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Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: Arizona

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Latinos in the 2012 Election: Arizona

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in Arizona.² All demographic data are based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Arizona's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Arizona is the sixth largest in the nation.⁴ About 1.9 million Hispanics reside in Arizona, 3.8% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Arizona's population is 30% Hispanic, the fourth largest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 824,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Arizona—the fifth largest Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9 million.

Table 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Arizona, 2010

	U.S.	Arizona	Arizona state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	6,414	16
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	1,909	6
Percent Hispanic	16.4	29.8	4
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	4,285	18
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	824	5
Percent Hispanic	10.0	19.2	4
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	43.2	19*

Notes: Percentages calculated before rounding. *Rankings for "Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote" are based on the District of Columbia and the 46 states whose Hispanic samples in the 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) are large enough to generate reliable estimates. All other rankings are based on the District of Columbia and the 50 states.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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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 other races and ethnicities are to the non-Hispanic components of those populations.

³ This statistical profile of eligible voters is based on the Census Bureau's 2010 [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 the 2010 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. More information is available on [ACS sampling strategy](#) and [associated error](#).

⁴ Rankings for "Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote" are based on the District of Columbia and the 46 states whose Hispanic samples in the 2010 ACS are large enough to generate reliable estimates. All other rankings are based on the District of Columbia and the 50 states.

- Some 19% of Arizona eligible voters are Hispanic, the fourth largest Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- About 43% of Hispanics in Arizona are eligible to vote, ranking Arizona 19th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 80% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** One-third of Hispanic eligible voters in Arizona (35%) are ages 18 to 29, similar to the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 22% of all Arizona eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Arizona, 18% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 7% of all eligible voters in Arizona and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Arizona have a different country-of-origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Almost nine-in-ten (87%) Hispanic eligible voters in Arizona are of Mexican origin, 3% are of Puerto Rican origin, and 10% that claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible

Table 2

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Arizona and the United States, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Arizona	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	6,414	1,909
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	4,285	824
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	22.1	34.8
30-44	24.6	29.3	24.3	29.4
45-54	19.4	16.7	17.8	15.9
55-64	16.3	10.9	16.0	10.5
65 and older	18.2	10.4	19.8	9.4
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	49.1	49.3
Female	51.8	51.7	50.9	50.7
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	93.0	81.9
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	7.0	18.1
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	81.3	39.2
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	18.7	60.8
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	11.5	23.7
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	25.8	29.9
Some college	32.4	32.5	38.0	35.2
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	24.7	11.1
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	50.8	44.0
Never married	28.1	37.4	27.7	38.3
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	21.5	17.8
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	24.0	32.0
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	67.8	62.5
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	87.3
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	2.8
Cuban	---	4.8	---	0.7
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	0.4
Dominican	---	3.1	---	0.2
Other	---	16.2	---	8.6
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	23.8	27.5
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	20.4	23.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	20.4	22.2
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	13.1	11.8
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	22.4	15.3

Notes: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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voters nationwide, only six-in-ten (59%) are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican, and about a quarter (26%) are of some other Hispanic origin.

- ***Educational Attainment.*** Almost one-quarter of Latino eligible voters in Arizona (24%) have not completed high school, double the 12% of all Arizona eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- ***Homeownership.*** Roughly six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Arizona (62%) live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 58% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Somewhat greater shares of all eligible voters in Arizona (68%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Arizona, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Eligible Voters.** Latino eligible voters outnumber Native American eligible voters in Arizona by more than 4 to 1 and black eligible voters by almost 5 to 1.
- Age.** Latino and Native American eligible voters are younger than black and white eligible voters in Arizona. Some 35% of Latinos and 31% of Native Americans are ages 18 to 29 compared with 27% of black eligible voters and 18% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do black and white eligible voters in Arizona. Some 24% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 12% of black eligible voters and 7% of white eligible voters. But Hispanics are less likely than Native Americans (27%) in Arizona to be without a high school diploma.

Table 3

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Arizona, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Native American	Black
Total population (thousands)	1,909	3,704	262	248
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	824	2,968	178	166
Age				
18-29	34.8	17.5	30.5	26.8
30-44	29.4	21.9	29.3	31.2
45-54	15.9	18.2	17.8	19.2
55-64	10.5	18.1	12.0	13.2
65 and older	9.4	24.3	10.4	9.6
Gender				
Male	49.3	49.1	47.4	52.0
Female	50.7	50.9	52.6	48.0
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	81.9	97.3	99.9	95.8
Naturalized citizen	18.1	2.7	0.1	4.2
Language				
Speaks only English at home	39.2	95.9	41.0	94.7
Does not speak only English at home	60.8	4.1	59.0	5.3
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	23.7	7.3	26.7	12.1
High school diploma or equivalent	29.9	24.4	35.1	25.8
Some college	35.2	39.1	31.7	43.9
Bachelor's degree or more	11.1	29.3	6.5	18.1
Marital Status				
Married	44.0	55.0	30.5	31.1
Never married	38.3	22.2	50.2	45.7
Divorced/separated/widowed	17.8	22.9	19.4	23.2
With child younger than 18 in home	32.0	21.3	26.0	24.2
Homeownership rate	62.5	71.8	56.5	36.8
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	27.5	21.5	43.3	31.5
\$30,000-\$49,999	23.2	19.6	21.2	20.7
\$50,000-\$74,999	22.2	20.1	17.2	19.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	11.8	13.9	8.8	11.1
\$100,000 or more	15.3	24.9	9.5	17.1

Notes: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Hispanics are of any race. Whites, Native Americans and blacks include only non-Hispanics.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS sample)

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- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (62%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than Native American (56%) and black (37%) eligible voters in Arizona, but they are less likely to do so than white Arizona eligible voters (72%).