

Hispanics in the 2008 Election: Maryland

Maryland's Hispanic population is the 20th largest in the nation. More than 341,000 Hispanics reside in Maryland, 1% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 112,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Maryland, less than 1% 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 Maryland, with comparative data for the U.S. All data are from the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Maryland's Eligible Voter Population

- Maryland's population is 6% Hispanic, the 28th highest Hispanic population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 45%.
- Almost 3% of eligible voters in Maryland are Latinos, the 26th largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38%.
- One-third of Latinos in Maryland are eligible to vote, ranking 38th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote.

	U.S.	Maryland	Maryland State Rank
Total population (thousands)	299,398	5,616	19
Percent of the population (all ages) that is Hispanic	14.8	6.1	28
Percent of all eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older) who are Hispanic	8.7	2.9	26
Percent of the Hispanic population (all ages) that is eligible to vote	40.6	33.0	38

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

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Maryland’s Hispanic eligible voters are younger than all eligible voters in Maryland—32% of Hispanic eligible voters in Maryland are ages 18 to 29 versus 21% of all Maryland eligible voters.
- Latino eligible voters in Maryland are much more likely to be naturalized citizens than are all Maryland eligible voters—41% versus 7%. They are also more likely to be naturalized than are all Latino eligible voters nationwide (26%).
- The proportion of Hispanic eligible voters in Maryland who have attended college or earned at least a bachelor’s degree is nearly equal to the proportion of all Maryland eligible voters who have this level of education—57% of Hispanics versus 59% of all eligible voters in Maryland. They also have a higher level of education than all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, only 41% of whom have attended college or earned a bachelor’s degree or more.
- Latino eligible voters in Maryland are less likely to live in an owner-occupied home than all eligible voters in Maryland—66% versus 73%.

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

	MARYLAND		UNITED STATES	
	Hispanics	All	Hispanics	All
Population (in thousands)				
Total population	341	5,616	44,299	299,398
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	112	3,913	17,975	206,329
Percent of Eligible Voters				
Age				
18-29	32.3	20.6	31.1	21.5
30-44	33.0	27.8	31.6	26.8
45-59	23.0	29.2	22.5	28.0
60 and older	11.7	22.4	14.9	23.8
Gender				
Female	53.0	52.9	50.8	51.8
Male	47.0	47.1	49.2	48.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	59.1	92.7	73.6	92.7
Naturalized citizen	40.9	7.3	26.4	7.3
English-speaking ability				
Does not speak English "very well"	23.1	2.7	24.3	4.3
Speaks only English or English "very well"	76.9	97.3	75.7	95.7
Educational attainment				
Did not complete high school	15.4	11.9	27.3	14.0
Completed high school	27.0	28.5	31.6	31.2
Some college	30.2	27.3	27.8	29.8
Bachelor's degree or more	27.4	32.3	13.3	25.0
Marital Status				
Married	51.4	51.3	47.8	52.7
Never Married	32.9	28.3	33.5	26.3
Other	15.7	20.4	18.7	20.9
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home				
	33.7	27.8	33.4	26.8
In owner-occupied homes				
	65.8	72.9	60.2	70.8
Household income*				
Less than \$30,000	13.6	14.6	26.1	22.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	13.8	14.6	21.7	19.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.7	19.4	21.5	20.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	15.8	13.5	14.1
\$100,000 or more	38.1	35.6	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 Maryland, by Race and Ethnicity

- Black eligible voters outnumber Latino eligible voters in Maryland by a margin of nearly 10 to 1—1.1 million blacks compared with 112,000 Latino eligible voters. Latino and Asian eligible voters are nearly balanced—112,000 Latinos versus 129,000 Asians.
- Hispanic eligible voters are younger than white, black or Asian eligible voters in Maryland—32% of Hispanic eligible voters are ages 18 to 29 compared with 18% of white, 24% of black and 19% of Asian eligible voters.
- Latino eligible voters in Maryland are more likely to be citizens by birth (59%) than are Asian eligible voters (22%).
- Hispanic eligible voters are less likely than white eligible voters in Maryland to live in owner-occupied homes—66% versus 80%.

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

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANIC		
		White	Black	Asian
Population (in thousands)				
Total population	341	3,282	1,604	270
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	112	2,527	1,086	129
Percent of Eligible Voters				
Age				
18-29	32.3	18.4	24.3	18.6
30-44	33.0	26.0	30.9	29.8
45-59	23.0	30.2	27.7	29.2
60 and older	11.7	25.4	17.1	22.4
Gender				
Female	53.0	51.9	55.2	52.0
Male	47.0	48.1	44.8	48.0
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	59.1	97.0	94.7	22.0
Naturalized citizen	40.9	3.0	5.3	78.0
English-speaking ability				
Does not speak English "very well"	23.1	1.1	0.8	30.3
Speaks only English or English "very well"	76.9	98.9	99.2	69.7
Educational attainment				
Did not complete high school	15.4	10.0	16.7	7.4
Completed high school	27.0	27.5	32.6	15.3
Some college	30.2	26.4	29.6	19.8
Bachelor's degree or more	27.4	36.1	21.1	57.5
Marital Status				
Married	51.4	57.5	35.8	66.6
Never Married	32.9	23.1	40.0	22.9
Other	15.7	19.4	24.3	10.5
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home				
	33.7	27.6	27.4	31.5
In owner-occupied homes				
	65.8	79.7	56.8	84.4
Household income*				
Less than \$30,000	13.6	12.2	21.0	7.8
\$30,000-\$49,999	13.8	13.5	17.9	8.5
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.7	19.1	20.6	14.8
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.8	16.1	15.6	12.0
\$100,000 or more	38.1	39.1	24.9	56.9

*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)

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>.