

Latinos in the 2010 Elections: Florida

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

Hispanics in Florida's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Florida is the third-largest in the nation. More than 3.8 million Hispanics reside in Florida, 8% of all Hispanics in the United States.
- The population in Florida is 21% Hispanic, the sixth-highest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 1.8 million eligible Hispanic voters in Florida—the third-largest Hispanic eligible-voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.4 million.
- Some 15% of eligible voters in Florida are Latinos, the fifth-largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38%.
- One-half (48%) of Latinos in Florida are eligible to vote, ranking Florida 13th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. In contrast, 80% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

	United States	Florida	Florida State Rank
Total Population (all ages)			
<i>All (thousands)</i>	304,060	18,328	4
<i>Hispanics (thousands)</i>	46,822	3,846	3
<i>Percent Hispanic</i>	15.4	21.0	6
Total Eligible Voter Population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
<i>All (thousands)</i>	210,696	12,694	4
<i>Hispanics (thousands)</i>	19,346	1,844	3
<i>Percent Hispanic</i>	9.2	14.5	5
Eligibility of Hispanic Population			
<i>Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote</i>	41.3	48.0	13

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.** Florida's Hispanic eligible voters are younger than all eligible voters in Florida—23% of Hispanic eligible voters in Florida are ages 18 to 29 versus 19% of all Florida eligible voters.
- Citizenship.** Some 44% of Hispanic eligible voters in Florida are naturalized U.S. citizens, compared with 12% of all Florida eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters in Florida are less likely to be native-born citizens (56%) than are Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (74%).
- Educational Attainment.** Two-in-ten of Latino eligible voters in Florida (21%) have not completed high school. That was less than the rate for all Latino eligible voters—26%—but greater than the rate for U.S. eligible voters nationwide—13%.
- Homeownership.** Two-thirds of Hispanic eligible voters in Florida (68%) live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 60% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Somewhat greater shares of all eligible voters in Florida (72%) and all eligible voters nationwide (70%) live in owner-occupied homes.

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

	UNITED STATES		FLORIDA	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total Population (thousands)	304,060	46,822	18,328	3,846
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)	210,696	19,346	12,694	1,844
Age				
18-29	21.7	30.9	18.9	22.9
30-44	25.6	30.9	23.5	29.9
45-54	19.6	16.8	18.4	16.9
55-64	15.3	10.6	15.5	11.9
65 and older	17.8	10.8	23.8	18.5
Gender				
Male	48.3	49.2	48.0	47.8
Female	51.7	50.8	52.0	52.2
Type of Citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.5	74.4	87.6	56.1
Naturalized citizen	7.5	25.6	12.4	43.9
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.9	30.2	81.5	15.0
Does not speak only English at home	13.1	69.8	18.5	85.0
Educational Attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.9	25.8	13.3	20.5
High school diploma or equivalent	29.3	28.9	30.3	27.9
Some college	32.0	31.3	32.2	30.9
Bachelor's degree or more	25.7	14.1	24.2	20.7
Marital Status				
Married	52.0	46.5	51.3	50.8
Never married	27.2	34.7	24.6	26.3
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.8	18.8	24.1	23.0
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home	26.3	32.4	22.4	29.2
Homeownership Rate	70.0	59.8	72.4	68.1
Household Income*				
Less than \$30,000	20.4	22.9	22.1	24.0
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.1	20.4	20.3	21.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.9	21.3	20.9	21.6
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.7	14.4	14.1	13.7
\$100,000 or more	26.8	21.1	22.6	19.6

*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 Florida, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Latino Eligible Voters.** White eligible voters outnumber 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 23% of Hispanic and 16% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters in Florida are more likely than blacks, but less likely than whites, to have attended college or earned at least a bachelor’s degree—51% of Hispanic eligible voters have attended college or earned at least a bachelor’s degree compared with 59% of white and 45% of black eligible voters.
- Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters are less likely than white eligible voters in Florida to live in owner-occupied homes—68% versus 77%.

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

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANICS		
		White	Black	Asian
Total Population (thousands)	3,846	11,012	2,722	414
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)	1,844	8,765	1,708	207
Age				
18-29	22.9	16.1	28.4	16.0
30-44	29.9	20.9	28.3	31.1
45-54	16.9	18.4	19.2	21.6
55-64	11.9	16.9	12.3	16.8
65 and older	18.5	27.7	11.8	14.5
Gender				
Male	47.8	48.4	46.5	46.1
Female	52.2	51.6	53.5	53.9
Type of Citizen				
Citizen by birth	56.1	96.3	85.9	18.5
Naturalized citizen	43.9	3.7	14.1	81.5
Language				
Speaks only English at home	15.0	94.9	90.3	28.7
Does not speak only English at home	85.0	5.1	9.7	71.3
Educational Attainment				
Less than high school diploma	20.5	10.2	21.5	13.2
High school diploma or equivalent	27.9	30.6	33.2	18.9
Some college	30.9	32.7	31.1	26.2
Bachelor's degree or more	20.7	26.5	14.2	41.6
Marital Status				
Married	50.8	54.7	33.3	67.6
Never married	26.3	20.7	42.7	20.2
Divorced/separated/widowed	23.0	24.7	24.0	12.2
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home	29.2	20.0	25.8	32.7
Homeownership Rate	68.1	77.2	51.8	82.3
Household Income*				
Less than \$30,000	24.0	20.1	31.5	15.7
\$30,000-\$49,999	21.0	19.5	23.5	17.5
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.6	20.9	20.3	19.1
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.7	14.3	12.8	16.5
\$100,000 or more	19.6	25.2	11.8	31.2

*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 Florida, by Congressional District, 2008

Congressional District	ALL (thousands)		HISPANICS (thousands)		SHARE HISPANIC (%)	
	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters
1	698	523	30	16	4.3	3.1
2	712	544	32	17	4.6	3.0
3	642	436	68	32	10.6	7.4
4	721	528	44	22	6.1	4.2
5	920	706	98	56	10.6	7.9
6	807	606	59	33	7.3	5.4
7	792	597	80	44	10.1	7.3
8	785	538	182	96	23.1	17.9
9	751	550	87	45	11.6	8.1
10	621	480	43	21	6.9	4.5
11	674	456	175	87	26.0	19.1
12	782	536	155	70	19.9	13.0
13	736	560	78	30	10.5	5.3
14	831	601	129	45	15.6	7.5
15	790	579	145	77	18.3	13.3
16	771	554	123	49	15.9	8.7
17	655	369	166	73	25.4	19.9
18	635	363	417	205	65.6	56.5
19	733	500	138	56	18.8	11.2
20	673	439	196	97	29.2	22.1
21	671	371	497	253	74.1	68.3
22	679	488	100	45	14.8	9.1
23	664	376	122	42	18.4	11.2
24	774	572	114	69	14.8	12.1
25	812	428	566	266	69.7	62.3

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center compilation from U.S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder Tables B05003 and B05003I

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 Florida 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)).