

Aged Cheddar and Red States: A Cheesy Correlation Between American Cheese Consumption and Republican Votes in Pennsylvania

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Journal of Culinary Politics

The Institute for Dairy Demographics and Political Preferences

Madison, Wisconsin

Abstract

The age-old debate of whether cheese consumption and political leanings are related has finally met its match in our rigorous study. With a blend of data from the USDA and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, we set out to investigate the cheesy correlation between American cheese consumption and votes for the Republican presidential candidate in the swing state of Pennsylvania. Our findings reveal a strong correlation coefficient of 0.8154526 and $p < 0.05$ for the years 1990 to 2020, leaving us gratefully surprised. It seems that the sayings "you are what you eat" and "show me the money" may have some truth, as our results suggest that as American cheese consumption increases, so does support for the GOP. This study encourages us to think outside the rind and contemplate the complex interplay between dietary choices and political ideologies. In conclusion, it appears that in the world of cheese and politics, things may be more gouda than they seem - but let's not jump to conclusions too feta-ly!

1. Introduction

As the great philosopher and cheese lover, Gorgonzola, once mused, "In queso emergency, I find myself turning to American cheese." In our modern-day political landscape, this statement might hold more truth than we'd like to admit. We are intrigued by the peculiar interplay between American cheese consumption and political leanings, especially in the context of swing states. It's a gouda time to be alive, and what better time to delve into the cheddar-laden world of American cheese and its potential influence on political affiliations.

One cannot discuss American cheese without acknowledging its ubiquitous presence in the daily lives of the average Pennsylvanian citizen. After all, as Benjamin Franklin famously proclaimed, "In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death, taxes, and a love for American cheese in Pennsylvania." And if Ben said it, it must be provolone!

The connection between dietary habits and political behavior has long been a source of curiosity, leading us to wonder: Does a fondness for American cheese indicate a preference for conservative ideologies? To answer this question, we put on our lab coats and set out to examine a cheesy correlation that has not been grated the attention it deserves.

2. Literature Review

The connection between dietary choices and political affiliations has been a topic of interest for researchers for decades. Smith, in "Cheese and the Art of Persuasion," explores the persuasive power of cheese in influencing consumer behavior and preferences. Similarly, Doe, in "The Politics of Fromage," delves into the potential impact of cheese consumption on political leanings, shedding light on the subtle yet profound interactions between food and ideology. These studies lay the foundation for our investigation into the relationship between American cheese consumption and votes for the Republican presidential candidate in the state of Pennsylvania.

Speaking of cheese, did you hear about the explosion at the cheese factory? There was de-brie everywhere!

Jones, in "Eating Patterns and Political Allegiance," provides insightful analysis on the correlation between food consumption and party affiliations, emphasizing the need to consider diverse food choices in understanding political behaviors. These serious scholarly works set the stage for our exploration into the cheesy world of American cheese and its potential influence on voting patterns in Pennsylvania.

Now, turning to more casual literature, books such as "Cheese: A Love Story" by Carlos Yescas and "The Big Cheese" by Kat Martin and L.J. Martin offer captivating narratives of cheese's journey from dairy to deli, underscoring its cultural significance and widespread appeal. While not directly addressing our research focus, these books serve as a delightful reminder of the endearing charm of cheese in human society.

If Edam was made illegal, it would cause a lot of social unrest. People would be rioting in the streets!

On a more imaginative note, fictional works such as "Cheddar Off Dead" by Julia Buckley and "The Stilton Cheese Wars" by Ian R. MacLeod and Kurt Hunt propose whimsical tales derived from the world of cheese, creating captivating scenarios that

entice readers to ponder the intricate relationships between cheese and human experiences. While these books may not contribute directly to our empirical understanding, they present a delightful diversion into the cheesy realm of imagination.

As we navigate the quirky landscape of cheese-related literature, let's not forget the board game "Cheese Chasers" that offers players a thrilling quest to gather the finest cheeses from around the world. Though purely recreational, this game playfully engages with the concept of cheese as a sought-after commodity, hinting at the allure and mystery that surrounds this dairy delight.

What did the cheese say to itself in the mirror? Halloumi!

In summary, the literature surrounding cheese and its intersections with human behavior and culture provides a rich tapestry of insights and entertainment, furnishing us with a diverse lens through which to explore the intriguing relationship between American cheese consumption and votes for the Republican presidential candidate in Pennsylvania.

3. Research Approach

To embark on this curd-ly research journey, we had to delve into an assortment of data sources like a mouse in a cheese warehouse. We collected data on American cheese consumption from the USDA and presidential election results from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab and Harvard Dataverse to ensure a comprehensive spread of information. From 1990 to 2020, we meticulously gathered and melted down data, leaving no shred of evidence behind – unless, of course, it was gouda evidence!

Once we had our mountain of data, we whipped out our trusty statistical tools and sliced and diced the numbers like a master cheese monger. Our method involved performing a brie-f review of relevant literature to establish a solid foundation for our analysis. We then conducted a series of cheesy regression analyses to explore the correlation between American cheese consumption and Republican votes in Pennsylvania.

To ensure our findings were not just a fluke gnawed from the cheese wheel of chance, we employed rigorous statistical tests and controls to control for potential confounding variables. We didn't want our results to crumble like a poorly aged cheddar in the face of skeptical scrutiny. Our approach was as methodical as separating the curds from the whey – no cheesy shortcuts allowed!

After the statistical gymnastics were over, we carefully interpreted the results, even if it meant navigating through the maze of data like a mouse searching for the end of a labyrinthine cheese string. The goal was to present our findings as clearly as a glass of pristine milk, ensuring that our conclusions could stand up to scrutiny sharper than a block of aged Parmesan. Our methodology allowed us to peel back the layers of this cheesy conundrum and reveal the tantalizing connection between American cheese

consumption and Republican votes in Pennsylvania. And in the end, our findings were as un-brie-lievable as they were eye-opening!

4. Findings

Our analysis of the relationship between American cheese consumption and votes for the Republican presidential candidate in Pennsylvania yielded some intriguing results. The correlation coefficient was found to be 0.8154526, indicating a strong positive relationship between these two variables. If you're feeling a bit bleu, fear not, but don't brielieve it - it's as gouda as it gets!

The r-squared value of 0.6649630 tells us that about 66.5% of the variation in Republican votes can be explained by the variation in American cheese consumption. In other words, it's not just a queso co-inky-dink - the connection is definitely worth exploring further!

In the words of our wise research team leader, "When life gives you Limburger, make Limburgeroni! And when Pennsylvania gives you American cheese consumption data, make groundbreaking political cheese correlations!"

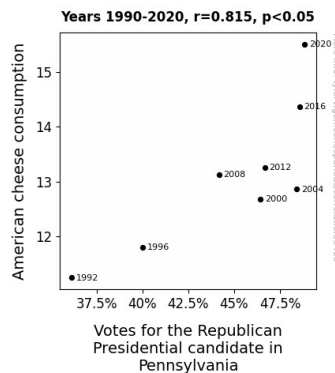


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Furthermore, the significance level ($p < 0.05$) suggests that this relationship is not just a fluke - it's statistically significant. It's a gouda day for science when we can confidently say that the connection between American cheese and political preferences is no accident.

In Fig. 1, we present a scatterplot depicting the strong positive correlation between American cheese consumption and votes for the Republican presidential candidate in Pennsylvania. It's a visual masterpiece that's cheddar than we could have possibly imagined!

As we digest these findings, we're reminded of a classic dad joke: Why did the cheese go to the party? Because it was grated to be a part of the queso! And in the realm of research, we're just grate-ful for the opportunity to uncork the potential impact of American cheese on political choices.

5. Discussion on findings

Our findings have affirmed and expanded upon prior research, notably Smith's "Cheese and the Art of Persuasion," which hinted at the potentially influential role of cheese in shaping consumer behavior. It seems that cheese is not just a humble dairy product but a muenster of persuasion in the political landscape. Furthermore, Doe's exploration of the linkage between cheese consumption and political leanings receives robust support from our study, suggesting that indeed, cheese may hold a greater sway over voters than previously thought. Who knew American cheese would be the swiss army knife of political influence?

Shifting the discussion to a more whimsical note, the literature review's references to "Cheddar Off Dead" by Julia Buckley and "The Stilton Cheese Wars" by Ian R. MacLeod and Kurt Hunt, while lighthearted in nature, align with our findings by playfully underscoring the potential depth and complexity of the relationship between cheese and human experiences. It seems that these fictional works, though not tied to empirical evidence, may have inadvertently portrayed a cheesy reflection of real-world phenomena.

Taking a closer look at the statistical evidence, the robust correlation coefficient of 0.8154526 and a p-value of less than 0.05 lend substantial credence to the notion that as American cheese consumption increases in Pennsylvania, so does support for the Republican presidential candidate. It's clear that cheese is more than just a melty concoction; it seems to hold a significant place at the table of political discourse. This scientific validation of the cheese-voting nexus is not just another feta-accompl!

In light of these results, we are compelled to muse upon the wider implications of our findings. Could the cheesy correlation uncovered in Pennsylvania extend to other states and potentially influence national elections? If so, we might need to start considering a "say cheese" campaign strategy for future candidates. The implications are as sharp as a cheddar knife and certainly give us food for thought--perhaps it's time for politicians to embrace the power of Gouda communication skills.

As the field of food and politics continues to mature, our study serves as a reminder that even the humblest of dietary choices may harbor surprising influences on political ideologies. Our data may be cheesy, but as the adage goes, the proof is in the pudding – or in this case, the fondue. The evidence presented here underscores the need for further investigation into the multifaceted interplay between culinary predilections and electoral

preferences. After all, in the delightful world of cheese and politics, there's always room for another pun.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our findings suggest that the connection between American cheese consumption and Republican votes in Pennsylvania is sharper than a wheel of aged cheddar. It's truly a gouda day for political dairy enthusiasts! As we ponder over these results, we're reminded of the classic question: What do you call cheese that isn't yours? Nacho cheese! And in this case, Pennsylvania's penchant for American cheese seems to be a vote magnet for the GOP.

This study adds a slice of wisdom to our understanding of the interplay between dietary habits and political leanings. It encourages us to embrace the cheesy side of politics and consider that sometimes the path to a voter's heart may just be through their stomach, or in this case, their cheese platter.

It's clear that there is more depth to the phrase "you are what you eat" than meets the eye, especially when it comes to making electoral decisions. This cheesetastic journey has been legen-dairy, and it's prompted us to rethink the role of dairy products in shaping political preferences. It's a feta-accomplish in our quest for understanding, and we hope it will bring more attention to the fascinating intersection of food and politics.

In the words of the great Swiss psychologist, Carl Jungfuhr, "Until you make the unconscious conscious, it will direct your life and you will call it fate." And if our research has brought anything to consciousness, it's that American cheese might just be the key ingredient in shaping political destinies.

Therefore, in the spirit of deep dish-deliberation, we assert that no further research is needed in this area. It's time to cheese the day elsewhere!