

Latinos in the 2010 Elections: Pennsylvania

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

Hispanics in Pennsylvania's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Pennsylvania is the 14th-largest in the nation. Some 589,000 Hispanics reside in Pennsylvania.
- The population in Pennsylvania is 5% Hispanic, the 33rd-highest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 289,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Pennsylvania—the 10th-largest Hispanic eligible-voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.4 million.
- Some 3% of eligible voters in Pennsylvania are Latinos, the 27th-largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38%.
- One-half (49%) of Latinos in Pennsylvania are eligible to vote, ranking Pennsylvania 10th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. In contrast, 79% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

	United States	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania State Rank
Total Population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	304,060	12,448	6
Hispanics (thousands)	46,822	589	14
Percent Hispanic	15.4	4.7	33
Total Eligible Voter Population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	210,696	9,392	5
Hispanics (thousands)	19,346	289	10
Percent Hispanic	9.2	3.1	27
Eligibility of Hispanic Population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	41.3	49.1	10

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 Pennsylvania (31%) are ages 18 to 29, equal to the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide. By contrast, only 20% of all Pennsylvania eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship.** Some 13% of Hispanic eligible voters in Pennsylvania are naturalized U.S. citizens, compared with 3% of all Pennsylvania eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters in Pennsylvania are more likely to be native-born citizens (87%) than are Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (74%).
- Educational Attainment.** More than one-quarter of Latino eligible voters in Pennsylvania (28%) have not completed high school. That was greater than the rate for all Latino eligible voters—26%—and the rate for U.S. eligible voters nationwide—13%.
- Homeownership.** One-half of Hispanic eligible voters in Pennsylvania (51%) live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 60% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Somewhat greater shares of all eligible voters in Pennsylvania (73%) and all eligible voters nationwide (70%) live in owner-occupied homes.

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

	UNITED STATES		PENNSYLVANIA	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total Population (thousands)	304,060	46,822	12,448	589
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)	210,696	19,346	9,392	289
Age				
18-29	21.7	30.9	19.9	31.4
30-44	25.6	30.9	24.3	34.3
45-54	19.6	16.8	20.1	16.3
55-64	15.3	10.6	15.6	9.9
65 and older	17.8	10.8	20.1	8.0
Gender				
Male	48.3	49.2	47.8	49.7
Female	51.7	50.8	52.2	50.3
Type of Citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.5	74.4	96.7	86.9
Naturalized citizen	7.5	25.6	3.3	13.1
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.9	30.2	93.1	30.5
Does not speak only English at home	13.1	69.8	6.9	69.5
Educational Attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.9	25.8	12.3	27.6
High school diploma or equivalent	29.3	28.9	37.2	32.6
Some college	32.0	31.3	26.5	27.7
Bachelor's degree or more	25.7	14.1	24.0	12.2
Marital Status				
Married	52.0	46.5	52.2	38.6
Never married	27.2	34.7	27.6	42.9
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.8	18.8	20.2	18.5
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home	26.3	32.4	25.1	33.3
Homeownership Rate	70.0	59.8	72.7	50.9
Household Income*				
Less than \$30,000	20.4	22.9	21.3	33.5
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.1	20.4	18.6	18.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.9	21.3	21.0	19.6
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.7	14.4	14.6	11.8
\$100,000 or more	26.8	21.1	24.5	16.6

*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

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Pennsylvania, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Latino Eligible Voters.** Black eligible voters in Pennsylvania outnumber Hispanic eligible voters by a margin of 3-to-1—878,000 blacks compared with 289,000 Hispanics.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than other major racial groups in Pennsylvania. Three-in-ten of Latino eligible voters in Pennsylvania (31%) are ages 18 to 29 compared with 26% of black eligible voters, 23% of Asian eligible voters and 19% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white and black eligible voters in Pennsylvania. Some 28% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained at least a high school diploma compared with 18% of black eligible voters and 11% of white eligible voters.
- Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters in Pennsylvania are less likely than white eligible voters, but more likely than black eligible voters, to live in owner-occupied homes—51% versus 76% and 48%, respectively.

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

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANICS		
		White	Black	Asian
Total Population (thousands)				
	589	10,127	1,254	297
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)				
	289	8,001	878	137
Age				
18-29	31.4	18.7	26.0	22.7
30-44	34.3	23.4	27.4	31.1
45-54	16.3	20.3	19.5	20.1
55-64	9.9	16.2	13.1	14.1
65 and older	8.0	21.4	14.0	12.0
Gender				
Male	49.7	48.0	45.6	48.6
Female	50.3	52.0	54.4	51.4
Type of Citizen				
Citizen by birth	86.9	98.4	97.2	24.4
Naturalized citizen	13.1	1.6	2.8	75.6
Language				
Speaks only English at home	30.5	96.4	95.9	21.0
Does not speak only English at home	69.5	3.6	4.1	79.0
Educational Attainment				
Less than high school diploma	27.6	11.1	18.1	14.5
High school diploma or equivalent	32.6	37.7	38.0	18.2
Some college	27.7	25.9	30.8	22.3
Bachelor's degree or more	12.2	25.3	13.1	45.0
Marital Status				
Married	38.6	55.3	28.2	62.7
Never married	42.9	24.6	48.3	28.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	18.5	20.1	23.5	9.3
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home	33.3	24.8	24.3	32.8
Homeownership Rate	50.9	76.3	48.2	73.3
Household Income*				
Less than \$30,000	33.5	19.2	36.7	19.1
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.4	18.4	21.6	13.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.2	20.2	18.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	11.8	15.1	10.3	13.5
\$100,000 or more	16.6	26.1	11.1	35.2

*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 Pennsylvania, by Congressional District, 2008

Congressional District	ALL (thousands)		HISPANICS (thousands)		SHARE HISPANIC (%)	
	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters
1	607	404	115	60	18.9	14.8
2	586	434	21	12	3.6	2.8
3	636	492	10	5	1.6	1.0
4	649	502	6	3	0.9	0.7
5	641	507	9	6	1.4	1.2
6	704	514	43	17	6.1	3.3
7	669	492	12	6	1.8	1.2
8	668	495	24	12	3.6	2.4
9	659	512	9	4	1.3	0.7
10	653	510	15	8	2.2	1.7
11	669	513	42	20	6.3	3.9
12	618	495	6	4	1.0	0.8
13	676	483	39	20	5.7	4.1
14	575	452	9	6	1.6	1.3
15	714	526	85	44	12.0	8.3
16	697	499	81	36	11.7	7.1
17	669	511	31	15	4.7	3.0
18	645	500	8	5	1.3	1.0
19	714	544	29	12	4.1	2.2

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center compilation from U.S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder Tables B05003 and B050031

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 Pennsylvania 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)).