

Monday, October 1, 2012

Factsheet

---

## Latinos in the 2012 Election: Mississippi

**Seth Motel**, Research Assistant

**Eileen Patten**, Research Assistant

---

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel (202) 419-3600

Fax (202) 419-3608

[info@pewhispanic.org](mailto:info@pewhispanic.org)

[www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org)

Copyright © 2012

## Latinos in the 2012 Election: Mississippi

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters<sup>1</sup> and other major groups of eligible voters in Mississippi.<sup>2</sup> All demographic data are based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey.<sup>3</sup>

### Hispanics in Mississippi's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Mississippi ranks 40th in the nation.<sup>4</sup> About 74,000 Hispanics reside in Mississippi, 0.1% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Mississippi's population is 2% Hispanic, ranking 47th in Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 27,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi—ranking 41st in Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9

Table 1

#### Population and Electorate in the United States and Mississippi, 2010

	U.S.	Mississippi	Mississippi state rank
<b>Total population (all ages)</b>			
All (thousands)	309,350	2,970	31
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	74	40
Percent Hispanic	16.4	2.5	47
<b>Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)</b>			
All (thousands)	214,972	2,179	31
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	27	41
Percent Hispanic	10.0	1.2	48
<b>Eligibility of Hispanic population</b>			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	36.3	31*

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)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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

<sup>3</sup> 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](#).

<sup>4</sup> 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.

million.

- Some 1% of Mississippi eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking 48th in Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- Some 36% of Hispanics in Mississippi are eligible to vote, ranking Mississippi 31st nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, nearly eight-in-ten (78%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** About one-third of Hispanic eligible voters (34%) in Mississippi 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 Mississippi eligible voters and of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi, 12% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This is smaller than the 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S, but greater than the 1% of all eligible voters in Mississippi and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S overall.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi have a similar Hispanic origin profile to Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. More than half (56%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi are of Mexican origin, 13% of Puerto Rican origin and

Table 2

### Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Mississippi and the United States, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Mississippi	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	309,350	50,730	2,970	74
<b>Total eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	214,972	21,509	2,179	27
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	21.6	32.8	22.5	33.9
30-44	24.6	29.3	25.5	34.0
45-54	19.4	16.7	18.7	13.5
55-64	16.3	10.9	15.9	10.5
65 and older	18.2	10.4	17.5	8.1
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	48.2	48.3	47.5	56.4
Female	51.8	51.7	52.5	43.6
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	99.1	87.5
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	0.9	12.5
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	97.7	45.2
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	2.3	54.8
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	18.9	28.7
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	30.3	27.9
Some college	32.4	32.5	33.1	31.4
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	17.7	11.9
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	50.9	44.7	48.5	44.7
Never married	28.1	37.4	28.2	36.3
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	23.3	19.0
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	25.0	31.1	25.6	25.6
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	68.8	58.2	70.5	52.2
<b>Hispanic origin</b>				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	55.6
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	13.1
Cuban	---	4.8	---	2.3
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	4.6
Dominican	---	3.1	---	2.1
Other	---	16.2	---	22.4
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	34.1	30.5
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	21.2	17.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	19.6	22.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	11.8	12.3
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	13.3	16.6

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)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

31% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, 59% are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican, and 26% are of some other Hispanic origin.

- **Educational Attainment.** Nearly three-in-ten Latino eligible voters in Mississippi (29%) have not completed high school, a greater share than that of all Mississippi eligible voters (19%) and of all Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S. (25%).
- **Homeownership.** About half of Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi (52%) live in owner-occupied homes, smaller than the shares of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%), all eligible voters in Mississippi (71%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%).

## Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Mississippi, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Mississippi by nearly 50 to 1, and blacks outnumber Hispanics by almost 29 to 1.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black and white eligible voters in Mississippi. Some 34% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29 compared with 27% of black eligible voters and 19% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of high school education than do black and white eligible voters in Mississippi. Some 29% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 26% of black eligible voters and 14% of white eligible voters. Hispanics (12%) are slightly more likely than blacks (11%) to have a bachelor's degree or more. About two-in-ten (21%) white eligible voters have at least a bachelor's degree.

Table 3

### Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Mississippi, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	74	1,723	1,105
<b>Total eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	27	1,344	772
<b>Age</b>			
18-29	33.9	19.3	27.2
30-44	34.0	23.8	28.1
45-54	13.5	18.7	18.8
55-64	10.5	17.1	13.7
65 and older	8.1	21.0	12.2
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	56.4	48.5	45.6
Female	43.6	51.5	54.4
<b>Type of citizen</b>			
Citizen by birth	87.5	99.6	99.8
Naturalized citizen	12.5	0.4	0.2
<b>Language</b>			
Speaks only English at home	45.2	98.7	99.2
Does not speak only English at home	54.8	1.3	0.8
<b>Educational attainment</b>			
Less than high school diploma	28.7	14.4	26.4
High school diploma or equivalent	27.9	30.4	30.4
Some college	31.4	33.7	32.0
Bachelor's degree or more	11.9	21.4	11.2
<b>Marital Status</b>			
Married	44.7	58.0	32.1
Never married	36.3	19.0	43.9
Divorced/separated/widowed	19.0	23.1	24.1
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	25.6	25.7	25.2
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	52.2	77.2	59.7
<b>Household income</b>			
Less than \$30,000	30.5	26.0	49.2
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.9	21.1	21.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	22.7	20.8	16.9
\$75,000-\$99,999	12.3	14.8	6.6
\$100,000 or more	16.6	17.4	5.9

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

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

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (52%) are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than white (77%) and black (60%) eligible voters in Mississippi.