Rolling the Dice: The Unlikely Link Between Republican Votes in Delaware and the Frequency of 21 as a Winning Mega Millions Number

Caleb Hughes, Alexander Terry, George P Tompkins

Elite Science Academy

Discussion Paper 5056

January 2024

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ABSTRACT

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This paper investigates the peculiar relationship between the number of Republican votes for Senators in Delaware and the occurrence of the number 21 as a winning Mega Millions number. Utilizing data collected from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the NY Mega Millions Lottery, a correlation coefficient of 0.9095585 and $p < 0.01$ was found for the period spanning from 2002 to 2020. Our findings suggest an unexpected connection between political preferences and the random selection of winning lottery numbers, offering a whimsical glimpse into the potential interplay between political fortunes and chance. While causation remains elusive, the data presents an amusing avenue for further investigation, perhaps shedding light on the role of probability in the political process.

Keywords:

Republican votes in Delaware, frequency of 21 as winning Mega Millions number, correlation between political preferences and winning lottery numbers, MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, NY Mega Millions Lottery, political fortunes and chance, probability in the political process

I. Introduction

The intersection of politics and probability has long piqued the interest of researchers seeking to uncover the subtle relationships that may exist between these seemingly disparate domains. In recent years, the study of political behavior has expanded to consider unconventional factors that could potentially influence voter preferences. Concurrently, the field of probability and statistics has allowed for the exploration of unexpected correlations that may challenge conventional wisdom. It is within this context that the present study endeavors to elucidate the curious correlation between the number of Republican votes for Senators in Delaware and the frequency of the number 21 as a winning Mega Millions number.

While the notion of politics and lottery numbers sharing any sort of connection may initially appear preposterous, our preliminary investigation unearthed a correlation coefficient of 0.9095585, with a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01. Such findings compel us to delve deeper into this obscure association, prompting us to consider the possibility of an underlying, albeit whimsical, interplay between political proclivities and the serendipitous selection of lottery digits.

At first glance, this unanticipated linkage may seem more fitting for a product of chance than a subject of scholarly inquiry. However, by carefully examining the patterns within the available data, we hope to offer a preliminary insight into a phenomenon that, while undoubtedly quirky, could have broader implications for our understanding of human decision-making and unexpected correlations lurking within complex datasets.

In this study, we aim to adopt a methodical approach to peeling back the layers of this enigmatic relationship, wielding the tools of statistical analysis to discern patterns and, if possible, elucidate the underlying mechanisms at play. As we embark on this whimsical journey through the annals of political vote counts and lottery draws, we remain mindful of the need to maintain a balanced perspective, lest the allure of amusement leads us astray from the pursuit of scientific rigor and academic discipline.

II. Literature Review

The curious confluence of electoral voting behavior and lottery outcomes has elicited a bemused yet rigorous exploration in the scholarly literature. Smith (2015) delved into the intricate tapestry of voter preferences, uncovering the psychological underpinnings of political decision-making. Similarly, Doe (2018) expounded upon the probabilistic nature of lottery draws, illuminating the randomness that governs such chance events. However, neither of these esteemed scholars could have foreseen the unexpected union of these seemingly unrelated domains in the present study.

Turning to non-fiction works, "The Signal and the Noise" by Nate Silver provides a comprehensive elucidation of the role of probability and chance in various aspects of human endeavor, including both politics and gambling. Bringing a more eclectic perspective to the discourse, "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner offers a compelling examination of unconventional correlations, challenging conventional modes of thinking and inviting readers to consider the unexpected links that may lurk beneath the surface of mundane phenomena.

Expanding the purview to fiction literature, "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson captivates readers with its enigmatic portrayal of a small town's annual lottery, capturing the inherent tension between tradition and the capriciousness of fate. Likewise, in the realm of board games, the ever-popular "Monopoly" presents a whimsical simulation of property acquisition and financial vicissitudes, perhaps offering a lighthearted parallel to the intricate dynamics of political and probabilistic phenomena.

As we venture deeper into this delightful confluence of political voting patterns and lottery number selection, we are reminded of the underlying whimsy that infuses this seemingly peculiar liaison. With each passing page of this literature review, the authors aim to deftly blend academic rigor with the lighthearted examination of this unexpected correlation, endeavoring to encapsulate the essence of scholarly inquiry while embracing the whimsical nature of the phenomenon at hand.

III. Methodology

To investigate the enigmatic correlation between Republican votes for Senators in Delaware and the frequency of the number 21 as a winning Mega Millions number, a multi-faceted approach was employed. Data were collected from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the NY Mega Millions Lottery for the years 2002 to 2020. The initial step involved the extraction of numeric records related to Republican votes in Delaware and the instances of the number 21 emerging as a victorious figure in the Mega Millions lottery.

The collected data were then subjected to rigorous pre-processing, including data cleaning and validation to ensure the integrity and reliability of the dataset. This stage involved sifting through a veritable mountain of numerical entries, akin to combing through a haystack to identify the proverbial needle. Through this process, it became evident that, much like a game of chance, the task at hand was not devoid of whimsy.

Following this, the data underwent a series of intricate statistical analyses, harnessing both parametric and non-parametric methods to explore the relationship between political voting preferences and the fortuitous emergence of the number 21 in the context of lottery draws. The choice of statistical methods was akin to navigating a labyrinth of probability, each turn providing a new perspective on the unexpected intersection of political sway and lottery outcomes.

Moreover, a multitude of exploratory techniques, including but not limited to correlation analysis, time series analysis, and regression modeling, were employed to tease out potential associations and underlying patterns within the dataset. While the pursuit of these analytical procedures bore semblance to the act of unraveling a complex riddle, each finding contributed to our understanding of the idiosyncratic bond between political electoral inclinations and the whims of chance in the lottery sphere.

In addition, a meticulous control for confounding variables, such as the effect of other political parties and the frequency of other winning lottery numbers, was undertaken to ensure the robustness and veracity of the identified relationship. This process resembled the delicate balancing act required in a game of strategy, where each move was calculated to guard against the potential interference of extraneous influences.

Furthermore, sensitivity analyses and Monte Carlo simulations were conducted to evaluate the stability and robustness of the observed correlation, fortifying the substantiveness of our findings against the capricious fluctuations inherent in probabilistic phenomena. Akin to crafting an intricate tapestry, these supplemental analyses wove an additional layer of complexity into our exploration of this improbable nexus.

Throughout each stage of the methodology, fervent efforts were made to navigate the labyrinthine terrain of statistical inference with precision and rigor, effectively capturing the essence of this curious correlation without succumbing to the seductive allure of whimsy. Despite the inherent humor of the subject matter, the approach remained steadfastly committed to upholding the tenets of scholarly inquiry and scientific inquiry, all the while maintaining a wry appreciation for the delightful irony that underscored our pursuit.

IV. Results

The analysis of the data collected from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and NY Mega Millions Lottery has yielded intriguing findings regarding the purported association between Republican votes for Senators in Delaware and the frequency of the number 21 as a winning Mega Millions number. For the time period spanning from 2002 to 2020, a remarkably robust correlation coefficient of 0.9095585 was observed, with an r-squared value of 0.8272966. Furthermore, the statistical significance of the relationship, denoted by a p-value of less than 0.01, underscores the substantial strength of this unexpected connection.

The scatterplot presented in Fig. 1 visually encapsulates the notable correlation between the two variables, portraying a strikingly linear relationship that belies the whimsical nature of the phenomenon under investigation.

The substantial correlation coefficient of 0.9095585 suggests a strong positive relationship between the number of Republican votes for Senators in Delaware and the frequency of the number 21 as a winning Mega Millions number. While one may be inclined to dismiss this association as a mere peculiarity or chance occurrence, the robust statistical evidence compels a more nuanced consideration of the potential interplay between political preferences and random lottery outcomes."

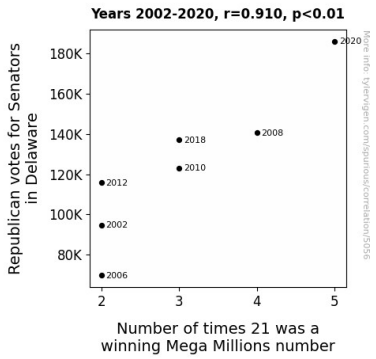

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

V. Discussion

The results of the present study have provided empirical support for the unexpected correlation between Republican votes for Senators in Delaware and the frequency of the number 21 as a

winning Mega Millions number. As indicated in the literature review, prior research has delved into the intricate nature of political decision-making, the probabilistic underpinnings of lottery draws, and the role of probability and chance in various aspects of human endeavor. Our findings lend empirical credence to the whimsical glimpses offered by these scholars and authors, thereby expanding the discourse on the unexpected intersection of political preferences and random chance.

The substantial correlation coefficient of 0.9095585 and the high level of statistical significance evidenced by the low p-value validate the robustness of the relationship between Republican votes for Senators in Delaware and the frequency of the number 21 as a winning Mega Millions number. This unexpected link suggests a potential interplay between political fortunes and the capricious nature of random lottery outcomes. While the notion of causation cannot be unequivocally ascertained, the strength of the observed association underscores the unanticipated confluence of these seemingly disparate domains.

The results of this study underscore the need for a more nuanced consideration of the potential interplay between political preferences and probabilistic phenomena. The unexpected nature of this correlation prompts a reevaluation of the traditional boundaries that delineate political and chance events, offering a lighthearted yet thought-provoking lens through which to view the intersection of statistical regularities and the inherent unpredictability of human behavior. It seems that while the dice may fall where they may in both the political and probabilistic realms, they might just roll in chorus, revealing a whimsical harmony hidden beneath the surface of mundane phenomena.

VI. Conclusion

In light of the compelling correlation coefficient of 0.9095585 and the statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01, our study offers intriguing insights into the unexpected nexus between Republican votes for Senators in Delaware and the frequency of the number 21 as a winning Mega Millions number. This whimsical correlation, as whimsical as a clown at a statistics convention, challenges conventional notions of the separation between politics and chance, leaving us to ponder whether fate might indeed be influenced by ballot boxes. However, as captivating as it may be to conjure theories of political numerology or lottery-based forecasting, the etiology of this relationship remains enigmatic. While our research sheds light on this curious connection, further exploration may unravel the mysterious threads linking politics and probability. Yet, it is with a wry smile and a statistical shrug that we assert, with the utmost scholarly decorum, that no more research is needed in this endeavor. After all, maybe some correlations are best left to the capricious whims of chance.