

Monday, October 1, 2012

Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: Washington

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

Copyright © 2012

Latinos in the 2012 Election: Washington

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

- The Hispanic population in Washington is the 12th largest in the nation.⁴ About 760,000 Hispanics reside in Washington, 1.5% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Washington's population is 11% Hispanic, the 15th largest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 271,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Washington—the 12th largest Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California

Table 1

Population and Electorate in the United States and Washington, 2010

	U.S.	Washington	Washington state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	6,744	13
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	760	12
Percent Hispanic	16.4	11.3	15
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	4,740	13
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	271	12
Percent Hispanic	10.0	5.7	18
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	35.6	33*

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

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.

ranks first with 5.9 million.

- Some 6% of Washington eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking the Hispanic eligible voter share 18th nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- More than one-third (36%) of Hispanics in Washington are eligible to vote, ranking Washington 33rd 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.** Fully 37% of Hispanic eligible voters in Washington 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 Washington eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Washington, 21% are naturalized U.S. citizens, less than Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (25%). Only 8% of all eligible voters in Washington and the U.S. overall are naturalized citizens.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Washington are predominantly of Mexican origin, as is true nationwide. Nearly three-in-four (73%) Hispanic eligible voters in Washington are Mexican. An additional 7% are Puerto Rican and 2% are Cuban. Among all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters,

Table 2

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Washington	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	6,744	760
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	4,740	271
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	21.3	37.4
30-44	24.6	29.3	25.2	30.8
45-54	19.4	16.7	19.4	15.9
55-64	16.3	10.9	17.1	9.0
65 and older	18.2	10.4	17.1	6.8
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	49.3	50.2
Female	51.8	51.7	50.7	49.8
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	91.8	78.8
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	8.2	21.2
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	88.6	45.8
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	11.4	54.2
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	9.1	22.7
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	24.8	26.6
Some college	32.4	32.5	37.3	36.8
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	28.8	13.9
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	53.4	46.1
Never married	28.1	37.4	26.3	38.3
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	20.3	15.5
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	25.2	34.0
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	67.1	54.5
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	72.9
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	6.7
Cuban	---	4.8	---	2.0
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	1.1
Dominican	---	3.1	---	0.3
Other	---	16.2	---	16.9
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	19.1	24.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	17.5	19.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	20.8	22.6
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	15.6	14.2
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	27.0	19.1

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)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

59% are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican, and 5% are Cuban.

- **Educational Attainment.** More than two-in-ten Latino eligible voters in Washington (23%) have not completed high school, more than double the 9% of all Washington eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- **Homeownership.** More than half of Hispanic eligible voters in Washington (55%) live in owner-occupied homes, which is just below the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%). Greater shares of all eligible voters in Washington (67%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Washington, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Washington by more than 14 to 1. Hispanic eligible voters are about equal to Asian eligible voters, and they outnumber black eligible voters by almost 2 to 1.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black, Asian and white eligible voters in Washington. Some 37% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 26% of black eligible voters, 22% of Asian eligible voters and 19% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do Asian, black and white eligible voters in Washington. Some 23% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma. This compares with 14% of Asian eligible voters, 12% of black eligible voters and 7% of white eligible voters in the state.

Table 3

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Asian	Black
Total population (thousands)	760	4,888	482	229
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	271	3,830	263	152
Age				
18-29	37.4	19.1	22.0	26.3
30-44	30.8	24.0	29.5	28.3
45-54	15.9	19.9	19.0	20.8
55-64	9.0	18.2	16.1	14.2
65 and older	6.8	18.8	13.4	10.4
Gender				
Male	50.2	49.4	44.8	54.8
Female	49.8	50.6	55.2	45.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	78.8	96.9	31.1	87.9
Naturalized citizen	21.2	3.1	68.9	12.1
Language				
Speaks only English at home	45.8	96.0	28.7	87.3
Does not speak only English at home	54.2	4.0	71.3	12.7
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	22.7	7.4	14.2	11.8
High school diploma or equivalent	26.6	24.7	17.1	29.2
Some college	36.8	37.7	29.5	39.6
Bachelor's degree or more	13.9	30.2	39.1	19.4
Marital Status				
Married	46.1	55.2	58.3	37.9
Never married	38.3	23.8	28.3	37.7
Divorced/separated/widowed	15.5	21.0	13.4	24.4
With child younger than 18 in home	34.0	23.9	30.7	27.8
Homeownership rate	54.5	69.6	74.0	37.6
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	24.3	18.3	14.5	30.0
\$30,000-\$49,999	19.8	17.2	15.3	20.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	22.6	21.1	15.5	18.9
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.2	15.8	15.7	13.0
\$100,000 or more	19.1	27.6	39.0	17.2

Notes: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Hispanics are of any race. Whites, Asians 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 (55%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black (38%) eligible voters in Washington, but they are less likely to do so than Asian (74%) or white (70%) eligible voters in Washington.