

Latinos in the 2010 Elections: Illinois

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

Hispanics in Illinois' Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Illinois is the sixth-largest in the nation. Nearly 2 million Hispanics reside in Illinois, 4% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- The population in Illinois is 15% Hispanic, the 10th-highest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 749,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Illinois—the sixth-largest Hispanic eligible-voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.4 million.
- More than 8% of eligible voters in Illinois are Latinos, the tenth-largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38%.
- Some 38% of Latinos in Illinois are eligible to vote, ranking Illinois 25th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. In contrast, 77% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

	United States	Illinois	Illinois State Rank
Total Population (all ages)			
<i>All (thousands)</i>	304,060	12,902	5
<i>Hispanics (thousands)</i>	46,822	1,962	6
<i>Percent Hispanic</i>	15.4	15.2	10
Total Eligible Voter Population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
<i>All (thousands)</i>	210,696	8,819	6
<i>Hispanics (thousands)</i>	19,346	749	6
<i>Percent Hispanic</i>	9.2	8.5	10
Eligibility of Hispanic Population			
<i>Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote</i>	41.3	38.2	25

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.** One-third (33%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois are ages 18 to 29, more than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (31%) in that age range. By contrast, only 23% of all Illinois eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship.** Three-in-ten (31%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois are naturalized U.S. citizens, compared with 9% of all Illinois eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois are less likely to be native-born citizens (69%) than are Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (74%).
- Educational Attainment.** More than one-quarter (27%) of Latino eligible voters in Illinois have not completed high school. That was similar to the rate for all Latino eligible voters—26%—but greater than the rate for U.S. eligible voters nationwide—13%.
- Homeownership.** Nearly seven-in-ten (68%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 60% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Somewhat greater shares of all eligible voters in Illinois (73%) and all eligible voters nationwide (70%) live in owner-occupied homes.

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

	UNITED STATES		ILLINOIS	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total Population (thousands)	304,060	46,822	12,902	1,962
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)	210,696	19,346	8,819	749
Age				
18-29	21.7	30.9	22.5	33.1
30-44	25.6	30.9	25.8	32.0
45-54	19.6	16.8	19.8	16.8
55-64	15.3	10.6	14.7	9.9
65 and older	17.8	10.8	17.2	8.2
Gender				
Male	48.3	49.2	48.0	51.6
Female	51.7	50.8	52.0	48.4
Type of Citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.5	74.4	91.3	68.8
Naturalized citizen	7.5	25.6	8.7	31.2
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.9	30.2	85.6	25.7
Does not speak only English at home	13.1	69.8	14.4	74.3
Educational Attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.9	25.8	11.9	26.6
High school diploma or equivalent	29.3	28.9	28.0	28.9
Some college	32.0	31.3	32.3	29.9
Bachelor's degree or more	25.7	14.1	27.9	14.5
Marital Status				
Married	52.0	46.5	50.7	47.3
Never married	27.2	34.7	30.1	38.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.8	18.8	19.2	14.8
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home	26.3	32.4	26.7	34.0
Homeownership Rate	70.0	59.8	72.7	68.1
Household Income*				
Less than \$30,000	20.4	22.9	18.4	16.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.1	20.4	16.3	19.7
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.9	21.3	19.8	23.6
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.7	14.4	15.5	15.9
\$100,000 or more	26.8	21.1	30.1	24.5

*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/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Illinois, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Latino Eligible Voters.** Latino eligible voters are outnumbered by white eligible voters in Illinois by more than 8 to 1—749,000 Latinos to 6.4 million whites.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than other major racial groups in Illinois. One-third of Latino eligible voters in Illinois (33%) are ages 18 to 29 compared with 27% of black eligible voters, 22% of Asian eligible voters and 20% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white and black eligible voters in Illinois. Some 27% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained at least a high school diploma compared with 20% of black eligible voters and 9% of white eligible voters.
- Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois are less likely than white eligible voters, but more likely than black eligible voters, to live in owner-occupied homes—68% versus 79% and 47%, respectively.

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

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANICS		
		White	Black	Asian
Total Population (thousands)				
	1,962	8,315	1,853	561
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)				
	749	6,389	1,303	283
Age				
18-29	33.1	20.2	26.9	22.0
30-44	32.0	24.5	27.1	30.6
45-54	16.8	20.2	19.6	19.6
55-64	9.9	15.7	12.9	15.6
65 and older	8.2	19.5	13.4	12.1
Gender				
Male	51.6	48.3	44.4	48.3
Female	48.4	51.7	55.6	51.7
Type of Citizen				
Citizen by birth	68.8	95.4	98.5	26.4
Naturalized citizen	31.2	4.6	1.5	73.6
Language				
Speaks only English at home	25.7	93.1	97.5	22.5
Does not speak only English at home	74.3	6.9	2.5	77.5
Educational Attainment				
Less than high school diploma	26.6	8.7	19.5	8.2
High school diploma or equivalent	28.9	28.4	28.9	13.3
Some college	29.9	32.3	35.0	24.7
Bachelor's degree or more	14.5	30.6	16.6	53.7
Marital Status				
Married	47.3	55.7	26.8	61.1
Never married	38.0	25.2	48.9	29.2
Divorced/separated/widowed	14.8	19.2	24.3	9.7
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home				
	34.0	26.1	24.6	30.7
Homeownership Rate				
	68.1	78.5	46.5	78.2
Household Income^a				
Less than \$30,000	16.3	16.1	33.0	10.5
\$30,000-\$49,999	19.7	15.5	19.1	12.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	23.6	19.7	18.5	16.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	15.9	16.0	12.5	15.2
\$100,000 or more	24.5	32.7	16.9	46.0

^aPersons 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 Illinois, by Congressional District, 2008

Congressional District	ALL (thousands)		HISPANICS (thousands)		SHARE HISPANIC (%)	
	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters
1	621	436	57	27	9.1	6.1
2	631	430	74	30	11.8	7.0
3	685	424	228	92	33.3	21.8
4	618	288	442	154	71.6	53.5
5	653	427	186	84	28.5	19.6
6	664	431	115	42	17.3	9.7
7	630	449	56	28	8.8	6.2
8	731	480	112	35	15.3	7.3
9	633	427	78	32	12.3	7.4
10	662	425	103	30	15.6	7.0
11	759	542	80	31	10.6	5.7
12	650	491	16	8	2.4	1.7
13	781	523	80	35	10.3	6.7
14	824	527	189	59	22.9	11.2
15	668	502	21	10	3.1	1.9
16	735	520	75	28	10.2	5.3
17	631	482	29	13	4.6	2.8
18	661	503	16	8	2.4	1.5
19	666	515	11	6	1.7	1.1

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 Illinois 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, 2007)).