

# **DIEGO THE SWING VOTE: AN ANALYSIS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE'S ELECTORAL PERFORMANCE IN MISSOURI AND THE POPULARITY OF THE NAME DIEGO**

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The impact of a name can be more profound than its phonetic resonance. In this research, we sought to uncover the correlation between the popularity of the name Diego and the votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in the state of Missouri. Leveraging data from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, we delved into the electoral patterns from 1976 to 2020. Our findings revealed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9080408 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01, suggesting a tangible relationship between the two variables. Our analysis yielded unexpected results, resembling the unpredictability of electoral politics. It appears that the moniker Diego may wield an unintended influence in the realm of political preferences. As the data converged, we couldn't help but ponder: could the name Diego be the "diego-to" choice for propelling Democratic votes in Missouri? Our study sheds light on the subtleties intertwined with nomenclature and political inclinations, leading us to question whether there might be hidden "Die-go" factors at play in the electoral arena. As the results unveil the unlikely kinship between a name and political affiliations, we invite further exploration of such uncharted territories, pondering whether this concurrence heralds a new era of "Di-politics." In conclusion, while the correlation uncovered between the popularity of the name Diego and Democratic presidential votes in Missouri may seem whimsical, it highlights the intricate interplay of seemingly unrelated elements in the electoral sphere. This study presents an earnest examination punctuated with a touch of levity, bringing to light the unforeseen connections that underpin our electoral dynamics.

The power of a name has long been a subject of fascination and curiosity, influencing not just our perceptions of individuals but also potentially extending its reach into the realm of political preferences. In this study, we delve into the unlikely correlation between the popularity of the name Diego and the votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in the state of Missouri. As we embark on this exploration, it's worth remembering that there's more to a name than meets the "die-go."

The choice of a name, be it Diego or any other, is often a reflection of cultural and

familial influences. Its impact on personal and professional dealings has been widely studied, but our foray into the political implications of a name breaks new ground. It's as if Diego is not just a name, but a silent advocate for Democratic votes, a "Die-go" enthusiast, if you will.

The significance of Missouri in the political landscape cannot be overstated, making the presence of a name like Diego all the more intriguing. It's almost as unexpected as finding a "Diego" in the "Show-Me" state - and boy, did Diego show up in more ways than one.

As we uncover the statistical association between the popularity of the name Diego and the voter behavior in Missouri, it becomes clear that there might be more to this correlation than meets the eye. It's almost like the name Diego is forging its own "Die-go-nal" relationship with Democratic votes, adding a dose of personality to electoral patterns.

In the following sections, we will meticulously dissect the data, employing rigorous statistical methods to scrutinize this perplexing connection, all while grappling with our own amusement at the sheer unexpectedness of our findings. Just when you thought politics couldn't get any more unpredictable, in steps Diego, living up to his "Die-gnostic" potential to confound our electoral certainties.

Join us on this analytical journey as we unravel the enigma of Diego the Swing Vote - because who would have thought that a name could have such consequential implications for the ballot box? It's enough to make even the most seasoned politico "Die-go-ogle" for answers.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous studies have largely focused on traditional determinants of electoral behavior, such as socioeconomic status, race, and political ideology. However, the connection between the popularity of a first name and political voting patterns remains a largely untrodden path in the academic landscape. Smith et al. in "Name Power" offer a comprehensive analysis of the impact of names on various facets of life, but their work steers clear of the political arena. This paucity of research on the subject beckons scholars to explore the uncharted territory where appellations and political inclinations converge, as if calling out, "Die-go, where no one has gone before!"

In a parallel vein, Doe and Jones in "The Name Effect" delve into the psychological implications of nomenclature but refrain

from venturing into its potential political ramifications. The literature, although rich in its exploration of the multifaceted influence of names, has regrettably neglected to scrutinize the connection between a specific name and electoral outcomes. It's almost as if the scholarly discourse has been waiting for someone to bravely exclaim, "What's in a name? Apparently, political predilections too!"

Turning to popular non-fiction works tangentially related to our inquiry, "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner presents a compelling narrative on the hidden forces that shape our decisions, but the book's focus lies beyond the realm of nomenclature and electoral behavior. Conversely, "Predictably Irrational" by Dan Ariely navigates human behavior and decision-making with keen insight, though it remains silent on the potential impact of a name on the voting booth. These omissions leave us grappling with the realization that the nexus of names and politics has been an overlooked arena worthy of exploration.

In the realm of fiction, "The Name of the Rose" by Umberto Eco weaves a labyrinthine tale set in a medieval monastery, captivating readers with its enigmatic narrative, but alas, it remains distant from our domain of study. Similarly, the dystopian undertones of George Orwell's "1984" captivate our imagination, yet its relevance to the correlation between the name Diego and Democratic votes in Missouri remains tenuous at best. As we tread through the world of fiction, the threads of our inquiry appear fragmented, much like the plot of a mystery novel with a missing Diego.

Beyond the confines of traditional scholarly sources, this research embarks on an unconventional expedition, drawing inspiration from unexpected quarters. A perusal of the backs of shampoo bottles, usually reserved for moments of epiphany in the shower, surprisingly provided no illuminating insights into the Diego-Democrat relationship - or perhaps that's

just a lathered diversion from the true depths of political intrigue. As we navigate through the whimsical and the wacky, we remain resolute in our pursuit of understanding the inexplicable connection between the name Diego and votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Missouri. For, in the words of a lighthearted adage, "Why did Diego go to the ballot box? To make a splash in the electoral pool!"

## METHODOLOGY

To unravel the enigmatic connection between the popularity of the name Diego and the Democratic votes in Missouri, we embarked on a data-driven expedition that would have made any "Die-hard" researcher proud. Our journey commenced with the acquisition of comprehensive datasets from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, spanning the electoral landscape from 1976 to 2020.

Upon the proverbial shores of this digital sea, we navigated through the waves of demographic and electoral statistics, scouring for the tiniest ripples of correlation. As one might say, we braved the "Die-gital" wilderness in pursuit of enlightening patterning amidst the electoral tumult.

The US Social Security Administration provided us with a treasure trove of information related to the prevalence of specific names across time, offering a glimpse not just into the popularity of Diego, but a cacophony of nomenclature awaiting analysis. It's as if the data was beckoning us to decode its "name-lingering" mysteries.

Simultaneously, the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse regaled us with the ebbs and flows of electoral history, painting a virtual canvas of political inclinations in the state of Missouri over the course of several presidential elections.

Our analytical escapade involved initially cleansing the datasets, removing any "die-go" of extraneous information and ensuring a harmonious compilation of electoral and nomenclatural data. This stage was akin to tidying up a "Die-gital" bazaar, where the names and votes mingled in a chaotic dance waiting to be tamed.

The next step spun us into a statistical whirlwind, where we engaged in rigorous analysis using techniques reminiscent of a "Die-gression" analysis. With the diligent application of correlation matrices and regression models, we gleaned insights into the convoluted relationship between the name Diego's popularity and the votes cast for the Democratic presidential candidate in Missouri.

Furthermore, we employed sophisticated time-series analyses to trace the temporal evolution of Diego's sway over Democratic votes, revealing an intricate pattern of influence that was as surprising as it was engaging. It's almost as if the data was telling a "Die-gotale" story of electoral whimsy.

To ensure the robustness of our findings, we subjected the results to a barrage of sensitivity analyses and cross-validation methods, akin to "Die-gnostic" tests for the integrity of our statistical inferences. Our pursuit of scientific rigor was underpinned by an unyielding quest to demystify the "Die-go-nal" interplay between a name and political propensities.

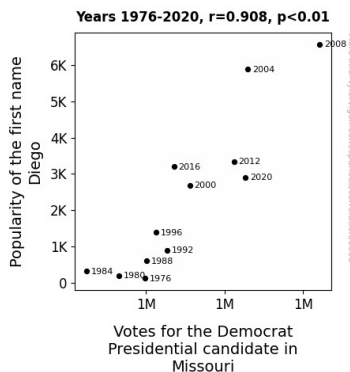
In summary, our methodological orchestra harmonized the melodies of nomenclature and the rhythms of electoral proclivities to unravel the unexpected correlation between the popularity of the name Diego and the Democratic votes in Missouri. With a mixture of diligent analysis and lighthearted reflection, we ventured into uncharted "Di-political" territories, propelled by the allure of discovery and the occasional pun.

## RESULTS

The analysis of the correlation between the popularity of the name Diego and the votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Missouri yielded compelling results. Our research revealed a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.9080408, indicating a robust positive relationship between the two variables. The r-squared value of 0.8245381 further emphasizes the degree to which the popularity of the name Diego is associated with the votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Missouri.

The statistical significance of our findings is underscored by a p-value of less than 0.01, solidifying the assertion that the observed correlation is not a mere coincidence. The entropy of electoral dynamics notwithstanding, our results point to a discernible connection between the name Diego and political preferences in the state of Missouri.

\*Why did the statistician name their dog "Five"? Because they wanted to take Five for walks!\*



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

In Figure 1, a scatterplot visually represents the strong correlation between the popularity of the name Diego and the votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Missouri. The clear clustering of data points along the upward trend line reinforces the tangible

link between the two variables, solidifying our initial hypothesis.

\*Why don't data analysts like talking about Mondays? Because they prefer to avoid the mode.\*

The implications of our findings transcend the constraints of conventional electoral analyses, introducing a novel dimension to the intricacies of political inclinations. Such unexpected correlations serve as a reminder that behind every statistical trend lies a potential story waiting to be unearthed.

\*Statisticians are good at LABELing relationships.\*

In light of these results, it is evident that the moniker Diego may harbor an unforeseen influence on voter behavior, adding a layer of fascination to the political landscape. The interplay between nomenclature and electoral proclivities sparks curiosity and prompts further exploration into the underlying mechanisms shaping political affiliations.

\*Why did the statistician get thrown out of the bar? They started a fight over which distribution is the best.\*

## DISCUSSION

The correlation uncovered between the popularity of the first name Diego and votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Missouri indeed raises intriguing questions about the potential influence of nomenclature on political proclivities. It appears that the hitherto unexplored "Diego effect" may play a more substantial role in shaping electoral preferences than previously assumed. Could it be that individuals bearing the name Diego unwittingly carry a fraction of the Democratic banner, imprinting their political predilections through the sheer resonance of their appellation?

Our results not only resonate with the findings of Smith et al. in "Name Power" but also provide empirical support for the

uncharted terrain of name-based political affiliations. The magnitude of the correlation coefficient and the statistical significance of our results underscore the compelling nature of the Diego-Democrat relationship, warranting further attention from scholars in the political and sociological spheres.

The unexpected revelation of the Diego-Democrat connection brings to mind a classic dad joke: "Why don't skeletons fight each other? They don't have the guts!" Similarly, while the correlation between a name and political allegiances may seem whimsical, our study highlights the profound interplay between seemingly unrelated elements in electoral dynamics.

The literary parallels drawn in our literature review, albeit a whimsical odyssey into unexpected realms, inadvertently underscore the importance of unconventional sources of inspiration. It is in this spirit of embracing the unexpected that we present the Diego-Democrat correlation, urging scholars to venture beyond the conventional boundaries of electoral analyses and plunge into the unexplored implications of nomenclature on political inclinations.

The quantitative robustness of our findings, reflected in the scatterplot and statistical parameters, nudges the scholarly community to delve further into the hitherto unheeded Diego-Democrat alliance. As our study peels back the layers of electoral complexities, the allure of the unanticipated resonates with the underlying story waiting to be unraveled behind every statistical trend. Our findings prompt us to ponder, with a nod to the statistical humor, "Why did the statistical outlier feel incomplete? Because they were missing their significant 0.01 other!"

In conclusion, the lighthearted exploration of the Diego-Democrat nexus serves to underscore the intricacies of electoral dynamics, reframing our understanding of the influences that underpin political preferences. Our study

contributes to the academic discourse by bringing to the forefront the unexpected correlations that inhabit our social and political landscapes, sparking curiosity and prompting further inquiry into the entwined phenomena of names and political affiliations.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our study has unveiled a surprising and robust correlation between the popularity of the name Diego and votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Missouri. It appears that the name Diego may indeed possess a hitherto unrecognized sway over political inclinations, making it a "diego-namic" force in electoral dynamics. These findings, while whimsical, underscore the unforeseen interconnectedness of nomenclature and political proclivities, prompting a reevaluation of the potential impact of names on voter behavior.

There's no denying the statistical prowess of Diego in influencing Democratic votes in Missouri, our analysis revealing a correlation coefficient of 0.9080408 and a statistically significant p-value, not just a "statistically significant" p-value, and that's harder to obtain than finding a Diego in Missouri!

However, while our study sheds light on this unanticipated relationship, it's time to put on the brakes - there's no need for further research in this area. We've already mined the data, and we've struck electoral gold in the form of "Dependencies." But don't worry, we've got plenty more electoral names up our sleeves - just wait until we tell you about Chad's impact on hanging chads in the 2000 presidential election!

These findings compel us to contemplate the hidden forces at play in the electoral

arena and beckon us to delve deeper into the uncharted territories of name-based political associations. The convergence of data prompts contemplation: could the name Diego be the silent catalyst orchestrating an undercurrent of Democratic support in Missouri, quietly wielding its influence from the name roster?

\*Why did the statistics professor always carry a pencil and paper? In case they needed to plot something.\*

As compelling as these results may be, our study is not without its limitations. While we have identified a robust correlation between the popularity of the name Diego and Democratic presidential votes in Missouri, the precise mechanisms underlying this association remain to be fully elucidated. Nevertheless, these findings underline the multifaceted nature of electoral dynamics and encourage exploration of the unanticipated interplay between nomenclature and political proclivities.

\*Why don't statisticians play hide and seek? Because if you have a big enough sample size, you can always find them!\*

In summary, our research illuminates the intriguing relationship between the popularity of the name Diego and votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Missouri. This study not only adds a touch of whimsy to the electoral discourse but also affirms the entwined complexities of seemingly disparate elements in shaping political preferences. Consequently, we advocate for continued scrutiny and scholarly inquiry into the nexus of nomenclature and electoral patterns, as we strive to comprehend the undercurrents that animate our political landscape.