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Factsheet

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## Latinos in the 2012 Election: Pennsylvania

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# Latinos in the 2012 Election: Pennsylvania

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters<sup>1</sup> and other major groups of eligible voters in Pennsylvania.<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 Pennsylvania's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Pennsylvania is the 14th largest in the nation.<sup>4</sup> About 719,000 Hispanics reside in Pennsylvania, 1.4% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Pennsylvania's population is 6% Hispanic, ranking 33rd in Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 353,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Pennsylvania—the 10th largest Hispanic eligible voter population

Table 1

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

	U.S.	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania state rank
<b>Total population (all ages)</b>			
All (thousands)	309,350	12,710	6
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	719	14
Percent Hispanic	16.4	5.7	33
<b>Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)</b>			
All (thousands)	214,972	9,597	5
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	353	10
Percent Hispanic	10.0	3.7	28
<b>Eligibility of Hispanic population</b>			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	49.2	8*

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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<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.

nationally. California ranks first with 5.9 million.

- Some 4% of Pennsylvania eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking 28th in Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- Nearly half (49%) of Hispanics in Pennsylvania are eligible to vote, ranking Pennsylvania eighth 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.** Fully 35% of Hispanic eligible voters in Pennsylvania are ages 18 to 29, greater than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 20% of all Pennsylvania eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Pennsylvania, 13% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 4% of all Pennsylvania eligible voters and 8% nationwide.
- Hispanic Origin.** Unlike in the overall U.S., Hispanic eligible voters in Pennsylvania are most likely of Puerto Rican origin. Two-thirds (66%) of Hispanic eligible voters in the state are Puerto Rican, while Mexicans make up 9% of the total and Dominicans

Table 2

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Pennsylvania	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>	309,350	50,730	12,710	719
<b>Total eligible voter population (thousands)</b>	214,972	21,509	9,597	353
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	21.6	32.8	20.3	34.6
30-44	24.6	29.3	23.0	31.7
45-54	19.4	16.7	19.6	15.8
55-64	16.3	10.9	16.8	10.4
65 and older	18.2	10.4	20.3	7.5
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	48.2	48.3	47.9	49.0
Female	51.8	51.7	52.1	51.0
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	96.5	87.4
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	3.5	12.6
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	92.6	32.8
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	7.4	67.2
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	11.3	26.2
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	37.3	34.2
Some college	32.4	32.5	26.7	26.7
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	24.7	13.0
<b>Marital status</b>				
Married	50.9	44.7	50.5	38.0
Never married	28.1	37.4	29.2	45.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	20.3	17.0
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>	25.0	31.1	23.6	32.1
<b>Homeownership rate</b>	68.8	58.2	72.4	47.7
<b>Hispanic origin</b>				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	9.4
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	65.5
Cuban	---	4.8	---	2.9
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	0.9
Dominican	---	3.1	---	5.5
Other	---	16.2	---	15.8
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	23.1	37.0
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	18.9	18.7
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	20.5	18.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	14.0	11.9
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	23.4	14.1

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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5%. Among Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, nearly six-in-ten (59%) are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican, and 3% are Dominican.

- **Educational Attainment.** More than one-in-four Latino eligible voters in Pennsylvania (26%) have not completed high school, more than double the 11% of all Pennsylvania eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** Less than half of Hispanic eligible voters in Pennsylvania (48%) live in owner-occupied homes, below the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%). Greater shares of all eligible voters in Pennsylvania (72%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

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

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Pennsylvania by more than 22 to 1. Hispanics are outnumbered by blacks by more than 2 to 1 among eligible voters, but the number of Hispanics eligible to vote is about double that of Asians.

- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than Asian, black and white eligible voters in Pennsylvania. Some 35% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 29% of Asian eligible voters, 26% of black eligible voters and 19% of white eligible voters.

- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do black, Asian and white eligible voters in Pennsylvania. Some 26% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 18% of black eligible voters, 17% of Asian eligible voters and 10% of white eligible voters.

Table 3

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
<b>Total population (thousands)</b>				
	719	10,092	1,322	348
<b>Total eligible voter population (thousands)</b>				
	353	8,035	930	167
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	34.6	18.6	26.3	29.1
30-44	31.7	22.1	26.3	27.1
45-54	15.8	19.9	19.1	17.6
55-64	10.4	17.5	14.5	13.0
65 and older	7.5	21.9	13.8	13.2
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	49.0	48.1	45.8	48.8
Female	51.0	51.9	54.2	51.2
<b>Type of citizen</b>				
Citizen by birth	87.4	98.5	95.8	27.0
Naturalized citizen	12.6	1.5	4.2	73.0
<b>Language</b>				
Speaks only English at home	32.8	96.3	95.9	23.5
Does not speak only English at home	67.2	3.7	4.1	76.5
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Less than high school diploma	26.2	9.8	17.5	17.2
High school diploma or equivalent	34.2	37.6	40.2	17.1
Some college	26.7	26.4	29.5	21.4
Bachelor's degree or more	13.0	26.2	12.7	44.3
<b>Marital Status</b>				
Married	38.0	54.0	25.3	55.8
Never married	45.0	25.6	51.6	33.4
Divorced/separated/widowed	17.0	20.4	23.1	10.8
<b>With child younger than 18 in home</b>				
	32.1	23.2	22.4	29.7
<b>Homeownership rate</b>				
	47.7	76.4	49.9	71.9
<b>Household income</b>				
Less than \$30,000	37.0	20.8	38.1	19.0
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.7	18.7	22.2	14.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.3	20.9	17.9	19.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	11.9	14.6	10.0	13.1
\$100,000 or more	14.1	25.0	11.8	33.1

Notes: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Hispanics are of any race. Whites, blacks and Asians 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 (48%) are slightly less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black (50%) eligible voters in Pennsylvania, and they have far lower homeownership rates than white (76%) or Asian (72%) eligible voters in the state.