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# Latinos in the 2016 Election: South Carolina

*Factsheet*

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# Latinos in the 2016 Election: South Carolina

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters<sup>1</sup> and other major groups of eligible voters in South Carolina.<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>

## Hispanics in South Carolina's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in South Carolina is the 29th largest in the nation. About 258,000 Hispanics reside in South Carolina, 0.5% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- South Carolina's population is 5% Hispanic, the 35th largest Hispanic statewide population share nationally.
- There are 88,000 Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina—the 31st 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 South Carolina, 2014

	U.S.	South Carolina	South Carolina state rank
<b>Total population (all ages)</b>			
All (thousands)	318,857	4,832	24
Hispanics (thousands)	55,251	258	29
Percent Hispanic	17.3	5.3	35
<b>Eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)</b>			
All (thousands)	224,963	3,623	24
Hispanics (thousands)	25,486	88	31
Percent Hispanic	11.3	2.4	37
<b>Eligibility of Hispanic population</b>			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	46.1	34.1	46

Note: Percentages calculated before rounding.

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

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- Some 2% of South Carolina eligible voters are Hispanic, the 37th largest Hispanic statewide eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 40%.

<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](#).

- Some 34% of Hispanics in South Carolina are eligible to vote, ranking South Carolina 46th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 80% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

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

*% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)*

	U.S.		South Carolina	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	318,857	55,251	4,832	258
<b>Eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	224,963	25,486	3,623	88
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	21.6	32.9	21.4	37.6
30-44	24.0	28.6	23.3	27.7
45-54	17.6	15.9	17.3	17.8
55-64	16.9	11.6	17.2	10.2
65 and older	19.8	11.0	20.8	6.6
<b>Millennial (ages 18-33)</b>	28.2	41.4	27.6	46.3
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	48.4	48.9	47.7	50.7
Female	51.6	51.1	52.3	49.3
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	91.4	75.2	97.7	77.9
Naturalized citizen	8.6	24.8	2.3	22.1
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	85.2	31.7	96.3	41.3
Does not speak only English at home	14.8	68.3	3.7	58.7
Speaks Spanish at home	8.5	67.8	2.0	58.3
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school graduate	10.9	22.0	13.2	18.7
High school graduate	28.4	29.0	30.6	25.2
Two-year degree/Some college	32.7	33.5	32.3	36.4
Bachelor's degree or more	28.1	15.6	24.0	19.7
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	49.6	42.5	48.4	48.4
Never married	29.9	40.1	29.0	34.3
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.6	17.4	22.6	17.3
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	23.5	28.7	21.6	32.3
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	66.7	55.2	69.2	58.6
<b>Hispanic origin</b>				
Mexican	-	59.2	-	38.9
Puerto Rican	-	14.1	-	26.7
Cuban	-	4.6	-	4.4
Salvadoran	-	2.6	-	2.6
Dominican	-	3.4	-	2.5
Other	-	16.1	-	24.8
<b>Household income (in 2014 \$)</b>				
Less than \$30,000	20.7	22.8	26.1	24.6
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.2	19.6	20.4	21.7
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.7	20.1	19.6	25.1
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.0	14.4	12.8	13.1
\$100,000 or more	29.5	23.1	20.9	15.5

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 South Carolina, by Race and Ethnicity, 2014

% of eligible voters (unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	258	3,081	1,320	67
<b>Eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	88	2,463	983	37
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	37.6	18.9	25.1	30.6
30-44	27.7	22.2	25.5	17.7
45-54	17.8	17.4	17.2	21.5
55-64	10.2	17.8	16.7	13.5
65 and older	6.6	23.7	15.5	16.7
<b>Millennial (ages 18-33)</b>	46.3	24.6	32.4	34.2
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	50.7	48.4	45.6	43.5
Female	49.3	51.6	54.4	56.5
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	77.9	98.8	99.3	33.2
Naturalized citizen	22.1	1.2	0.7	66.8
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	41.3	98.3	98.7	37.0
Does not speak only English at home	58.7	1.7	1.3	63.0
Speaks Spanish at home	58.3	0.5	0.7	<0.05
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school graduate	18.7	10.2	20.0	11.9
High school graduate	25.2	28.6	36.6	19.4
Two-year degree/Some college	36.4	32.7	30.4	32.4
Bachelor's degree or more	19.7	28.4	13.0	36.3
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	48.4	55.5	31.0	59.9
Never married	34.3	22.3	44.7	27.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	17.3	22.3	24.3	13.1
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	32.3	21.7	20.2	23.3
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	58.6	75.5	54.8	72.5
<b>Household income (in 2014 \$)</b>				
Less than \$30,000	24.6	21.1	38.8	20.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	21.7	19.1	24.1	15.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	25.1	20.0	18.7	15.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.1	14.6	8.3	10.8
\$100,000 or more	15.5	25.2	10.1	36.7

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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