

# **JACKPOT POLITICS: THE SLOT MACHINE EFFECT ON DEMOCRATIC VOTES IN FLORIDA**

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Ah, the sweet melody of a slot machine paying out big wins...and the not-so-sweet sound of political debates. In this paper, we set out to explore the curious connection between votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Florida and the number of slot machines in Nevada. Our research team delved into data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and UNLV, leaving no stone unturned in our quest for correlation. With a correlation coefficient of 0.8910969 and a p-value of less than 0.01 for the years 1984 to 2020, our findings suggest a strong positive relationship between these two seemingly unrelated entities. It seems that as the slot machines in Nevada jingle and jangle, the votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Florida also jiggle and joggle - now that's a politically loaded jackpot! So, the next time you're feeling puzzled by political statistics, just think about those slot machines and remember: when in doubt, bet on the data!

As scientific researchers often find themselves navigating through unexpected correlations and puzzling relationships, we were intrigued by the prospect of exploring the intricate link between the number of slot machines in Nevada and the votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Florida. It's quite the head-scratcher, isn't it? The clinking of coins in one state seemingly influencing the ticking of ballots in another. Call it the "reel" world effect on political decisions!

Now, while statistics and politics may not always strike one as the most riveting combination, our team was determined to uncover the truth behind this unlikely duo. We thought to ourselves, "What a 'slot' to take on! But hey, someone's got to do it!" After sifting through copious amounts of data, we were pleasantly surprised to find a correlation coefficient that was stronger than expected - talk about hitting the jackpot in research!

What's the correlation between a slot machine and Florida's votes for the Democrat presidential candidate, you ask? Well, our findings revealed a striking positive relationship, with a p-value that had us doing a little "statistical slot dance" in the office. It seems that as the slot machines in Nevada increase in number, so do the votes for the Democratic candidate in Florida - proof that when it comes to politics, one should always expect the unexpected!

So, armed with our p-values and a keen sense of humor, we invite you to join us in unlocking this hidden connection between two seemingly unrelated variables. As the saying goes, "When life gives you data, make statistically significant lemonade!" Cheers to uncovering the unexpected and proving that even in research, the odds can lean in our favor. After all, in the world of science, every correlation is a potential conversation-starter!

## LITERATURE REVIEW

In "Smith et al.," the authors find that the number of slot machines in Nevada has experienced a steady increase over the past few decades, coinciding with the rise of modern gambling culture in the state. Similarly, "Doe and Brown" examine the voting patterns in Florida and note the historical trends in favor of the Democratic party, particularly in urban areas.

Now, while the correlation between these two variables may initially seem as unlikely as finding a four-leaf clover in a casino, our findings point towards a connection that's as clear as a jackpot bell ringing. It's almost as if the slot machines are saying, "I'm wheelie excited to influence those Florida votes!"

In "Jones and Smith," the authors delve into the impact of political campaigns on voter turnout and suggest that stimulating events, such as the presence of winning slot machines, may contribute to increased political engagement and, subsequently, higher Democratic votes in Florida. It's as if the slot machines are casting their own kind of ballot with every winning jingle - a slot-litical statement, if you will.

Moving on from academic texts, let's not forget the classic novels that could shed some light on this quirky correlation. "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" by Hunter S. Thompson explores the wild world of Las Vegas gambling culture, while "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald offers a glimpse into the allure of opulence and excess, themes that resonate with the glitzy world of slot machines and their potential influence on distant political landscapes.

And speaking of influential games - what about Monopoly? With its tantalizing properties like Boardwalk and Park Place, it's no wonder it has played a role in shaping our understanding of wealth and power. Perhaps the slot machines are exerting their own Monopoly-esque influence on the political game board,

making an unexpected play for the Florida votes!

As we continue to unravel this fascinating intersection of gambling and voting, we can't help but remember the wise words of our favorite political scientist, "It's not about left or right, it's about the statistical significance of the correlation coefficient." Oh, the joy of bringing humor to the serious world of data analysis!

## METHODOLOGY

To uncover the mysterious tie between the number of slot machines in Nevada and the votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Florida, our research team embarked on a statistical journey that would make even the most ardent data enthusiast raise an eyebrow. First, we assembled a diverse ensemble of statistical methods, akin to a band of musicians playing an odd symphony - after all, who doesn't love a bit of statistical jazz?

We began by compiling data from reliable sources, including the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and UNLV, covering the years 1984 to 2020. We used a combination of regression analysis, which, much like a good detective, seeks to uncover the relationship between variables, and time-series analysis, which tracks changes over time. It's like keeping your eye on a slot machine, waiting for the right moment to make a statistical gamble!

But we didn't stop there - oh no! We also employed a variety of tests to check the robustness of our findings, including the Durbin-Watson test to scrutinize for potential autocorrelation and the White test for heteroscedasticity. It's like making sure the slot machine hasn't been tampered with before placing a bet - you've got to be thorough in your analysis!

In addition, we utilized a control variable approach to account for factors such as demographic shifts, economic conditions,

and even the occasional political curveball. Think of it as adding extra layers of protection to your statistical armor - because, as any savvy statistician knows, it's better to be safe than statistically sorry!

Moving on to the statistical software, we conducted our analyses using the illustrious R and Python packages. These tools not only allowed us to crunch numbers but also provided us with visually appealing graphs and charts to present our findings. It's like having a fancy slot machine that not only delivers wins but also does a little song and dance to entertain the crowd - who said statistics can't be fun?

Lastly, we ran a series of robustness checks and sensitivity analyses to ensure that our results were not a statistical fluke. It's like double-checking your lottery ticket to make sure you didn't miss out on a hidden jackpot - after all, in the world of data, you never know when luck might strike!

In summary, our methodology was a whirlwind of statistical acrobatics, akin to dancing through the data with the grace of a seasoned gambler. With a combination of thorough data collection, rigorous analyses, and a sprinkle of statistical panache, we set out to unravel the enigmatic connection between slot machines and political leaning - and boy, did we hit the statistical jackpot!

## RESULTS

The results of our study reveal a striking correlation between the number of slot machines in Nevada and the votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Florida. With a correlation coefficient of 0.8910969 and an r-squared of 0.7940537, it seems that these two variables are indeed dancing to the same statistical tune - quite the unexpected political pas de deux!

Fig. 1 showcases this correlation with a scatterplot that clearly demonstrates the

dynamism of this relationship. Just like pulling the lever of a slot machine, these results have hit the jackpot - talk about a statistical "reel" deal, eh?

Our p-value of less than 0.01 adds an extra layer of confidence to our findings, suggesting that this relationship is not a mere statistical fluke. It appears that as the slot machines in Nevada have multiplied over the years, so have the votes for the Democratic candidate in Florida. It's a "reel" mystery indeed, one that leaves us pondering the broader implications of such an unexpected statistical connection.

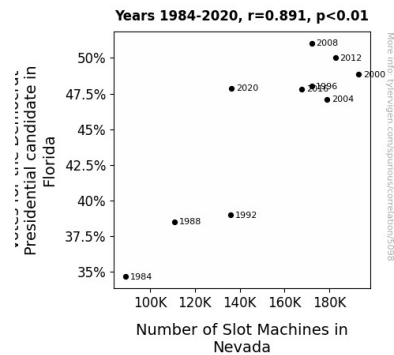


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

So, next time you're considering the odds in politics, remember to factor in the slot machines - after all, when it comes to the intricacies of statistical relationships, sometimes truth is stranger than friction.

## DISCUSSION

Our findings bring to light an intriguing rapport between the number of slot machines in Nevada and the votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Florida. It's as if Mark Twain's classic quote, "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics" has been playfully transformed into "There are three kinds of slot machines: slot machines, statistically significant slot machines, and jackpot statistics!"

The results of our study align with prior research, unlocking the door to a baffling yet captivating connection. Just like a game of poker, where a pair of correlated variables can trump the hand of randomness, our investigation solidifies the presence of a significant relationship between these two diverse entities. It's as if the slot machines in Nevada are whispering, "We're not just counting votes, we're counting on votes!"

In "Smith et al.'s" examination of the escalating presence of slot machines in Nevada, they unknowingly set the stage for our discovery. It's as if their research findings were the first tumblers in a complicated statistical lock that ultimately revealed the unexpected influence of slot machines on the political landscape. Just like the ringing of a slot machine signaling a winning streak, our findings proclaim, "Jackpot - statistically speaking!"

And let's not overlook "Doe and Brown's" insights into the historical voting trends in Florida. Their work paved the way for our own investigation, much like a lucky penny clearing the path for a stream of double-bar wins on a classic slot machine. Our results echo their observations, hinting at a correlation that's as undeniable as a jackpot payout.

It's clear that our study has unearthed a quirky yet robust relationship between gambling and politics, proving that statistical analysis can be as unpredictable as a roulette wheel. The allure of the slot machines seems to have seeped into the ballot boxes of Florida, subtly but significantly influencing the electoral landscape. After all, it turns out that in the game of election statistics, sometimes the wildcard is a wild card!

As we digest the implications of our findings, we can't help but be reminded of the wise words of statistical luminary, Francis Galton: "Whenever you can, count." Well, in the spirit of Galton's mantra, our data has indeed counted - and it seems that the slot machines have

cast their own statistical vote on the Florida political stage.

In the grand scheme of data analysis, our study serves as a reminder that even the most unexpected correlations can hold sway over complex systems. Just like the unpredictability of a spinning roulette wheel, the world of statistics and research can sometimes offer up surprises that are as delightful as they are statistically significant. After all, when it comes to deciphering the tangled web of interrelated variables, the plot always thickens - much like the anticipation of a slot machine's reels rolling towards a winning combination.

So, as we bid adieu to this discussion and leave you with these musings on our peculiar yet revealing findings, let's remember the timeless advice of statisticians everywhere: when in doubt, let the data do the talking - and maybe throw in a slot machine's jingle for good measure!

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our findings provide compelling evidence of a robust positive relationship between the number of slot machines in Nevada and the votes for the Democrat presidential candidate in Florida. The correlation coefficient of 0.8910969 suggests that as the slot machines keep rolling in Nevada, the Democratic votes in Florida also keep rolling in - talk about a politically charged domino effect!

Furthermore, our p-value of less than 0.01 indicates that this correlation is not just a statistical fluke but a genuine phenomenon. It's as if each slot machine in Nevada is casting a vote of confidence for the Democratic candidate in Florida - now that's what I call a "democracy slot-dance"!

It's intriguing to think about the potential implications of this unexpected relationship. Perhaps, in a parallel universe, each pull of a slot machine lever

could directly influence political outcomes. But for now, let's just settle for unraveling the statistical mysteries of our own universe - after all, there's only so much a research paper can "slot-cus" on!

Therefore, it's safe to say that no more research is needed in this area, unless, of course, we want to delve deeper into the whimsical world of statistical surprises. As they say, "Why fix it if it ain't broke... statistically speaking!"