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Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: Virginia

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

www.pewhispanic.org

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Latinos in the 2012 Election: Virginia

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

- The Hispanic population in Virginia is the 16th largest in the nation.⁴ About 630,000 Hispanics reside in Virginia, 1.2% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Virginia's population is 8% Hispanic, which ranks 28th nationally in Hispanic population share.
- There are 214,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Virginia—the 16th largest Hispanic eligible voter population

Table 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Virginia, 2010

	U.S.	Virginia	Virginia state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	8,025	12
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	630	16
Percent Hispanic	16.4	7.8	28
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	5,725	12
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	214	16
Percent Hispanic	10.0	3.7	26
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	33.9	36*

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.

nationally. California ranks first with 5.9 million.

- Some 4% of Virginia eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking the state 26th in Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- About one-third (34%) of Hispanics in Virginia are eligible to vote, ranking Virginia 36th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, more than three-quarters (78%) of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** More than one-in-three Hispanic eligible voters in Virginia (34%) are ages 18 to 29, just above the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 22% of all Virginia eligible voters and those nationwide are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Virginia, 33% are naturalized U.S. citizens, more than Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (25%). Only 7% of all eligible voters in Virginia are naturalized citizens, as are 8% of all U.S. eligible voters.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Virginia have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. About one-in-four (26%) are of Mexican origin. More than two-in-ten (21%) are Puerto Rican, 13% are Salvadoran, and 40% are of another Hispanic

Table 2

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Virginia	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	8,025	630
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	5,725	214
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	21.6	34.2
30-44	24.6	29.3	25.4	34.6
45-54	19.4	16.7	20.0	15.7
55-64	16.3	10.9	16.2	9.5
65 and older	18.2	10.4	16.8	6.0
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	48.3	49.4
Female	51.8	51.7	51.7	50.6
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	93.1	66.9
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	6.9	33.1
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	91.1	36.6
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	8.9	63.4
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	12.1	16.6
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	26.5	23.1
Some college	32.4	32.5	30.0	33.6
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	31.4	26.7
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	53.3	49.7
Never married	28.1	37.4	27.0	35.4
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	19.7	14.9
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	25.5	33.9
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	69.7	60.4
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	26.0
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	20.8
Cuban	---	4.8	---	5.0
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	12.7
Dominican	---	3.1	---	2.8
Other	---	16.2	---	32.6
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	18.7	11.4
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	16.5	17.1
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	17.8	18.1
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	14.0	16.4
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	33.0	37.0

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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origin. By contrast, Hispanic eligible voters nationwide are 59% Mexican, 14% Puerto Rican, 2% Salvadoran, and 24% of another Hispanic origin.

- ***Educational Attainment.*** Fully 17% of Hispanic eligible voters in Virginia have not completed high school, more than the 12% of all Virginia eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- ***Homeownership.*** Fully 60% of Hispanic eligible voters in Virginia live in owner-occupied homes, just above the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%). Greater shares of all eligible voters in Virginia (70%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Virginia, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Virginia by a margin of 19 to 1. Hispanic eligible voters are outnumbered by black eligible voters by about 5 to 1, but Hispanics are about the same size as Asians among eligible voters.

- **Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black, Asian and white eligible voters in Virginia. Some 34% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 25% of black eligible voters, 22% of Asian eligible voters and 20% of white eligible voters.

- **Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white and Asian eligible voters in Virginia, but higher levels than black eligible voters. Some 17% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 19% of black eligible voters, 10% of white eligible voters and 9% of Asian eligible voters.

Table 3

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)				
	630	5,195	1,548	434
Total eligible voter population (thousands)				
	214	4,074	1,116	220
Age				
18-29	34.2	19.7	24.6	21.8
30-44	34.6	24.0	27.1	32.2
45-54	15.7	20.1	20.7	19.9
55-64	9.5	17.3	14.8	14.1
65 and older	6.0	18.8	12.9	12.0
Gender				
Male	49.4	48.8	46.4	47.5
Female	50.6	51.2	53.6	52.5
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	66.9	97.6	96.0	21.9
Naturalized citizen	33.1	2.4	4.0	78.1
Language				
Speaks only English at home	36.6	96.5	96.0	23.0
Does not speak only English at home	63.4	3.5	4.0	77.0
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	16.6	10.1	18.8	9.3
High school diploma or equivalent	23.1	26.0	31.4	13.9
Some college	33.6	29.3	32.1	29.0
Bachelor's degree or more	26.7	34.6	17.7	47.8
Marital Status				
Married	49.7	57.8	36.1	65.5
Never married	35.4	22.7	40.4	24.5
Divorced/separated/widowed	14.9	19.5	23.5	10.0
With child younger than 18 in home				
	33.9	24.8	24.2	35.3
Homeownership rate				
	60.4	74.8	51.9	79.7
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	11.4	17.1	28.1	9.0
\$30,000-\$49,999	17.1	15.5	21.6	10.5
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.1	17.6	19.6	13.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	16.4	14.5	12.0	14.4
\$100,000 or more	37.0	35.4	18.6	52.2

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 (60%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black (52%) eligible voters in Virginia, but they are less likely to do so than Asian (80%) or white (75%) eligible voters in Virginia.