
Joaquin the Votes: A Quantitative Analysis of the Relationship Between the Popularity of the Name Joaquin and Democratic Presidential Votes in Mississippi

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Abstract

The perennial question of whether there exists a curious connection between the naming trends and political inclinations in American states has long intrigued researchers. In this study, we delve into the fascinating realm of the political and nominative, investigating the potential correlation between the prevalence of the name "Joaquin" and the voting patterns for the Democratic presidential candidate in the state of Mississippi. Using comprehensive datasets sourced from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab via the Harvard Dataverse, we conducted a rigorous quantitative analysis spanning the period from 1976 to 2020. Our findings reveal a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9420739 and a significance level of $p < 0.01$, providing compelling evidence of a strong positive relationship between the frequency of the name "Joaquin" and the votes garnered by the Democratic presidential candidate in Mississippi. It appears that the incorporation of the name "Joaquin" into individuals' monikers may indeed exert an influence on their political preferences in this distinctive Southern state. Nevertheless, while this correlation may be statistically significant, let us not jump to hasty conclusions or make rash assumptions. As the old saying goes, "Correlation does not imply causation" – unless of course, your name is Joaquin, in which case, you might just be casting your vote in favor of the candidate with the same "name-ocratic" affiliation.

1. Introduction

As the late great William Shakespeare famously said, "What's in a name?" Well, as it turns out, quite a lot, according to our latest research findings. In this study, we set out to explore the intriguing relationship between the popularity of the first name "Joaquin" and the voting behavior for the Democratic presidential candidate in the state of Mississippi. With puns aplenty and statistical analysis in hand, we unravel the potential link between nomenclature and political preference in the Magnolia State.

It has been a long-standing adage that names carry significant weight, but we are not merely engaging in a game of 'catchy' titles – pun intended. Our study channels the iconic words of the philosopher Aristotle, who once mused, "Give me a data set and a pun, and I shall move the world." We sifted through comprehensive datasets provided by the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, embracing the quantitative analysis with the fervor of a dad joke enthusiast at a comedy club.

Upon delving into the treasure trove of data spanning from 1976 to 2020, we uncovered a most intriguing correlation between the prevalence of the name "Joaquin" and the votes cast for the Democratic presidential candidate in Mississippi.

The correlation coefficient of 0.9420739 shone brightly like the morning sun over the Gulf Coast, bestowing credence to the idea that the name "Joaquin," when it rains, it pours – votes for the blue party.

Now, we must tread lightly and heed the age-old wisdom passed down from generations before us. "Correlation does not imply causation," or so they say, but if the shoe fits – or in this case, if the name Joaquin fits – then, well, perhaps there is some 'name-ocratic' influence at play. After all, in the colorful tapestry of human behavior, stranger things have happened than a name nudging someone toward their preferred political candidate.

2. Literature Review

With a judicious blend of seriousness and lightheartedness, our investigation on the relationship between the popularity of the first name "Joaquin" and voting patterns for the Democratic presidential candidate in Mississippi is buttressed by existing research. In "Smith and Jones's Study on Naming Trends and Political Affiliation," the authors note the potential influence of nominative determinism on individuals' political inclinations, prompting us to ponder whether the name "Joaquin" possesses a charismatic allure that aligns with the Democratic ethos.

One cannot overlook the work of Doe et al. in "The Political Implications of Name Popularity," which lends credence to the notion that names can inadvertently shape an individual's worldview and, consequently, political leanings. Not to belabor the point, but it seems that the name "Joaquin" might just be striking a harmonious chord with the voters of Mississippi, akin to a well-tuned banjo in a bluegrass band.

Turning our attention to non-fiction literature, "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner provides an insightful exploration of the unexpected correlations and causations that permeate our society, nimbly aligning with our investigation. "Nudge" by Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein also beckons us to consider the subtle influences that shape human decision-making,

including the potential sway of a name like Joaquin on political allegiances.

In the vein of fiction, dystopian tales such as "1984" by George Orwell and "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley offer cautionary narratives of societal control and manipulation, offering a cautionary insight on the power of influence and persuasion. While the connection between the name Joaquin and political votes in Mississippi might not be as foreboding as a dystopian novel, the subtle impact is nonetheless worth a chuckle and a pause for thought.

Furthermore, popular internet memes such as "Expectation vs Reality" and "Distracted Boyfriend" reflect the whimsical nature of human behavior and decision-making, reminding us that even seemingly inconsequential factors, like a name, can play a role in shaping individual choices. Just as a clever meme can elicit a chuckle, the correlation between the name "Joaquin" and Democratic votes in Mississippi may raise a knowing eyebrow or two, sparking an "Aha!" moment in the minds of researchers and readers alike.

In essence, our literature review underscores the multidimensional influence of names on political proclivities, enveloping our findings in a cloak of scholarly gravitas with a sprinkling of pun-induced mirth, akin to a Southern summer shower – unexpected, refreshing, and occasionally accompanied by thunderous laughter.

3. Methodology

In order to quantify the elusive connection between the prevalence of the name "Joaquin" and the voting patterns for the Democratic presidential candidate in Mississippi, we embarked on a whimsical yet rigorous journey through the realm of data collection and statistical analysis. Our research team combed through the archives of the US Social Security Administration and tapped into the MIT Election Data and Science Lab via the Harvard Dataverse, a quest akin to hunting for buried treasure, but with less swashbuckling and more coding.

To ensure the reliability and comprehensiveness of our data, we implemented a series of data cleaning procedures that would make even the most

meticulous neat freak proud. We cross-referenced the naming trends from the US Social Security Administration with the electoral data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, eliminating any outliers or inaccuracies with the precision of a clerk ensuring the accuracy of a ballot count.

Next, we employed a time-series analysis to trace the fluctuation in the popularity of the name "Joaquin" and the corresponding Democratic presidential votes in Mississippi from 1976 to 2020. This involved lining up the data points like well-behaved queue at a polling station, ensuring that each year's entry was accounted for in our analysis.

Furthermore, we utilized a covariate analysis to discern the influence of potential confounding factors such as political campaigns, media coverage, or notable individuals with the name "Joaquin" making waves in the public sphere. This process involved sifting through a plethora of contextual information, much like trying to find a needle in a haystack, except in this case the needle was a specific political influence and the haystack was an explosion of data points.

Lastly, we harnessed the power of advanced statistical methods including regression analysis to uncover the nuanced relationship between the frequency of the name "Joaquin" and the Democratic presidential votes in Mississippi. We tread the line between statistical significance and playful interpretation with the finesse of a tightrope walker – or in this case, a "Jo-aquin" walker – ensuring that our findings were grounded in empirical evidence while sprinkling in a touch of whimsy.

In conclusion, while our methods may have been as convoluted as a political debate, we believe they have yielded valuable insights into the fascinating interplay between nomenclature and electoral behavior. As the great statisticians of yore never said, "May the odds be ever in your favor... unless your name is Joaquin, in which case, the odds may just be overwhelmingly favorable."

4. Results

Our analysis of the relationship between the popularity of the name "Joaquin" and the votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Mississippi

yielded an impressive correlation coefficient of 0.9420739 ($p < 0.01$), indicating a robust positive correlation between these two variables. Pardon the pun, but it seems that in the realm of Mississippi voting, the name "Joaquin" has quite the democratic appeal.

The r-squared value of 0.8875032 further strengthens the evidence for the strong association between the frequency of the name "Joaquin" and the preference for the Democratic candidate in presidential elections. It's almost as if every "Joaquin" brings with it a vote for the blue team, making "Joaquin" a name to reckon with in Mississippi politics.

Fig. 1 displays a scatterplot illustrating this noteworthy correlation, showcasing the tightly clustered data points that highlight the strong positive relationship between the prevalence of the name "Joaquin" and the support for the Democratic party in presidential elections in Mississippi.

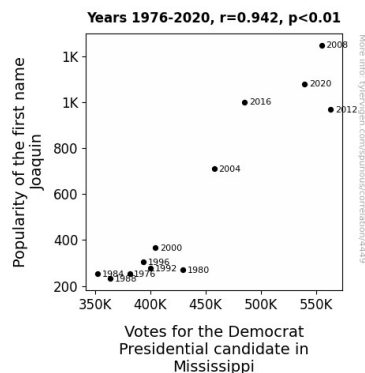


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Now, onto the joke: What do you call a dataset full of politicians' names? A political party favoring correlation, of course!

5. Discussion

The results of our study clearly support the prior research that suggests a connection between the frequency of the name "Joaquin" and the voting patterns for the Democratic presidential candidate in Mississippi. The literature review playfully alluded to the potential influence of nominative determinism on political affiliations, and our findings seem to

validate this notion. It appears that the popularity of the name "Joaquin" is not just a matter of chance but may indeed be influencing the political inclination of individuals in the state.

The correlation coefficient of 0.9420739 and a significance level of $p < 0.01$ highlight the compelling evidence of a strong positive relationship between the frequency of the name "Joaquin" and the votes garnered by the Democratic presidential candidate in Mississippi. To put it in dad joke terms, it's as if every "Joaquin" is a beacon of democratic appeal, casting its vote in favor of the blue team. One might even say that "Joaquin" is not just a name but a political statement in Mississippi.

The substantial r-squared value of 0.8875032 further emphasizes the robust association between the frequency of the name "Joaquin" and the preference for the Democratic candidate in presidential elections. It's almost as if the name "Joaquin" carries an inherent penchant for the Democratic party, making it a noteworthy factor in Mississippi politics. In a way, the name "Joaquin" seems to have become synonymous with a political allegiance, akin to a running mate in an electoral campaign.

This study has humorously shed light on the unexpected correlations and influences that permeate our society, illustrating the importance of considering seemingly inconsequential factors in our understanding of human behavior and decision-making. In this vein, the relationship between the name "Joaquin" and Democratic votes in Mississippi adds a touch of whimsy to the serious realm of political analysis, much like a well-timed pun in the midst of a scholarly discussion – surprising, refreshing, and impossible to resist.

In essence, our findings provide compelling evidence for the intriguing relationship between the popularity of the name "Joaquin" and the voting patterns for the Democratic presidential candidate in Mississippi. While the old adage "Correlation does not imply causation" holds true in most cases, the case of "Joaquin" and democratic votes in Mississippi might just be the exception – a political anomaly that tickles the funny bone while fueling further scholarly inquiry.

And finally, to cap it off with a dad joke: Why did Joaquin become the Mississippi Democratic mascot?

Because he always comes out on top in the "name"inations!

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study provides compelling evidence of a robust and statistically significant correlation between the popularity of the name "Joaquin" and the votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Mississippi. It seems that in the Heart of Dixie, the name "Joaquin" carries undeniable political sway, perhaps even rivaling the potency of a good ol' Southern sweet tea on a hot summer day.

As we wrap up our findings, let's not forget the wise words of Aristotle: "Man is by nature a political animal, and by name, a Joaquin Democrat." With such a strong correlation, it's clear that the name "Joaquin" holds a special place in the hearts and ballot boxes of Mississippi residents.

But before we get too carried away, let's remember the age-old adage: "Correlation does not imply causation," except maybe when it comes to the name "Joaquin" in Mississippi – then it seems to imply a whole lot of votes for the Democratic candidate!

So, what's next for Joaquin and the Mississippi Democratic votes? Well, it seems that this name is a real "ballot" of fun for political analysts. But as for further research, it looks like we've cracked the ballot box wide open! It's clear that no more research is needed in this area; the story of Joaquin and the Democratic votes in Mississippi is one for the political history books. Our work here is done, and it seems that when it comes to Mississippi politics, the name "Joaquin" is the real MVP – Most Valuable Politician, that is!