

NEW JERSEY DATA

These 4 towns did something this election they haven't done for nearly 40 years

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For 36 years, they were loyal to the Republican Party, always falling in line to back its candidates for governor no matter the odds. They went for Tom Kean, Jim Courter, Christie Todd Whitman, Bret Schundler, Doug Forrester and Chris Christie.

Then, in 2017, something seismic happened. For the first time since at least 1981, they turned blue.

An NJ Advance Media analysis of election data from the Rutgers NJ Databook and the state Division of Elections found four towns -- Summit, Chatham Borough, Morris Plains and Morris Township -- that bucked their GOP roots and opted for Democrat Phil Murphy.

Except for in Morris Plains, the race against Republican Kim Guadagno wasn't even all that close. Murphy won by 13 points in Summit, seven points in Morris Township and six points in Chatham Borough, according to unofficial tallies. He won by 0.8 points in Morris Plains.

There were signs a year ago that these four towns might be changing their allegiances. The numbers

Census data shows that while all four towns have grown slightly in the last ten years, they remain extremely

"Some of the older, moderate Republican residents, they

