

## Latinos in the 2010 Elections: New Mexico

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

### Hispanics in New Mexico's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in New Mexico is the ninth-largest in the nation. Some 895,000 Hispanics reside in New Mexico, 2% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- The population in New Mexico is 45% Hispanic, the highest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 525,000 eligible Hispanic voters in New Mexico—the eighth-largest Hispanic eligible-voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.4 million.
- Four-in-ten (38%) of eligible voters in New Mexico are Latinos, the largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. Texas ranks second with 25%.
- Six-in-ten (59%) of Latinos in New Mexico are eligible to vote, ranking New Mexico first nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. In contrast, 81% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

**Table 1**  
Population and Electorate in the United States and New Mexico, 2008

	United States	New Mexico	New Mexico State Rank
<b>Total Population (all ages)</b>			
<i>All (thousands)</i>	304,060	1,984	36
<i>Hispanics (thousands)</i>	46,822	895	9
<i>Percent Hispanic</i>	15.4	45.1	1
<b>Total Eligible Voter Population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)</b>			
<i>All (thousands)</i>	210,696	1,367	37
<i>Hispanics (thousands)</i>	19,346	525	8
<i>Percent Hispanic</i>	9.2	38.4	1
<b>Eligibility of Hispanic Population</b>			
<i>Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote</i>	41.3	58.6	1

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](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 New Mexico (29%) are ages 18 to 29, less than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (31%) in that age range. By contrast, only 23% of all New Mexico eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship.** Some 6% of Hispanic eligible voters in New Mexico are naturalized U.S. citizens, compared with 4% of all New Mexico eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters in Mexico are more likely to be native-born citizens (94%) than are Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (74%).
- Educational Attainment.** Two-in-ten of Latino eligible voters in New Mexico (21%) 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.** Seven-in-ten of Hispanic eligible voters in New Mexico (71%) live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 60% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Similar shares of all eligible voters in New Mexico (64%) and all eligible voters nationwide (70%) live in owner-occupied homes.

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

	UNITED STATES		NEW MEXICO	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
<b>Total Population (thousands)</b>	304,060	46,822	1,984	895
<b>Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)</b>	210,696	19,346	1,367	525
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	21.7	30.9	23.3	28.8
30-44	25.6	30.9	24.1	27.2
45-54	19.6	16.8	18.9	17.6
55-64	15.3	10.6	15.5	12.4
65 and older	17.8	10.8	18.3	14.0
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	48.3	49.2	48.4	48.9
Female	51.7	50.8	51.6	51.1
<b>Type of Citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	92.5	74.4	96.3	94.2
Naturalized citizen	7.5	25.6	3.7	5.8
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	86.9	30.2	68.6	42.0
Does not speak only English at home	13.1	69.8	31.4	58.0
<b>Educational Attainment</b>				
Less than high school diploma	12.9	25.8	14.8	21.2
High school diploma or equivalent	29.3	28.9	27.8	32.8
Some college	32.0	31.3	34.5	33.6
Bachelor's degree or more	25.7	14.1	22.9	12.4
<b>Marital Status</b>				
Married	52.0	46.5	48.1	43.1
Never married	27.2	34.7	29.7	34.3
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.8	18.8	22.3	22.5
<b>With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home</b>	26.3	32.4	24.3	28.3
<b>Homeownership Rate</b>	70.0	59.8	72.1	71.4
<b>Household Income*</b>				
Less than \$30,000	20.4	22.9	25.3	28.8
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.1	20.4	21.1	23.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.9	21.3	20.1	20.4
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.7	14.4	13.1	13.2
\$100,000 or more	26.8	21.1	20.4	14.6

\*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](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf)

### Characteristics of Eligible Voters in New Mexico, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Latino Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters in New Mexico outnumber Hispanic eligible voters—671,000 whites compared with 525,000 Hispanics. Hispanic eligible voters outnumber Native American eligible voters in New Mexico by more than 4 to 1—525,000 to 116,000.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white eligible voters in New Mexico. Among Latino eligible voters, 29% are ages 18 to 29 compared with 18% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white eligible voters in New Mexico. Some 21% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained at least a high school diploma compared with 8% of white eligible voters.
- Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters in New Mexico are less likely than white eligible voters, but more likely than Native American eligible voters, to live in owner-occupied homes—71% versus 74% and 67%, respectively.

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

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANICS	
		White	Native American
<b>Total Population (thousands)</b>	895	825	165
<b>Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)</b>	525	671	116
<b>Age</b>			
18-29	28.8	17.5	30.3
30-44	27.2	21.0	26.8
45-54	17.6	19.9	19.4
55-64	12.4	18.7	11.4
65 and older	14.0	22.9	12.0
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	48.9	48.6	46.2
Female	51.1	51.4	53.8
<b>Type of Citizen</b>			
Citizen by birth	94.2	98.4	99.9
Naturalized citizen	5.8	1.6	0.1
<b>Language</b>			
Speaks only English at home	42.0	94.7	31.7
Does not speak only English at home	58.0	5.3	68.3
<b>Educational Attainment</b>			
Less than high school diploma	21.2	7.6	29.3
High school diploma or equivalent	32.8	23.2	33.7
Some college	33.6	35.8	29.0
Bachelor's degree or more	12.4	33.4	8.0
<b>Marital Status</b>			
Married	43.1	54.2	34.8
Never married	34.3	22.4	48.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	22.5	23.4	16.6
<b>With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home</b>	28.3	21.1	23.9
<b>Homeownership Rate</b>	71.4	74.3	66.6
<b>Household Income*</b>			
Less than \$30,000	28.8	21.2	33.2
\$30,000-\$49,999	23.0	19.8	21.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.4	19.9	20.6
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.2	13.0	11.1
\$100,000 or more	14.6	26.1	13.9

\*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](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf)

**Table 4**  
Population and Electorate in New Mexico, by Congressional District, 2008

Congressional District	ALL (thousands)		HISPANICS (thousands)		SHARE HISPANIC (%)	
	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters
1	678	462	313	176	46.2	38.2
2	645	434	329	183	50.9	42.2
3	661	468	249	157	37.7	33.6

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

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably. References to “whites,” “blacks,” and “Asians” are to the non-Hispanic components of those populations.
- <sup>3</sup> This statistical profile of eligible voters in New Mexico 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](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)).