

Latinos in the 2010 Elections: Texas

This statistical profile provides key demographic information of Latino eligible voters in Texas.¹ It also contains data on other major groups of eligible voters in Texas.² All data are based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Texas' Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Texas is the second-largest in the nation. Some 8.8 million Hispanics reside in Texas, 19% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- The population in Texas is 36% Hispanic, the 3rd-highest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 3.8 million eligible Hispanic voters in Texas—the second-largest Hispanic eligible-voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.4 million.
- One-quarter (25%) of eligible voters in Texas are Latinos, the second-largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38%.
- Some 43% of Latinos in Texas are eligible to vote, ranking Texas 21st nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. In contrast, 77% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

	United States	Texas	Texas State Rank
Total Population (all ages)			
<i>All (thousands)</i>	304,060	24,327	2
<i>Hispanics (thousands)</i>	46,822	8,816	2
<i>Percent Hispanic</i>	15.4	36.2	3
Total Eligible Voter Population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
<i>All (thousands)</i>	210,696	15,237	2
<i>Hispanics (thousands)</i>	19,346	3,812	2
<i>Percent Hispanic</i>	9.2	25.0	2
Eligibility of Hispanic Population			
<i>Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote</i>	41.3	43.2	21

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2008 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** Three-in-ten of Hispanic eligible voters in Texas (31%) are ages 18 to 29, equal to the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide in that age range. By contrast, only 24% of all Texas eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship.** Some 17% of Hispanic eligible voters in Texas are naturalized U.S. citizens, compared with 8% of all Texas eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters in Texas are more likely to be native-born citizens (83%) than are Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (74%).
- Educational Attainment.** Three-in-ten of Latino eligible voters in Texas (29%) have not completed high school. That was greater than the rate for all Latino eligible voters—26%—and the rate for U.S. eligible voters nationwide—13%.
- Homeownership.** Two-thirds of Hispanic eligible voters in Texas (68%) live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 60% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Similar shares of all eligible voters in Texas (70%) and all eligible voters nationwide (70%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Table 2
Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Texas and the United States, 2008
(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	UNITED STATES		TEXAS	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total Population (thousands)	304,060	46,822	24,327	8,816
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)	210,696	19,346	15,237	3,812
Age				
18-29	21.7	30.9	23.9	31.1
30-44	25.6	30.9	27.1	30.7
45-54	19.6	16.8	19.2	16.5
55-64	15.3	10.6	14.4	10.9
65 and older	17.8	10.8	15.4	10.7
Gender				
Male	48.3	49.2	48.7	49.5
Female	51.7	50.8	51.3	50.5
Type of Citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.5	74.4	92.2	82.9
Naturalized citizen	7.5	25.6	7.8	17.1
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.9	30.2	75.8	24.5
Does not speak only English at home	13.1	69.8	24.2	75.5
Educational Attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.9	25.8	15.0	29.0
High school diploma or equivalent	29.3	28.9	27.4	29.5
Some college	32.0	31.3	33.5	29.8
Bachelor's degree or more	25.7	14.1	24.2	11.7
Marital Status				
Married	52.0	46.5	52.8	50.0
Never married	27.2	34.7	25.8	30.4
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.8	18.8	21.4	19.6
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home	26.3	32.4	28.8	34.8
Homeownership Rate	70.0	59.8	69.5	67.7
Household Income*				
Less than \$30,000	20.4	22.9	21.0	27.1
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.1	20.4	18.5	22.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.9	21.3	19.7	21.2
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.7	14.4	14.6	13.5
\$100,000 or more	26.8	21.1	26.1	15.5

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)
 Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total due to rounding.
 Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2008 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Texas, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Latino Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters in Texas outnumber Hispanic eligible voters—8.9 million whites compared with 3.8 million Hispanics. Hispanic eligible voters outnumber black eligible voters in Texas by a margin of 2 to 1—3.8 million to 1.9 million.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than other major racial groups in Texas. Three-in-ten of Latino eligible voters in Texas (31%) are ages 18 to 29 compared with 27% of black eligible voters and 20% of Asian and white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white and black eligible voters in Texas. More than three times as many Hispanic eligible voters compared with white eligible voters have not obtained at least a high school diploma—29% versus 9%.
- Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters (68%) are more likely to live in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters (48%), but they are less likely to do so than white eligible voters in Texas (74%).

Table 3
Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Texas, by Race and Ethnicity, 2008
(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANICS		
		White	Black	Asian
Total Population (thousands)	8,816	11,533	2,738	831
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)	3,812	8,907	1,882	393
Age				
18-29	31.1	20.2	26.6	20.1
30-44	30.7	24.4	30.4	34.2
45-54	16.5	20.2	19.8	21.2
55-64	10.9	16.3	12.5	15.1
65 and older	10.7	18.8	10.7	9.4
Gender				
Male	49.5	48.7	46.8	49.2
Female	50.5	51.3	53.2	50.8
Type of Citizen				
Citizen by birth	82.9	98.2	97.3	20.9
Naturalized citizen	17.1	1.8	2.7	79.1
Language				
Speaks only English at home	24.5	95.8	96.3	17.4
Does not speak only English at home	75.5	4.2	3.7	82.6
Educational Attainment				
Less than high school diploma	29.0	8.8	16.8	10.7
High school diploma or equivalent	29.5	26.1	31.5	16.3
Some college	29.8	34.8	35.7	25.0
Bachelor's degree or more	11.7	30.3	16.1	48.1
Marital Status				
Married	50.0	57.5	34.7	65.7
Never married	30.4	20.9	39.1	23.2
Divorced/separated/widowed	19.6	21.5	26.1	11.0
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home	34.8	26.3	27.2	37.3
Homeownership Rate	67.7	74.4	48.4	80.6
Household Income*				
Less than \$30,000	27.1	16.6	31.5	13.3
\$30,000-\$49,999	22.8	16.2	22.1	14.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.2	19.2	20.3	17.1
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.5	15.8	11.7	13.9
\$100,000 or more	15.5	32.3	14.5	41.3

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)
Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total due to rounding.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2008 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf

Table 4
Population and Electorate in Texas, by Congressional District, 2008

Congressional District	ALL (thousands)		HISPANICS (thousands)		SHARE HISPANIC (%)	
	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters
1	696	491	90	27	13.0	5.5
2	773	523	159	69	20.6	13.1
3	845	493	186	52	22.0	10.6
4	813	564	94	30	11.6	5.4
5	733	483	157	48	21.5	9.9
6	784	502	173	61	22.1	12.2
7	751	484	174	71	23.2	14.7
8	795	558	106	39	13.4	6.9
9	693	345	280	68	40.5	19.6
10	955	586	254	92	26.6	15.6
11	695	486	240	127	34.5	26.2
12	814	520	232	85	28.5	16.3
13	654	461	139	68	21.2	14.6
14	757	509	214	107	28.3	21.0
15	761	417	614	304	80.7	72.9
16	705	387	572	288	81.1	74.6
17	738	517	142	59	19.2	11.5
18	673	376	271	79	40.2	21.0
19	669	465	221	120	33.0	25.7
20	678	435	472	282	69.7	64.7
21	829	581	232	130	28.0	22.4
22	874	556	231	102	26.5	18.4
23	789	491	518	291	65.7	59.2
24	773	492	193	79	25.0	16.0
25	789	512	303	134	38.4	26.2
26	876	553	178	53	20.3	9.5
27	706	430	510	279	72.2	64.7
28	802	418	633	288	78.9	68.9
29	686	288	518	160	75.5	55.8
30	711	392	290	82	40.8	20.8
31	842	563	167	82	19.8	14.6
32	669	352	306	79	45.8	22.5

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center compilation from U.S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder Tables B05003 and B050031

Endnotes

- 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 “whites,” “blacks,” and “Asians” are to the non-Hispanic components of those populations.
- ³ This statistical profile of eligible voters in Texas is based on the Census Bureau's 2008 [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 2008 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. Information on the ACS sampling strategy and associated error is available at http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf. An example of measurement error is that citizenship rates for the foreign born are estimated to be overstated in the Decennial Census and other official surveys, such as the ACS (see Jeffrey Passel. “[Growing Share of Immigrants Choosing Naturalization](#),” Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, D.C. (March 28, 2008)).