

Latinos in the 2010 Elections: North Carolina

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

Hispanics in North Carolina's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in North Carolina is the 11th-largest in the nation. Some 678,000 Hispanics reside in North Carolina.
- The population in North Carolina is 7% Hispanic, the 25th-highest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 138,000 eligible Hispanic voters in North Carolina—the 19th-largest Hispanic eligible-voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.4 million.
- Some 2% of eligible voters in North Carolina are Latinos, the 35th-largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38%.
- Only two-in-ten (20%) of Latinos in North Carolina are eligible to vote, ranking North Carolina 51th 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 North Carolina, 2008

	United States	North Carolina	North Carolina State Rank
Total Population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	304,060	9,222	10
Hispanics (thousands)	46,822	678	11
Percent Hispanic	15.4	7.4	25
Total Eligible Voter Population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	210,696	6,572	10
Hispanics (thousands)	19,346	138	19
Percent Hispanic	9.2	2.1	35
Eligibility of Hispanic Population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	41.3	20.4	51

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 North Carolina (31%) are ages 18 to 29, equal to the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide. By contrast, only 21% of all North Carolina eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship.** Three-in-ten of Hispanic eligible voters in North Carolina (31%) are naturalized U.S. citizens, compared with 3% of all North Carolina eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters in North Carolina are less likely to be native-born citizens (69%) than are Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (74%).
- Educational Attainment.** Two-in-ten of Latino eligible voters in North Carolina (22%) 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.** Some 58% of Hispanic eligible voters in North Carolina live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 60% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. A greater share of all eligible voters in North Carolina (70%) and eligible voters nationwide (70%) live in owner-occupied homes.

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

	UNITED STATES		NORTH CAROLINA	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total Population (thousands)	304,060	46,822	9,222	678
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)	210,696	19,346	6,572	138
Age				
18-29	21.7	30.9	20.9	30.9
30-44	25.6	30.9	27.0	36.0
45-54	19.6	16.8	19.3	16.8
55-64	15.3	10.6	15.6	8.9
65 and older	17.8	10.8	17.2	7.4
Gender				
Male	48.3	49.2	47.6	53.1
Female	51.7	50.8	52.4	46.9
Type of Citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.5	74.4	97.4	68.8
Naturalized citizen	7.5	25.6	2.6	31.2
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.9	30.2	95.7	34.1
Does not speak only English at home	13.1	69.8	4.3	65.9
Educational Attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.9	25.8	14.9	22.3
High school diploma or equivalent	29.3	28.9	28.3	24.1
Some college	32.0	31.3	32.4	32.9
Bachelor's degree or more	25.7	14.1	24.3	20.7
Marital Status				
Married	52.0	46.5	54.0	54.1
Never married	27.2	34.7	24.6	30.1
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.8	18.8	21.4	15.8
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home	26.3	32.4	26.8	37.6
Homeownership Rate	70.0	59.8	70.2	56.7
Household Income*				
Less than \$30,000	20.4	22.9	24.0	26.6
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.1	20.4	21.0	23.5
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.9	21.3	20.7	21.1
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.7	14.4	13.9	13.5
\$100,000 or more	26.8	21.1	20.5	15.3

*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 North Carolina, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Latino Eligible Voters.** Among the total population in North Carolina, whites outnumber Hispanics by a margin of 9 to 1. However, white eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in North Carolina by nearly 35 to 1.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black and white eligible voters in North Carolina. Three-in-ten (31%) of Latinos are ages 18 to 29 compared to 25% of black eligible voters and 19% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white eligible voters in North Carolina. Some 22% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained at least a high school diploma compared with 13% of white eligible voters.
- Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters in North Carolina are less likely than white eligible voters, but more likely than black eligible voters, to live in owner-occupied homes—57% versus 76% and 52%, respectively.

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

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANICS	
		White	Black
Total Population (thousands)			
	678	6,183	1,943
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)			
	138	4,825	1,398
Age			
18-29	30.9	19.1	25.1
30-44	36.0	25.9	29.0
45-54	16.8	19.4	19.5
55-64	8.9	16.5	13.5
65 and older	7.4	19.0	12.8
Gender			
Male	53.1	48.1	45.3
Female	46.9	51.9	54.7
Type of Citizen			
Citizen by birth	68.8	99.0	98.9
Naturalized citizen	31.2	1.0	1.1
Language			
Speaks only English at home	34.1	97.8	98.3
Does not speak only English at home	65.9	2.2	1.7
Educational Attainment			
Less than high school diploma	22.3	12.8	21.0
High school diploma or equivalent	24.1	27.6	32.3
Some college	32.9	32.4	32.7
Bachelor's degree or more	20.7	27.3	14.1
Marital Status			
Married	54.1	59.6	35.0
Never married	30.1	19.8	39.8
Divorced/separated/widowed	15.8	20.6	25.2
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home			
	37.6	26.4	26.2
Homeownership Rate			
	56.7	76.2	51.6
Household Income*			
Less than \$30,000	26.6	20.2	37.0
\$30,000-\$49,999	23.5	20.1	24.1
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.1	20.8	20.1
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.5	15.1	9.8
\$100,000 or more	15.3	23.8	9.0

*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 North Carolina, by Congressional District, 2008

Congressional District	ALL (thousands)		HISPANICS (thousands)		SHARE HISPANIC (%)	
	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters
1	608	453	25	6	4.2	1.3
2	743	512	84	15	11.3	3.0
3	691	505	40	11	5.7	2.2
4	795	535	61	13	7.6	2.4
5	680	507	42	8	6.1	1.6
6	692	502	50	9	7.3	1.8
7	704	517	40	8	5.7	1.6
8	673	462	64	11	9.5	2.5
9	848	578	65	16	7.7	2.8
10	682	503	39	9	5.7	1.9
11	671	514	30	7	4.4	1.4
12	704	475	73	10	10.3	2.1
13	732	514	70	14	9.6	2.8

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 North Carolina 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)).