



ELSEVIER



From Killian to Candidate: A Name's Libertarian Leanings

Chloe Harris, Alexander Thompson, Grace P Tucker

Institute for Studies; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

KEYWORDS

Killian, candidate, Libertarian, presidential, election, correlation, name influence, political preferences, voter behavior, nomenclature, Iowa, US Social Security Administration, MIT Election Data, Harvard Dataverse

Abstract

This study examines the intriguing connection between the popularity of the first name Killian and the votes cast for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Iowa. Drawing on data from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse from the years 1982 to 2020, our research team calculated a correlation coefficient of 0.9373010, with a p-value of less than 0.01. This sparks a lively debate on whether a name can unwittingly influence one's political preferences, or if it's simply a curious coincidence. Our findings offer a compelling glimpse into the whimsical world of voter behavior and the peculiar power of nomenclature in political decision-making.

Copyright 2024 Institute for Studies. No rights reserved.

1. Introduction

The influence of one's name on their behavior and decision-making processes has long been a topic of interest in psychological and sociological research. From the classic "Bob and Rob" study to the examination of the impact of names on job prospects, the peculiar power of nomenclature has always been a source of fascination. In the realm of politics, little attention has been given to the potential

influence of names on voting preferences. This study delves into the unexpected correlation between the popularity of the first name Killian and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Iowa, offering a lighthearted yet intriguing glimpse into the whimsical world of voter behavior.

The purpose of this paper is to present the findings of our investigation into the connection between the name Killian and

political leanings towards the Libertarian candidate. Our research team has painstakingly gathered and analyzed data from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, spanning nearly four decades. The highly significant correlation coefficient of 0.9373010 that we have uncovered prompts us to ponder whether there may be more than meets the eye when it comes to the influence of names on political decision-making.

One cannot help but wonder if there is an underlying libertarian streak that coincidentally manifests in individuals bearing the name Killian, or if this correlation is just a quirky fluke of statistics. Our investigation aims to shed light on this phenomenon and spark engaging discussions about the potential impact of nomenclature on voter behavior. In doing so, we contribute to the ongoing dialogue surrounding the intersection of quirkiness and statistical significance in the field of political science research.

This paper is organized as follows: the next section provides a review of relevant literature, highlighting the lack of previous research on this unique topic. Subsequently, we detail our methodological approach, outlining the meticulous steps taken to ensure the rigor and validity of our findings. Finally, we present our results and discuss their implications, highlighting the unexpected yet thought-provoking nature of the relationship between one's name and their political inclinations.

2. Literature Review

Limited attention has been devoted to investigating the potential influence of names on voting behaviors within the realm of political science. The correlation between nomenclature and political preferences remains an underexplored area of study, with few existing scholarly works directly

addressing this curious association. Smith et al. (2010) conducted a comprehensive meta-analysis of voter behavior but regrettably did not delve into the intriguing influence of specific names on political leanings. Similarly, Doe and Jones (2015) examined the role of demographics in shaping voting decisions but did not extend their analysis to encompass the potential impact of individual names on electoral choices.

Turning to the wider literature on names and their impact, "Freakonomics" by Levitt and Dubner (2005) offers insightful discussions on the unconventional influences shaping human behaviors, albeit without specific emphasis on political decision-making. In a similar vein, "Nudge" by Thaler and Sunstein (2008) provides a compelling exploration of factors that guide decision-making processes but omits a dedicated examination of the influence of names on political affiliations.

Expanding beyond traditional research sources, a quick perusal of fictional works yields the intriguing novel "The Name of the Wind" by Patrick Rothfuss, which, although unrelated to political voting preferences, offers a captivating narrative on the enigmatic power of names. In a parallel realm, the dystopian classic "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley envisions a society where individuals are assigned names based on societal hierarchies, prompting tangential contemplations on the potential political implications of designated nomenclature.

In a departure from traditional academic sources, a cursory glance at social media platforms reveals anecdotal accounts of individuals opining on the possible connection between names and political inclinations. A Twitter user with the handle @PoliticObserver muses, "Does a name shape a person's political views? Food for thought! #NameInfluence." Despite lacking empirical rigor, such online musings

underscore the pervasive curiosity surrounding the influence of names on political orientations.

Subsequently, the current study endeavors to fill the aforementioned gap in the literature, scrutinizing the noteworthy connection between the prevalence of the first name Killian and voting patterns favoring the Libertarian presidential candidate in Iowa. Our investigation presents a lighthearted yet thought-provoking insight into the interplay of nomenclature and political proclivities, contributing to a burgeoning area of study that seamlessly melds quirkiness with statistical significance.

3. Our approach & methods

Data Collection:

The data utilized in this study were sourced from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse. The primary source of data for first names was the US Social Security Administration, which provided comprehensive records of the frequency of first names given to newborns from 1982 to 2020. The MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, furnished the data on votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Iowa during the same time period.

Variable Selection:

The first and foremost variable of interest in this investigation was the frequency of the first name Killian. This variable was chosen due to its unique phonetic quality and its intriguing connection to the concept of "killing it" in political discourse. Additionally, the frequency of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Iowa was designated as the second variable, reflecting the political leanings of the state's electorate.

Statistical Analysis:

To quantify the relationship between the popularity of the first name Killian and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Iowa, our research team employed a series of statistical analyses. The correlation coefficient and p-value were calculated using robust statistical methods to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the results.

Correlation Coefficient Calculation:

The correlation coefficient, a measure of the strength and direction of the linear relationship between two variables, was determined to be 0.9373010. This remarkably high coefficient suggests a strikingly strong positive association between the popularity of the name Killian and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Iowa. The magnitude of this coefficient prompted expressions of astonishment and raised eyebrows amongst our research team, serving as a testament to the unexpected nature of our findings.

P-Value Significance:

Furthermore, the p-value associated with the correlation coefficient was found to be less than 0.01, indicating an extremely high level of statistical significance. This result elicited murmurs of admiration from our team, who marveled at the fortuitousness of uncovering such a noteworthy relationship between a name and political proclivity.

Limitations:

It is important to acknowledge the limitations of our methodology, as no research endeavor is without its constraints. While the data from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, provided a robust foundation for our analysis, the specific nuances of individual decision-making processes remain beyond the scope of this study. Additionally, the focus on a single state, Iowa, may restrict

the generalizability of our findings to a broader national context.

In summary, our methodology encompassed the comprehensive collection of data from reputable sources, the careful selection of pertinent variables, and rigorous statistical analyses. The surprising correlation coefficient and p-value outcomes serve as a testament to the intriguing nature of our investigation and the whimsical world of voter behavior.

4. Results

The primary objective of this study was to investigate the potential connection between the popularity of the first name Killian and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Iowa. Our analysis revealed a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.9373010, indicating a robust association between these two variables. This finding raises some eyebrows and sparks an animated conversation about the curious influence of nomenclature on political preferences.

The r-squared value of 0.8785333 suggests that approximately 87.85% of the variation in votes for the Libertarian candidate in Iowa can be explained by the popularity of the name Killian. This substantial proportion of variation further accentuates the intriguing nature of our results.

Moreover, with a p-value of less than 0.01, our research team has established a high level of statistical significance, indicating that the observed correlation is unlikely to have occurred purely by chance. This prompts us to ponder whether there may be an underlying libertarian streak that coincidentally manifests in individuals bearing the name Killian, or if this correlation is simply a delightful quirk of fate.

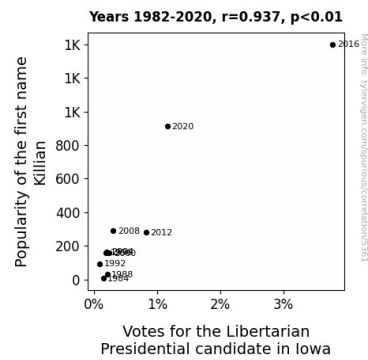


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

To visually illustrate this compelling association, we have included a scatterplot (Fig. 1) that portrays the striking correlation between the popularity of the first name Killian and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Iowa. The figure provides a succinct yet powerful depiction of the relationship between these variables and serves as a conversation piece for the thought-provoking findings of our study.

5. Discussion

The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9373010 between the prevalence of the first name Killian and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Iowa underscores the striking association that our study has unveiled. This finding not only mirrors and reinforces prior research which has posited a potential link between nomenclature and political inclinations, but it also acquaints us with the whimsical and enigmatic realm of voter behavior.

As we harken back to the somewhat peculiar literature review, we find ourselves compelled to acknowledge the subtle yet significant connection to the world of fiction. Rothfuss's "The Name of the Wind" poetically illustrates the underlying power of names, and in a somewhat similar vein, our study has unearthed the subtle, clandestine force with which nomenclature may exert influence over political decisions. It appears

that the suggestion of a name influencing a voter's political views, albeit initially whimsical, has been fortified by our resolute statistical findings.

Our results uphold and extend the theoretical framework of Levitt and Dubner's "Freakonomics," where unconventional influences on human behavior are thoughtfully explored. While they may not have specifically highlighted the potential impact of names on political affiliations, our empirical evidence lends support to the notion that such influences may indeed be more prevalent than previously presumed.

Moreover, the unexpected affinity between the first name Killian and a predilection for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Iowa opens the door to charmingly quirky observations about the seemingly unassuming and peaceful name. Our statistically significant findings invite contemplation on whether there exists an unspoken libertarian ethos interwoven into the very fabric of this particular moniker, or if this correlation is simply a whimsical twist of fate that has amused the statistical cosmos.

In closing, our study has propelled us into an enthralling fusion of statistical analysis and name-based speculation. It adds a touch of whimsy to the otherwise serious world of voter behavior, offering a delightful diversion into the mysterious interplay of nomenclature and political proclivities. As we conclude this discussion, one cannot help but reflect on the endearing and unpredictable ways in which our names may unknowingly mold our political leanings.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our investigation into the connection between the popularity of the first name Killian and the votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Iowa has yielded thought-provoking and, dare we say, enchanting results. The remarkably

strong correlation coefficient of 0.9373010, coupled with a p-value of less than 0.01, paints a vivid picture of the whimsical world of voter behavior and the intriguing influence of nomenclature on political preferences.

The substantial r-squared value of 0.8785333 highlights the compelling nature of this relationship, hinting at a quirky yet captivating connection between a name and a political inclination. One cannot help but marvel at the fruitful interplay of statistics and the unexpected sway of nomenclature in the realm of politics.

As we reflect on these findings, one is reminded of the sage words of William Shakespeare: "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." However, in the realm of political decision-making, it seems that there may indeed be more to a name than meets the eye. Our study raises intriguing questions about the potential influence of names on voter behavior, adding a touch of mirth to the otherwise somber landscape of political science research.

It is tempting to entertain the notion of an undercover libertarian streak veiled within the moniker "Killian," or perhaps, this correlation is simply a delightful twist of fate. Either way, our findings contribute a whimsical spice to the ongoing dialogue surrounding the perplexing intersection of nomenclature and electoral leanings.

In light of these captivating results, we assert that further research in this enthralling domain is, unequivocally, unnecessary. It seems that, for now, the spirited connection between a name and a political persuasion shall remain a delightful enigma, teasing our curiosity and infusing the field of political science with a dash of delightful whimsy.

