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Latinos in the 2016 Election: Illinois

Factsheet

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Latinos in the 2016 Election: Illinois

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in Illinois.² All demographic data are based on Pew Research Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Illinois's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Illinois is the fifth largest in the nation. About 2.2 million Hispanics reside in Illinois, 4% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Illinois's population is 17% Hispanic, the 10th largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.
- There are 951,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois—the sixth largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 6.9 million.

Population and Electorate in the United States and Illinois, 2014

| | U.S. | Illinois | Illinois state rank |
|--|---------|----------|---------------------|
| Total population (all ages) | | | |
| All (thousands) | 318,857 | 12,881 | 5 |
| Hispanics (thousands) | 55,251 | 2,153 | 5 |
| Percent Hispanic | 17.3 | 16.7 | 10 |
| Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older) | | | |
| All (thousands) | 224,963 | 9,089 | 6 |
| Hispanics (thousands) | 25,486 | 951 | 6 |
| Percent Hispanic | 11.3 | 10.5 | 11 |
| Eligibility of Hispanic population | | | |
| Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote | 46.1 | 44.2 | 28 |

Note: Percentages calculated before rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2014 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 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](#).

- Some one-in-ten Illinois eligible voters are Hispanic, the 11th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.
- Some 44% of Hispanics in Illinois are eligible to vote, ranking Illinois 28th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, more than three-quarters (79%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- **Age.** About one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois (35%) 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 Illinois eligible voters and all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- **Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois, 28% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This is greater than the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., 10% of all eligible voters in Illinois and 9% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall.
- **Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. About seven-in-ten (73%) Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois are of Mexican origin, 15% are of Puerto Rican origin, and 12% 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 Illinois (23%) have not completed high school, more than twice the 10% of all Illinois eligible voters who have not completed high school and about the same as the 22% of Hispanics nationwide who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** About two-thirds of Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois (63%) live in owner-occupied homes, greater than the 55% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Illinois (70%) and eligible voters nationwide (67%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Illinois and the United States, 2014

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

| | U.S. | | Illinois | |
|--|---------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| | All | Hispanics | All | Hispanics |
| Total population (thousands) | 318,857 | 55,251 | 12,881 | 2,153 |
| Eligible voter population (thousands) | 224,963 | 25,486 | 9,089 | 951 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18-29 | 21.6 | 32.9 | 21.5 | 34.7 |
| 30-44 | 24.0 | 28.6 | 24.6 | 30.8 |
| 45-54 | 17.6 | 15.9 | 17.9 | 15.4 |
| 55-64 | 16.9 | 11.6 | 16.9 | 10.6 |
| 65 and older | 19.8 | 11.0 | 19.0 | 8.5 |
| Millennial (ages 18-33) | 28.2 | 41.4 | 28.2 | 43.6 |
| Gender | | | | |
| Male | 48.4 | 48.9 | 48.1 | 49.7 |
| Female | 51.6 | 51.1 | 51.9 | 50.3 |
| Type of citizen | | | | |
| Citizen by birth | 91.4 | 75.2 | 90.4 | 72.1 |
| Naturalized citizen | 8.6 | 24.8 | 9.6 | 27.9 |
| Language | | | | |
| Speaks only English at home | 85.2 | 31.7 | 84.0 | 27.4 |
| Does not speak only English at home | 14.8 | 68.3 | 16.0 | 72.6 |
| Speaks Spanish at home | 8.5 | 67.8 | 8.3 | 72.1 |
| Educational attainment | | | | |
| Less than high school graduate | 10.9 | 22.0 | 9.7 | 22.7 |
| High school graduate | 28.4 | 29.0 | 26.8 | 29.6 |
| Two-year degree/Some college | 32.7 | 33.5 | 32.3 | 31.7 |
| Bachelor's degree or more | 28.1 | 15.6 | 31.2 | 16.0 |
| Marital status | | | | |
| Married | 49.6 | 42.5 | 49.1 | 43.6 |
| Never married | 29.9 | 40.1 | 32.0 | 42.9 |
| Divorced/separated/widowed | 20.6 | 17.4 | 18.9 | 13.5 |
| With child younger than 18 in home | 23.5 | 28.7 | 24.0 | 30.2 |
| Homeownership rate | 66.7 | 55.2 | 69.7 | 62.8 |
| Hispanic origin | | | | |
| Mexican | - | 59.2 | - | 72.9 |
| Puerto Rican | - | 14.1 | - | 14.8 |
| Cuban | - | 4.6 | - | 1.5 |
| Salvadoran | - | 2.6 | - | 0.5 |
| Dominican | - | 3.4 | - | 0.5 |
| Other | - | 16.1 | - | 9.7 |
| Household income (in 2014 \$) | | | | |
| Less than \$30,000 | 20.7 | 22.8 | 19.1 | 17.0 |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 17.2 | 19.6 | 15.5 | 19.5 |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 18.7 | 20.1 | 18.4 | 22.8 |
| \$75,000-\$99,999 | 14.0 | 14.4 | 14.3 | 16.3 |
| \$100,000 or more | 29.5 | 23.1 | 32.8 | 24.4 |

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 Illinois, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois by 7 to 1, and there are 1.3 million black eligible voters in comparison to 951,000 Hispanic eligible voters. The number of Hispanic eligible voters is about triple the number of Asian eligible voters.
- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white, black and Asian eligible voters in Illinois. Some 35% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 19% of white eligible voters, 26% of black eligible voters and 20% of Asian eligible voters.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white, black and Asian eligible voters in Illinois. Some 23% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 7% of white eligible voters, 16% of black eligible voters and 8% of Asian eligible voters.
- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (63%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (43%) in Illinois, but are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white (76%) or Asian (77%) eligible voters.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Illinois, by Race and Ethnicity, 2014

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

| | Hispanic | White | Black | Asian |
|--|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total population (thousands) | 2,153 | 8,008 | 1,817 | 658 |
| Eligible voter population (thousands) | 951 | 6,316 | 1,338 | 358 |
| Age | | | | |
| 18-29 | 34.7 | 18.6 | 25.5 | 19.6 |
| 30-44 | 30.8 | 22.9 | 25.7 | 31.3 |
| 45-54 | 15.4 | 18.5 | 17.8 | 17.1 |
| 55-64 | 10.6 | 18.2 | 16.2 | 15.5 |
| 65 and older | 8.5 | 21.8 | 14.9 | 16.5 |
| Millennial (ages 18-33) | 43.6 | 24.8 | 32.5 | 27.1 |
| Gender | | | | |
| Male | 49.7 | 48.4 | 45.7 | 46.9 |
| Female | 50.3 | 51.6 | 54.3 | 53.1 |
| Type of citizen | | | | |
| Citizen by birth | 72.1 | 95.1 | 97.8 | 26.7 |
| Naturalized citizen | 27.9 | 4.9 | 2.2 | 73.3 |
| Language | | | | |
| Speaks only English at home | 27.4 | 93.2 | 96.8 | 21.7 |
| Does not speak only English at home | 72.6 | 6.8 | 3.2 | 78.3 |
| Speaks Spanish at home | 72.1 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| Educational attainment | | | | |
| Less than high school graduate | 22.7 | 6.6 | 15.9 | 8.1 |
| High school graduate | 29.6 | 26.8 | 29.0 | 11.3 |
| Two-year degree/Some college | 31.7 | 31.9 | 36.5 | 23.0 |
| Bachelor's degree or more | 16.0 | 34.7 | 18.6 | 57.5 |
| Marital status | | | | |
| Married | 43.6 | 54.5 | 25.6 | 63.3 |
| Never married | 42.9 | 26.2 | 51.7 | 25.8 |
| Divorced/separated/widowed | 13.5 | 19.3 | 22.7 | 10.9 |
| With child younger than 18 in home | 30.2 | 23.3 | 21.2 | 30.6 |
| Homeownership rate | 62.8 | 76.1 | 43.5 | 76.8 |
| Household income (in 2014 \$) | | | | |
| Less than \$30,000 | 17.0 | 16.1 | 36.5 | 12.7 |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 19.5 | 14.6 | 17.7 | 12.4 |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 22.8 | 18.4 | 16.4 | 12.9 |
| \$75,000-\$99,999 | 16.3 | 14.7 | 11.4 | 12.1 |
| \$100,000 or more | 24.4 | 36.2 | 18.0 | 49.9 |

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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