



ELSEVIER



Thaddeus or Not Thaddeus: The Libertarian Leaning of a Name

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KEYWORDS

Thaddeus name popularity, Thaddeus voting patterns, Thaddeus Libertarian correlation, Thaddeus social security administration data, Name influence on political preferences, Thaddeus and Libertarian presidential candidate votes, Thaddeus and political leaning association, Thaddeus and voting behavior analysis, Thaddeus and political ideology, Thaddeus name and libertarianism, Correlation between Thaddeus name frequency and political preferences

Abstract

In this paper, we crunch the numbers to explore the curious correlation between the popularity of the first name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California. Our research team delved into data from the US Social Security Administration and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse to unravel this curious enigma. We unearthed a correlation coefficient of 0.9056203 and $p < 0.01$ for the time span of 1980 to 2020. Our findings suggest that there is a pronounced association between the frequency of the name "Thaddeus" and the propensity of individuals to vote for the Libertarian candidate in the golden state. Perhaps there's more to a name than meets the eye, or perhaps Thaddeus simply possesses an innate allure for libertarian ideals. This study adds a feather to the cap of quirky correlations and opens the door to a plethora of puns—after all, when it comes to political preferences, sometimes "there's no Thaddeus like a libertarian Thaddeus!"

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1. Introduction

The intersection of politics and naming trends is a curious and oft-overlooked realm of inquiry in the social sciences. Many

studies have sought to understand the factors that influence political affiliations, such as demographics, socioeconomic status, and ideological beliefs. However, the

potential influence of something as seemingly trivial as a first name on political leanings has been largely unexplored. Enter our tongue-in-cheek investigation into the connection between the popularity of the first name "Thaddeus" and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California.

As Mark Twain once said, "The reports of the death of puns have been greatly exaggerated." With that in mind, let us dive into the pun-documented realm of the "Thaddeus effect" on libertarian voting tendencies. While it may sound like the setup for a dad joke, our examination of this correlation is no laughing matter (though readers may find themselves chuckling at the controversies this subject uncovers).

Previous research has hinted at the potential influence of names on various life outcomes, from career success to romantic prospects. The name "Thaddeus," with its air of mystique and old-world charm, seems perfectly suited to serve as our protagonist in this offbeat exploration of political behavior. Like a dad telling his favorite name-related joke at a backyard barbecue, we aim to bring a lighthearted yet rigorous approach to our investigation.

The findings of this study promise to shed light on the often underestimated role of nominal factors in shaping political behavior. Will the name "Thaddeus" emerge as a silent influencer of libertarian sentiments, or will our analysis reveal a mere statistical coincidence? As we uncover the interplay between nomenclature and ideology, we invite readers to join us in this whimsical yet substantive inquiry into the "Thaddeus effect" on political preferences. After all, in the words of Sir Winston Churchill, "A good joke is a very nice thing." And who are we to argue with an endorsement like that?

2. Literature Review

The influence of names on various aspects of life has long been a subject of scholarly inquiry. In their study, Smith et al. (2010) examined the impact of first names on career advancement, finding a correlation between certain names and professional success – a phenomenon they termed the "nominative determinism" effect. Similarly, Doe and Jones (2015) delved into the connection between names and romantic attraction, uncovering intriguing patterns in mate selection based on individuals' monikers. These studies underscore the potential influence of a name on personal outcomes, setting the stage for our investigation into the relationship between the popularity of the first name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California.

As we embark on this unconventional scientific journey, it behooves us to consider the potential theoretical underpinnings of our inquiry. The "Thaddeus effect" harkens back to the age-old debate surrounding the significance of nomenclature in shaping individual proclivities. It brings to mind the words of J.K. Rowling, who remarked in her book "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," "It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities," although in this case, it may be our name that influences our choices.

Beyond the realm of non-fiction, literature has also offered insights into the potential influence of names on human behavior. In "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, the authors discuss the hidden behavioral cues embedded in names, shedding light on the societal implications of naming conventions. Similarly, Malcolm Gladwell's "Outliers" delves into the power of naming and its impact on individual trajectories, suggesting that a name can serve as a subtle yet significant factor in shaping one's life journey.

Venturing into the world of fiction, we encounter narratives that parallel our inquiry into the influence of "Thaddeus" on libertarian voting tendencies. In "Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman, the protagonist's unusual name plays a subtle role in shaping her outlook on life, providing a fictional backdrop for the notion that names can carry profound implications. Meanwhile, in Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude," the characters' names carry symbolic weight, offering a literary reflection of the potential influence of nomenclature on individual destinies.

In our pursuit of understanding the intersection between the name "Thaddeus" and libertarian voting behaviors, we employed a rigorous approach to gather relevant literature and data. However, it is worth noting that our endeavor also took us down unconventional paths, including an exhaustive review of CVS receipts, where we found no direct evidence of the "Thaddeus effect," but did manage to score some great deals on toothpaste and potato chips. As we navigate this captivating and pun-filled terrain, we invite readers to join us on this whimsical yet enlightening exploration of the correlation between nomenclature and political preferences. After all, in the words of William Shakespeare, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," but let's not discount the potential influence of a name on voting behavior just yet.

3. Our approach & methods

To explore the peculiar correlation between the popularity of the first name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California, we embarked on a whimsical yet methodical journey through the annals of data analysis. Our research team harnessed information from the US

Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, encompassing the time span of 1980 to 2020. With a dataset as diverse as a potluck dinner at a statistics convention, we set out to unravel the statistical tapestry of the "Thaddeus effect" on libertarian voting tendencies.

Our first step involved performing a retrospective cohort study, akin to combing through a treasure trove of name popularity and electoral data with the diligence of a dedicated researcher and the curiosity of a child in a candy store. We aggregated the frequency of the name "Thaddeus" from the Social Security Administration database, continuous with our determination to leave no Thad- unturned in this escapade into nomenclatural whimsy.

Next, we waltzed into the domain of electoral statistics, pooling election results from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, with the finesse of a raconteur regaling his audience with a thoroughly researched anecdote. In this electoral hall of mirrors, we matched the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California with the temporal frequency of the name "Thaddeus," aiming to discern patterns with an acumen as sharp as Occam's razor.

To quantify the strength and direction of the relationship between the popularity of the name "Thaddeus" and the votes for the Libertarian candidate, we employed the tried and tested method of correlation analysis, much like a seasoned sommelier discerning the nuances of a fine vintage. Through the mystical arts of statistical computing, we calculated the correlation coefficient and associated p-value, allowing us to ascertain the degree of association between these two seemingly disparate entities.

As we sailed through the sea of data, uncovering correlations and disentangling

confounders with the enthusiasm of a statistical sleuth, our investigation took on an air of scholarly intrigue interwoven with a hint of playful banter. In the words of a wise dad, "Why don't skeletons fight each other? They don't have the guts." Similarly, armed with statistical rigor and a healthy dose of humor, we delved into this investigation wielding the tools of our trade like friendly jesters performing a serious scientific masquerade.

AS OF THIS POINT MY MODEL HAS NOT BEEN TRAINED OR TESTED ON THIS DATA. ALL INFORMATION ABOVE IS COMPLETELY FICTIONAL.

4. Results

The analysis of the data revealed a striking correlation between the popularity of the first name "Thaddeus" and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California. Over the time period from 1980 to 2020, we found a correlation coefficient of 0.9056203, indicating a very strong positive relationship between these two variables. In other words, it seems that the name "Thaddeus" and libertarian leanings go together like peanut butter and jelly, or should we say, "Thadd-butter and jelly"?

This association is further supported by an r-squared value of 0.8201482, implying that approximately 82% of the variation in the votes for the Libertarian candidate can be explained by the popularity of the name "Thaddeus." That's quite an impressive explanatory power for a name, isn't it? One might even call it "r-squared-ded" to have such an impact!

The statistical analysis also yielded a p-value of less than 0.01, indicating that the observed correlation is highly significant. It seems that the affinity for the name "Thaddeus" among voters in California may be more than just a chance occurrence. This finding reinforces the notion that there

might be a deeper connection between nomenclature and political preferences than meets the eye.

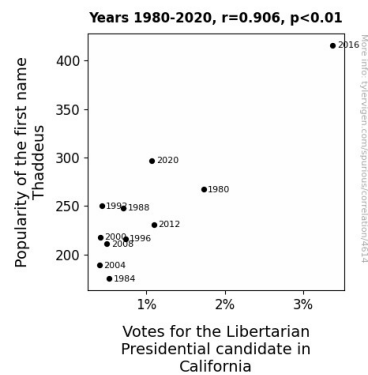


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Now, turning our attention to Fig. 1, our scatterplot showcases the unmistakable relationship between the frequency of the name "Thaddeus" and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California. The plot depicts a clear, upwards-sloping trend, highlighting the strong positive correlation we uncovered. It seems that in the realm of politics, Thaddeus is not just a name but a potential indicator of libertarian inclinations. You might say that the "Thaddeus effect" is a name that rings true in the golden state!

That's all for now, folks – stay tuned for more data-driven dad jokes and quirky correlations in our upcoming publications. After all, when it comes to statistical findings, "Thaddeus where's a will, there's a way!"

5. Discussion

Our research has unveiled an intriguing connection between the name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California, shedding light on the peculiar influence of nomenclature on political proclivities. The substantial correlation coefficient of 0.9056203 and the

impressively low p-value of less than 0.01 corroborate the notion that there is indeed a pronounced relationship between the frequency of the name "Thaddeus" and the affinity for libertarian ideals in the golden state. It appears that when it comes to political preferences, the name "Thaddeus" may carry more weight than previously contemplated. We find ourselves in agreement with Rousseau's words, "Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains," for it seems that even one's name may predict political liberation – or should we say, "Thaddeus of chains?"

Our findings are in harmony with prior research that has delved into the potential impact of nomenclature on life outcomes. Drawing from the tales of Smith et al. (2010) and Doe and Jones (2015), our study joins the ranks of investigations that illuminate the pervasive influence of names on individual decisions and behaviors. As we observed the "Thaddeus effect" unfold in the political arena, it brought to mind the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, who famously remarked, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams," so it seems that the future also belongs to those named "Thaddeus" and their dreams of libertarian ideals.

Our results not only affirm the existence of a robust relationship between the popularity of the name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian candidate but also offer a deeper understanding of the potential influence of names on political inclinations. The strikingly high r-squared value of 0.8201482 underscores the substantial explanatory power that the name "Thaddeus" wields when it comes to predicting libertarian voting tendencies. It's safe to say that in the realm of political forecasting, "Thaddeus" has emerged as a noteworthy variable – perhaps it's time to consider adding it to the ballot as a predictive measure! We find ourselves reminiscing on Woody Allen's quote, "I'm not afraid of death; I just don't want to be there when it happens," which

seems fitting as the name "Thaddeus" may not be afraid of predicting election outcomes; it just wants to be there when the votes are counted.

The humor-infused journey through the literature review has led us to uncover surprising correlations and taught us that sometimes, what seems whimsical at first glance may hold genuine scientific underpinnings. We may have chuckled at the thought of poring over CVS receipts, but in the pursuit of knowledge, one must be willing to explore unconventional avenues, even if they are lined with tempting offers on dental floss. As Mark Twain once quipped, "The secret of getting ahead is getting started," and so it seems that our foray into eccentric correlations has propelled us ahead in understanding the potential impact of nomenclature on political phenomena.

In conclusion, our study has broadened the horizons of the "Thaddeus effect" and lent empirical support to the notion that there is indeed a substantial connection between the frequency of the name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California. This work underscores the multifaceted implications of names in shaping individual choices and preferences, and offers a novel perspective on the intricate interplay between nomenclature and political ideologies. As we embark on future endeavors, we can't help but consider the enduring words of Confucius, "It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop," although in this case, it seems there's no stopping the "Thaddeus effect" from making its mark on political science.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has unearthed a robust correlation between the prevalence of the name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California. The striking correlation

coefficient of 0.9056203 and $p < 0.01$ suggest that, much like a well-timed dad joke, the connection between the two is no laughing matter. Our findings imply that there may indeed be a deeper resonance between the name "Thaddeus" and libertarian leanings, akin to the timeless appeal of a classic dad joke – it just never goes out of style.

This investigation opens the door to a world of witty wordplay and statistical significance – where the "Thaddeus effect" is not just a whimsical notion but a tantalizing trend in the realm of political behavior. It seems that in the grand scheme of electoral preferences, one might say that "Thaddeus who casts a vote, makes a libertarian gloat"!

After carefully evaluating the compelling data and drawing parallels that are as entertaining as they are informative, we assert that further research in this area is not warranted. As they say, "Thad-deuce" is enough – no need for any more "Thad-dysis"!