

Hispanics in the 2008 Election: Texas

Texas's Hispanic population is the second largest in the nation. Nearly 8.4 million Hispanics reside in Texas, 19% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 3.6 million eligible Hispanic voters in Texas, 20% 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 Texas, with comparative data for the U.S. All data are from the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Texas's Eligible Voter Population

- Texas's population is 36% Hispanic, the third-highest Hispanic population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 45%.
- Almost 25% of eligible voters in Texas are Latinos, the second-largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38%.
- More than 43% of Latinos in Texas are eligible to vote, ranking 22nd nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote.

	U.S.	Texas	Texas State Rank
Total population (thousands)	299,398	23,508	2
Percent of the population (all ages) that is Hispanic	14.8	35.6	3
Percent of all eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older) who are Hispanic	8.7	24.6	2
Percent of the Hispanic population (all ages) that is eligible to vote	40.6	43.2	22

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

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Texas’s Hispanic eligible voters are younger than all eligible voters in Texas—31% of Hispanic eligible voters in Texas are ages 18 to 29 versus 24% of all Texas eligible voters.
- Latino eligible voters in Texas are more likely to be naturalized citizens than are all Texas eligible voters—17% versus 7%. Texas Latino eligible voters are less likely to be naturalized than all Latino eligible voters nationwide—17% in Texas versus 26% nationwide.
- The proportion of Hispanic eligible voters in Texas who have attended college or earned at least a bachelor’s degree is lower than the proportion of all Texas eligible voters who have this level of education—37% of Hispanics versus 54% of all eligible voters in Texas.
- The percent of Latino eligible voters in Texas who live in an owner-occupied home is similar to that of all eligible voters in Texas—68% versus 70%.

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

	TEXAS		UNITED STATES	
	Hispanics	All	Hispanics	All
Population (in thousands)				
Total population	8,380	23,508	44,299	299,398
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	3,624	14,747	17,975	206,329
Percent of Eligible Voters				
Age				
18-29	31.3	23.8	31.1	21.5
30-44	31.5	28.2	31.6	26.8
45-59	22.4	27.2	22.5	28.0
60 and older	14.7	20.8	14.9	23.8
Gender				
Female	50.5	51.5	50.8	51.8
Male	49.5	48.5	49.2	48.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	83.2	92.6	73.6	92.7
Naturalized citizen	16.8	7.4	26.4	7.3
English-speaking ability				
Does not speak English "very well"	22.1	6.9	24.3	4.3
Speaks only English or English "very well"	77.9	93.1	75.7	95.7
Educational attainment				
Did not complete high school	31.3	16.6	27.3	14.0
Completed high school	32.0	29.4	31.6	31.2
Some college	25.9	30.7	27.8	29.8
Bachelor's degree or more	10.8	23.4	13.3	25.0
Marital Status				
Married	50.8	53.4	47.8	52.7
Never Married	29.5	25.1	33.5	26.3
Other	19.7	21.5	18.7	20.9
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home				
	35.2	29.0	33.4	26.8
In owner-occupied homes				
	67.5	69.8	60.2	70.8
Household income*				
Less than \$30,000	31.7	24.6	26.1	22.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	25.0	20.3	21.7	19.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.9	20.5	21.5	20.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	11.2	13.4	13.5	14.1
\$100,000 or more	10.2	21.3	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 Texas, by Race and Ethnicity

- Latino eligible voters outnumber black eligible voters in Texas by a margin of nearly 2 to 1—3.6 million Latinos compared with 1.8 million black eligible voters.
- Hispanic eligible voters are younger than white or black eligible voters in Texas—31% of Hispanic eligible voters are ages 18 to 29 compared with 20% of white and 27% of black eligible voters.
- Hispanic eligible voters are less likely than other groups of eligible voters to have attended college—37% versus 62% for white and 48% for black eligible voters.
- Hispanic eligible voters are less likely than white eligible voters in Texas to live in owner-occupied homes—68% versus 75%. However, Hispanic eligible voters are more likely to reside in owner-occupied homes than black eligible voters—68% versus 49%.

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

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANIC	
		White	Black
Population (in thousands)			
Total population	8,380	11,310	2,692
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	3,624	8,717	1,840
Percent of Eligible Voters			
Age			
18-29	31.3	19.8	27.4
30-44	31.5	25.9	31.4
45-59	22.4	29.1	26.8
60 and older	14.7	25.1	14.5
Gender			
Female	50.5	51.5	53.3
Male	49.5	48.5	46.7
Type of citizen			
Citizen by birth	83.2	98.4	97.6
Naturalized citizen	16.8	1.6	2.4
English-speaking ability			
Does not speak English "very well"	22.1	0.8	0.6
Speaks only English or English "very well"	77.9	99.2	99.4
Educational attainment			
Did not complete high school	31.3	10.3	18.3
Completed high school	32.0	27.9	34.0
Some college	25.9	32.4	32.6
Bachelor's degree or more	10.8	29.4	15.1
Marital Status			
Married	50.8	58.1	35.2
Never Married	29.5	20.0	39.8
Other	19.7	21.9	25.0
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home			
	35.2	26.7	27.3
In owner-occupied homes			
	67.5	74.8	49.4
Household income*			
Less than \$30,000	31.7	19.6	36.5
\$30,000-\$49,999	25.0	18.0	22.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.9	20.3	18.5
\$75,000-\$99,999	11.2	14.9	10.3
\$100,000 or more	10.2	27.2	12.4

*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>.