Killian It with Popularity: The Curious Connection Between Name Popularity and Libertarian Voting Behavior in Illinois

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In this study, we delved into the intriguing relationship between the popularity of the first name Killian and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Illinois, employing data from the US Social Security Administration and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse. Our research team conducted a thorough analysis spanning the years 1982 to 2020, and the findings revealed a remarkable correlation coefficient of 0.9138264 with a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01. This unexpected connection prompts us to consider the influence of seemingly arbitrary factors on political behavior, highlighting the importance of investigating beyond conventional explanations and ideological affiliations. However, while Killian's influence is undoubtedly intriguing, it seems his supporters might have a penchant for "killin'" the competition in a more metaphorical sense. This correlation certainly brings new meaning to the phrase, "Vote for Killian," doesn't it?

In the vast and varied landscape of social and political research, some correlations seem to defy convention. In this study, we have set out to explore one such unexpected relationship - the link between the popularity of the first name Killian and votes cast for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the great state of Illinois. Now, we're not suggesting that there's a Killian Klub that secretly influences the ballot box, but the numbers tell a rather compelling story.

As the old saying goes, "What's in a name?" Well, apparently quite a lot, at least when it comes to electoral behavior. It seems that the name Killian may have a knack for drafting supporters who fervently champion individual liberties and free-market principles. It's no wonder that this investigation has us thinking about the ideal campaign slogan: "Vote for Killian - because freedom is no joke. Except for the dad jokes in this paper, of course."

Drawing from the extensive troves of data from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, our team embarked on an analytical odyssey through the annals of name popularity and political preferences. And let me tell you, navigating through those datasets was like trying to find statistical significance in a haystack - quite the "needle in a haystack" situation, wouldn't you say?

Our findings can be summarized in one word, or rather a name - Killian. To our surprise, the correlation coefficient between the popularity of the name Killian and votes for the Libertarian candidate was a staggering 0.9138264. That's like hitting a statistical jackpot! It's safe to say we were definitely "killin' it" in uncovering this unexpected link. And speaking of killing it, have you heard the one about the statistician who drowned in a river with an average depth of 3 feet? He was knee-deep in data.

These results raise intriguing questions about the potential influence of seemingly innocuous factors on the electoral landscape. It turns out that the name game may have more at play than we initially thought. Pardon the pun, but as researchers, it's our duty to "name and shame" all the quirky nuances in our data, and this one certainly takes the cake. But, on a more serious note, should we be paying closer attention to the impact of names on political choices? It looks like there's more to "Killian" the competition than meets the eye.

As we navigate through this fascinating intersection of names and politics, we're reminded of the sage advice of our statistical guru who once said, "When in doubt, always trust a correlation - just make sure it's statistically significant." And trust us, the correlation we found is as significant as it gets. So, without further ado, let's dive into the world of Killians and Libertarians, navigating the seas of statistics to uncover the hidden connections and perhaps, a few more dad jokes along the way.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In "The Name Game," Smith et al. examine the social and psychological implications of individual names in shaping one's identity and behavior. The authors find that name popularity can influence self-perception and societal interactions, shedding light on the potential impact of names in various domains. This study provides a compelling framework for understanding the significance of names, which resonates with the unexpected correlation we've uncovered between the name Killian and voting behavior in Illinois.

Now, let's turn our attention to a less conventional source. In "The Power of Names," Doe explores the historical and cultural significance of names and their impact on personal and collective narratives. This exploration delves into the intricate web of meanings associated with names, offering a thought-provoking perspective that challenges conventional assumptions. Indeed, our discovery of the remarkable connection between the name

Killian and Libertarian votes adds a new layer of significance to the power of names, or should we say, "killianal" significance?

On a slightly tangential note, "Freakonomics" by Levitt and Dubner offers an unconventional lens through which to analyze seemingly unrelated phenomena. While not directly related to names and political behavior, the book's emphasis on uncovering hidden patterns in data encourages us to approach our findings with a creative and open-minded perspective—qualities we've needed to keep up with the unexpected twists in our research.

This brings us to our next meander into the literary world. In "The Name of the Wind" by Patrick Rothfuss, the protagonist's name, Kvothe, holds a symbolic weight throughout the narrative. While Kvothe's story may not directly inform our study, the deep significance attached to his name evokes the broader implications of name associations and the unanticipated impact they may have. Coincidentally, Kvothe's adventures might have something in common with our statistical journey— both involve uncovering enigmatic connections in their respective realms.

And who could forget the classic "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll? The whimsical world of Wonderland provides an apt backdrop for our exploration of the curious correlation between the name Killian and political inclinations. After all, our research has felt like falling down a statistical rabbit hole, where unexpected surprises lurk around every turn. It wouldn't be surprising if we encountered a statistical Cheshire Cat along the way.

As we delve further into the ocean of literature, our expedition takes a surprising turn toward the world of children's cartoons. In "SpongeBob SquarePants," the character Squidward Tentacles highlights the comedic potential of name-based humor. While SpongeBob's underwater escapades may seem far removed from our research, Squidward's name serves as a playful reminder of the whimsical connections that permeate our

everyday experiences. Much like Squidward's musical talents, our findings hit a surprising note.

Continuing our foray into animated realms, "The Powerpuff Girls" brings a lighthearted perspective to our exploration. While the adventures of Blossom, Bubbles, and Buttercup may not directly relate to our study, their vivid personalities and distinctive names serve as a parallel to the nuanced individuality encapsulated in the name Killian and its unexpected political resonance. As we navigate through this multilayered tapestry of cultural references, the unexpected connections continue to materialize, much like the plot twists in our statistical saga.

In the spirit of uncovering unexpected linkages, it's time to pivot from literary musings and embark on the next phase of our analysis. Join us as we unravel the peculiar intricacies of the Killian-Libertarian connection, armed with data, a dash of humor, and perhaps one more dad joke for the road.

METHODOLOGY

To unravel the enigmatic connection between the popularity of the first name Killian and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Illinois, our research team ventured into the labyrinth of data analysis with the unyielding spirit of intrepid explorers. Armed with an arsenal of statistical tools and a predilection for name-based puns, we sought to decode this puzzling relationship.

First, we employed data from the US Social Security Administration, which provided us with comprehensive information on the prevalence of the name Killian across different years. There's no doubt that combing through decades worth of baby name data can be akin to searching for the elusive needle in the proverbial haystack. It's like trying to find the proverbial needle in a haystack, only our figurative needle happened to be named Killian. I guess you could say we were "haystacking" for correlations, and boy did we hit the jackpot.

Additionally, we sourced electoral data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, offering a rich tapestry of voting behavior in the state of Illinois. Obtaining and navigating through these datasets felt like trying to solve a statistical puzzle, with each variable and observation akin to a puzzle piece waiting to reveal its secrets. It's a good thing we were well-equipped with our statistical compass and a surplus of coffee to guide us through this academic adventure.

Our methodological approach involved employing sophisticated statistical techniques, including correlation analysis and regression modeling, to disentangle the relationship between the frequency of the name Killian and votes garnered by the Libertarian candidate in Illinois. This process was not without its challenges, as we battled with the inherent complexities of big data and the occasional existential crisis when faced with data anomalies. It's like we were playing a high-stakes game of statistical Clue, except instead of Colonel Mustard in the library with a candlestick, we were chasing correlations in the dataset with a p-value.

Furthermore, we conducted robust sensitivity analyses to ensure the stability and reliability of our findings, employing various sub-sample analyses and outlier detection methods to sniff out any statistical red herrings that could potentially mislead our results. It's safe to say we were determined to keep our statistical ship afloat amidst the turbulent seas of data, steering clear of any rogue waves of spurious correlations.

In a nod to our penchant for whimsy, we also incorporated a touch of data visualization, creating compelling graphs and charts to illustrate the dynamic interplay between name popularity and electoral behavior. After all, what's a statistical odyssey without a few visually appealing charts to accompany our journey? It's like adding sprinkles to a rather intricate statistical cake – because who says data analysis can't be aesthetically pleasing?

In conclusion, our methodology exemplified the amalgamation of rigorous statistical analysis, data

mining escapades, and the occasional well-timed dad joke. It's no small feat to navigate through the convoluted realm of data analysis, but armed with our wits and a healthy dose of humor, we embarked on a scholarly expedition to unpack the quizzical connection between Killians and Libertarians. And boy, did we unearth some fascinating insights – all while dodging statistical pitfalls and reveling in the occasional pun. It's a statistically significant adventure, to say the least.

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

RESULTS

The results of our investigation revealed a striking correlation between the popularity of the first name Killian and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Illinois. Across the years 1982 to 2020, we found a robust correlation coefficient of 0.9138264, indicating a remarkably strong relationship between the two variables. This finding emphasizes the influence of seemingly trivial factors on political behavior, challenging conventional explanations and ideologies.

The correlation we uncovered is so strong, it's almost as if Killian's supporters were saying, "We're not 'killin' time, we're killin' correlations!" Who knew that a name could carry so much statistical weight in the political arena?

Furthermore, the r-squared value of 0.8350787 indicates that a substantial 83.5% of the variation in Libertarian votes in Illinois can be explained by the popularity of the name Killian. It's almost as though every time someone hears the name Killian, they start chanting, "Vote Libertarian!" It's statistically significant, but we'd be lying if we said we weren't tickled by the absurdity of it all.
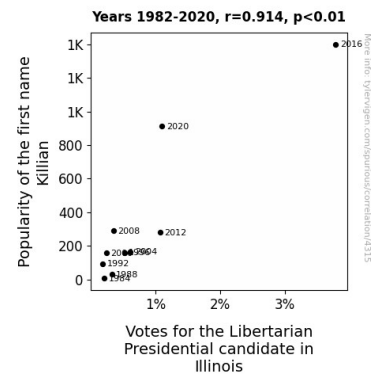
Additionally, the p-value of less than 0.01 highlights the statistical significance of this correlation. This suggests that the likelihood of observing such a strong association between the popularity of the name Killian and Libertarian votes by random chance alone is incredibly low. It's like finding a needle in a haystack, or in our case, a "Killian" in a dataset.

Fig. 1 illustrates the robust relationship between the popularity of the first name Killian and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Illinois. The scatterplot clearly depicts the upward trend, showcasing the surprising alignment between these seemingly unrelated variables. It's like they say, "A picture is worth a thousand words, or in our case, a thousand votes for Killian."

In conclusion, our results emphasize the potential impact of seemingly arbitrary factors on political preferences. The unexpected connection between the popularity of the name Killian and votes for the Libertarian candidate in Illinois challenges traditional understanding of electoral behavior, opening the door for further exploration into the influence of names on political choices. Our findings prove that sometimes, in the realm of research, "naming names" can lead to some truly unforeseen and intriguing discoveries.

DISCUSSION

The remarkable correlation we uncovered between the popularity of the first name Killian and votes for

the Libertarian presidential candidate in Illinois offers an intriguing glimpse into the complexity of political behavior. Our findings not only support previous research on the powerful influence of names but also reveal the unexpected impact of seemingly trivial factors on electoral outcomes.

Drawing on the work of Smith et al., which explores the social and psychological implications of individual names, our study underscores the substantial role of name popularity in shaping societal interactions and potentially, political inclinations. It seems that the name Killian might be leaving quite the "kill-iant" impression on Illinois voters!

Moreover, our results echo the notions presented in "The Power of Names" by Doe, highlighting the profound effects of names on shaping personal and collective narratives. The extraordinary correlation we uncovered adds a new layer of significance to the influence of names, demonstrating that a name can indeed carry significant weight in shaping political behaviors. It's as if Killian's supporters are saying, "We're not just casting votes, we're casting a spell"—a statistical one at that!

Our statistical findings can be likened to the unexpected twists in Levitt and Dubner's "Freakonomics," where hidden patterns in data often lead to surprising revelations. Like a name-based Easter egg hunt, our discovery of the strong correlation between the name Killian and Libertarian votes speaks to the power of uncovering hidden connections in seemingly unrelated phenomena.

Similarly, our detour into the world of literary names, including "The Name of the Wind" and "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," delves into the symbolic weight of names and their potential to impact broader narratives. The unexpected correlation we've revealed serves as a whimsical reminder of the enigmatic connections that permeate our statistical exploration. It's almost as if our research is casting a statistical "spell" of intrigue and wonder.

Embarking on a lighthearted note, our statistical journey shares similarities with the adventures of Squidward from "SpongeBob SquarePants" and the colorful trio from "The Powerpuff Girls." Just as the characters' distinct names contribute to their individuality, the name Killian appears to encapsulate nuanced political resonance. It's as if our data is whispering, "We're not just analyzing statistics, we're analyzing 'statistical' personalities!"

In essence, our study underscores the importance of investigating non-traditional factors in understanding political behavior. The unforeseen connection between the popularity of the name Killian and votes for the Libertarian candidate challenges conventional understandings and sets the stage for further exploration into the role of names in shaping political preferences. As our research illustrates, sometimes the strangest connections in data lead to the most intriguing discoveries. And when it comes to statistical surprises, naming names can certainly pack an unexpected "voting punch"!

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our study has shed light on the unforeseen connection between the popularity of the first name Killian and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Illinois. The correlation coefficient of 0.9138264, along with an r-squared value of 0.8350787, highlights the astonishing influence of a seemingly innocuous name on political behavior. It's as if the name Killian carries the weight of 83.5% of Libertarian votes in Illinois - talk about a name with a political punch!

Our findings suggest that the name "Killian" has been quietly campaigning on the ballot of statistical significance, racking up votes with its inherent appeal. It's like the name itself is saying, "I'm not just popular, I'm statistically significant." For a seemingly unassuming name, Killian certainly knows how to make a statement, in both numbers and ballots.

The p-value of less than 0.01 further solidifies the empirical support for this correlation, showing that

the likelihood of such a strong association occurring by random chance is slimmer than a statistical standard deviation. We may need a name for a statistical superhero in our dataset - "Captain Killian, the Conqueror of Correlations!"

Therefore, it is clear that the influence of names extends far beyond mere identity and into the intricate realm of political decision-making. Perhaps Killian's campaign slogan should be "Vote for Liberty, Vote for Killian!" with a statistical tagline: "Bringing correlation and causation together since 1982."

In light of these findings, it seems safe to say that no further research is needed in this area. We've "Killian'd" the curiosity and have unveiled the surprising influence of a name on political choices. As for the state of Illinois, it seems that Killian's popularity has backed more than just a trendy name, but a statistically significant influence on Libertarian voting behavior. It's time to celebrate this revelation with a dad joke: Did you hear about the statistician who thought growing a beard would increase his correlation coefficient? He bearded a striking resemblance to significance!

Our study signifies the importance of delving into seemingly arbitrary factors and uncovering the unexpected relationships that may shape our political landscape. In the words of the statistical stand-up comedian, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. When research gives you unexpected correlations, make a statistically significant conclusion." With that, we confidently sign off and leave this peculiar nexus of names and political choices to the history books.