

Hispanics in the 2008 Election: District of Columbia

The District of Columbia's Hispanic population is the 42nd largest in the nation. More than 47,000 Hispanics reside in the district, less than 0.1% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 16,000 eligible Hispanic voters in the district, less than 0.1% 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 the district, with comparative data for the U.S. All data are from the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in District of Columbia's Eligible Voter Population

- The district's population is 8% Hispanic, the 18th highest Hispanic population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 45%.
- Almost 4% of eligible voters in the district are Latinos, the 22nd largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally.
- More than one-third of Latinos in district are eligible to vote, ranking 35th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote.

	U.S.	District of Columbia	District of Columbia State Rank
Total population (thousands)	299,398	582	50
Percent of the population (all ages) that is Hispanic	14.8	8.0	18
Percent of all eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older) who are Hispanic	8.7	3.7	22
Percent of the Hispanic population (all ages) that is eligible to vote	40.6	33.8	35

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

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- The District of Columbia’s Hispanic eligible voters are younger than all eligible voters in the district—36% of Hispanic eligible voters in the district are ages 18 to 29 versus 27% of all district eligible voters.
- Latino eligible voters in the district are much more likely to be naturalized citizens (37%) than are all Latino eligible voters nationwide (26%).
- The number of Hispanic eligible voters in the district who have earned at least a bachelor’s degree is nearly equal to the number of all district eligible voters who have this level of education—42% of Hispanics versus 43% of all eligible voters in the district. They also have a higher level of education than all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide, only 13% of whom have earned a bachelor’s degree or more.
- Latino eligible voters in the district are less likely to live in an owner-occupied home than are all eligible voters in the district—36% versus 48%.

Table 2
Characteristics of Eligible Voters
in the District of Columbia and the United States

	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA		UNITED STATES	
	Hispanics	All	Hispanics	All
Population (in thousands)				
Total population	47	582	44,299	299,398
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	16	425	17,975	206,329
Percent of Eligible Voters				
Age				
18-29	35.5	27.2	31.1	21.5
30-44	31.8	27.7	31.6	26.8
45-59	17.8	23.2	22.5	28.0
60 and older	15.0	21.9	14.9	23.8
Gender				
Female	59.4	54.8	50.8	51.8
Male	40.6	45.2	49.2	48.2
Type of citizen				
Citizen by birth	63.4	94.8	73.6	92.7
Naturalized citizen	36.6	5.2	26.4	7.3
English-speaking ability				
Does not speak English *very well*	23.2	2.1	24.3	4.3
Speaks only English or English *very well*	76.8	97.9	75.7	95.7
Educational attainment				
Did not complete high school	23.8	13.8	27.3	14.0
Completed high school	20.3	22.9	31.6	31.2
Some college	13.8	20.0	27.8	29.8
Bachelor's degree or more	42.0	43.3	13.3	25.0
Marital Status				
Married	35.1	26.7	47.8	52.7
Never Married	49.9	52.8	33.5	26.3
Other	15.0	20.5	18.7	20.9
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home				
	11.7	14.5	33.4	26.8
In owner-occupied homes				
	36.1	48.4	60.2	70.8
Household income*				
Less than \$30,000	21.7	24.0	26.1	22.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	25.5	16.2	21.7	19.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	15.2	14.6	21.5	20.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	10.4	11.5	13.5	14.1
\$100,000 or more	27.2	33.7	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 the District of Columbia, by Race and Ethnicity

- Black eligible voters outnumber Latino eligible voters in the district by a margin of nearly 15 to 1—233,000 blacks compared with 16,000 Latino eligible voters.
- Hispanic eligible voters are younger than black eligible voters in the district—36% of Hispanic eligible voters are ages 18 to 29 compared with 21% of black eligible voters.
- Hispanic eligible voters are less likely than white or black eligible voters in the District to live in owner-occupied homes—36% versus 50% and 49% respectively.
- Latinos who are eligible to vote in the District are more likely to live in households with an income of \$75,000 or more (38%) than are black eligible voters in the District (30%).

Table 3
Characteristics of Eligible Voters in the District of Columbia, by Race and Ethnicity

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANIC	
		White	Black
Population (in thousands)			
Total population	47	185	319
Eligible voters (citizens ages 18 and older)	16	159	233
Percent of Eligible Voters			
Age			
18-29	35.5	34.2	21.2
30-44	31.8	29.6	25.5
45-59	17.8	19.5	26.7
60 and older	15.0	16.7	26.6
Gender			
Female	59.4	50.9	56.9
Male	40.6	49.1	43.1
Type of citizen			
Citizen by birth	63.4	96.7	97.6
Naturalized citizen	36.6	3.3	2.4
English-speaking ability			
Does not speak English "very well"	23.2	1.3	0.6
Speaks only English or English "very well"	76.8	98.7	99.4
Educational attainment			
Did not complete high school	23.8	1.3	22.2
Completed high school	20.3	6.3	35.3
Some college	13.8	14.6	24.5
Bachelor's degree or more	42.0	77.7	18.0
Marital Status			
Married	35.1	33.0	21.3
Never Married	49.9	55.7	50.7
Other	15.0	11.2	28.0
With child(ren) younger than 18 in home	11.7	11.3	17.4
In owner-occupied homes	36.1	50.3	48.5
Household income*			
Less than \$30,000	21.7	9.3	34.1
\$30,000-\$49,999	25.5	9.3	20.4
\$50,000-\$74,999	15.2	13.3	15.1
\$75,000-\$99,999	10.4	11.8	11.2
\$100,000 or more	27.2	56.2	19.2

*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>.