

Hispanics in the 2008 Election: Illinois

Illinois's Hispanic population is the fifth-largest in the nation. Nearly 1.9 million Hispanics reside in Illinois, 4% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are over 708,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Illinois, 4% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.¹ This fact sheet provides key demographic information on Latino eligible voters.² It also contains data on other major groups of eligible voters in Illinois, with comparative data for the U.S. All data are from the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Illinois's Eligible Voter Population

- Illinois's population is 15% Hispanic, the tenth-highest Hispanic population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 45%.
- 8% of eligible voters in Illinois are Latinos, the tenth-largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38%.
- 38% of Latinos in Illinois are eligible to vote, ranking Illinois 28th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote.

	U.S.	Illinois	Illinois State Rank
Total population (thousands)	299,398	12,832	5
Percent of the population (all ages) that is Hispanic	14.8	14.7	10
Percent of all eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older) who are Hispanic	8.7	8.1	10
Percent of the Hispanic population (all ages) that is eligible to vote	40.6	37.5	28

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2006 American Community Survey (IPUMS 1% sample)

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- 35% of Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois are ages 18 to 29. By contrast, 22% of all Illinois eligible voters and the same share of all U.S. eligible voters are in that age range.
- A greater share of Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois (33%) are naturalized citizens than are all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (26%).
- 30% of Latino eligible voters in Illinois have not completed high school compared with 13% of all Illinois eligible voters who have not completed that level of education.
- 67% of Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois live in owner-occupied homes compared with 74% of all Illinois eligible voters. By contrast, a lesser share of all Hispanic eligible voters in the U.S. live in owner-occupied homes (60%) than do Illinois Hispanic eligible voters.

Table 2
Characteristics of Eligible Voters
in Illinois and the United States

	ILLINOIS		UNITED STATES	
	Hispanics	All	Hispanics	All
Population (in thousands)				
Total population	1,890	12,832	44,299	299,398
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	708	8,728	17,975	206,329
Percent of Eligible Voters				
Age				
18-29	34.8	21.7	31.1	21.5
30-44	31.6	27.2	31.6	26.8
45-59	21.9	28.1	22.5	28.0
60 and older	11.7	22.9	14.9	23.8
Gender				
Female	47.6	52.0	50.8	51.8
Male	52.4	48.0	49.2	48.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	67.2	91.3	73.6	92.7
Naturalized citizen	32.8	8.7	26.4	7.3
English-speaking ability				
Does not speak English *very well*	27.9	5.1	24.3	4.3
Speaks only English or English *very well*	72.1	94.9	75.7	95.7
Educational attainment				
Did not complete high school	29.5	13.0	27.3	14.0
Completed high school	31.2	29.6	31.6	31.2
Some college	27.1	30.6	27.8	29.8
Bachelor's degree or more	12.2	26.8	13.3	25.0
Marital Status				
Married	48.1	51.8	47.8	52.7
Never Married	37.3	28.6	33.5	26.3
Other	14.6	19.6	18.7	20.9
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home				
	34.9	27.3	33.4	26.8
In owner-occupied homes				
	67.3	73.5	60.2	70.8
Household income*				
Less than \$30,000	20.6	20.6	26.1	22.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	21.4	17.9	21.7	19.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	25.1	20.8	21.5	20.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.1	14.8	13.5	14.1
\$100,000 or more	19.7	25.8	17.1	22.9

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2006 American Community Survey (IPUMS 1% sample)

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Illinois, by Race and Ethnicity

- Latino eligible voters are outnumbered by black eligible voters in Illinois by nearly 2 to 1—708,000 Latinos to 1.3 million blacks.
- Latino eligible voters are younger than white and black eligible voters in Illinois. 35% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29 compared with 19% of white eligible voters and 26% of black eligible voters.
- Nearly one-third of Latino eligible voters in Illinois are naturalized citizens compared with only 5% of white eligible voters and 2% of black eligible voters.
- Fewer Hispanic eligible voters in Illinois (67%) live in owner-occupied homes than do Illinois white eligible voters (79%). By contrast, only 48% of black eligible voters in Illinois live in owner-occupied homes.

Table 3
Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Illinois, by Race and Ethnicity

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANIC	
		White	Black
Population (in thousands)			
Total population	1,890	8,366	1,871
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	708	6,388	1,279
Percent of Eligible Voters			
Age			
18-29	34.8	19.4	25.5
30-44	31.6	26.1	29.4
45-59	21.9	29.2	26.7
60 and older	11.7	25.4	18.4
Gender			
Female	47.6	51.8	55.5
Male	52.4	48.2	44.5
Type of citizen			
Citizen by birth	67.2	95.4	98.1
Naturalized citizen	32.8	4.6	1.9
English-speaking ability			
Does not speak English "very well"	27.9	2.5	0.6
Speaks only English or English "very well"	72.1	97.5	99.4
Educational attainment			
Did not complete high school	29.5	9.9	20.3
Completed high school	31.2	29.7	31.6
Some college	27.1	30.7	32.9
Bachelor's degree or more	12.2	29.8	15.2
Marital Status			
Married	48.1	56.6	28.4
Never Married	37.3	23.9	46.3
Other	14.6	19.4	25.3
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home			
	34.9	26.8	24.9
In owner-occupied homes			
	67.3	79.2	48.0
Household income*			
Less than \$30,000	20.6	17.9	35.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	21.4	17.2	20.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	25.1	20.5	20.0
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.1	15.9	10.3
\$100,000 or more	19.7	28.4	13.3

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2006 American Community Survey (IPUMS 1% sample)

Endnotes

- ¹ In this fact sheet, 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” and “blacks” are to the non-Hispanic components of those populations.
- ³ The specific data set used to derive estimates contained in this fact sheet are from the University of Minnesota’s Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) for the 2006 American Community Survey (1% sample). Information can be found on the following Website: <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>. The estimates in this fact sheet are subject to sampling error. Also, estimates in this fact sheet will differ from estimates that may be published by the Census Bureau because of differences between the data used by the Census Bureau and the data it has released for public use. Further information on Census data and on sampling error in the data is available at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2006/AccuracyPUMS.pdf>.