



PASCOAG



PROVIDENCE



CRANSTON

SCITUATE
RESERVOIR

WARWICK

BRISTOL

TIVERTON

WEST
GREENWICH

NORTH
KINGSTOWN



NEWPORT

CONN

HOPE
VALLEY

KINGSTON

WAKEFIELD

BRADFORD



POINT
JUDITH

RHODE ISLAND
SOUND

BLOCK
ISLAND
SOUND



BLOCK
ISLAND



Rhode Island: The Biggest Little State in the Union!

BY GEORGE LIBERMAN

Rhode Island is the smallest state (you can fit 424.8 Rhode Islands inside Alaska), has the longest official name (State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations), has the longest-operating tavern in the country (it never satisfied the 18th Amendment), and more shipwrecks per square mile than any other state (coincidence?), has a chicken for the state bird, coffee milk for the state drink, the largest insect in the country (Big Blue Bug, 58 ft), and is the only state with a tax return that features ☺ smiling and ☹ frowning faces. What's there not to like?¹

Rhode Island is located in the New England region of the United States, bordered on the west and south by Connecticut and the north and east by Massachusetts. It shares a water boundary with New York's Long Island to the southwest. It is

37 miles wide and 48 miles long. Rhode Islanders consider any car ride of more than 15 minutes excessive. Rhode Island has a population of about 1 million, with about 170,000 in its capital city, Providence. Its official name derives from the merger of two settlements: Rhode Island Colony, founded near present-day Newport, and Providence Plantations, the colony founded by Roger Williams in the now City of Providence area.

Rhode Island is known as the Ocean State because of its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean. It is also blessed with the Narragansett Bay and numerous harbors and inlets, which water bodies amount to 14 percent of its total area. Rhode Island has about 400 miles of coastline, particularly impressive because of its small size. The state's license plate depicts an ocean wave or a sailboat and, if you travel to it by plane, you can not miss the large sailboat in the lobby of its main airport, T.F. Green.

Rhode Island is known for its strong streak of independence and, indeed, sitting atop the Capitol Building is the Independent Man. This trait of independence is reflected in: (a) the first hostilities with Britain, in the June 1772 attack and burning of the schooner, *HMS Gaspee*; (b) being the first colony to declare its independence from and renouncing its allegiance to the British Crown on May 4, 1776; and (c) being the last colony to ratify the U.S. Constitution, on May 29, 1790, when assurances were made that the Bill of Rights would be part of the Constitution.

In 1636, Roger Williams, a theologian expelled from the

Rhode Island Famous Firsts



Burial site (in Little Compton) of the first white child born in New England—Elizabeth Alden, daughter of John and Priscilla Alden, whose courtship is referenced in Longfellow’s poem *The Courtship of Myles Standish*.



First law enacted in North America prohibiting slavery in May 1652.

First commercially successful cotton spinning mill with a fully mechanized power system in America, the Slater Mill.



First Baptist Church in America, founded by Roger Williams in 1638.

First synagogue in America, the Touro Synagogue, located in Newport. The synagogue houses President George Washington’s 1790 “Give no sanction to bigotry” letter.



First armed act of rebellion against England—the June 1772 attack on the *HMS Gaspee*—and first naval engagement of the American Revolution in June 1775.

Massachusetts Bay Colony (and who was convicted by the Bay Colony of sedition and heresy for spreading “dangerous” opinions) founded Providence Plantation as a free proprietary colony. “Providence” because Roger Williams believed God cared for him (in Roger William’s words—“Having a sense of God’s merciful providence, unto me in my distress”), and “plantation,” an English term for a colony. Roger Williams preached for the complete separation of church and state (“Forced worship stinks in the nostrils of God”). Early settlers were attracted to it because of its tolerance for all religions; however, it was viewed with loathing by its neighboring colonies for this very reason. As explained by Jenny Hale Pulsipher, an associate professor at Brigham Young University: “Pointedly excluded from the 1643 establishment of the United Colonies, Rhode Island was derided by Massachusetts and the other colonies as a cesspool of religious and political radicalism that overflowed far too often for the safety and comfort of its neighbors.”

Rhode Island was heavily involved in the slave trade. After the Revolution, Rhode Island merchants controlled between 68 and 90 percent of the American trade of African slaves. Rhode Island is known as the state where the Industrial Revolution began when Moses Brown (co-founder of Brown University) and Samuel Slater built the second cotton mill in America, a water-powered textile mill (the Slater Mill), following the importation from England of textile machine plans by Thomas Sooner.

For those interested in such things, Rhode Island is a very “liberal” state, having voted for a Republican for President only four times during the 1952–2012 time span, last voting for a Republican (Regan) in 1984. Currently, its governor, Lincoln Chaffee, and its entire Congressional delegation belong to the Democratic Party.

Rhode Island has had its share of political scandals, but what state hasn’t, so we will not dwell on them.²

Rhode Island is well known for many of its fine restaurants. Rhode Island has been named second best for fine dining and sweets/deserts; best for pizza; third best for ice cream; and fourth best for ethnic food, coffee, and sandwiches/delis. It has been awarded “Best Burger City” (2012 *Travel + Leisure*); Best Flavored Whisky (*Whisky* magazine); and 2014 Beard Foundation America’s Classics Award for the Olneyville New York System (hot dogs).³

Rhode Island Clam Chowder is a clear chowder, not the white (New England) or red (Manhattan) variety. A Rhode Island favored seafood is the quahog, a large clam used in chowder. When ground and mixed with stuffing (frequently spicy minced sausage) and baked in a shell it is known as a stuffie. Clamcakes are also very popular (known as clam fritters outside Rhode Island). A clamcake is a deep fried ball of buttery dough with chopped bits of clam. A common summer meal in Rhode Island is chowder and clamcakes. Coffee milk is a mixture of milk and sweet coffee syrup, which was invented in Rhode Island. Then there is Del’s Lemonade (frozen, slushy lemonade), only sold in Rhode Island. And Johnny Cakes, pan-fried cornmeal and water resembling pancakes in appearance. Rhode Island has the highest number and highest density of coffee/donut shops per capita in America, with 342 such shops. Dunkin’ Donuts alone has about 220.⁴ I have no doubt that you will encounter these shops as you travel the state.

As to some interesting landmarks and places to visit: (a) the State Capitol building, made of white Georgia marble, has the world’s fourth-largest self-supported marble dome; (b) the First Baptist Church in America, the oldest such church in America, founded in 1638 with the present structure erected in 1774–1775; (c) Rhode Island School of Design Museum; (d) Providence Athenaeum (dating back to 1753); (e) Roger Williams Zoo (opened in 1872), a 45-acre park area home to more than 100 species of animals from around the world and considered the finest in New England; (f) Roger Williams Botanical Gardens; (g) Brown University; (h) Touro Synagogue; (i) the River Walk in Providence; (j) the Ocean Cliff walk in Newport; (k) the WaterFire

event in Providence, presented on many weekends from the spring to the fall, with one planned for Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014; (l) the “Cottages” (really mansions) in Newport, including, but not limited to the Breakers, Marble House, Rosecliff, the Elms, Chateau-Sur Mer, and Belcourt Castle, which housed the barons of the Gilded Age in the early 1900s; (m) Newport Casino, a National Historic Landmark, housing the International Tennis Hall of Fame and active grass-court tennis club (in Newport); (n) the Pawtucket Red Sox, a triple-A minor league baseball team affiliated with the Boston Red Sox; they played (and won) the longest game in professional baseball, 33 innings, beginning on April 18, 1981, halted at 4:09 a.m., and resumed June 23; (o) Blithewold Mansion (in Bristol, minutes from Roger Williams University); (p) Newport, the City by the Sea, with its splendid array of antique shops, elegant bed and breakfasts, charming retail shops, specialty shops, and one-of-a-kind shops, and the many handsome yachts and historic sailboats dotting the harbor and the bay (recall that the America’s Cup races occurred in Newport from 1930 to 1983);⁵ (q) the quaint waterfront towns of Wickford, Bristol, Little Compton, and Watch Hill, offering many of the sights and attractions of Newport, except on a more intimate, smaller scale; (r) the Providence Rink (an ice skating rink in Providence, twice the size of the one at Rockefeller Center); (s) Colt State Park (in Bristol); and (t) Fort Adams State Park, where the Eisenhower House is located (Newport).

Some streets on which to walk that are not only of interest themselves, but that lead you through attractive neighborhoods: (a) Benefit Street, with its eloquent and grand homes (mainly for sea captains); (b) Main Street, with its retail shops, eateries, the State Court House, Rhode Island School of Design bookstore and materials/supplies store, Rhode Island School of Design Museum (museum store on ground level), Roger Williams National Park (one of the smallest national parks in the United States) with the spring upon which Roger Williams founded Rhode Island, and the Cable Car Theatre, an art film theater; (c) Thayer Street, with its coffee/tea and eating establishments, pizza, Middle Eastern, Chinese, Indian, Mexican, and “funky” retail shops, the Brown book store, and the Avon, an old-fashioned movie theater showing art films; (d) Hope Street,⁶ the northern end (near Rochambeau Street), with its wide variety of eating establishments and retail shops, and the southern end, with its grand homes and its close proximity to Moses Brown School and Brown University; (e) Wayland Square, with its fine clothing, furniture, paper and linen shops, and eating establishments; and (f) Wickendon, Providence’s version of Greenwich Village, with Ethiopian, Indian, sushi, and pizza restaurants, a gelato establishment, very fine coffee shops, antique stores, and an “exotic” boutique. If you have time, the Trinity Theater and Providence Performing Art Center is in Providence along with a multitude of art galleries, including the Providence Art Club.

And if any of your children are thinking about college, you might consider visiting Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design, Johnson and Wales, Providence College, and Rhode Island College, all located in Providence, and Bryant University and Roger Williams University, of which the Roger Williams University Law School is a part, each but about 25 minutes from Providence. The University of Rhode Island is located in South Kingstown, about 50 minutes from Providence, and Salve Regina College is in Newport, about 40 minutes from Providence.

Some persons whom you might know of and who hail from Rhode Island are: George M. Cohan; Gilbert Stuart; H.P. Lovecraft; Edwin O’Connor; Claiborne Pell; John Brown; Moses Brown; Nap Lajoie; Nathaniel Herreshoff; Nelson Eddy; Ted Knight; Viola Davis; and Bob and Peter Farelly.

So do come to Rhode Island, and enjoy the many great restaurants, fun and interesting activities, and wonderful attractions it has to offer. Look forward to seeing you this September. ☺



Idea of a Continental Congress first proposed at a town meeting in Providence on May 17, 1774; Elected first delegates to Continental Congress in June 1774.

Created first standing army in the colonies in April 1775.



Created first American Navy.

First to declare independence from Britain on May 4, 1776; Oldest Fourth of July Parade still held in Bristol.



First street (Pelham, in Newport) to be illuminated by gaslight in 1806

Polo first played in the United States in Newport, 1876.



First nine-hole golf course in Newport, 1890.

First automobile race in Newport in 1895.



First national lawn tennis championships (1899).

First building (the State House) with all marble dome.



Oldest carousel in continuous operation (since 1850, in Watch Hill).

First discount department store.



Roger Williams University School of Law

Bristol, R.I.

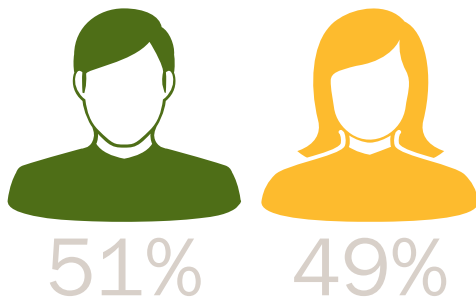
✓ *approximately* 575 *students enrolled*

Student-to-Faculty Ratio = 20:1



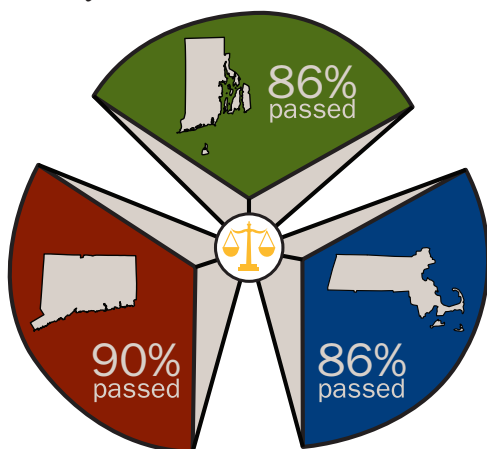
Source: law.rwu.edu/admission/apply/faqs

Fall 2013 Class Gender Breakdown



Source: law.rwu.edu/admission/class-profile

July 2012 First-Time Bar Takers



Test takers surpassed the state average in all three.

Source: law.rwu.edu/about-us/bar-pass-rates

George E. Lieberman, a partner at Vetter and White, Providence, R.I., is a member of the Constitution, Rules, and Resolutions, and Audit Committees; a National Counsel representative; and a member of the Appellate Committee, Section of Federal Litigation, and R.I. Chapter Board. Lieberman concentrates his practice in complex commercial litigation and significant personal injury cases. He is a Martindale-Hubbell AV Pre-eminent-rated attorney, named for 10 consecutive years as one of the best lawyers in the United States in the field of commercial litigation by Best Lawyers in America, recognized by it as one of the best U.S. lawyers in the field of litigation and real estate, and named for seven consecutive years as a Super Lawyer in the field of business litigation by the New England Super Lawyers Magazine.

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Endnotes

¹Taken from a Vetter and White (V&W) holiday card. Another V&W holiday card description of Rhode Island you might enjoy: “Though Rhode Island has been around longer than most states, it hasn’t gotten any bigger. As is often the way of the playground, the smallest one is the object of jokes and teasing. What follows is an example of such “razzing” from the Dartmouth College Marching Band on the occasion of Dartmouth’s throttling Brown in football in 1992. We submit the band’s version of Rhode Island’s history with a reminder, gentle reader, that it is not the size of the state that matters.

1788: Rhode Island was offered to England as a consolation prize.

1789: England traded Rhode Island to France for a case of champagne.

1803: France slipped Rhode Island into the Louisiana Purchase.

1804: Americans tried unsuccessfully to return Rhode Island but had lost their receipt.

1806 – 1927: Rhode Island was left off all official maps until a U.S. geological surveyor got lost between Boston and New York.

1928 – 1962: Little is known about this period because Rhode Island was accidentally misplaced.

1963: With the invention of the electron microscope, Rhode Island was rediscovered.

1978: U.S. Geological Survey declared Rhode Island an official “unit of measure.”

²Rhode Island is sometimes referred to as “Rogue Island,” with President Washington calling it that. See New York Times, May 11, 2014, at Section A, p. 17.

³Also named number one as a base for day trips, number four in theater/performing arts, and number five as a summer destination (2011 *Travel + Leisure*).

⁴Some helpful Rhode Island terminology: “Cabinet” (a thick milkshake referred to as an Awful Awful at Newport Creamery, a Rhode Island chain restaurant); “Bubler” (water fountain); “Grinder” (a hero or submarine sandwich); and “Dynamite” (a Northern Rhode Island spicy delicacy comprised of ground hamburger, tomato sauce, peppers, onions, and spices. A “sloppy joe” type sandwich).

⁵Many hotels in Newport are already fully booked for the Volvo Ocean Race to be held in the Summer of 2015.

⁶Streets in Providence with names such as Hope, Benefit, and Benevolent bear the mark of Roger Williams.