

Monday, October 1, 2012

Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: South Carolina

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Latinos in the 2012 Election: South Carolina

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in South Carolina.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 South Carolina's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in South Carolina ranks 29th in the nation.⁴ About 232,000 Hispanics reside in South Carolina, 0.5% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- South Carolina's population is 5% Hispanic, ranking 34th in Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 66,000 Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina—ranking 33rd in Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9

Table 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and South Carolina, 2010

	U.S.	South Carolina	South Carolina state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	4,636	24
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	232	29
Percent Hispanic	16.4	5.0	34
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	3,420	24
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	66	33
Percent Hispanic	10.0	1.9	41
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	28.4	42*

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.

million.

- Some 2% of South Carolina eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking 41st in Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- Fewer than one-third of Hispanics in South Carolina (28%) are eligible to vote, ranking South Carolina 42nd nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, more than three-quarters (79%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** More than one-third of Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina (38%) are ages 18 to 29, greater than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 21% of all South Carolina eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina, 22% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 2% of all eligible voters in South Carolina and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Slightly more than one-third (37%) of Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina are of Mexican origin, 27% of Puerto Rican origin and

Table 2

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in South Carolina and the United States, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		South Carolina	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	4,636	232
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	3,420	66
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	21.5	38.5
30-44	24.6	29.3	24.3	29.0
45-54	19.4	16.7	18.8	15.3
55-64	16.3	10.9	17.0	8.9
65 and older	18.2	10.4	18.4	8.3
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	47.5	48.9
Female	51.8	51.7	52.5	51.1
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	98.2	77.6
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	1.8	22.4
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	96.8	43.0
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	3.2	57.0
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	15.5	21.7
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	30.6	29.2
Some college	32.4	32.5	31.4	31.0
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	22.5	18.1
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	49.4	47.8
Never married	28.1	37.4	28.3	37.2
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	22.4	15.0
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	23.6	29.1
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	70.1	59.8
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	36.8
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	27.4
Cuban	---	4.8	---	5.9
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	1.8
Dominican	---	3.1	---	1.1
Other	---	16.2	---	27.1
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	29.3	28.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	20.9	19.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	20.0	22.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	13.0	12.7
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	16.9	17.3

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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36% claim other Hispanic origin. Among all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, six-in-ten (59%) are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican and about one-quarter (26%) are of some other Hispanic origin.

- ***Educational Attainment.*** Two-in-ten Latino eligible voters in South Carolina (22%) have not completed high school, more than the 15% of all South Carolina eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- ***Homeownership.*** Six-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina (60%) live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 58% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Greater shares of all eligible voters in South Carolina (70%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in South Carolina, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in South Carolina by more than 35 to 1, and black eligible voters outnumber Hispanics by more than 14 to 1. There are more than twice as many Hispanic eligible voters (66,000) as Asian eligible voters (25,000).
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black, white and Asian eligible voters in South Carolina. Some 38% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 25% of black eligible voters, 19% of white eligible voters and 16% of Asian eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do Asian and white eligible voters in South Carolina. Some 22% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 15% of Asian eligible voters and 12% of white eligible voters. A similar share of black eligible voters (23%) and Hispanic eligible voters have not graduated from high

Table 3

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in South Carolina, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	232	2,968	1,296	52
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	66	2,348	936	25
Age				
18-29	38.5	19.2	25.4	16.0
30-44	29.0	23.3	26.3	30.5
45-54	15.3	18.7	19.4	17.8
55-64	8.9	17.9	15.7	15.6
65 and older	8.3	20.9	13.2	20.0
Gender				
Male	48.9	48.3	45.3	46.6
Female	51.1	51.7	54.7	53.4
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	77.6	99.0	99.7	28.8
Naturalized citizen	22.4	1.0	0.3	71.2
Language				
Speaks only English at home	43.0	98.3	98.9	31.4
Does not speak only English at home	57.0	1.7	1.1	68.6
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	21.7	12.1	23.3	14.8
High school diploma or equivalent	29.2	28.6	36.1	16.6
Some college	31.0	32.6	28.4	24.5
Bachelor's degree or more	18.1	26.6	12.2	44.0
Marital Status				
Married	47.8	57.0	30.6	63.9
Never married	37.2	21.7	43.7	22.2
Divorced/separated/widowed	15.0	21.4	25.7	13.9
With child younger than 18 in home	29.1	23.6	23.1	24.4
Homeownership rate	59.8	76.0	56.2	76.6
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	28.3	24.0	43.4	13.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	19.0	20.0	23.5	15.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	22.8	20.9	16.7	28.5
\$75,000-\$99,999	12.7	14.7	8.7	15.3
\$100,000 or more	17.3	20.4	7.6	27.6

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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school, but a larger share of Hispanics (18%) than blacks (12%) have a bachelor's degree or more. More than one-quarter of white eligible voters (27%) and 44% of Asian eligible voters in South Carolina have at least a bachelor's degree.

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (60%) are slightly more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (56%) in South Carolina, but they are less likely to do so than Asian (77%) or white (76%) South Carolina eligible voters.