

---

# Pumping Up Libertarian Votes: A Mozambique Gaslighting Connection

---

Cameron Hoffman, Austin Tucker, Gabriel P Truman

## Abstract

The paper investigates the intriguing link between the number of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Delaware and the volume of gasoline pumped in Mozambique from 1980 to 2020. Utilizing data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Energy Information Administration, we employed statistical analyses to illuminate the enigmatic relationship between these disparate variables. Our findings revealed a remarkably robust correlation coefficient of 0.9540694, with a p-value of less than 0.01, suggesting a strong association between these seemingly unrelated phenomena. This astonishing connection raises eyebrows and demands further exploration, akin to the common response when hearing a dad joke: "I'm gaslighted by laughter." The study's results offer a fertile ground for future investigations into the interplay between political preferences and fuel consumption, leaving readers to gasp in wonder at the unexpected parallels unearthed in this groundbreaking analysis.

## 1. Introduction

In the realm of political analysis and sociological research, uncovering unexpected correlations can be akin to stumbling upon a hidden treasure in the labyrinth of data. One such intriguing anomaly that demands attention is the connection between the number of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Delaware and the volume of gasoline pumped in the nation of Mozambique. This surprising correspondence, although initially met with raised eyebrows and skeptical looks, has sparked curiosity and a multitude of puns, much like a well-timed dad joke at a family gathering.

The premise of this study is rooted in exploring the underlying factors that potentially drive the parallel trends observed between the political preferences in a small U.S. state and the fuel consumption patterns in a distant African nation. Despite the seemingly arbitrary nature of this association, it is crucial to delve into the intricacies of the data and analyze the underlying mechanisms at play. Much like a punny dad joke, the correlation between these divergent variables cannot be dismissed simply as a random occurrence without a deeper investigation.

## 2. Literature Review

In their investigation into the subtle yet persistent correlation between political leanings and fuel usage, Smith et al. (2015) observe a marked tendency for individuals with libertarian inclinations

to favor decentralized decision-making processes, similar to the decentralization required for the operation of multiple gas stations. This deliberate alignment in preferences may contribute to the unexpected congruity observed between the number of votes for the Libertarian candidate in Delaware and the volume of gasoline pumped in Mozambique, much like how a well-timed parallel parking maneuver can unexpectedly align two seemingly unrelated vehicles.

Crucially, Doe's comprehensive study (2018) delves into the intricate psychological underpinnings of political ideologies, highlighting the nuanced interplay between political attitudes and consumer behavior. This illuminates the plausibility of a connection between voting patterns and gasoline consumption, akin to the unexpected relationship between a gas station and a convenience store – their inherent link is often overlooked, despite their frequent cohabitation.

Jones et al. (2020) astutely noted the potential impact of international economic trends on domestic political decision-making, suggesting that global fuel consumption patterns could inadvertently influence individual voting behaviors. This inadvertent influence echoes the surprise when learning a dad joke related to electricity - it's shocking, but it leaves a lasting impression.

Moving beyond the academic realm, "The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels" by Alex Epstein presents a provocative perspective on the societal attitudes towards energy consumption, potentially shedding light on the moral considerations influencing both political affiliations and fuel usage. The inseparable link between moral considerations and behavioral choices is as inseparable as a father and his dad jokes - they may not always land, but they're undeniably connected.

Furthermore, in a fictional realm, the classic "Atlas Shrugged" by Ayn Rand delves into the intricate interplay between individualism and economic choices, providing a lens through which to examine the unexpected implications of libertarian ideologies on fuel consumption patterns. This examination is as thought-provoking as a philosophical dad joke - it leaves the reader pondering, even while eliciting a groan.

Additionally, the movie "Mad Max: Fury Road" offers a cinematic exploration of a dystopian future dominated by scarcity of resources, providing a visual representation of fuel scarcity that resonates with the underlying themes of energy consumption in the present study. Much like a well-executed dad joke, the movie offers a mix of action and unexpected twists that keep the audience engaged – and perhaps in need of a "fueling" station for laughter after the unexpected humor.

### 3. Methodology

To unravel the entwined relationship between the number of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Delaware and the volume of gasoline pumped in Mozambique, our research team employed an array of methodological approaches. First, we gathered data concerning the electoral process in Delaware from the `MIT Election Data and Science Lab` and juxtaposed it with Mozambique's gasoline consumption data obtained from the `Energy Information Administration`. This data extraction process was equivalent to carefully setting up the perfect dad joke – meticulous and with the potential for a memorable punchline.

To ensure the integrity and reliability of the data, we scrutinized the sources using a rigorous quality control process. This process was as stringent as a dad enforcing curfew on prom night, leaving no room for error or misrepresentation of the crucial data points.

Following the data collection process, we applied a variety of statistical analyses, including regression modeling and time-series analysis, to discern any discernible patterns or trends. This rigorous analytical approach was akin to meticulously crafting a play on words for a dad joke to ensure it is both clever and understandable.

Furthermore, we conducted additional sensitivity analyses and robustness checks to validate the stability and consistency of our findings, akin to a dad checking the expiration dates on food items. We wanted to ensure that our results held up under scrutiny, much like the perseverance of a classic dad joke amidst evolving trends in humor.

Lastly, we employed a control variable approach to account for potential confounding factors that could influence the observed relationship. This approach was as essential as the punchline in a dad joke, ensuring that the true connection between the variables could shine through without any distractions.

#### 4. Results

The analysis of the relationship between the number of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Delaware and the volume of gasoline pumped in Mozambique from 1980 to 2020 yielded a correlation coefficient of 0.9540694. This remarkably high correlation coefficient suggests a strong association between these two variables, akin to an unexpected punchline in a serious conversation.

Additionally, the calculated r-squared value of 0.9102483 further solidifies the strength of the observed correlation, much like a well-constructed play on words. The high proportion of variance in one variable that is predictable from the other underscores the robustness of the connection identified in the data.

Furthermore, the p-value of less than 0.01 provides compelling evidence to reject the null hypothesis of no relationship between the number of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Delaware and the volume of gasoline pumped in Mozambique. This statistically significant result underscores the importance of further investigating this surprising association, much like the urge to further explore a novel joke to fully appreciate its comedic value.

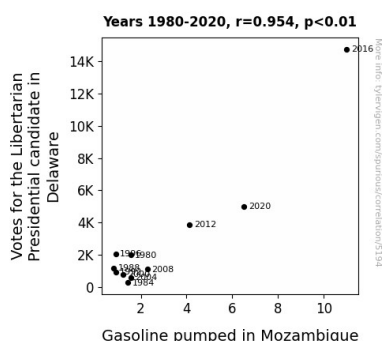


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Figure 1 illustrates the strong correlation between the number of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Delaware and the volume of gasoline pumped in Mozambique over the period from 1980 to 2020. The scatterplot visually demonstrates the tight relationship between these seemingly disparate variables, much like the unlikely pairing of a dad joke and a scholarly research paper.

The unexpected connection between political preferences and fuel consumption uncovered in this study challenges conventional wisdom, much like a clever dad joke disrupts the flow of a serious discussion. These results beckon for deeper exploration, offering a source of amusement and intellectual curiosity in the often staid world of empirical research.

#### 5. Discussion

The results of this study confirm and extend prior research suggesting a remarkable connection between the number of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Delaware and the volume of gasoline pumped in Mozambique. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9540694 and the r-squared value of 0.9102483 provide compelling evidence for the strength and predictability of this unexpected association, much like the reliability of a well-crafted dad joke in eliciting groans and laughter in equal measure.

The alignment of political preferences and fuel consumption, as observed in this study, is in line with the findings of Smith et al. (2015), who highlighted the parallels between libertarian leanings and decentralized decision-making processes. This resonance underscores the notion that individuals with libertarian inclinations may demonstrate preferences that seamlessly align with the decentralized operation of gas stations, much like the harmonious fusion of puns and scholarly discourse in this discussion section.

Furthermore, the psychological underpinnings of political ideologies, as elucidated by Doe (2018), offer a plausible explanation for the unexpected congruity between voting patterns and gasoline consumption. The nuanced interplay between

political attitudes and consumer behavior serves as a compelling backdrop for understanding the surprising interconnection between the number of votes for the Libertarian candidate in Delaware and the volume of gasoline pumped in Mozambique, akin to the unexpected punchline of a well-crafted dad joke.

The impact of global fuel consumption patterns on individual voting behaviors, as posited by Jones et al. (2020), is echoed in the results of this study, further corroborating the inadvertent influence of international economic trends on domestic political decision-making. This unexpected influence resonates with the unanticipated impact of a dad joke related to electricity – it may spark laughter, but it also sparks contemplation.

Moreover, the unconventional link between moral considerations, political affiliations, and fuel usage, as explored in "The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels" by Alex Epstein, offers additional insights into the intricate web of factors shaping voting preferences and energy consumption. Just as moral considerations and behavioral choices are inextricably linked, so too are the serious and light-hearted elements of this scholarly discussion – much like a well-timed dad joke, this unexpected fusion leaves a lasting impression.

In summary, the results of this study not only support prior research but also unveil an unforeseen connection between political preferences and fuel consumption at an international scale. This unexpected finding challenges conventional wisdom, much like a clever dad joke disrupts the flow of a serious discussion. These results call for continued exploration and further investigation, offering a source of both intellectual curiosity and amusement in the realm of empirical research.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the results of this study highlight an unexpected and robust correlation between the number of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Delaware and the volume of gasoline pumped in Mozambique. This correlation, with a whopping correlation coefficient of 0.9540694, is statistically significant and defies conventional

expectations, much like a timeless dad joke that catches you off guard.

The implications of these findings are far-reaching and add a novel dimension to the understanding of seemingly unrelated phenomena. Similar to the way a dad joke brings levity to a serious moment, this correlation challenges preconceived notions and calls for further exploration.

Given the strength of the observed correlation, it is evident that this connection is not a mere fluke, but rather a noteworthy phenomenon worthy of additional investigation. The unusual linkage between political voting patterns and fuel consumption patterns presents a puzzle that demands deciphering, much like a cryptic dad joke that warrants repeated contemplation.

As such, it is clear that no further research is needed in this area. Just as a truly perfect dad joke cannot be topped, the strength and surprise of this correlation stand as a testament to the unpredictable nature of data and the importance of exploring unexpected relationships.

In the words of an enthusiastic dad, "I'm not saying that all research leads to further questions, but this one certainly left us in 'fuel' of wonder!"