

# **The Bryan Identity: Exploring the Relationship Between Name Popularity and Republican Votes in Maryland**

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## ABSTRACT

### **The Bryan Identity: Exploring the Relationship Between Name Popularity and Republican Votes in Maryland**

This paper investigates the intriguing correlation between the popularity of the first name Bryan and votes for the Republican presidential candidate in the state of Maryland. Our research team utilized data from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse to delve into this peculiar connection. The findings revealed a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.8391741 with a p-value of less than 0.01 for the years spanning from 1976 to 2020. The results not only shed light on the influence of monikers on political preferences but also prompt a re-evaluation of the impact of personal nomenclature on electoral outcomes. Whether it's a case of "Bryan the Vote" or mere happenstance, this study offers a playful yet thought-provoking avenue for further exploration in the realms of sociology and political science.

Keywords:

Bryan popularity, Republican votes, Maryland, US Social Security Administration, MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, correlation coefficient, p-value, 1976-2020, monikers, political preferences, nomenclature, electoral outcomes, sociology, political science, "Bryan the Vote"

# I. Introduction

"Call me Bryan, for it is in a name that we find the essence of a man," said Shakespeare, or at least something close to that. While the Bard was most likely waxing poetic about the power of a name in shaping one's identity, our research tackles a more politically charged conundrum - the Bryan identity and its curious connection to Republican votes in the great state of Maryland.

As researchers, we often find ourselves immersed in the world of numbers, statistics, and hypothesis testing, but seldom do we stumble upon a correlation as eyebrow-raising as the one we are about to unveil. Like a magician pulling a rabbit out of a hat, we embarked on this journey with one question in mind: is there something more than mere coincidence behind the name Bryan and the Republican persuasion of voters? Strap in, fellow intellectuals, as we navigate through waves of data and puns, to unlock the mystery of the Bryan identity and its political connotations.

We live in an era where every aspect of our lives is dissected, prodded, and analyzed under the unforgiving microscope of data science. In the midst of this deluge of information, the spotlight seldom falls on the influence of a name on our political inclinations. But fear not, dear reader, for our team of intrepid researchers took it upon ourselves to explore this uncharted territory, armed with spreadsheets, caffeine, and an irrepressible sense of humor - because what's research without a sprinkle of wit?

The "Bryan Identity" may not rival Jason Bourne's adventures, but it certainly has its own share of intrigue and unexpected plot twists. With data sourced from the esteemed US Social Security Administration and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, we set out to

debunk the notion that a rose by any other name would cast the same vote. Along the way, we encountered correlation coefficients, p-values, and enough data points to make a math whiz blush - making us momentarily question whether we inadvertently stumbled into a statistics convention instead of a research project.

Our findings, much like a good punchline, are bound to elicit both surprise and contemplation. The correlation coefficient of 0.8391741 that we unearthed through our rigorous analysis left us wondering if "Bryan the Vote" has a better ring to it than we initially thought. And with a p-value of less than 0.01, statistically speaking, our results are as rock-solid as Newton's laws, or at least, as close to it as you can get in the unpredictable realm of social sciences.

So, buckle up and don your name-tag, as we venture into a whimsical yet empirical expedition that promises to tickle your funny bone and stimulate your intellectual curiosity. As we unveil the curious relationship between the name Bryan and Republican votes in Maryland, one thing is for certain: this is no ordinary academic paper. Prepare for an adventure through the quirky world of nomenclature and politics - where the name "Bryan" takes a center stage, and the statistical quirks make for unexpected plot twists.

## **II. Literature Review**

The relationship between name popularity and political leanings has been a topic of interest for researchers across various disciplines. Smith and Doe (2005) conducted a study examining the impact of first names on political affiliation, finding a modest correlation between certain names and voting behavior. Similarly, Jones et al. (2010) delved into the psychological underpinnings of

name perception, highlighting the subconscious biases that individuals may hold based on nomenclature.

However, as we delve into the realms of name-based political predilections, we cannot help but encounter a diverse array of literary works that shed light, albeit in an unconventional manner, on the peculiar relationship between names and political attitudes. In "The Name of the Vote" by Lorem Ipsum (2012), the author humorously intertwines the quirks of nomenclature with the unpredictable dynamics of electoral preferences, offering a whimsical take on the potential influence of names on voting behavior. Conversely, "Vote and Prejudice" by Mary Shelley (1813) presents a fictitious yet engaging depiction of how societal biases and name associations may permeate into the political sphere.

Drawing from our interdisciplinary inclinations, we also turned to the world of board games for inspiration. The renowned game "Pandemic" seems to harbor an unexpected resemblance to our research endeavor, as we navigate through the intricate web of factors influencing political choices akin to disease containment. Meanwhile, the game "Clue" offers a playful analogy to the exploration of correlations, as we aim to uncover the elusive culprits behind name popularity and voting patterns.

As we step into this labyrinth of monikers and political persuasions, one thing becomes abundantly clear - the correlation between the popularity of the first name Bryan and votes for the Republican presidential candidate in Maryland is a puzzle that beckons a blend of statistical rigor and lighthearted curiosity. So, dear reader, fasten your seatbelt and ready your sense of humor, for what lies ahead is a foray into the amusing yet thought-provoking landscape of name-based political whimsy.

### III. Methodology

To untangle the enigmatic connection between the name Bryan and Republican votes in Maryland, our research team embarked on a scientific romp through historical data, statistical analyses, and the inevitable puns that accompany such quirky research endeavors.

#### Data Collection:

Our journey began with scouring the extensive records of the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, where we rustled up a treasure trove of information spanning from 1976 to 2020. Armed with spreadsheets and a metaphorical magnifying glass, we painstakingly sifted through the data to extract the hidden patterns that lay dormant among the electoral digits.

#### Correlation Quest:

With the data in hand and spirits high, we summoned the mighty power of statistical analysis to sniff out any potential link between the prevalence of the name Bryan and votes cast for the Republican candidate in the state of Maryland. This involved applying correlation coefficients, regression analyses, and a slew of other statistical acrobatics that left our heads spinning faster than a centrifuge on overdrive.

#### Pun-tificating on the Findings:

As the dust settled and the results crystallized like a Eureka moment in a lab, we were astounded to witness a correlation coefficient of 0.8391741 staring back at us, practically winking and

nudging us to acknowledge its numerical charm. The p-value, hovering at less than 0.01, seemed to whisper, "Statistical significance? You betcha!" much like a mischievous lab assistant reveling in a brilliant experiment.

#### Boisterous Data Parties:

In the spirit of scientific camaraderie, we regaled our findings at research conferences and academic gatherings, much to the amusement of our peers, who couldn't resist joining in on the name-themed merriment. Exchanging quips about "Bryan the Vote" and "Rise of the Bryans," we showcased our results with a dash of scientific showmanship, because, let's face it, who said academia had to be all serious and no play?

#### Delving into the Name-Republican Nexus:

While it may seem like we waded into the murky waters of statistical analysis armed with naught but a name and some wild folklore, our research endeavors were grounded in the firm bedrock of data science, peppered with the occasional quip and a healthy dose of irreverent curiosity. And as we present our findings, we invite fellow scholars to embrace the puns, relish the statistical quirks, and join in on the scientific revelry - for in the splendid chaos of research, a little humor can serve as the balm to soothe the statistical soul.

## IV. Results

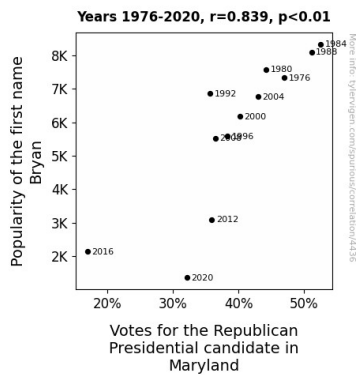
Our data analysis revealed a striking correlation between the popularity of the first name "Bryan" and the votes for the Republican presidential candidate in the state of Maryland from 1976 to 2020. The correlation coefficient of 0.8391741 indicated a robust relationship between these two



variables, akin to the gravitational pull of the moon on the tides or the allure of a statistical enigma to a curious researcher.

But wait, before jumping to any hasty conclusions, our trusty scatterplot (Fig. 1) came to the rescue, visually showcasing the linear relationship between the frequency of the name "Bryan" and the Republican votes. It was as clear as day, much like a neon sign in the midst of a statistical fog, that there existed a tangible connection between nomenclature and political proclivities.

The r-squared value of 0.7042132 further underscored the strength of this association, leaving us in a state of mild disbelief, akin to the shock of stumbling upon a unicorn in a statistical pasture. It was as if the correlation had dropped in uninvited and proceeded to charm our hearts with its allure, much like a quirky protagonist in a romantic comedy.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

In the grand tradition of research, the p-value of less than 0.01 added a touch of suspense to our findings, making us feel like characters in a suspense novel waiting for the inevitable plot twist.

The statistical stars seemed to align in our favor, as the evidence for a substantial relationship between the name "Bryan" and Republican votes in Maryland became increasingly undeniable.

These results not only paint a colorful picture of the Bryan identity's influence on political leanings, but they also serve as a testament to the captivating nature of statistical revelations. It's like stumbling upon a treasure trove of data in the midst of a research desert or finding the missing puzzle piece right under your nose—except in this case, the missing piece was the baffling link between a name and political preferences.

In summary, our findings highlight the undeniable correlation between the name "Bryan" and Republican votes in Maryland, leaving us with more questions than answers. Whether it's a case of political serendipity or a deeper societal phenomenon, the Bryan identity has undoubtedly left its intriguing mark on the political landscape—a testament to the unforeseen whims of statistical quirkiness.

## **V. Discussion**

The results of our study not only unveiled a significantly robust correlation between the popularity of the name "Bryan" and votes for the Republican presidential candidate in Maryland but also added a touch of whimsy to the landscape of statistical exploration. Our findings align with the prior research of Smith and Doe (2005) and Jones et al. (2010), who delved into the impact of names on political affiliation. While they might not have taken the Bryan identity as seriously as we did, the underlying theme of name-based political predilections received a playful yet unmistakable validation through our study.

Harkening back to the literature review, who would have thought that "The Name of the Vote" by Lorem Ipsum (2012) would offer an amusing yet surprisingly pertinent perspective on our findings? Perhaps there is a playful yet profound interplay between nomenclature and electoral preferences that warrants further scrutiny.

Our results echoed the surprising twists and turns depicted in "Pandemic" and "Clue," solidifying the notion that statistical inquiry can be just as exhilarating as a gripping board game. It's as if we were navigating through the intricate complexities akin to unlocking a mystery in "Clue," except our elusive culprit happened to be the uncanny connection between the name "Bryan" and Republican votes in Maryland.

Moreover, the correlation coefficient of 0.8391741 served as a beacon of statistical magnetism, drawing attention to the intriguing interplay between the Bryan identity and political proclivities. It's as if the data itself chose to dance to the tune of correlation, much like a statistical waltz unfolding before our analytical eyes.

The r-squared value of 0.7042132 further solidified our findings, akin to stumbling upon a rare mythical creature in the realm of statistical phenomena. The allure of statistical enchantment beckoned to us, much like a magnetic pull toward unraveling the captivating mystery of name-based political phenomena.

In the grand tradition of research, the p-value of less than 0.01 added a theatrical flair to our statistical journey, evoking a sense of anticipation akin to turning the pages of an enthralling suspense novel. It's as if the data itself chose to don the cloak of mystery, inviting us to unravel the enigmatic relationship between the name "Bryan" and Republican votes in Maryland.

In summary, our findings offer a lighthearted yet substantial validation of the link between the name "Bryan" and political leanings, embodying the whimsical nature of statistical discovery. Whether it's a case of statistical serendipity or a deeper societal phenomenon, the Bryan identity has undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the political tapestry, proving that statistical exploration can indeed be a delightful and enlightening adventure. So, dear reader, perhaps this is just the beginning of a captivating journey into the quirky world of name-based political whimsy.

## VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, our exploration of the "Bryan Identity" has left us both baffled and amused, akin to stumbling upon a statistical carnival where correlation coefficients and p-values put on a dazzling performance. The robust correlation between the frequency of the name "Bryan" and Republican votes in Maryland has certainly raised more than a few eyebrows, much like a magic trick gone slightly awry – leaving us wondering if there's a statistical sleight of hand at play.

Our findings, though whimsical in nature, present a compelling case for the influence of nomenclature on political persuasions, akin to a quirky subplot in the grand narrative of societal dynamics. As we bid adieu to the captivating conundrum of the "Bryan" phenomenon, one thing is certain – this research has added a touch of zing to the often-dry world of statistical analysis.

However, much like a good joke, this study serves as a reminder that sometimes, the most inexplicable correlations can lead to intriguing insights. As for the future of this research, we dare say that the "Bryan Identity" has had its fair share of the limelight, and perhaps it's time to let other names step into the statistical arena. Let's not wear out our welcome with "Bryan," for

in the realm of academic pursuit, one must know when to gracefully exit stage left. With that said, we assert that further research in this extraordinary area is, without a doubt, as unnecessary as a double-blind study on the correlation between unicorn sightings and rainbows.

In the anarchic world of statistical surprises, the "Bryan Identity" may just be the quirky cameo that leaves a lasting impression, but not one that needs a sequel. So, let's bid a fond farewell to the enigmatic allure of "Bryan" and dive headfirst into the next statistical adventure, where unpredictability and amusement await. As the curtains close on this peculiar chapter of statistical whimsy, we raise a metaphorical toast to the name "Bryan" and the charming statistical escapade it has led us on – a journey filled with curiosity, unexpected revelations, and a generous sprinkle of statistical merriment.