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Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: Nebraska

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Latinos in the 2012 Election: Nebraska

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in Nebraska.² All demographic data are based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Nebraska's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Nebraska ranks 35th in the nation.⁴ About 168,000 Hispanics reside in Nebraska, 0.3% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Nebraska's population is 9% Hispanic, the 19th largest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 63,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Nebraska—ranking 34th in Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9

Table 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Nebraska, 2010

	U.S.	Nebraska	Nebraska state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	1,830	38
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	168	35
Percent Hispanic	16.4	9.2	19
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	1,315	38
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	63	34
Percent Hispanic	10.0	4.8	22
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	37.6	28*

Notes: Percentages calculated before rounding. *Rankings for "Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote" are based on the District of Columbia and the 46 states whose Hispanic samples in the 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) are large enough to generate reliable estimates. All other rankings are based on the District of Columbia and the 50 states.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 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 2010 [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 2010 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](#).

⁴ Rankings for "Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote" are based on the District of Columbia and the 46 states whose Hispanic samples in the 2010 ACS are large enough to generate reliable estimates. All other rankings are based on the District of Columbia and the 50 states.

million.

- Some 5% of Nebraska eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking the state 34th in Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- More than one-third of Hispanics in Nebraska (38%) are eligible to vote, ranking Nebraska 28th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, more than three-quarters (77%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** More than one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Nebraska (35%) are ages 18 to 29, slightly greater than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 22% of all Nebraska eligible voters and of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Nebraska, 27% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 3% of all eligible voters in Nebraska and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S overall.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Nebraska have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. About eight-in-ten (81%) Hispanic eligible voters in Nebraska are of Mexican

Table 2

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Nebraska and the United States, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Nebraska	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	1,830	168
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	1,315	63
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	22.3	34.8
30-44	24.6	29.3	23.9	34.2
45-54	19.4	16.7	19.1	16.9
55-64	16.3	10.9	16.1	8.2
65 and older	18.2	10.4	18.7	5.9
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	49.0	51.4
Female	51.8	51.7	51.0	48.6
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	97.1	73.4
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	2.9	26.6
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	94.5	47.8
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	5.5	52.2
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	8.4	32.6
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	28.7	30.4
Some college	32.4	32.5	37.2	23.8
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	25.7	13.3
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	56.0	46.5
Never married	28.1	37.4	24.5	37.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	19.5	16.5
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	26.7	33.9
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	69.7	60.9
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	80.6
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	3.2
Cuban	---	4.8	---	1.5
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	2.2
Dominican	---	3.1	---	1.0
Other	---	16.2	---	11.5
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	22.5	25.2
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	20.6	26.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	22.6	31.4
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	15.3	10.5
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	19.0	6.5

Notes: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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origin, 3% of Puerto Rican origin and 16% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, six-in-ten (59%) are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican and about one-quarter (26%) are of some other Hispanic origin.

- ***Educational Attainment.*** One-third of Latino eligible voters in Nebraska (33%) have not completed high school, about four times the 8% of all Nebraska eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- ***Homeownership.*** About six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Nebraska (61%) live in owner-occupied homes compared with 58% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in Nebraska (70%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Nebraska, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Nebraska by more than 18 to 1. There are more Hispanic eligible voters (63,000) than black eligible voters (47,000).
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black and white eligible voters in Nebraska. Some 35% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 26% of black eligible voters and 21% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do black and white eligible voters in Nebraska. One-third (33%) of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma compared with 14% of black eligible voters and 6% of white eligible voters.

Table 3

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Nebraska, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black
Total population (thousands)			
	168	1,505	79
Total eligible voter population (thousands)			
	63	1,165	47
Age			
18-29	34.8	20.8	26.5
30-44	34.2	23.0	30.5
45-54	16.9	19.3	20.1
55-64	8.2	16.7	13.1
65 and older	5.9	20.2	9.8
Gender			
Male	51.4	48.8	51.6
Female	48.6	51.2	48.4
Type of citizen			
Citizen by birth	73.4	99.3	92.8
Naturalized citizen	26.6	0.7	7.2
Language			
Speaks only English at home	47.8	97.8	92.5
Does not speak only English at home	52.2	2.2	7.5
Educational attainment			
Less than high school diploma	32.6	6.5	14.1
High school diploma or equivalent	30.4	29.0	25.0
Some college	23.8	37.5	47.4
Bachelor's degree or more	13.3	27.0	13.4
Marital Status			
Married	46.5	58.1	32.7
Never married	37.0	22.5	40.9
Divorced/separated/widowed	16.5	19.4	26.4
With child younger than 18 in home			
	33.9	26.1	29.0
Homeownership rate			
	60.9	72.0	36.3
Household income			
Less than \$30,000	25.2	21.3	46.4
\$30,000-\$49,999	26.4	20.0	20.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	31.4	22.7	15.6
\$75,000-\$99,999	10.5	15.9	10.9
\$100,000 or more	6.5	20.1	7.0

Notes: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Hispanics are of any race. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (61%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (36%) in Nebraska, but they are less likely to do so than white Nebraska eligible voters (72%).