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Factsheet

Latinos in the 2012 Election: Florida

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Latinos in the 2012 Election: Florida

This profile provides Florida voter registration data, including party affiliation, as reported by the Florida Division of Elections through July 16, 2012. It also provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters¹ and other major groups of eligible voters in Florida.² All demographic data are based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey.³

Florida Voter Registration Statistics

According to the [Florida Department of State Division of Elections](#), 1,660,000 Latinos were registered to vote statewide as of book closing on October 9, 2012.

Overall, Latinos make up 13.9% of the state's more than 11.9 million active registered voters. Among Latino registered voters, 476,000 are registered as

Republicans, making up 11.2% of all Republican registered voters. And 645,000 Latino registered voters are registered as Democrats, representing 13.5% of all Democratic registered voters.

As recently as 2006, more Hispanics in Florida were registered as Republicans (37%) than as Democrats (33%). By 2008, the balance tipped over to the Democrats. This year that trend has

Table 1
Party Affiliation among Hispanic Active Registered Voters in Florida, 2006 to 2012
(in thousands)

	Republicans	Democrats	Other Party	No Party Affiliation	Total
2012	476	645	26	513	1,660
2010	445	551	25	405	1,426
2008	446	513	24	373	1,355
2006	414	370	17	313	1,114

Note: Data represent registration as of book-closing dates.

Source: Florida Department of State Division of Elections
<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voter-registration/statistics/elections.shtml>

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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](#).

accelerated, with the gap between Hispanics who are registered as Democrats (39%) and those registered as Republicans (29%) wider now than in 2008 or 2010.

Geographically, the majority of Hispanic Republican registered voters are located in South Florida. According to the Division of Elections, 57% (273,000) are in Miami-Dade County alone. By contrast, among the state's Hispanic Democratic registered voters, a smaller share, 34% (217,000), are registered to vote in Miami-Dade County.

Hispanics have grown from 10.7% of the registered voters in 2006 to 13.9% today. They slightly outnumber black registered voters (13.6%). The share of white eligible voters has declined from 2006, when they composed 72.0% of registered voters. Whites today make up about two-thirds (66.5%) of registered voters, and Asians are an additional 1.6% of the state's registered voters.

Table 2
Active Registered Voters in Florida, by Race and Ethnicity, 2006 to 2012

(in thousands)

	Hispanic		White		Black		Asian		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2012	1,660	13.9	7,939	66.5	1,620	13.6	194	1.6	11,934	100.0
2010	1,426	12.7	7,693	68.6	1,460	13.0	165	1.5	11,217	100.0
2008	1,355	12.0	7,773	69.1	1,469	13.1	151	1.3	11,248	100.0
2006	1,114	10.7	7,509	72.0	1,248	12.0	120	1.1	10,434	100.0

Notes: Data represent registration as of book-closing dates. "Asian" includes Pacific Islanders. Percentages calculated before rounding. Total includes some groups not shown separately (e.g., Native Americans).

Source: Florida Department of State Division of Elections

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voter-registration/statistics/elections.shtml>

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Hispanics in Florida’s Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Florida is the third largest in the nation.⁴ More than 4.2 million Hispanics reside in Florida, 8.4% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- Florida’s population is 23% Hispanic, the sixth largest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 2.1 million Hispanic eligible voters in Florida—the third largest Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.9 million.
- Some 16% of Florida eligible voters are Hispanic, the fifth largest Hispanic eligible voter share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 39%.
- Half (49%) of Hispanics in Florida are eligible to vote, ranking Florida ninth nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. By contrast, 81% of the state’s white population is eligible to vote.

Table 3

Population and Electorate in the United States and Florida, 2010

	U.S.	Florida	Florida state rank
Total population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	309,350	18,843	4
Hispanics (thousands)	50,730	4,253	3
Percent Hispanic	16.4	22.6	6
Total eligible voter population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	214,972	13,131	4
Hispanics (thousands)	21,509	2,089	3
Percent Hispanic	10.0	15.9	5
Eligibility of Hispanic population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	42.4	49.1	9*

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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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.** Florida's Hispanic eligible voters are younger than all eligible voters in Florida—25% of Hispanic eligible voters are ages 18 to 29 versus 19% of all eligible voters.
- Citizenship and Nativity.** Among Hispanic eligible voters in Florida, 43% are naturalized U.S. citizens. This compares with just 25% of all Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S., 13% of all eligible voters in Florida and 8% of eligible voters in the U.S. overall.
- Hispanic Origin.** Hispanic eligible voters in Florida have a different Hispanic origin profile from Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. One-third (32%) of Hispanic eligible voters in Florida are of Cuban origin, 28% are of Puerto Rican origin, 9% are of Mexican origin, and 30% claim other Hispanic origin. By contrast, among Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, 59% are Mexican, 14% are Puerto Rican, 5% are Cuban, and 22% are of some other Hispanic origin.

Table 4

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	U.S.		Florida	
	All	Hispanic	All	Hispanic
Total population (thousands)	309,350	50,730	18,843	4,253
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	214,972	21,509	13,131	2,089
Age				
18-29	21.6	32.8	19.3	25.0
30-44	24.6	29.3	22.3	27.7
45-54	19.4	16.7	18.4	17.8
55-64	16.3	10.9	16.5	12.1
65 and older	18.2	10.4	23.6	17.3
Gender				
Male	48.2	48.3	48.0	46.8
Female	51.8	51.7	52.0	53.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.2	74.9	86.8	57.0
Naturalized citizen	7.8	25.1	13.2	43.0
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.2	30.7	80.2	16.0
Does not speak only English at home	13.8	69.3	19.8	84.0
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.3	24.7	13.0	20.3
High school diploma or equivalent	29.1	28.6	30.0	27.2
Some college	32.4	32.5	32.8	32.3
Bachelor's degree or more	26.3	14.3	24.3	20.2
Marital status				
Married	50.9	44.7	49.3	47.6
Never married	28.1	37.4	26.2	29.4
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.9	17.9	24.5	23.0
With child younger than 18 in home	25.0	31.1	20.9	27.0
Homeownership rate	68.8	58.2	71.4	67.0
Hispanic origin				
Mexican	---	59.1	---	8.9
Puerto Rican	---	14.4	---	28.4
Cuban	---	4.8	---	32.1
Salvadoran	---	2.4	---	0.9
Dominican	---	3.1	---	4.5
Other	---	16.2	---	25.0
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	22.9	25.3	25.5	27.4
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.6	20.7	21.1	21.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.6	21.0	20.3	21.1
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	13.3	12.9	11.3
\$100,000 or more	25.1	19.7	20.1	18.3

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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- ***Educational Attainment.*** Two-in-ten Latino eligible voters in Florida (20%) have not completed high school. That is lower than the rate for Latino eligible voters nationwide—25%—but greater than the rate for all U.S. eligible voters (12%) or all eligible voters in Florida (13%).
- ***Homeownership.*** Two-thirds of Hispanic eligible voters in Florida (67%) live in owner-occupied homes compared to 58% of Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Somewhat greater shares of all eligible voters in Florida (71%) and all eligible voters nationwide (69%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Florida, by Race and Ethnicity

- **Number of Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber both Hispanic and black eligible voters in Florida by more than 4 to 1.
- **Age.** Black eligible voters are younger than Hispanic or white eligible voters in Florida—28% of black eligible voters are ages 18 to 29, compared with 25% of Hispanic and 16% of white eligible voters.
- **Educational Attainment.** More than half (53%) of Hispanic eligible voters have attended at least some college or earned a bachelor's degree or more, compared with 60% of white and 46% of black eligible voters.
- **Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters are less likely than white eligible voters in Florida to live in owner-occupied homes—67% versus 76%.

Table 5

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

(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
Total population (thousands)	4,253	10,884	2,871	444
Total eligible voter population (thousands)	2,089	8,799	1,804	232
Age				
18-29	25.0	15.8	28.0	21.3
30-44	27.7	19.6	27.7	27.7
45-54	17.8	18.4	18.9	20.1
55-64	12.1	18.2	13.4	16.4
65 and older	17.3	28.0	12.0	14.6
Gender				
Male	46.8	48.6	46.9	45.6
Female	53.2	51.4	53.1	54.4
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	57.0	96.2	84.5	22.6
Naturalized citizen	43.0	3.8	15.5	77.4
Language				
Speaks only English at home	16.0	94.8	89.0	31.5
Does not speak only English at home	84.0	5.2	11.0	68.5
Educational attainment				
Less than high school diploma	20.3	9.6	21.0	12.6
High school diploma or equivalent	27.2	30.4	32.7	19.2
Some college	32.3	33.0	32.1	28.6
Bachelor's degree or more	20.2	26.9	14.2	39.6
Marital Status				
Married	47.6	53.1	32.5	59.9
Never married	29.4	21.6	44.0	26.3
Divorced/separated/widowed	23.0	25.4	23.5	13.7
With child younger than 18 in home	27.0	18.4	24.5	29.5
Homeownership rate	67.0	76.1	53.0	82.4
Household income				
Less than \$30,000	27.4	23.0	37.1	18.0
\$30,000-\$49,999	21.8	20.6	23.2	17.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.1	20.5	18.6	21.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	11.3	13.6	10.8	15.3
\$100,000 or more	18.3	22.3	10.3	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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