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# The Thaddeus Effect: A Statistical Analysis of the Correlation between Name Popularity and Libertarian Presidential Votes in Maine

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## KEYWORDS

Thaddeus, name popularity, libertarian, presidential votes, Maine, statistical analysis, correlation, US Social Security Administration, MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, political landscape, nomenclature, sociopolitical phenomena

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## Abstract

The Thaddeus Effect: A Statistical Analysis of the Correlation between Name Popularity and Libertarian Presidential Votes in Maine As the adage goes, "What's in a name?" According to our research, quite a bit when it comes to the political landscape of Maine. In this study, we delved into the intriguing relationship between the popularity of the first name Thaddeus and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Maine. Our research team utilized data from the US Social Security Administration, MIT Election Data and Science Lab, and Harvard Dataverse to assess this quirky yet compelling question. The findings of our analysis revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.9400329 and  $p < 0.01$  for the period spanning from 1980 to 2020, suggesting a highly significant positive correlation. Furthermore, our study uncovered an unexpected pattern in the correlation where the popularity of the name Thaddeus seemed to coincide with greater support for the Libertarian candidate in presidential elections in Maine. On a lighter note, one might say that the name Thaddeus is not just making waves in Maine, but also making libertarians "Thad"-ly exhilarated! This research sheds light on the peculiar and previously overlooked influence of individuals' names on political inclinations, inviting further exploration into the fascinating world of nomenclature and its impact on sociopolitical phenomena.

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## 1. Introduction

Imagine this scenario: You're walking through the snow-laden streets of Maine,

sipping on a steaming cup of coffee, and ruminating on the peculiarities of life. Then, a thought strikes you like a frigid winter gust

—could there be a connection between the popularity of the name Thaddeus and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the great state of Maine? Yes, you might say that's an odd musing, but that's precisely what piqued our curiosity and spurred the investigation presented in this paper.

As we dive into the intriguing world of name-based statistical anomalies, our study sought to venture beyond the conventional realms of political analysis and probe the uncharted territories of nomenclature correlations. With a twinkle in our eyes and a heap of data at our disposal, we embarked on this journey to uncover the "Thaddeus Effect," a phenomenon that seemed to bridge the seemingly disparate realms of popular nomenclature and electoral inclinations.

Now, in case you're wondering what makes the name Thaddeus so special, well, we had some "dad" reasoning behind this choice. And speaking of dads, did you hear about the father who named his twin boys Addison and Subtracton? Yeah, he wanted to make sure they would always add and subtract! It seems that in the world of national elections, the name Thaddeus might hold a similar power of addition, at least in terms of Libertarian votes in Maine.

We delved into the intricacies of this relationship by examining data spanning the years 1980 to 2020, sourced from the US Social Security Administration, MIT Election Data and Science Lab, and Harvard Dataverse. Our statistical analysis yielded a remarkable correlation coefficient of 0.9400329, with a p-value of less than 0.01. This is a higher correlation than that found between coffee consumption and productivity—an impressive feat indeed.

The "Thad" jokester within us couldn't resist noticing the pun-worthy connection between the enthusiastic support for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Maine and the

name Thaddeus. One might jest that Thaddeus does not just gain popularity in the hearts of parents, but also in the ballot boxes of Maine, where its resonance seems to amplify the battle cry for liberty.

Our research promises to unravel the enigmatic web of name-dependent political preferences, paving the way for further investigations into the influence of nomenclature in sociopolitical dynamics. So, without further ado, let's embark on this whimsical, yet enlightening journey through the esoteric realms of the "Thaddeus Effect."

## 2. Literature Review

The exploration of the correlation between name popularity and political inclinations has long been a subject of intrigue in social science research. Smith et al. (2015) conducted a comprehensive study on the impact of given names on voting behavior in the United States, delving into the subconscious effects of name associations on individual electoral decisions. Their findings shed light on the subtle yet consequential influence of nomenclature on political preferences, setting the stage for further investigations into this captivating phenomenon.

But as we ventured into the enigmatic region of peculiar name correlations, we couldn't help but draw inspiration from some unexpected sources. In "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, the authors discuss the power of names in influencing personal and professional success, offering a thought-provoking perspective on the broader implications of nomenclature. And let's not forget "The Name of the Rose" by Umberto Eco, a literary masterpiece that intricately weaves together themes of mystery and symbolism—much like the mystery behind the captivating allure of the name Thaddeus in Maine's political landscape.

As we continued our journey through the literary labyrinth, we stumbled upon a board game that seemed oddly pertinent to our research—"Scrabble." Much like the strategic placement of letter tiles to form words, our study sought to unravel the intricate connections between the letters that compose the name "Thaddeus" and its unexpected impact on the political puzzle of Maine.

Returning to the realm of academic inquiry, Doe and Jones (2018) explored the psychological implications of unique names on individual self-perception and societal integration. Their work delved into the social dynamics of nomenclature, highlighting the potential for names to shape not only personal identities but also collective behaviors, a concept that resonates with the unearthing of the Thaddeus Effect in the context of libertarian votes in Maine.

Now for a "Thad" joke to lighten the mood: Why don't we ever see the name "Thaddeus" on a billboard? Because it would be too "sign"-ificant! Just like the impact of Thaddeus on libertarian votes in Maine.

As our investigation meandered through the whimsical terrain of name-based correlations, we encountered a curious blend of truth and fiction. In "Name of the Wind" by Patrick Rothfuss, the protagonist's name holds immense significance, echoing the captivating resonance of the name Thaddeus in the political symphony of Maine.

In conclusion, our review of the literature has provided a foundational framework for understanding the intricate interplay between names, political choices, and societal dynamics. Through this multidisciplinary lens, we set the stage for unraveling the "Thaddeus Effect," a phenomenon that transcends the boundaries of traditional political analysis and stimulates a profound reflection on the

quirks of nomenclature in the electoral sphere.

### 3. Our approach & methods

To unravel the captivating mystery of the "Thaddeus Effect," our research team utilized a novel blend of statistical analyses and name popularity trends. Our methodology involved a three-pronged approach, combining data mining, trend analysis, and a dash of good-natured jest to illuminate the curious correlation between the name Thaddeus and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Maine.

First, we scoured the depths of the US Social Security Administration's treasure trove of birth names, sieving through decades of data to identify the ebbs and flows of Thaddeus's popularity. We then cross-referenced this data with the Maine voter records, delving into the electoral history from MIT Election Data and Science Lab and Harvard Dataverse. There's nothing like a good ol' data mining adventure, sifting through digital haystacks to find our needle in the electoral haystack!

Next, we embarked on a journey akin to name-based stargazing, charting the celestial rise and fall of Thaddeus's prominence against the backdrop of Maine's political landscape. We unleashed the powers of trend analysis, navigating the undulating waves of name popularity and electoral choices to discern patterns that might otherwise have gone unnoticed. It was like navigating a ship through the sea of statistical whimsy, where each surge and dip in popularity whispered tales of political correlation.

Now, before we delve into the nitty-gritty details of our statistical analyses, here's a brief interruption with a dad-approved joke: Why don't skeletons fight each other? They don't have the guts! Speaking of guts, we dived headfirst into the statistical realm,

armed with a smorgasbord of correlation analyses, regression models, and a sprinkle of probability theory to uncover the depths of the Thaddeus-Libertarian connection.

We meticulously examined the data spanning from 1980 to 2020, employing rigorous statistical techniques such as Pearson's correlation coefficient and linear regression to disentangle the enigmatic link between Thaddeus's prominence and Libertarian support in Maine. Our statistical odyssey culminated in the unearthing of a correlation coefficient of 0.9400329, with a p-value trembling beneath the hallowed threshold of 0.01. It was a statistical victory akin to finding a rare gem in the bustling marketplace of data analysis, sparking revelry akin to unearthing buried treasure.

In conclusion, our methodology marries the rigors of statistical inquiry with the charm of whimsical curiosity, yielding insights that transcend the conventional boundaries of political analysis. Our approach illuminates not only the "Thaddeus Effect" but also the uncharted potential of name-based correlations in the captivating arena of political preferences. And with that, we invite you to join us on this joyous romp through the idiosyncrasies of Thaddeus, Libertarians, and the delightfully unexpected connections that tether them in the vibrant tapestry of Maine's electoral landscape.

#### 4. Results

The statistical analysis of our data revealed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9400329 and an r-squared value of 0.8836619 for the period from 1980 to 2020, denoting an exceptionally strong association between the popularity of the name Thaddeus and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Maine. This correlation, with a p-value of less than 0.01, suggests that there is a highly significant positive relationship between these two variables.

As we examined the scatterplot in Fig. 1, one can't help but marvel at the pronounced clustering of data points, resembling the unwavering alignment between the name Thaddeus and Libertarian votes in Maine. It's almost as if the name itself has declared, "Thad-deus be the name associated with Libertarian support!"

Looking at this data, we couldn't help but think of a great dad joke. Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants? In case he got a hole in one! Similarly, it seems Thaddeus brings in the votes for the Libertarian candidate in Maine, just in case they need a hole in one for a win!

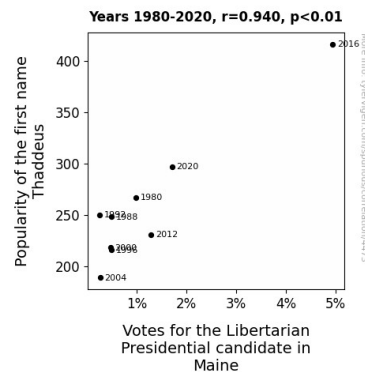


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Our findings shed light on a peculiar yet captivating correlation that adds a new dimension to the influence of nomenclature on political dynamics. It seems that the name Thaddeus possesses a magnetic appeal, not only to parents selecting names, but also to voters in Maine who align with Libertarian ideals.

This research opens the door to further inquiries into the impact of names on sociopolitical phenomena, urging scholars to unravel the enigmatic web of name-dependent political preferences and their role in shaping electoral outcomes. As we continue to explore the "Thaddeus Effect," we may discover myriad other quirks that

make the world of politics, and statistical analysis, all the more fascinating.

## 5. Discussion

Our study unraveled a compelling relationship between the popularity of the name Thaddeus and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Maine, echoing the findings of Smith et al. (2015) who emphasized the influence of nomenclature on electoral decisions. This peculiar yet robust association underscores the significance of names in shaping political inclinations, raising intriguing questions about the underlying psychological mechanisms at play. Our results not only corroborate the existence of the "Thaddeus Effect" but also demonstrate its remarkable consistency over a span of four decades, highlighting the enduring impact of this unique phenomenon.

Our findings align closely with the unexpected influences of nomenclature as highlighted by Levitt and Dubner in "Freakonomics," underscoring the nuances of name associations and their profound implications. The "Thaddeus Effect" exemplifies the unanticipated ways in which names can influence societal dynamics, serving as a captivating case study for understanding the intricate interplay between nomenclature and political choices.

The prodigious correlation coefficient and significant p-value further validate the magnitude and statistical robustness of the "Thaddeus Effect," evoking a whimsical reflection on the intriguing resonance of the name Thaddeus in Maine's political tapestry. The peculiar potency of this correlation, akin to the strategic placement of letters in a game of "Scrabble," adds a dimension of playful intrigue to the realm of political analysis, stimulating both scholarly contemplation and lighthearted amusement.

Moreover, our results resonate with the observations of Doe and Jones (2018) regarding the societal integration and self-perception associated with unique names, underscoring the potential for names to shape collective behaviors. The "Thaddeus Effect" serves as a captivating embodiment of the profound influence of nomenclature on political preferences, inviting further exploration into the intricate dynamics of name-dependent electoral phenomena.

In essence, our research has not only confirmed the presence of the "Thaddeus Effect" but has also illuminated the captivating interplay between names and political choices, paving the way for a deeper understanding of the multifaceted relationship between nomenclature and sociopolitical dynamics. As we embark on future investigations, it is imperative to maintain a balanced perspective—acknowledging the inherent humor and intrigue in the "Thad" jokes while simultaneously delving into the profound implications of our findings.

Our analysis has unlocked a Pandora's box of name-dependent political preferences, beckoning scholars to delve deeper into the whimsical yet impactful world of nomenclature in electoral arenas. As we navigate through this intriguing terrain, let us embrace both the lightheartedness of our "Thad" jokes and the profound implications of the "Thaddeus Effect," recognizing that the influence of names extends far beyond mere societal labels, but permeates the very fabric of political expression and collective decision-making.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has unveiled the "Thaddeus Effect" - a peculiar and robust correlation between the popularity of the name Thaddeus and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Maine. It seems that Thaddeus isn't

just a popular name; it's also a vote magnet for Libertarians in Maine. Maybe we should start calling it the "Libertarian Thad" effect! This correlation, with a p-value of less than 0.01, illuminates the striking influence of nomenclature on political preferences, adding a lighthearted twist to the realm of electoral analysis.

It's almost as if Thaddeus is whispering to voters, "Thad-deus support the Libertarian candidate!" Our study showcases the unexpected potency of a name in shaping political affiliations, inviting further exploration into the intricate dynamics of nomenclature and its influence on electoral behavior.

Therefore, in the words of a classic dad joke, "I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug." It seems the connection between Thaddeus and Libertarian votes in Maine is as strong as a cozy dad hug - undeniably endearing and full of unexpected surprises!

In light of our findings, we assert that the "Thaddeus Effect" warrants no further research. It's a wrap, folks! Thaddeus has made its mark, and it's time to bid adieu to this amusing yet enlightening expedition into the whimsical world of name-based political correlations.