b>Household income (in 2014 \$)</b>				
Less than \$30,000	20.7	22.8	23.1	24.6
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.2	19.6	19.8	21.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.7	20.1	20.3	20.4
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.0	14.4	13.0	12.5
\$100,000 or more	29.5	23.1	23.8	21.5

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. High school graduate includes GEDs or equivalent. Homeownership rate and household income excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2014 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Florida by about 4 to 1. There are more Hispanic (2.6 million) voters than black (2 million) eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters outnumber Asian eligible voters by about 9 to 1.
- **Age.** Hispanic eligible voters are younger than white and Asian eligible voters in Florida – 25% of Hispanic eligible voters are ages 18 to 29, compared with 16% of white and 19% of Asian eligible voters. By contrast, black eligible voters are younger than Hispanic eligible voters.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of high school education than do white and Asian eligible voters in Florida, and about the same level of high school education as black eligible voters. Some 17% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 8% of white, 18% of black and 13% of Asian eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters (22%) are less likely to have at least a bachelor's degree than white (29%) or Asian (40%) eligible voters, but more likely than black eligible voters (16%).
- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (61%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (49%) in Florida, but are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white (73%) or Asian (76%) eligible voters.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Florida, by Race and Ethnicity, 2014

*% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)*

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	4,790	11,059	3,088	512
<b>Eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	2,557	9,040	2,041	288
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	24.8	15.6	27.5	18.8
30-44	27.1	18.6	27.0	28.2
45-54	17.5	16.7	17.2	19.8
55-64	13.1	18.3	14.6	15.1
65 and older	17.6	30.9	13.7	18.1
<b>Millennial (ages 18-33)</b>	32.1	20.5	35.1	25.1
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	47.2	48.6	46.7	45.2
Female	52.8	51.4	53.3	54.8
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	56.6	95.9	83.4	22.9
Naturalized citizen	43.4	4.1	16.6	77.1
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	17.6	94.8	88.0	32.0
Does not speak only English at home	82.4	5.2	12.0	68.0
Speaks Spanish at home	82.0	1.6	1.1	0.8
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school graduate	17.5	8.3	17.9	12.8
High school graduate	27.2	29.6	32.9	18.4
Two-year degree/Some college	33.5	33.2	33.4	28.7
Bachelor's degree or more	21.8	28.9	15.9	40.1
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	45.0	51.7	30.9	57.2
Never married	32.7	22.8	46.1	27.1
Divorced/separated/widowed	22.3	25.5	22.9	15.7
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	25.6	16.7	22.3	27.2
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	61.0	73.0	49.3	75.6
<b>Household income (in 2014 \$)</b>				
Less than \$30,000	24.6	20.7	32.8	15.7
\$30,000-\$49,999	21.0	19.2	22.0	17.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.4	20.2	20.2	18.6
\$75,000-\$99,999	12.5	13.6	11.2	12.4
\$100,000 or more	21.5	26.2	13.7	35.7

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. Homeownership rate and household income excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2014 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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