

Latinos in the 2010 Elections: Colorado

This statistical profile provides key demographic information of Latino eligible voters in Colorado.¹ It also contains data on other major groups of eligible voters in Colorado.² All data are based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Colorado's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Colorado is the eighth-largest in the nation. Nearly 1 million Hispanics reside in Colorado, 2% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- The population in Colorado is 20% Hispanic, the seventh-highest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 434,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Colorado—the ninth-largest Hispanic eligible-voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.4 million.
- One-in-eight (13%) of eligible voters in Colorado are Latinos, the seventh-largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38%.
- Some 44% of Latinos in Colorado are eligible to vote, ranking Colorado 20th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. In contrast, 78% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Table 1
Population and Electorate in the United States and Colorado, 2008

	United States	Colorado	Colorado State Rank
Total Population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	304,060	4,939	22
Hispanics (thousands)	46,822	993	8
Percent Hispanic	15.4	20.1	7
Total Eligible Voter Population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	210,696	3,436	23
Hispanics (thousands)	19,346	434	9
Percent Hispanic	9.2	12.6	7
Eligibility of Hispanic Population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	41.3	43.7	20

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2008 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** Three-in-ten of Hispanic eligible voters in Colorado (30%) are ages 18 to 29, similar to the share for all Latino eligible voters nationwide (31%). By contrast, only 22% of all Colorado eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship.** One-in-ten of Hispanic eligible voters in Colorado (10%) are naturalized U.S. citizens compared, with 5% of all Colorado eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters in Colorado are more likely to be native-born citizens (90%) than are Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (74%).
- Educational Attainment.** One-quarter of Latino eligible voters in Colorado (23%) have not completed high school. That was less than the rate for all Latino eligible voters—26%—but greater than the rate for U.S. eligible voters nationwide—13%.
- Homeownership.** Six-in-ten of Hispanic eligible voters in Colorado (60%) live in owner-occupied homes, a similar share as Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. By contrast, 70% of U.S. eligible voters live in owner-occupied homes.

Table 2
Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Colorado and the United States, 2008
(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	UNITED STATES		COLORADO	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total Population (thousands)	304,060	46,822	4,939	993
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)	210,696	19,346	3,436	434
Age				
18-29	21.7	30.9	22.2	29.8
30-44	25.6	30.9	27.5	31.1
45-54	19.6	16.8	20.4	18.2
55-64	15.3	10.6	15.4	11.0
65 and older	17.8	10.8	14.5	9.9
Gender				
Male	48.3	49.2	49.7	51.0
Female	51.7	50.8	50.3	49.0
Type of Citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.5	74.4	95.5	89.7
Naturalized citizen	7.5	25.6	4.5	10.3
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.9	30.2	89.8	60.6
Does not speak only English at home	13.1	69.8	10.2	39.4
Educational Attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.9	25.8	8.7	23.4
High school diploma or equivalent	29.3	28.9	23.8	30.9
Some college	32.0	31.3	33.7	32.7
Bachelor's degree or more	25.7	14.1	33.8	13.0
Marital Status				
Married	52.0	46.5	53.9	48.5
Never married	27.2	34.7	25.9	30.8
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.8	18.8	20.2	20.7
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home	26.3	32.4	27.0	31.7
Homeownership Rate	70.0	59.8	70.8	60.3
Household Income*				
Less than \$30,000	20.4	22.9	17.4	25.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.1	20.4	16.8	21.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.9	21.3	19.8	19.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.7	14.4	16.0	15.7
\$100,000 or more	26.8	21.1	30.1	17.5

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)
 Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total due to rounding.
 Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2008 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and http://www.census.gov/acsl/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Colorado, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Latino Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Colorado by more than 6 to 1.
- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white eligible voters in Colorado. Among Latino eligible voters, 30% are ages 18 to 29 compared with 21% of white eligible voters.
- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white eligible voters in Colorado. Some 23% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained at least a high school diploma compared with 6% of white eligible voters.
- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters are less likely than white eligible voters in Colorado to live in owner-occupied homes—60% versus 74%.

Table 3
Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Colorado, by Race and Ethnicity, 2008
(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANICS
		White
Total Population (thousands)		
	993	3,501
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)		
	434	2,737
Age		
18-29	29.8	20.6
30-44	31.1	26.5
45-54	18.2	20.9
55-64	11.0	16.3
65 and older	9.9	15.7
Gender		
Male	51.0	49.5
Female	49.0	50.5
Type of Citizen		
Citizen by birth	89.7	97.9
Naturalized citizen	10.3	2.1
Language		
Speaks only English at home	60.6	95.7
Does not speak only English at home	39.4	4.3
Educational Attainment		
Less than high school diploma	23.4	5.9
High school diploma or equivalent	30.9	22.6
Some college	32.7	33.7
Bachelor's degree or more	13.0	37.8
Marital Status		
Married	48.5	55.6
Never married	30.8	24.4
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.7	20.0
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home		
	31.7	26.2
Homeownership Rate		
	60.3	73.7
Household Income*		
Less than \$30,000	25.3	15.4
\$30,000-\$49,999	21.6	16.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.8	19.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	15.7	16.1
\$100,000 or more	17.5	32.6

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)
 Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total due to rounding.
 Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2008 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf

Table 4
Population and Electorate in Colorado, by Congressional District, 2008

Congressional District	ALL (thousands)		HISPANICS (thousands)		SHARE HISPANIC (%)	
	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters
1	664	423	222	83	33.4	19.5
2	719	495	138	59	19.2	11.9
3	700	518	160	90	22.8	17.3
4	714	508	138	59	19.3	11.6
5	695	502	92	49	13.3	9.8
6	794	561	70	35	8.8	6.3
7	654	429	177	64	27.1	14.9

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center compilation from U.S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder Tables B05003 and B05003I

Endnotes

- 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 “whites,” “blacks,” and “Asians” are to the non-Hispanic components of those populations.
- ³ This statistical profile of eligible voters in Colorado is based on the Census Bureau's 2008 [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 2008 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. Information on the ACS sampling strategy and associated error is available at http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf. An example of measurement error is that citizenship rates for the foreign born are estimated to be overstated in the Decennial Census and other official surveys, such as the ACS (see Jeffrey Passel, “[Growing Share of Immigrants Choosing Naturalization](#),” Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, D.C. (March 28, 2008)).