

Hispanics in the 2008 Election: Massachusetts

Massachusetts's Hispanic population is the fifteenth-largest in the nation. More than 509,000 Hispanics reside in Massachusetts, 1% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 246,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Massachusetts, 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 Massachusetts, with comparative data for the U.S. All data are from the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Massachusetts's Eligible Voter Population

- Massachusetts's population is 8% Hispanic, the 19th highest Hispanic population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 45%.
- 5% of eligible voters in Massachusetts are Latinos, the 14th largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38%.
- 48% of Latinos in Massachusetts are eligible to vote, ranking 15th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote.

	U.S.	Massachusetts	Massachusetts State Rank
Total population (thousands)	299,398	6,437	13
Percent of the population (all ages) that is Hispanic	14.8	7.9	19
Percent of all eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older) who are Hispanic	8.7	5.4	14
Percent of the Hispanic population (all ages) that is eligible to vote	40.6	48.3	15

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

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- 36% of Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts are ages 18 to 29. Only 20% of all Massachusetts eligible voters, 31% of Latino eligible voters nationwide, and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are in that age range.
- 22% of Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts are naturalized U.S. citizens, greater than the share for all Massachusetts eligible voters (9%) and all eligible voters in the U.S. (7%).
- 27% of Latino eligible voters in Massachusetts have not completed high school, similar to the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide. Only 11% of all Massachusetts eligible voters and 14% of all eligible voters nationwide have not completed high school.
- Only 34% of Massachusetts Hispanic eligible voters live in owner-occupied homes compared with 70% of all Massachusetts eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters in Massachusetts are less than half as likely to live in an owner-occupied home as are all eligible voters in the U.S.—35% versus 71%.

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

	MASSACHUSETTS		UNITED STATES	
	Hispanics	All	Hispanics	All
Population (in thousands)				
Total population	509	6,437	44,299	299,398
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	246	4,545	17,975	206,329
Percent of Eligible Voters				
Age				
18-29	35.8	20.2	31.1	21.5
30-44	32.5	26.7	31.6	26.8
45-59	20.5	28.5	22.5	28.0
60 and older	11.2	24.6	14.9	23.8
Gender				
Female	52.6	52.7	50.8	51.8
Male	47.4	47.3	49.2	48.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	77.7	90.9	73.6	92.7
Naturalized citizen	22.3	9.1	26.4	7.3
English-speaking ability				
Does not speak English *very well*	32.2	5.4	24.3	4.3
Speaks only English or English *very well*	67.8	94.6	75.7	95.7
Educational attainment				
Did not complete high school	27.4	10.9	27.3	14.0
Completed high school	33.7	29.0	31.6	31.2
Some college	25.6	25.9	27.8	29.8
Bachelor's degree or more	13.3	34.1	13.3	25.0
Marital Status				
Married	33.2	50.2	47.8	52.7
Never Married	45.6	30.8	33.5	26.3
Other	21.2	19.0	18.7	20.9
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home				
	32.8	25.9	33.4	26.8
In owner-occupied homes				
	34.5	69.6	60.2	70.8
Household income*				
Less than \$30,000	39.7	17.8	26.1	22.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	15.9	14.4	21.7	19.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.7	19.1	21.5	20.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	10.7	15.3	13.5	14.1
\$100,000 or more	15.0	33.4	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 Massachusetts, by Race and Ethnicity

- Latino eligible voters outnumber black eligible voters in Massachusetts—246,000 versus 207,000.
- Latino eligible voters are younger than white and black eligible voters in Massachusetts. 36% of Latinos are ages 18 to 29 compared with 18% of white eligible voters and 28% of black eligible voters.
- Black eligible voters in Massachusetts are slightly more than likely to be naturalized citizens compared with Latino eligible voters—24% versus 22%.
- 74% of white eligible voters in Massachusetts live in owner-occupied homes compared with 35% of Hispanic and 44% of black eligible voters.

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

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANIC	
		White	Black
Population (in thousands)			
Total population	509	5,105	366
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	246	3,886	207
Percent of Eligible Voters			
Age			
18-29	35.8	18.3	28.4
30-44	32.5	25.9	29.4
45-59	20.5	29.4	26.1
60 and older	11.2	26.4	16.2
Gender			
Female	52.6	52.8	52.3
Male	47.4	47.2	47.7
Type of citizen			
Citizen by birth	77.7	94.8	75.6
Naturalized citizen	22.3	5.2	24.4
English-speaking ability			
Does not speak English "very well"	32.2	2.4	7.4
Speaks only English or English "very well"	67.8	97.6	92.6
Educational attainment			
Did not complete high school	27.4	9.2	18.3
Completed high school	33.7	29.1	30.7
Some college	25.6	25.8	32.0
Bachelor's degree or more	13.3	36.0	19.1
Marital Status			
Married	33.2	52.4	32.4
Never Married	45.6	28.5	47.4
Other	21.2	19.1	20.2
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home			
	32.8	25.4	25.3
In owner-occupied homes			
	34.5	73.6	44.2
Household income*			
Less than \$30,000	39.7	15.6	30.8
\$30,000-\$49,999	15.9	14.2	16.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.7	19.1	20.4
\$75,000-\$99,999	10.7	15.6	16.5
\$100,000 or more	15.0	35.5	15.9

*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>.