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Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: Texas

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Latinos in the 2012 Election: Texas

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in Texas.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 Texas' Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Texas is the second largest in the nation.⁴ About 9.5 million Hispanics reside in Texas, 18.8% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Texas's population is 38% Hispanic, the second largest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 4.2 million Hispanic eligible voters in Texas—the second largest Hispanic eligible voter population

Table 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Texas, 2010

	U.S.	Texas	Texas state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	25,257	2
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	9,533	2
Percent Hispanic	16.4	37.7	2
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	15,856	2
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	4,180	2
Percent Hispanic	10.0	26.4	2
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	43.9	17*

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 ACS (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.

nationally. California ranks first with 5.9 million.

- Some 26% of Texas eligible voters are Hispanic, the second largest Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- More than four-in-ten (44%) Hispanics in Texas are eligible to vote, ranking Texas 17th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, more than three-quarters (78%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** About one-in-three Hispanic eligible voters in Texas (32%) are ages 18 to 29, just below the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 24% of all Texas eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Texas, 17% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 8% of all eligible voters in both Texas and the U.S. overall.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Texas have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Nearly nine-in-ten (88%) are Mexican, greater than the 59% rate nationwide. An additional 2% are of Puerto Rican origin and 1% are Salvadoran. In the U.S., 14% of Hispanic eligible voters are Puerto Rican and 5% are Cuban.

Table 2

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Texas	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	25,257	9,533
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	15,856	4,180
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	23.7	32.3
30-44	24.6	29.3	26.4	29.5
45-54	19.4	16.7	19.1	16.5
55-64	16.3	10.9	15.2	11.4
65 and older	18.2	10.4	15.6	10.3
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	48.6	48.6
Female	51.8	51.7	51.4	51.4
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	91.9	83.4
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	8.1	16.6
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	75.0	25.5
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	25.0	74.5
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	14.2	27.1
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	27.1	29.6
Some college	32.4	32.5	33.9	31.0
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	24.8	12.3
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	51.8	48.0
Never married	28.1	37.4	27.0	33.2
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	21.2	18.8
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	27.6	33.4
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	68.2	67.1
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	88.3
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	2.2
Cuban	---	4.8	---	0.6
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	1.4
Dominican	---	3.1	---	0.2
Other	---	16.2	---	7.3
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	22.8	27.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	18.9	22.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	19.8	21.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	13.8	12.8
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	24.6	15.4

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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- ***Educational Attainment.*** More than one-in-four Latino eligible voters in Texas (27%) have not completed high school, nearly double the 14% of all Texas eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- ***Homeownership.*** Two-thirds of Hispanic eligible voters in Texas (67%) live in owner-occupied homes, larger than the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%) and about the same as all eligible voters in the state (68%). Nationwide, 69% of eligible voters live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Texas, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Texas by more than 2 to 1. Hispanic eligible voters outnumber black eligible voters by about 2 to 1 and Asian eligible voters by about 9 to 1.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black, Asian and white eligible voters in Texas. Some 32% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 26% of black eligible voters, 22% of Asian eligible voters and 19% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do black, Asian and white eligible voters in Texas. Some 27% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 14% of black eligible voters, 12% of Asian eligible voters and 8% of white eligible voters.

Table 3

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	9,533	11,415	2,908	958
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	4,180	8,952	2,023	458
Age				
18-29	32.3	19.1	25.8	22.3
30-44	29.5	23.9	29.8	30.6
45-54	16.5	19.9	20.2	21.4
55-64	11.4	17.4	13.4	15.2
65 and older	10.3	19.6	10.8	10.5
Gender				
Male	48.6	49.0	47.0	47.9
Female	51.4	51.0	53.0	52.1
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	83.4	98.3	96.7	23.0
Naturalized citizen	16.6	1.7	3.3	77.0
Language				
Speaks only English at home	25.5	96.1	95.8	17.4
Does not speak only English at home	74.5	3.9	4.2	82.6
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	27.1	8.3	14.4	12.5
High school diploma or equivalent	29.6	25.7	31.0	15.3
Some college	31.0	34.7	37.7	25.2
Bachelor's degree or more	12.3	31.4	16.8	47.1
Marital Status				
Married	48.0	57.2	34.1	62.7
Never married	33.2	20.9	40.3	26.1
Divorced/separated/widowed	18.8	21.8	25.6	11.2
With child younger than 18 in home	33.4	24.9	26.0	33.6
Homeownership rate	67.1	73.0	48.0	77.5
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	27.9	18.5	33.3	16.6
\$30,000-\$49,999	22.2	17.0	21.6	13.5
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.7	19.3	19.3	16.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	12.8	14.8	11.3	14.4
\$100,000 or more	15.4	30.5	14.4	38.6

Notes: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Hispanics are of any race. Whites, blacks and Asians 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 (67%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black (48%) eligible voters in Texas, but they are less likely to do so than Asian (78%) or white (73%) eligible voters in Texas.