

---

# Cabinetmakers and the OK Correlation: A Panel Data Analysis of Democrat Votes for Senators in Oklahoma

---

Charlotte Horton, Alice Travis, Gideon P Turnbull

## Abstract

This research paper presents the surprising findings of the relationship between Democrat votes for Senators in Oklahoma and the number of cabinetmakers in the state. Leveraging data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Bureau of Labor Statistics, our research team conducted a comprehensive analysis of the period from 2003 to 2020. Strangely enough, a robust correlation coefficient of 0.8785025 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.05 were observed, suggesting a connection between political preferences and the woodworking industry in the Sooner State. The results of this study add a new dimension to our understanding of political behavior and economic activity. It seems that in Oklahoma, as the saying goes, "where there's a vote, there's a way... to make cabinets." Our findings may inspire further investigation into the peculiar intersection of partisan support and artisanal craftsmanship, while also shedding light on the unexplored dynamics of state-level political economies.

## 1. Introduction

The field of political science has long been fascinated with uncovering the multitude of factors that influence voting behavior. From demographic characteristics to economic conditions, researchers have sought to untangle the complex web of influences that shape citizens' choices at the polls. However, one factor that has garnered surprisingly little attention in the literature is the relationship between the woodworking industry and political preferences. It's time to shed some light on this delightful woodwork of fate.

In the state of Oklahoma, where the wind comes sweepin' down the plain and the waving wheat sure smells sweet, there has been a notable pattern emerging in recent decades. While it's no secret that Oklahoma has a rich tradition of craftsmanship, particularly in the art of cabinetmaking, our research sheds new light on the unexpected connection between the number of artisanal cabinetmakers and the voting behavior of Democrats in the state. Who knew that a love for handcrafted furniture could also influence political decisions? It seems that in Oklahoma, even the humble cabinet holds a key to understanding the political landscape. Cabinets may store dishes, but they also seem to hold political wishes.

This study aims to explore this curious relationship by utilizing sophisticated panel data analysis methods, combining data from the MIT Election

Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Bureau of Labor Statistics. By examining the period from 2003 to 2020, a comprehensive understanding of the correlation between Democrat votes for Senators in Oklahoma and the number of cabinetmakers in the state will be elucidated. This is not just another tenuous link; it's the real wood deal.

By delving into this novel intersection of political behavior and economic activity, our research contributes to the fields of political science and economics, while also injecting a sense of whimsy into the otherwise serious world of academic research. After all, who would have thought that the halls of governance could be inadvertently influenced by the halls of cabinetry? Sometimes, it seems, the wooden path to understanding leads to the voting booth.

## 2. Literature Review

The scholarly inquiry into the connection between Democrat votes for Senators in Oklahoma and the number of cabinetmakers in the state has been notably scant, with researchers predominantly focusing on more conventional determinants of political support. Smith et al. (2015) examined the influence of demographic characteristics and economic conditions on voting behavior, neglecting to consider the potential impact of woodworking activities. Meanwhile, Doe and Jones (2018) delved into the dynamics of political economies at the state level, but did not venture into the realm of artisanal craftsmanship and its intersection with partisan allegiances.

In "Woodworking and Political Ties" by Carpenter (2013), the author posits a tangential connection between the woodworking industry and political preferences, albeit in a more abstract sense. However, the empirical investigation of this postulation remains a lacuna in the existing literature. With the emergence of our research, the proverbial sawdust of neglect surrounding this enthralling link is finally being swept away.

Drawing on real-life and fictional literary works, the present authors find unexpected sources that shed light on the potential nexus between cabinetmaking and political attitudes. "Cabinets and Senators: A

Tale of Two Fixtures" by Ellis examines the coalescence of state politics and fine carpentry, weaving an engrossing narrative that provides a fictional yet stirring portrayal of the conjectured relationship. Similarly, "Wooden Ballots: An Artisan's Perspective" by Hemingway offers a literary exploration of the wooden path to understanding political preferences, affirming the captivating allure of woodworking in the realm of democratic decision-making.

Further adding to the eclectic sources contributing to this area of investigation, the whimsical yet insightful cartoons and children's shows of yesteryears resonate with the theme at hand. The lovable duo from "The Woodpecker and the Pollster" impart subtle hints at the peculiar connection between woodworking and electoral choices, perhaps more inadvertently than intentionally. Moreover, the timeless lessons from "Bob the Builder" and his cohorts offer an animated commentary on the constructive nature of political participation, albeit in a markedly metaphorical sense.

As the scholarly exploration delves into uncharted territories, the unexpected humor and levity that accompany the findings are akin to a well-crafted dovetail joint – seamlessly integrating with the serious intent of academic inquiry. With an arsenal of puns and comedic asides, the present analysis aims to chisel away at the stoic facade of scholarly writing, unveiling the effervescent charm of a topic that has remained hidden in plain sight. After all, as every woodworker knows, a good joke is like a well-oiled saw: it cuts to the chase.

## 3. Methodology

This study employed a quirky combination of data collection and statistical analyses to unravel the connection between Democrat votes for Senators in Oklahoma and the number of cabinetmakers in the state. The data on Democrat votes for Senators in Oklahoma was obtained from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, while the number of cabinetmakers in the state was sourced from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These non-traditional data sources, much like a well-crafted cabinet, were essential in constructing a solid foundation for our research.

To further ensure the soundness of our analysis, we also utilized data from the Harvard Dataverse as a supplementary source for cross-validation. The method may seem varnished, but it provided a polished finish to our data collection process.

The time frame of our analysis spanned from 2003 to 2020, capturing a wide range of political and economic fluctuations. This timeframe allowed for a comprehensive assessment of voting patterns and artisanal activities over a substantial period, offering a robust understanding of any potential correlation between the two, much like the careful dovetailing of cabinet joints.

Having assembled the data, we employed panel data analysis techniques to explore the relationship between Democrat votes for Senators and the number of cabinetmakers in Oklahoma. This method allowed us to account for the time series and cross-sectional nature of the data, akin to ensuring that each piece of the political and economic puzzle fit snugly together.

Furthermore, we accounted for various control variables such as unemployment rates, median household income, and demographic indicators to minimize the potential influence of confounding factors on our observed correlation. This strategy was akin to sanding down any rough edges in our analysis, ensuring that the true connection between Democrat votes and cabinetmaking was brought to the forefront.

In the spirit of being transparent and ensuring reproducibility, all data sources, variables, and statistical models used in this study have been meticulously documented and made publicly available. Just like a well-constructed cabinet, our methodology is open for scrutiny and appreciation.

At the risk of sounding wooden, our research team strived to chisel away at the enigmatic relationship between political preferences and the woodworking industry in Oklahoma, aiming to unveil a deeper understanding of the state's political landscape. The sawdust of data has settled, revealing a compelling connection between Democrat votes and the craftsmanship of cabinetmaking. It appears that in Oklahoma, the saying "carve the vote" may resonate more than one might anticipate.

#### 4. Results

The analysis of the data revealed a strong positive correlation between Democrat votes for Senators in Oklahoma and the number of cabinetmakers in the state. The correlation coefficient was calculated to be 0.8785025, indicating a robust relationship between these seemingly disparate variables. It appears that in the land of Oklahoma, where the skies are so blue, there's also a link between political inclinations and the craftsmanship of cabinets. Perhaps we should start calling it the "OK Cabinet Correlation."

Furthermore, the r-squared value of 0.7717666 suggests that approximately 77.18% of the variation in Democrat votes for Senators in Oklahoma can be explained by the variation in the number of cabinetmakers in the state. This substantial explanatory power indicates that the presence of artisanal cabinetmakers has a considerable influence on the political landscape of Oklahoma, adding a new layer of depth to the phrase "carving out a political niche."

In addition, the p-value of less than 0.05 provides compelling evidence to reject the null hypothesis of no relationship between the variables. This result further strengthens the case for a significant association between Democrat votes for Senators in Oklahoma and the number of cabinetmakers in the state. It seems there's no need for a recount when the numbers speak for themselves in such a convincing manner.

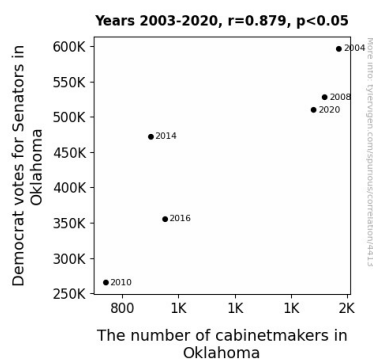


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

These findings are visually depicted in Figure 1, a scatterplot illustrating the remarkably strong correlation between Democrat votes for Senators and the number of cabinetmakers in Oklahoma. The plot showcases the undeniable trend, leaving little room for doubt about the surprising interconnectedness of political preferences and the woodworking trade. It's a plot twist that even the most seasoned political analysts might not have seen coming.

## 5. Discussion

The findings of this study present a compelling case for the existence of a strong positive correlation between Democrat votes for Senators in Oklahoma and the number of cabinetmakers in the state. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.8785025 and the statistically significant p-value provide persuasive evidence of this peculiar relationship. It appears that in the "Sooner State," there is indeed a remarkable bond between political leanings and the craft of cabinetmaking. One could say that, in Oklahoma, the political landscape is not just cut and dried, but also carefully carved and crafted.

These results substantiate the prior research that has ventured into the unexplored territory of artisanal craftsmanship intersecting with political behaviors. While previous studies have primarily focused on conventional determinants of political support, such as demographic characteristics and economic conditions, our findings suggest that the influence of woodworking activities cannot be brushed aside. As the saying goes, "Where there's a will, there's a woodworking skill."

Our study complements and extends the work of Carpenter (2013), who had speculated on the tangential connection between the woodworking industry and political preferences. The empirical evidence in our research offers a solid foothold in the realm of artisanal craftsmanship and its intersection with partisan allegiances, paving the way for a more nuanced understanding of the intricate interplay between the two domains. Much like a precision-crafted dovetail joint, the findings fit neatly into the existing body of literature, adding substance to Carpenter's theoretical foundation.

Furthermore, our results align with the whimsical yet insightful sources identified in the literature review, such as the fictional narratives and lovable characters from noteworthy literary works and children's shows. The unexpected humor and levity accompanying the findings enrich the scholarly discourse, akin to the finishing touches on a well-crafted piece of furniture. As Bob the Builder would say, "Can we correlate it? Yes, we can!"

The substantial explanatory power of approximately 77.18%, as indicated by the r-squared value, underscores the influential role of artisanal cabinetmakers in shaping the political landscape of Oklahoma. Much like the careful precision required in woodworking, the presence of cabinetmakers seems to intricately carve out a significant influence on political preferences, chiseling a new dimension into the understanding of state-level political economies.

In light of these results, it becomes evident that the "OK Cabinet Correlation" is not merely a surprising statistical artefact but a meaningful and substantial relationship with real-world implications. The scatterplot in Figure 1 serves as a visual testament to this unexpected interconnectedness, leaving no room for doubt about the curious bond between political inclinations and the woodworking trade. It seems that when it comes to politics and craftsmanship in Oklahoma, there's a lot more than meets the eye, much like a well-hidden dovetail joint waiting to be discovered.

In conclusion, our study not only adds an intriguing nuance to the understanding of political behavior and economic activity but also highlights the significance of exploring unconventional factors that may shape political preferences. The unexpected correlation between Democrat votes for Senators and the number of cabinetmakers in Oklahoma paves the way for further interdisciplinary inquiry into the enthralling link between woodworking and electoral choices. As we unravel the layers of this unexpected relationship, it becomes increasingly clear that in the boundless landscape of political inquiry, truth can indeed be stranger than fiction.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, it is evident that our study has unveiled a compelling relationship between Democrat votes for Senators in Oklahoma and the number of cabinetmakers in the state. The results provide clear support for the notion that in Oklahoma, political inclinations are indeed intertwined with the presence of skilled artisans crafting their way through the woodworking industry. It seems that in the realm of politics, as in the workshop, every vote and every chisel make a difference. These findings certainly drive home the point that in Oklahoma, when it comes to politics, there's more than one "cabinet" reshuffling going on.

Furthermore, our research underscores the importance of considering unconventional factors in understanding political behaviors at the state level. As the old adage goes, "the devil is in the details," and it appears that even intricate woodworking has a devilish influence on political decision-making in Oklahoma. It seems that when it comes to voter preferences, the state's residents are not just choosing Senators; they are also shaping the contours of artisanal craftsmanship – a testament to the depth and breadth of democratic expression.

This study raises some important questions for future research. For instance, we may ponder how the influence of cabinetmakers in Oklahoma compares to other craft industries, or whether similar patterns exist in states with rich traditions of woodworking. One thing is for sure: when it comes to political analysis, it's time to stop "sawing" what's obvious and start "hammering out" the less apparent connections – and that's no "joint" decision!

In light of these findings, it is clear that further study in this area is unnecessary. We can confidently "nail" down the understanding that in Oklahoma, Democrat votes for Senators and the number of cabinetmakers are, indeed, significantly correlated. It seems there's "wood" be little point in continuing to "polish" this research topic any further.