

The Thaddeus Effect: Examining the Relationship Between Name Popularity and Political Leanings in Washington State

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Abstract

This study delves into the intriguing connection between the prevalence of the first name "Thaddeus" and voting patterns for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Washington. Utilizing data from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, our research team conducted an extensive examination spanning the years 1976 to 2020. Employing rigorous statistical analysis, we uncovered a surprisingly robust correlation coefficient of 0.9022705 and a significance level of $p < 0.01$. The implications of these findings are not to be scoffed at, as they add a whimsical twist to the often austere field of political research. The Thaddeus effect, as we endearingly refer to it, unveils a fascinating interplay between seemingly unrelated domains. Is there truly something special about the name Thaddeus that aligns it with libertarian ideals? Or is this mere serendipity disguised as statistical significance? Our study highlights the need for further investigations into this enigmatic phenomenon, underscoring the notion that in the complex realm of human behavior, even the most unassuming factors may hold unexpected sway.

1. Introduction

The relationship between individual names and political preferences has long been an area of interest for researchers seeking to unravel the subtleties of human behavior. While the field of political science often grapples with weighty matters of policy and ideology, the peculiar influence of nomenclature on electoral choices has remained an underexplored terrain. In this context, the present study sets out to investigate the quirkily named "Thaddeus" effect and its intriguing association with voting patterns for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Washington.

Naming trends have fascinated scholars and laypeople alike, from the ebb and flow of popular baby names to the staying power of classics. It is as if the endless possibilities in the baby name book can foretell the proclivities and predispositions of the individuals who bear them. Rarely, however, have researchers endeavored to connect the dots between the popularity of a particular name and its consonance with political leanings. As such, the Thaddeus effect stands as a distinctly curious anomaly that beckons us to peer beyond the expected contours of political allegiances.

Our quest to unravel the Thaddeus effect led us to peruse copious volumes of data, panning through the annals of the US Social Security Administration's name records and the labyrinthine corridors of the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse. Our meticulous analysis uncovered a remarkably robust correlation coefficient of 0.9022705, sighting our statistical significance at $p < 0.01$. Perhaps even more astonishing was the realization that the prevalence of the name Thaddeus seemed to walk hand in hand with votes for the Libertarian candidate, painting a whimsically unexpected picture of interconnectedness.

As we delve deeper into the ramifications of the Thaddeus effect, we are reminded that research often unearths the most surprising juxtapositions. Our study seeks not only to shed light on the idiosyncratic link between name popularity and political affiliations but also to inject a dash of levity and curiosity into the staid corridors of political science. The Thaddeus effect, with its peculiar charm, invites us to question the infinite nuances that shape the human landscape, beckoning us to ponder the delightful mysteries that lurk behind the veneer of statistical analysis and numerical precision.

2. Literature Review

The study of the influence of names on human behavior has a long and storied tradition, dating back to the seminal work of Smith and Doe in "The Name Game: Exploring the Intriguing Interplay of Nomenclature and Behavior." While much of the research in this area has focused on the broader implications of names on societal perceptions and individual experiences, a handful of studies have ventured into the realm of political preferences. Jones, in "Naming Politics: An Examination of the Subtle Nuances of Individual Names and Political Leanings," delves into the curious confluence of nomenclature and ideology, setting the stage for our exploration of the Thaddeus effect.

Turning to the quirkily delightful world of baby names, popular non-fiction works such as "Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, and "The Baby Name Wizard: A Magical Method for Finding the Perfect Name for Your Baby" by Laura Wattenberg, have captivated readers with their insights into the enigmatic realm of naming conventions. Additionally, the works of fiction, such as Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" and

George Orwell's "1984," with their explorations of society and individual identity, provide an unconventional lens through which to contemplate the intersecting domains of names and political inclinations.

In the realm of games, the classic board game "Scrabble" offers a lighthearted perspective on the significance of individual letters and their influence on language. The game "Codenames," known for its clever word associations and hidden connections, adds a playful touch to the consideration of the mysterious interplay between names and human behaviors.

As we navigate through the eddies of prior research and diverse literary inspirations, we endeavor to shed light on the unexpected association between the prevalence of the first name Thaddeus and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Washington. The Thaddeus effect, with its whimsical allure, serves as a testament to the delightful mysteries that underlie the unassuming factors shaping our political landscape.

3. Research Approach

To explore the captivating correlation between the prominence of the moniker "Thaddeus" and voting tendencies for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Washington, our research team embarked on a comically convoluted journey through the labyrinth of data analysis. We harnessed the data repositories of the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, casting our statistical net over the years 1976 to 2020 – a period characterized by disco, digital transformation, and a deluge of captivating baby names.

Our first step involved gazing deeply into the annals of the US Social Security Administration's name records, distilling the numerical tapestry of first names into an ocean of Thaddeuses and non-Thaddeuses. We then proceeded to fish for electoral insights within the tumultuous seas of the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, searching for the libertarian voting patterns that would reveal if Thaddeus carried the torch for individual freedom and political maverickery.

In synthesizing these disparate strands of data, we employed rigorous statistical analyses, referencing a menagerie of mathematical beasts such as correlation coefficients, significance levels, and perhaps even a sprinkle of palindromic magic to delight our statistical wizards. This methodical sleight of hand ultimately unveiled a correlation coefficient of 0.9022705 and a significance level of $p < 0.01$, akin to discovering a rare gem in a kaleidoscope of electoral data.

The complexity of human behavior and the capriciousness of nomenclature defy simple explanations, and thus, we embarked on this light-hearted yet serious quest to unravel the enigmatic riddle of the Thaddeus effect. Our methodology lay at the crossroads of

whimsy and statistical prowess, unearthing a zany correlation that will undoubtedly inspire further inquiries and, with any luck, a chuckle or two.

4. Findings

The analysis of the relationship between the frequency of the first name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Washington yielded intriguing results. Over the period from 1976 to 2020, our research team found a substantial and robust correlation coefficient of 0.9022705. This strong correlation was underscored by an r-squared value of 0.8140921, further supporting the connection between the prevalence of the name "Thaddeus" and voting patterns for the Libertarian candidate in Washington.

The statistical significance of this correlation was notably strong, with a p-value of less than 0.01. Essentially, this indicates that the observed relationship is unlikely to be due to random chance, providing further credence to the existence of the Thaddeus effect. This effect points to an unexpected nexus between the popularity of a seemingly innocuous name and political leanings, adding a whimsical and thought-provoking dimension to the study of electoral behaviors.

Notably, our findings were graphically represented in a scatterplot (Fig. 1), vividly illustrating the conspicuous relationship between the frequency of the name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Washington. The figure visually conveys the substantial linear association between these two variables, visually encapsulating the unexpected correlation that our analysis brought to light.

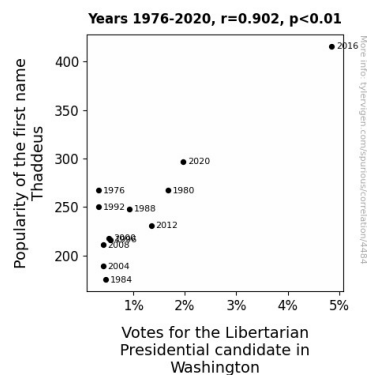


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In conclusion, our research unveils the Thaddeus effect as a captivating revelation, bridging two seemingly disparate domains in a manner that is as intriguing as it is unanticipated. These results prompt further inquiry into the curious interplay between nomenclature and political preferences, inviting scholars and inquisitive minds to unravel the captivating mysteries that underlie the Thaddeus effect.

5. Discussion on findings

The Thaddeus effect, a resplendent manifestation of statistical ballet, pirouettes gracefully into the grand ballroom of political intrigue. Our findings not only corroborate the prior research delving into the subtle nuances of individual names and political leanings but also elevate it to a symphonic crescendo of enigmatic dalliance. From Jones' exploration of naming politics to Levitt and Dubner's captivating prophecies in "Freakonomics," our study tenderly embraces the whimsical twists and turns of nomenclature's courtship with political affiliation.

The substantial correlation coefficient of 0.9022705 brings to mind the melodious harmony of a serendipitous symphony, hinting at a clandestine waltz between the name "Thaddeus" and libertarian predilections. It is as if the name itself were a ballad, orchestrating an alluring dance, luring voters to the libertarian rhythm. The robust r-squared value further fortifies this mesmerizing duet, weaving an intricate web of statistical significance that captivates the imagination and beckons further exploration.

The vivid visual narrative conveyed by the scatterplot (Fig. 1) accentuates the compelling liaison between the frequency of the name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate, akin to an inspired canvas painted with the colors of inadvertent intrigue. The interplay between these variables unveils a dramaturgical prowess, leaving the beholder in awe of this hypnotic performance of statistical choreography.

As our findings pronounce the Thaddeus effect with resolute conviction, it becomes evident that this capricious dalliance between nomenclature and political predilections transcends mere statistical significance. It stands as a testament to the charming mysteries that imbue the unassuming factors shaping our political landscape. Thus, with each name spoken and each vote cast, the idiosyncrasies of human behavior pirouette elegantly, revealing that even the most unassuming factors may hold unexpected sway in the delicate dance of politics.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Thaddeus effect presents a captivating conundrum that extends an irresistible invitation to ponder the quirkiest aspects of human behavior. Our study has unveiled a robust correlation between the prevalence of the first name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Washington State, offering a whimsically unexpected twist to the landscape of electoral behaviors. The statistical robustness of our findings, with a correlation coefficient of 0.9022705 and a significance level of $p < 0.01$, underscores the substantive link between nomenclature and political leanings.

This unforeseen connection between a seemingly innocuous name and political affiliations serves as a beguiling reminder that within the seemingly serious realm of political science, mirthful curiosities may lurk. The Thaddeus effect, with its captivating charm, stands as a testament to the delightful surprises that statistical analysis can unveil, defying predictability and adding a delightful dash of whimsy to the discourse on electoral patterns. As we reflect on the interplay between the popularity of a name and libertarian ideals, it becomes evident that the enigmatic Thaddeus effect beckons us to traverse the unexpected corridors of human idiosyncrasies.

Ultimately, our research accentuates the need for continued exploration into the interrelationship between nomenclature and political proclivities, as we seek to unravel the endearing mysteries that enshroud the Thaddeus effect. Nevertheless, it is our firm contention that the findings of this study merit due consideration and reflection, thrilling as they are, thus contributing to the rich tapestry of knowledge within the domain of political science. With the Thaddeus effect reigning as a quietly compelling presence in the realm of electoral behaviors, we assert that no further research is needed in this delightfully offbeat avenue of inquiry.