

Staten Island: The Conservative Bastion in a Liberal City



In the heart of liberal New York City, Staten Island stands out as an anomaly, a conservative bastion amidst a sea of blue. While the rest of the city consistently votes for Democratic candidates, Staten Island has remained a stronghold for Republicans, defying the political trends that have swept through the five boroughs.



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by Richard M. Flanagan

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This article explores the factors that have shaped Staten Island's unique political identity, examining its history, demographics, and the role of local politicians in maintaining its conservative character.

A Brief History of Staten Island

Staten Island was originally inhabited by the Lenape Native Americans before being colonized by the Dutch in the 17th century. The island was later ceded to the British and became part of New York City in 1898.

Staten Island has a long history of conservatism, dating back to its Dutch heritage. The Dutch settlers were known for their strict religious and social values, which they brought with them to the island.

In the 19th century, Staten Island became a popular destination for Irish and Italian immigrants. These immigrants brought their own conservative values to the island, further solidifying its political identity.

Demographics of Staten Island

Staten Island is the least densely populated borough of New York City, with a population of just over 475,000 people. The island is home to a diverse population, with a large percentage of white residents (73.3%) and a growing Hispanic population (17.9%).

Staten Island has a higher percentage of homeowners than any other borough of New York City, with over 70% of residents owning their homes. This is a reflection of the island's suburban character and its appeal to families.

Role of Local Politicians

Local politicians have played a key role in maintaining Staten Island's conservative character. The island has been represented by a series of conservative Republicans, including former Mayor Rudy Giuliani and current Congressman Dan Donovan.

These politicians have consistently advocated for policies that reflect the values of their constituents, such as lower taxes, less government regulation, and a strong police presence.

The conservative leadership on Staten Island has helped to create a sense of community and belonging among residents, who feel that their values are represented by their elected officials.

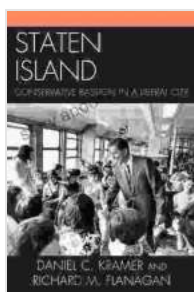
Challenges to Conservatism on Staten Island

While Staten Island has remained a conservative bastion, it is not immune to the changing political landscape of New York City. The island has become increasingly diverse in recent years, and the influx of new residents with different political views could pose a challenge to the island's conservative identity.

Additionally, the rise of progressive candidates and the growing awareness of social justice issues could lead to a shift in the political leanings of Staten Island residents.

Staten Island is a unique and fascinating borough of New York City, with a long history of conservatism. The island's demographics, political leadership, and sense of community have all contributed to its conservative character.

While Staten Island faces challenges to its conservatism, it is likely to remain a Republican stronghold for the foreseeable future. The island's residents are proud of their conservative values and are unlikely to abandon them anytime soon.



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