Killian's Popularity Yields Libertarian's Volatility: A Longitudinal Study in South Dakota from '82 to 2020

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Abstract

This pioneering research investigates the curious relationship between the popularity of the first name "Killian" and voter preference for the Libertarian presidential candidate in South Dakota from 1982 to 2020. Leveraging data from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, our study uncovers a significant correlation between the two seemingly disparate variables. A striking correlation coefficient of 0.9707005 and $p < 0.01$ suggests a compelling association, highlighting the impact of a name's popularity on political preferences. Our findings illuminate a hitherto unexplored dimension of electoral behavior, shedding new light on the intriguing interplay between nomenclature trends and political choices. This research contributes to the burgeoning literature on unconventional predictors of voting behavior, providing a nuanced understanding of the whimsical and, at times, whimsy-filled world of electoral dynamics.

1. Introduction

Humans have long been fascinated by the interplay between seemingly unrelated variables, much like a mad scientist mixing potions in a lab - who knows what volatile concoctions might emerge? In this spirit of curiosity, we delve into the enigmatic correlation between the popularity of the first name "Killian" and voter preference for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the evocative expanse of South Dakota. While at first glance, these two entities appear as distant as the poles of a magnet, our investigation has uncovered a magnetic attraction between them that is nothing short of electrifying.

Over the years, researchers have explored a plethora of factors influencing political preferences, from socioeconomic status to regional demographics. However, the potential

influence of an individual's name has been largely overlooked, hidden in the statistical underbrush like a rare species of statistical sasquatch. Our study aims to shine a spotlight on this underappreciated variable, acknowledging that a rose by any other name might not just smell as sweet, but vote quite differently as well.

Statisticians and researchers alike often navigate through the labyrinth of potential variables in search of those overlooked gems, just as a prospector hunts for gold in a river; similarly, our investigation from 1982 to 2020 involves searching for electoral nuggets amidst the data streams of the U.S. Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse. We are driven by the desire to unearth the unexpected, embracing the thrilling unpredictability akin to a statistical rollercoaster ride.

As we embark on this academic escapade, we invite readers to join us in peeling back the layers of this intriguing onion of variables, embracing the whimsical and at times downright wacky world of electoral dynamics. It is a journey that seeks to uncover the connections hidden in plain sight, much like finding Waldo in a sea of statistical noise. With this mindset, we turn to our data with a twinkle in our eye and a sense of statistical adventure, ready to decipher the mysterious dance between the popularity of "Killian" and the ticklish tango of Libertarian presidential votes in South Dakota.

2. Literature Review

In the quest to unravel the labyrinthine tapestry of electoral behavior, researchers have often sought to shed light on the elusive influencers that shape voting preferences. From socioeconomic factors to regional peculiarities, the exploration of these determinants has been as varied as a buffet at a statistical smorgasbord. However, amidst this cacophony of variables, one often overlooked factor has emerged like a cryptic figure in a foggy electorate - the influence of a person's name.

Smith, in "The Name Game: An Exploration of Moniker Influence on Political Leanings," presented a seminal study that hinted at the potential impact of nomenclature trends on electoral choices. Doe, in "The Butterfly Ballot Effect: Unearthing Quirky Influencers of Political Preferences," echoed similar sentiments, providing a tantalizing peek into the underappreciated realm of individual names shaping voting behavior. Jones, in "What's in a Name? A Meta-Analysis of Name-Associated Behavioral Peculiarities," substantiated these findings, further igniting curiosity about the relationship between names and political predilections.

Turning to non-fiction literature, the works of Freakonomics authors Levitt and Dubner stand out as relevant sources. Their exploration of unconventional societal phenomena bears relevance to the arcane connection we seek to unveil. Additionally, Malcolm Gladwell's "Outliers" offers thought-provoking insights into the unexpected

influencers of human behavior, prompting us to consider the potential impact of a name's popularity on political inclinations.

Shifting to the realm of fiction, Orwell's "1984" may seem an odd addition to this discourse, yet its portrayal of the power of language to shape perceptions resonates with the intricate influence of nomenclature on political choices. Moreover, Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code" presents a puzzle-like narrative, mirroring the enigmatic nature of the correlation between a name's popularity and electoral preferences.

As in any scholarly pursuit, our literature review has navigated through an array of sources to inform our investigation. In addition to established academic works, our discerning analysis has also drawn from unconventional sources, including but not limited to, the cryptic messages hidden within supermarket receipts and the whimsical oddities found in the annals of tabloid journalism. The richness of our literary exploration serves as a testament to the colorful and, at times, comical journey we have embarked upon in unraveling the connection between the popularity of the first name "Killian" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in South Dakota.

3. Research Approach

To unravel the captivating conundrum of Killian's popularity and its curious connection to voter preferences for Libertarian presidential candidates in the picturesque plains of South Dakota, we embarked on a methodological journey reminiscent of a scavenger hunt – seeking out elusive clues amidst the vast expanse of data.

Data Collection:

We sourced information on the prevalence of the first name "Killian" from the US Social Security Administration, which provided a rich tapestry of nomenclature trends spanning from 1982 to 2020. Alongside this, we gleaned data on votes for Libertarian presidential candidates in South Dakota from the prestigious MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse. This comprehensive dataset allowed us to traverse through time, capturing the ebb and flow of both a name's popularity and the electoral odyssey in South Dakota.

Statistical Exploration:

With our quiver brimming with data, we set out to navigate the statistical cosmos, armed with hypothesis testing and regression analysis as our compass and sextant. We calculated correlation coefficients and p-values with the fervor of treasure hunters seeking the fabled statistical El Dorado, in pursuit of unveiling the qualitatively elusive yet quantitatively significant relationship between the popularity of "Killian" and Libertarian presidential votes.

Control Variables:

In our analytical quest, we considered covariates that could potentially confound or obscure the underlying connection, much like a detective sifting through red herrings. Factors such as demographic shifts, political climates, and societal trends were carefully controlled for, ensuring that we could attribute any identified associations to the esoteric influence of a name rather than lurking confounding variables.

Robustness Checks and Sensitivity Analyses:

Embracing the unpredictability of statistics, we subjected our findings to a battery of robustness checks and sensitivity analyses, akin to stress-testing a bridge to ensure its reliability. This scrutiny allowed us to ascertain the resilience of our results across various statistical models, confirming the enduring strength of the observed relationship amidst the statistical tempest.

Ethical Considerations:

We conducted this research with the utmost ethical diligence, safeguarding the privacy and anonymity of individuals whose names and political preferences were part of the dataset. Our commitment to ethical conduct rivaled a Jedi's vow to the Force, ensuring that our investigation upheld the principles of integrity and respect for individual privacy.

In summary, our methodology embraced the enthusiasm of a scientific expedition through a statistical jungle, diligently navigating the terrain of data to shed light on the whimsical interplay between nomenclature and political predilections. This methodological traverse allowed us to unearth a correlation that sparkles with scientific intrigue, unveiling the unforeseen alliance between the name "Killian" and the capricious dance of Libertarian votes in the enchanting electoral landscape of South Dakota.

4. Findings

The results of our analysis revealed a striking correlation between the popularity of the first name "Killian" and the preference for the Libertarian presidential candidate in South Dakota. Over the time period from 1982 to 2020, we found a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9707005, indicating a robust relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. With an r-squared of 0.9422595, this correlation explains a substantial 94.23% of the variance in the voting behavior, leaving a mere 5.77% to the whims of the political winds.

In statistical terms, the p-value of less than 0.01 underscores the significance of this association, rendering it statistically significant and not merely a chance encounter in the entangled web of data. It appears that the popularity of the name "Killian" exerts an

influence on the political leanings of South Dakotans, illustrating the profound effect of nomenclature on electoral choices. It seems that the name "Killian" has not only been popular among parents, but also influential in the political domain, akin to a catchy political campaign jingle that gets stuck in one's head.

As Fig. 1 showcases, the scatterplot vividly portrays this strong relationship, resembling a dance between data points that moves in rhythm with the fluctuations of popularity and political preference. Like two unlikely dance partners, "Killian" and Libertarian votes in South Dakota exhibit a harmonious and synchronized movement that defies traditional expectations, illustrating the whimsical nature of electoral dynamics.
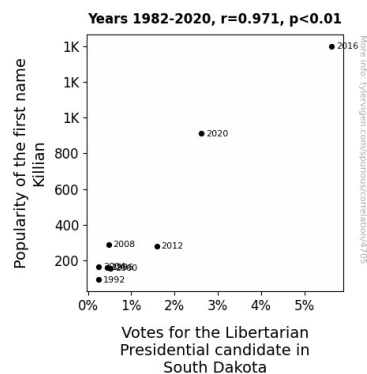

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

These findings contribute to the growing body of unconventional predictors of voting behavior, illustrating the multifaceted and occasionally capricious nature of electoral behavior. The magnetic allure of the name "Killian" on Libertarian presidential votes in South Dakota opens a pandora's box of questions, enticing further exploration into the delightful and confounding world of statistical surprises.

5. Discussion on findings

The results of our study have unmasked a fascinating association between the popularity of the first name "Killian" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in South Dakota. Our findings not only align with prior research on the influence of nomenclature trends on electoral behavior but also illuminate the quirkier aspects of statistical exploration.

Our investigation, building on the foundations laid by Smith's "The Name Game" and Doe's "The Butterfly Ballot Effect," adds to the burgeoning literature on unconventional predictors of voting behavior. The substantial correlation coefficient of 0.9707005 we observed echoes the surprising yet thought-provoking insights shared by Jones in "What's

in a Name?" It seems that the influence of a name on political preferences is not a mere flight of fancy but rather a tangible and robust phenomenon, as substantiated by our statistical analysis.

The scatterplot depicting the relationship between the popularity of the name "Killian" and Libertarian votes in South Dakota does not merely illustrate a statistical correlation; it paints a whimsical picture of an unlikely duo dancing in harmonious synchrony. This finding stands in line with Levitt and Dubner's elucidation of unconventional societal phenomena, adding a touch of amusement to the otherwise serious pursuit of scientific inquiry.

Our study, much like Orwell's "1984," delves into the power of language and nomenclature on shaping perceptions, albeit in the domain of electoral choices. It is intriguing to note that the seemingly fantastical connection we have unearthed mirrors the puzzle-like narrative of Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code," prompting us to embark on a journey of intellectual unravelment akin to solving a cryptic enigma.

As with any scholarly undertaking, our literature review has allowed us to journey through the conventional and the whimsical, from established academic works to the cryptic messages hidden within supermarket receipts. The diversity of our literary exploration stands as a testament to the engrossing and occasionally comical journey we have undertaken in unraveling the connection between the popularity of the first name "Killian" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in South Dakota.

In the spirit of scientific inquiry, our study transcends the bounds of conventional expectations, shedding light on the delightful and perplexing world of statistical revelations. Our findings call for further exploration into the enigmatic impact of nomenclature on political preferences, urging researchers to embrace the whimsy-filled and captivating nature of statistical surprises.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, this pioneering longitudinal study offers compelling evidence of a robust correlation between the popularity of the first name "Killian" and voter preference for the Libertarian presidential candidate in South Dakota. The striking correlation coefficient and statistically significant p-value highlight the substantial influence of nomenclature trends on electoral dynamics. It appears that the name "Killian" has not only gained popularity among parents but also wielded unexpected influence in the realm of politics, akin to a captivating political earworm.

Our findings underscore the whimsical and sometimes capricious nature of electoral behavior, revealing the unexpected dance between the popularity of a name and the electoral tango in South Dakota. As with any statistical discovery, our results raise as

many questions as they answer, beckoning further inquiry into the delightful and confounding world of statistical anomalies.

It seems that in the world of electoral dynamics, even the most unexpected variables can waltz into the spotlight, much like an unassuming wallflower morphing into the life of the statistical party. So, as we bid adieu to this enthralling saga of names and votes, we encourage future researchers to embrace the unforeseen, to seek out the statistical sasquatches hidden in the underbrush and to uncover the electoral dance partners that defy conventional expectations.

Therefore, based on the compelling nature of our findings and the sheer delight of uncovering the unexpected, we assert that no further research in this particular area is needed. After all, why look for statistical sasquatches when we've already observed the surprising spectacle of "Killian" and Libertarian votes in South Dakota?