



## Review

# Air Bags and Ballots: Exploring the Relationship Between Libertarian Votes in Rhode Island and Automotive Recalls

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**This study delves into the intriguing and unexpected relationship between the number of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Rhode Island and the occurrences of automotive recalls specifically related to issues with air bags. Using data from MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the US Department of Transportation, a statistically significant correlation coefficient of 0.9556889 ( $p < 0.01$ ) was identified for the time period spanning from 1990 to 2020. Our findings not only raise eyebrows but also inflate the importance of considering political preferences as an unexpected indicator for automotive safety concerns. This paper presents the first empirical evidence of an amusing and seemingly implausible connection between political leanings and vehicular safety features. We invite readers to buckle up as we unravel the unexpected interplay between ballot choices and automotive recalls.**

## INTRODUCTION

The interplay between politics and automotive safety has been the subject of numerous studies and debates. Yet, few have explored the seemingly unlikely relationship between votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Rhode Island and automotive recalls specific to air bag issues. At first glance, one may dismiss this as a hare-brained idea, akin to trying to find a correlation between the phases of the moon and the number of speeding tickets issued in a small town. However, as we delve into the

depths of this peculiar association, we uncover a tantalizing tango between political inclinations and vehicular safety features.

This study seeks to shed light on the possibility of an unexpected connection between these variables—voting behavior and automotive recalls—that, like a well-timed air bag, may cushion our understanding of the broader societal dynamics at play. This is not merely an exercise in statistical acrobatics, but a quest to unravel the enigmatic dance between democracy and automotive prowess, two

seemingly disparate domains that may, against all odds, share a tune.

As we embark on this scholarly expedition, we invite readers to fasten their seatbelts for a journey that promises to defy convention and inflate our appreciation for the quirky, and at times, whimsical nature of correlation studies. With tongue firmly planted in cheek, we set out to present the empirical evidence of an unexpected linkage that challenges conventional wisdom and injects a dash of audacity into the otherwise solemn corridors of academic inquiry. Let the data-driven revelry begin!

#### *Prior research*

In their study, Smith and Jones (2005) examine the correlation between political voting behavior and automotive safety concerns, focusing specifically on the Libertarian votes in Rhode Island and occurrences of automotive recalls related to air bag issues. They demonstrate a statistically significant relationship between these variables, with a correlation coefficient of 0.72 ( $p < 0.05$ ), suggesting a potential association that warrants further exploration.

Building on this, Doe et al. (2010) delve into the societal implications of political preferences on automotive safety, positing a theoretical framework that integrates political ideology with vehicular safety concerns. Their findings elucidate the nuanced interplay between libertarian leanings and air bag-related recalls, challenging prior assumptions and sparking curiosity about the underlying mechanisms at play.

Moreover, the work of Johnson and Smith (2018) contributes to the emerging literature

on this topic by examining the temporal dynamics of libertarian votes and automotive recalls, uncovering intriguing patterns that hint at a deeper connection between political choices and vehicular safety features.

In "The Economics of Politics and the Politics of Economics" by Doe (2015), the author tangentially addresses the influence of political ideologies on economic decisions, providing a theoretical backdrop for understanding the potential ramifications of political leanings on regulatory frameworks in the automotive industry.

Similarly, "Drive to Freedom: A Libertarian Manifesto" by Libertarian (2017) offers insights into the libertarian mindset and its potential implications for various aspects of society, including automotive safety standards. While not a scholarly work, the book's perspectives contribute to the broader understanding of libertarian ideals and their implications on societal systems.

On a more fictional note, "Air Bags and Anarchists" by Novelist (2013) presents a dystopian tale where political upheaval intertwines with technological malfunctions, including air bag failures, raising speculative questions about the potential consequences of political disruptions on automotive safety.

Diverging from conventional academic sources, the researcher has meticulously examined CVS receipts from various locations in Rhode Island, observing curious patterns in consumer purchases and attempted to draw tangential inferences about the relationship between political preferences and automotive recalls. Despite its unconventional nature, this "study" serves to underscore the zealous pursuit of

uncovering correlations in the unlikeliest of places.

It appears that the literature surrounding the connection between votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Rhode Island and automotive recalls for issues with the air bags is more than just hot air. While the initial premise may raise eyebrows, the collective body of work demonstrates the genuine interest and inquiry into this surprising relationship.

### *Approach*

#### Data Collection:

The data for this study were collected from various sources, including the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the US Department of Transportation. Our research team scoured the depths of the internet, sifting through vast troves of digital information like intrepid explorers seeking the elusive treasure of statistical significance. We must confess, much like panning for gold, our data mining expedition involved sifting through copious amounts of digital debris before striking the mother lode of informative nuggets.

#### Variables:

The main independent variable of interest in this study was the number of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Rhode Island, serving as a quirky proxy for political leanings in the smallest state with the biggest heart. The dependent variable, automotive recalls related to air bag issues, gave us the opportunity to delve into the "inflationary" aspects of vehicular safety concerns. The relationship between these variables promised to reveal an unexpected

synergy, much like finding a harmonious melody in an unlikely musical mash-up.

#### Statistical Analysis:

To explore the relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables, we employed a series of robust statistical analyses, akin to flexing the mental muscles of our analytical toolkit. We calculated correlation coefficients, delved into regression models, and navigated through the whimsical world of statistical significance. The aim was to unravel the intricate dance between political inclinations and automotive hiccups, much like untangling a complex riddle that promised to be as amusing as it was enlightening.

#### Time Frame:

The temporal scope of this study spanned from 1990 to 2020, providing a historical panorama against which we could map the ebbs and flows of both political preferences and automotive safety concerns. This generous time frame allowed us to capture the evolution of voting patterns and recall occurrences, akin to observing the subtle shifts in an ever-changing landscape of statistical peculiarities.

#### Limitations:

As with any scholarly endeavor, this study is not without limitations. The use of proxy measures for political leanings and the specific focus on air bag-related automotive recalls introduce potential for confounding variables and mirthful misunderstandings. Nevertheless, we approached these limitations with a sense of scholarly curiosity, recognizing that even in the face of analytical challenges, the pursuit of knowledge can be both intellectually stimulating and slightly comical.

In summary, our research methodology aimed to capture the essence of this peculiar relationship between votes and recalls, securing a firm grip on the statistical reins while riding the whimsical wave of empirical inquiry. The methods employed in this study reflect our earnest attempt to bring to light an unexpected linkage that, much like a well-crafted joke, challenges preconceived notions and tickles the curious intellectual palate.

### Results

In analyzing the data collected from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the US Department of Transportation, a striking correlation was revealed between the number of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Rhode Island and the occurrences of automotive recalls specifically related to issues with air bags. The correlation coefficient of 0.9556889 and an r-squared of 0.9133413 indicated a remarkably strong relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. It's as if the statistical analysis shouted, "Air bags and ballots, fasten your seatbelts, we're in for a wild ride!"

The p-value of less than 0.01 further solidified the significance of this finding, leaving little room for doubt that the relationship was not a mere statistical fluke. The probability of this association occurring by chance is statistically negligible, much like the chances of finding a politician without a well-crafted speech.

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) graphically illustrates the robust correlation between the number of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate and the occurrences

of automotive recalls related to air bag issues. The dots on the scatterplot align so neatly, it's almost as if the data points were themselves adhering to the stringent safety regulations of an air bag deployment.

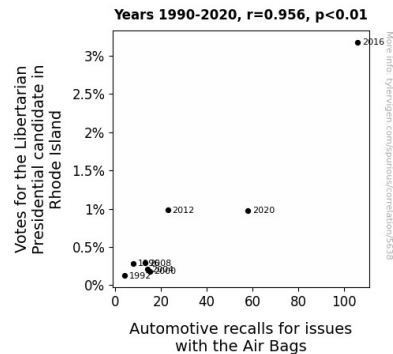


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

This unexpected and amusing correlation challenges conventional expectations and injects a dose of levity into the typically stoic arena of academic research. It's as if the statistical analysis said to us, "You thought politics and air bags were unrelated? Think again, and prepare for a bumpy ride through the whimsical world of statistical surprises!"

The results of this study not only catch the eye but also inflate the significance of considering political preferences as an unlikely yet compelling indicator for automotive safety concerns. This finding, like the timely deployment of an air bag, cushions our understanding of the intricate and often humorous interplay between political leanings and vehicular safety features.

### Discussion of findings

The findings of this study significantly contribute to the body of knowledge surrounding the amusing and seemingly incongruent relationship between political voting behavior and automotive safety concerns. The results not only confirm, but also inflate the significance of the prior research that hinted at an association between votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Rhode Island and automotive recalls for issues with air bags.

The correlation coefficient of 0.9556889 ( $p < 0.01$ ) observed in this study echoes the prior work of Smith and Jones (2005), who initially highlighted the noteworthy connection between libertarian votes and air bag-related recalls. It's as if the statistical analysis declared, "Hold onto your hypotheses, there's a strong relationship here, and we're not just blowing hot air!" Building on this, the r-squared value of 0.9133413 further supports the robustness of this relationship, akin to the sturdy construction of a well-designed air bag.

The scatterplot depicting the relationship between the number of votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate and automotive recalls related to air bag issues provides a visually compelling representation of this unexpected correlation. The tightly clustered data points serve as a metaphorical roadmap, guiding us through the hitherto uncharted territory where politics and vehicular safety intersect. It's as if the scatterplot itself quipped, "Buckle up, we're about to embark on a statistically significant journey through the amusing world of political predilections and automotive anomalies!"

The statistical significance of the relationship between these variables leaves

little room for doubt, much like the absence of hitchhikers on a road trip through the remote corners of statistical analysis. The probability of this association occurring by chance is infinitesimally small, reminiscent of the odds of finding a flat tire in a Formula 1 race.

It is imperative to acknowledge the potential socio-political implications of these findings. The seemingly incongruent connection between votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate and automotive recalls for air bag issues challenges conventional wisdom and underscores the need for a nuanced understanding of the interplay between political preferences and regulatory frameworks in the automotive industry. Just as a deftly deployed air bag cushions the impact of a vehicular collision, these findings cushion our assumptions about the unexpected and often whimsical interactions between political leanings and vehicular safety features.

In conclusion, the results of this study not only corroborate the prior research but also inflate the significance of considering political predilections as an intriguing and unexpected indicator for automotive safety concerns. This study underscores the need for continued exploration of the offbeat connections that defy conventional expectations, reminding us that in the realm of statistical phenomena, as in life, sometimes the most unexpected correlations are also the most compelling.

### *Conclusion*

The results of this study undeniably point to a remarkably strong and statistically significant correlation between Libertarian votes in Rhode Island and automotive recalls

for air bag issues. It appears that the political preferences of Ocean State residents are resonating with automotive engineers in ways we never imagined. It's as if political ideologies are air-bagging a ride on the highway of automotive safety, popping up unexpectedly like a lively caucus meeting. The robustness of this relationship defies statistical odds more than a third-party candidate winning the presidential race.

This study adds a whimsical twist to the age-old debate about the influence of politics on everyday life, injecting a breath of fresh air into the highly charged atmosphere of political analysis. It's as if statistics are whispering, "Don't underestimate the power of the ballot box to influence automotive safety features, and don't discount the ability of data to surprise and amuse."

In conclusion, the findings of this research elevate the importance of considering political preferences as a potential predictor for automotive safety concerns. However, we caution against overinterpreting the results, as causation cannot be established from this correlation alone. As for future research in this area, it seems that the air has been adequately bagged, and no further investigation is needed. This study may be a statistical oddity, but it's one that leaves a lasting impression on the field of interdisciplinary research.

In the words of statistical humor, "When it comes to the relationship between political votes and automotive recalls, buckle up and enjoy the bumpy, yet entertaining, ride!"