

Hispanics in the 2008 Election: Florida

Florida's Hispanic population is the third-largest in the nation. More than 3.6 million Hispanics reside in Florida, 8% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 1.7 million eligible Hispanic voters in Florida, 9% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.¹ This fact sheet provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters.² It also contains data on other major groups of eligible voters in Florida, with comparative data for the U.S. All data are from the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Florida's Eligible Voter Population

- Florida's population is 20% Hispanic, the 6th highest Hispanic population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 45%.
- Almost 14% of eligible voters in Florida are Latino, the 5th largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38%.
- More than 46% of Latinos in Florida are eligible to vote, ranking 18th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote.

	U.S.	Florida	Florida State Rank
Total population (thousands)	299,398	18,090	4
Percent of the population (all ages) that is Hispanic	14.8	20.1	6
Percent of all eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older) who are Hispanic	8.7	13.5	5
Percent of the Hispanic population (all ages) that is eligible to vote	40.6	46.1	18

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2006 American Community Survey (IPUMS 1% sample)

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Florida's Hispanic eligible voters are younger than all eligible voters in Florida—23% of Hispanic eligible voters in Florida are ages 18 to 29 versus 19% of all Florida eligible voters.
- Latino eligible voters in Florida are much more likely to be naturalized citizens than are all Florida eligible voters—45% versus 12%. They are also more likely to be naturalized than are all Latino eligible voters nationwide (26%).
- The proportion of Hispanic eligible voters in Florida who have attended college or earned at least a bachelor's degree is nearly equal to the proportion of all Florida eligible voters who have that level of education—50% of Hispanics versus 54% of all eligible voters in Florida. Hispanic eligible voters in Florida also have a higher level of education than all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, only 41% of whom have attended college or earned a bachelor's degree or more.
- Latino eligible voters and all eligible voters in Florida have similar household incomes. Almost 48% of Latino eligible voters reside in households with incomes below \$50,000 while 45% of all eligible voters report the same.

Table 2
Characteristics of Eligible Voters
in Florida and the United States

	FLORIDA		UNITED STATES	
	Hispanics	All	Hispanics	All
Population (in thousands)				
Total population	3,643	18,090	44,299	299,398
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	1,679	12,406	17,975	206,329
Percent of Eligible Voters				
Age				
18-29	22.8	18.7	31.1	21.5
30-44	30.5	24.6	31.6	26.8
45-59	23.0	26.4	22.5	28.0
60 and older	23.7	30.3	14.9	23.8
Gender				
Female	52.4	52.1	50.8	51.8
Male	47.6	47.9	49.2	48.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	55.0	87.9	73.6	92.7
Naturalized citizen	45.0	12.1	26.4	7.3
English-speaking ability				
Does not speak English "very well"	34.5	6.4	24.3	4.3
Speaks only English or English "very well"	65.5	93.6	75.7	95.7
Educational attainment				
Did not complete high school	20.6	13.9	27.3	14.0
Completed high school	29.3	32.0	31.6	31.2
Some college	29.2	30.3	27.8	29.8
Bachelor's degree or more	20.8	23.7	13.3	25.0
Marital Status				
Married	52.5	53.1	47.8	52.7
Never Married	24.8	23.0	33.5	26.3
Other	22.7	23.9	18.7	20.9
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home				
	29.9	23.3	33.4	26.8
In owner-occupied homes				
	69.4	73.6	60.2	70.8
Household income*				
Less than \$30,000	25.8	24.0	26.1	22.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	22.1	21.1	21.7	19.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.4	21.5	21.5	20.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.5	13.2	13.5	14.1
\$100,000 or more	18.2	20.1	17.1	22.9

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2006 American Community Survey (IPUMS 1% sample)

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Florida, by Race and Ethnicity

- There are almost equal numbers of black and Latino eligible voters in Florida—1.6 million blacks compared with 1.7 million Latino eligible voters.
- Black eligible voters are younger than Hispanic or white eligible voters in Florida—28% of black eligible voters are ages 18 to 29 compared with 23% of Hispanic and 16% of white eligible voters.
- Hispanic eligible voters in Florida are more likely than blacks, but less likely than whites, to have attended college or earned at least a bachelor’s degree—50% of Hispanic eligible voters have attended college or earned at least a bachelor’s degree compared with 57% of white and 41% of black eligible voters.
- Hispanic eligible voters are less likely than white eligible voters in Florida to live in owner-occupied homes—69% versus 78%.
- Latino and white eligible voters in Florida have similar household incomes, but black eligible voters report lower levels of household income—48% of Latino, 42% of white, and 58% of black eligible voters report household incomes less than \$50,000.

Table 3
Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Florida, by Race and Ethnicity

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANIC	
		White	Black
Population (in thousands)			
Total population	3,643	11,042	2,701
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	1,679	8,741	1,629
Percent of Eligible Voters			
Age			
18-29	22.8	15.9	28.2
30-44	30.5	22.4	29.4
45-59	23.0	27.1	25.6
60 and older	23.7	34.6	16.8
Gender			
Female	52.4	51.8	53.7
Male	47.6	48.2	46.3
Type of citizen			
Citizen by birth	55.0	96.1	85.9
Naturalized citizen	45.0	3.9	14.1
English-speaking ability			
Does not speak English "very well"	34.5	1.2	3.0
Speaks only English or English "very well"	65.5	98.8	97.0
Educational attainment			
Did not complete high school	20.6	11.1	22.3
Completed high school	29.3	32.0	36.5
Some college	29.2	31.1	27.1
Bachelor's degree or more	20.8	25.8	14.1
Marital Status			
Married	52.5	56.2	35.8
Never Married	24.8	19.3	40.5
Other	22.7	24.5	23.7
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home			
	29.9	20.9	27.4
In owner-occupied homes			
	69.4	78.1	54.3
Household income*			
Less than \$30,000	25.8	21.9	34.5
\$30,000-\$49,999	22.1	20.4	23.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.4	21.9	20.5
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.5	13.5	11.3
\$100,000 or more	18.2	22.3	9.9

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2006 American Community Survey (IPUMS 1% sample)

Endnotes

- ¹ In this fact sheet, 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” and “blacks” are to the non-Hispanic components of those populations.
- ³ The specific data set used to derive estimates contained in this fact sheet are from the University of Minnesota’s Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) for the 2006 American Community Survey (1% sample). Information can be found on the following Website: <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>. The estimates in this fact sheet are subject to sampling error. Also, estimates in this fact sheet will differ from estimates that may be published by the Census Bureau because of differences between the data used by the Census Bureau and the data it has released for public use. Further information on Census data and on sampling error in the data is available at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2006/AccuracyPUMS.pdf>.