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Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: Alabama

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Latinos in the 2012 Election: Alabama

This profile provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in Alabama.² All demographic data are based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey.³

Alabama Voter Registration Statistics

According to the [Alabama Secretary of State Elections Division](#), voter registration statistics as of October 2012 show that 18,000 Latinos are registered to vote statewide. Overall, Latinos make up 0.6% of the state's 3.2 million registered voters. The majority of voters in Alabama are white—there are 2.2 million white registered voters, representing 70.6% of all registered voters in Alabama.

Additionally, about a quarter of registered voters in Alabama are black (26.7%), with about 845,000 statewide. Native Americans represent a slightly smaller share of registered voters than Hispanics, with 11,000 registered statewide (0.3% of all registered voters in Alabama).

The numbers and shares of Hispanics and other minorities among registered voters in Alabama have grown slightly since the presidential election in November 2008. There are

Table 1
Registered Voters in Alabama, by Race and Ethnicity, 2012

(in thousands)

	Hispanic		White		Black		Native American		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2012*	18	0.6	2,231	70.6	845	26.7	11	0.3	3,162	100.0
2010	13	0.4	2,124	71.6	772	26.0	9	0.3	2,967	100.0
2008	12	0.4	2,164	71.8	778	25.8	8	0.3	3,013	100.0

Note: *Data for 2012 as of October. For all other years, data reflect the November numbers. Percentages calculated before rounding. Total includes some groups not shown separately (e.g., Asians). Information on party registration by race and ethnicity is not available.

Source: Alabama Secretary of State Elections Division
<http://www.sos.state.al.us/downloads/dl2.aspx?div1=Elections%20Division&types=Data>

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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](#).

about 6,000 more Hispanic registered voters today, and their share has risen from 0.4% of all registered voters in the state to 0.6%. In 2008, whites made up 71.8% of registered voters in the state, slightly larger than their share today (70.6%).

Hispanics in Alabama’s Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Alabama ranks 32nd in the nation.⁴ About 182,000 Hispanics reside in Alabama, 0.4% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Alabama’s population is 4% Hispanic, ranking 40th in Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 45,000 Hispanic eligible voters in Alabama—ranking 38th in Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9 million.

Table 2

Population and Electorate in the United States and Alabama, 2010

	U.S.	Alabama	Alabama state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	4,785	23
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	182	32
Percent Hispanic	16.4	3.8	40
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	3,543	22
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	45	38
Percent Hispanic	10.0	1.3	46
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	24.7	46*

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 ACS (1% IPUMS sample)

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- Some 1% of Alabama eligible voters are Hispanic, ranking 46th in Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- One quarter (25%) of Hispanics in Alabama are eligible to vote, ranking Alabama 46th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 79% of the state’s white population is eligible to vote.

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.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** More than four-in-ten Hispanic eligible voters in Alabama (44%) are ages 18 to 29, higher than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (33%) in that age range. By contrast, only 21% of all Alabama eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Alabama, 24% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with 25% of Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., but just 1% of all eligible voters in Alabama and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S overall.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Alabama have a similar Hispanic origin profile to Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. More than half (52%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Alabama are of Mexican

Table 3
Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Alabama and the United States, 2010

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Alabama	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	4,785	182
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	3,543	45
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	21.1	44.1
30-44	24.6	29.3	24.6	25.6
45-54	19.4	16.7	19.1	14.1
55-64	16.3	10.9	16.6	6.1
65 and older	18.2	10.4	18.6	10.1
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	47.4	52.4
Female	51.8	51.7	52.6	47.6
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	98.8	75.6
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	1.2	24.4
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	97.4	40.5
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	2.6	59.5
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	17.4	25.5
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	31.4	26.0
Some college	32.4	32.5	31.2	31.0
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	20.0	17.6
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	50.6	43.8
Never married	28.1	37.4	25.0	41.3
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	24.4	15.0
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	25.1	30.4
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	72.1	53.4
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	52.3
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	17.5
Cuban	---	4.8	---	2.8
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	3.4
Dominican	---	3.1	---	1.2
Other	---	16.2	---	22.9
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	30.3	25.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	21.5	18.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	18.6	23.2
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	11.4	13.1
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	18.2	19.5

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, 17% are of Puerto Rican origin, and 30% 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.*** One-quarter of Latino eligible voters in Alabama (25%) have not completed high school, higher than the 17% of all Alabama eligible voters who have not completed high school.
- ***Homeownership.*** More than half of Hispanic eligible voters in Alabama (53%) live in owner-occupied homes, just below the share of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (58%). Greater shares of all eligible voters in Alabama (72%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Alabama, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Alabama by 56 to 1, and black eligible voters outnumber Hispanics by more than 20 to 1. There are a more Hispanic (45,000) than Native American (18,000) eligible voters in Alabama.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than black, Native American and white eligible voters in Alabama. Some 44% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29, compared with 26% of black and Native American eligible voters and 19% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of high school education than white, black and Native American eligible voters in Alabama. Some 25% of Hispanic eligible voters have not obtained a high school diploma, compared with 15% of white eligible voters, 20% of Native American eligible voters and 23% of black eligible voters. However, the share of Hispanic eligible

Table 4

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Native American
Total population (thousands)	182	3,207	1,263	24
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	45	2,522	907	18
Age				
18-29	44.1	18.9	25.8	25.8
30-44	25.6	23.7	27.2	20.7
45-54	14.1	19.1	19.1	22.6
55-64	6.1	17.3	15.0	20.7
65 and older	10.1	21.0	12.8	10.3
Gender				
Male	52.4	48.3	44.8	49.0
Female	47.6	51.7	55.2	51.0
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	75.6	99.5	99.5	100.0
Naturalized citizen	24.4	0.5	0.5	0.0
Language				
Speaks only English at home	40.5	98.5	98.7	97.1
Does not speak only English at home	59.5	1.5	1.3	2.9
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	25.5	15.1	23.3	20.3
High school diploma or equivalent	26.0	31.1	33.1	32.2
Some college	31.0	31.3	30.8	33.1
Bachelor's degree or more	17.6	22.6	12.8	14.3
Marital Status				
Married	43.8	58.2	30.1	52.0
Never married	41.3	18.4	42.5	21.3
Divorced/separated/widowed	15.0	23.4	27.5	26.8
With child younger than 18 in home	30.4	25.2	24.6	29.8
Homeownership rate	53.4	78.0	56.5	70.5
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	25.3	25.5	44.3	33.5
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.9	21.0	23.2	19.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	23.2	19.4	16.1	19.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.1	12.6	7.8	12.6
\$100,000 or more	19.5	21.5	8.6	14.2

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 Native Americans include only non-Hispanics.

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

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voters in Alabama with a bachelor's degree or more (18%) is slightly higher than that of eligible voters who are Native American (14%) or black (13%). Nearly one-quarter (23%) of whites in Alabama have a bachelor's degree.

- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (53%) are less likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black (57%), Native American (71%) or white (78%) eligible voters in Alabama.