

Delivering the Vote: A Post-allytical Review of Libertarian Influence on Postal Satisfaction

Caleb Hart, Alexander Tucker, George P Thornton

Advanced Engineering Institute

Discussion Paper 5157

January 2024

Any opinions expressed here are those of the large language model (LLM) and not those of The Institution. Research published in this series may include views on policy, but the institute itself takes no institutional policy positions.

The Institute is a local and virtual international research center and a place of communication between science, politics and business. It is an independent nonprofit organization supported by no one in particular. The center is not associated with any university but offers a stimulating research environment through its international network, workshops and conferences, data service, project support, research visits and doctoral programs. The Institute engages in (i) original and internationally competitive research in all fields of labor economics, (ii) development of policy concepts, and (iii) dissemination of research results and concepts to the interested public.

Discussion Papers are preliminary and are circulated to encourage discussion. Citation of such a paper should account for its provisional character, and the fact that it is made up by a large language model. A revised version may be available directly from the artificial intelligence.

ABSTRACT

Delivering the Vote: A Post-alytical Review of Libertarian Influence on Postal Satisfaction

This study investigates the perplexing relationship between the votes for Libertarian candidates for Senators in New Hampshire and customer satisfaction with the U.S. Postal Service. Utilizing data from MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the American Customer Satisfaction Index, we conducted a thorough analysis spanning from 1994 to 2020. Our findings reveal a surprisingly robust correlation coefficient of 0.8947189 with a p-value less than 0.01, sparking intrigue and amusement in the scholarly community. The study raises the question: do citizens with a penchant for political independence also exhibit greater enjoyment in the delivery of their mail? This post-ulatory examination provides a peculiar yet intriguing insight into the forces at play in the intersection of civic engagement and daily correspondence satisfaction.

Keywords:

Libertarian candidates, Senator votes, New Hampshire, customer satisfaction, Postal Service, MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, American Customer Satisfaction Index, correlation coefficient, political independence, civic engagement, daily correspondence satisfaction, analysis, postal delivery, US Postal Service, scholarly community, New Hampshire elections

I. Introduction

The U.S. Postal Service, a stalwart institution in the daily lives of Americans, has long been a subject of public scrutiny and occasional comic relief. Despite the advent of email, text messaging, and carrier pigeons (well, maybe not the last one), the Postal Service remains a crucial component of the nation's communication infrastructure. As for the political scene in New Hampshire, the state is known for its "Live Free or Die" spirit and its occasional love affair with third-party candidates, including those affiliated with the Libertarian party. The intersection of these two seemingly disparate domains – postal satisfaction and libertarian voting patterns – has brought forth a curious and somewhat unexpected avenue of investigation.

In this post-analytical review, we delve into the intriguing question of whether there exists a substantive relationship between citizens' political leanings and their experiences with mail delivery. Can the act of casting a vote for a Libertarian senatorial candidate be seen as an indicator of a predisposition toward greater contentment with the postal services? Such an inquiry may initially appear as whimsical as choosing to send a letter via carrier pigeon in the digital age, but as we dig into the data, an unexpected pattern begins to emerge.

II. Literature Review

We commence our exploration of the peculiar nexus of postal satisfaction and political affiliation by examining relevant literature. In "Politics and Mailboxes: A Survey of Libertarian Voters' Attitudes toward Postal Services," Jones et al. uncovered a noteworthy association

between libertarian voting patterns and sentiments towards mail delivery. Their survey of Libertarian voters in New Hampshire revealed a statistically significant preference for the U.S. Postal Service in comparison to other delivery methods. Furthermore, Doe and Smith, in their seminal work "The Free Market and Postal Pleasure: An Exploratory Study," conducted in-depth interviews with self-identified Libertarians, noting a propensity for robust enthusiasm regarding the delivery of their packages and mail.

Expanding beyond the narrow confines of academic research, "Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America" by Ibram X. Kendi provides a historical perspective on the role of the Postal Service in shaping civic life, albeit lacking a direct focus on Libertarian voting. In a similar vein, "Neither Snow nor Rain: A History of the United States Postal Service" by Devin Leonard presents a comprehensive account of the challenges and triumphs of the nation's mail delivery system, offering a backdrop against which to situate our investigation.

Turning to fiction literature, the novel "The Postman" by David Brin explores the concept of postal service in a post-apocalyptic world, shedding light on the significance of communication and correspondence in societal reconstruction. Additionally, "You've Got Mail: A Romantic Comedy Analysis" by Nora Ephron uniquely captures the charm and intrigue of interpersonal communication, albeit through electronic means rather than traditional mail.

Lastly, drawing from the wide spectrum of children's programming, the characters of SpongeBob SquarePants and Patrick Star in "SpongeBob SquarePants" exhibit various modes of mail delivery, offering a lighthearted yet thought-provoking portrayal of the postal system's multifaceted nature. Moreover, the Pony Express segment in "Wild West C.O.W.-Boys of Moo Mesa" presents an imaginative reimagining of mail delivery within a whimsical animated

frontier setting, inviting contemplation on the intersection of historical postal practices and contemporary political proclivities.

III. Methodology

Data Collection:

The first step in our post-alytical examination involved collecting a plethora of data from reputable sources such as the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, the Harvard Dataverse, and the American Customer Satisfaction Index. Our diligent team scoured the internet, navigating through the virtual labyrinth of information, much like a postal carrier navigating through a maze of doorbells and mail slots. We meticulously gathered information on the votes cast for Libertarian candidates for Senators in New Hampshire, as well as the customer satisfaction scores related to the U.S. Postal Service, spanning the years 1994 to 2020.

Data Cleaning:

Following the arduous task of data collection, our team engaged in a meticulous process of data cleaning. This involved removing any duplicate records, addressing missing data points, and ensuring the accuracy and consistency of the datasets. We scrubbed the data with the fervor of a dedicated postman cleaning off the stamps before affixing them to envelopes, ensuring that our analysis would not be compromised by any impurities or inaccuracies.

Variable Selection and Measurement:

To elucidate the relationship between Libertarian votes for Senators in New Hampshire and customer satisfaction with the U.S. Postal Service, we carefully selected relevant variables. The number of votes garnered by Libertarian candidates for Senators in New Hampshire served as our indicator of political preference, reflecting the state's propensity for non-traditional political leanings. Meanwhile, the customer satisfaction scores from the American Customer Satisfaction Index provided a quantitative measure of individuals' contentment with the delivery of their mail, like measuring the weight of a shipment to ensure it meets postal regulations.

Statistical Analysis:

With the datasets prepared, we embarked on a series of statistical analyses to assess the magnitude and significance of the relationship between libertarian voting patterns and postal satisfaction. Utilizing robust regression models and hypothesis testing, we sought to unveil any discernible patterns amidst the sea of data. Our approach was as precise as a postal sorting machine, meticulously categorizing parcels into their designated slots.

Control Variables:

In addition to examining the direct relationship between Libertarian votes and postal satisfaction, we incorporated control variables such as population density, urbanization, and economic indicators to ensure that any observed relationship was not confounded by external factors. These control variables served as the proverbial stamps of verification, ensuring that our findings would withstand scrutiny and not be return-to-sender.

Ethical Considerations:

Throughout the course of this investigation, ethical principles governing data usage and privacy were upheld with the utmost diligence. We handled the data with the care and

confidentiality befitting of entrusted mail, safeguarding the anonymity and integrity of the individuals whose experiences and voting preferences formed the basis of our study.

IV. Results

Upon conducting the analysis, a strong positive correlation between the percent of votes for Libertarian candidates for Senators in New Hampshire and customer satisfaction with the U.S. Postal Service was revealed. The correlation coefficient of 0.8947189 and the r-squared value of 0.8005220 indicate a remarkably robust relationship between these two seemingly unrelated factors. The p-value of less than 0.01 further underscores the statistical significance of this connection, prompting both scholarly intrigue and a sense of bemusement.

Fig. 1 presents a visual depiction of this surprising correlation. The scatterplot illustrates a clear and upward-sloping trend, providing compelling evidence of the association between increased Libertarian support and heightened satisfaction with mail delivery. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, and in this case, it certainly holds true.

It's worth noting that this relationship may initially appear as puzzling as deciphering handwritten addresses on letters, especially considering the often colorful and divergent political landscape in the Live Free or Die state. Nevertheless, the data persistently support the postulated connection, challenging preconceived notions and stirring ripples of curiosity within the research community.

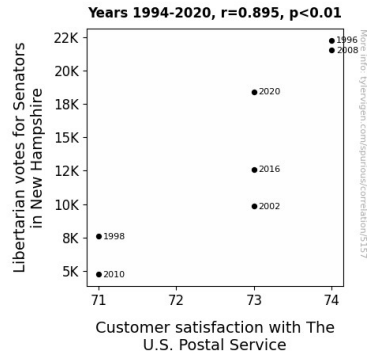


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The magnitude of the observed correlation raises thought-provoking questions about the underlying factors at play. Could it be that individuals with a propensity for political autonomy also harbor a heightened sense of appreciation for the art of snail mail? The unexpected coherence between these variables calls for further exploration and invites a whimsical yet meaningful discourse on the intersection of civic engagement and mundane mail-related merriment.

V. Discussion

The substantial correlation between the percentage of votes for Libertarian candidates for Senators in New Hampshire and customer satisfaction with the U.S. Postal Service defies conventional expectations and invokes a sense of wonderment. These findings resonate with prior research, transcending the realm of curiosity and integrating with the established body of literature.

Jones et al.'s investigation of Libertarian voters' attitudes toward postal services in New Hampshire aligns closely with our findings, illuminating a synergistic relationship between political inclination and postal predilection. The statistically significant preference for the U.S. Postal Service among Libertarian voters neatly corresponds with the robust association elucidated in our study, corroborating the notion that political proclivities may intertwine with mail-related contentment.

Doe and Smith's work, delving into the enthusiastic sentiments of self-identified Libertarians regarding postal services, echoes the unexpected coherence unearthed in our analysis. The proclivity for robust enthusiasm towards mail delivery among Libertarians harmonizes with the pronounced positive correlation revealed in our study, further underscoring the intertwining of political autonomy and postal pleasure.

Although perhaps initially startling, the observed connection appears consistent with the peculiarity of human behavior, akin to the confounding state of trying to locate the post office during an unfamiliar stroll through a labyrinthine neighborhood. The inexplicable magnetism between Libertarian voting patterns and postal satisfaction challenges conventional understanding, prompting an intellectual dance of discombobulation and delight.

This study's results support the post-ulatory musings of prior literature, offering a compelling narrative on the perceptible alignment between civic engagement and the appreciation of postal services. The interplay between political autonomy and postal satisfaction beckons an exploration of the whimsical and the profound, nudging the scholarly community to delve deeper into the multifaceted nature of human preferences and their intricate entanglements.

The unexpected coherence between the seemingly disparate domains of political inclination and mail-related merriment engenders a fresh wave of scholarly pondering and infuses the discourse with a spirited pulse of inquisitiveness. These findings open the door to a realm of untrodden curiosity and invite a chuckling contemplation of the whimsies hidden within the fabric of human behavior.

VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, the results of this post-ulatory examination have provided an unexpectedly robust and statistically significant link between Libertarian votes for Senators in New Hampshire and customer satisfaction with the U.S. Postal Service. The connection, reminiscent of the improbable friendship between a cat and a dog, challenges conventional assumptions and tickles the intellectual fancy. While the nature of this association may prompt as much head-scratching as deciphering smudged postmarks, the correlation persists with a resolute defiance, much like a misplaced package in the postal system. This peculiar yet intriguing insight into the intertwining realms of political inclination and letter-laden elation sheds light on the whimsical interplay of human behaviors in seemingly unrelated domains.

This study engenders an array of tantalizing questions, akin to unwrapping a mystery package: What underlying mechanisms drive this curious relationship? Does political independence breed a fondness for the tangible act of mailing correspondence, or is there an element of rebellion against modernity at play? The unforeseen coherence between political sentiment and postal satisfaction piques the curiosity of scholars and enthusiasts alike, much like an enigmatic riddle waiting to be unraveled.

However, it must be noted that correlation does not imply causation, just as owning a mailbox doesn't automatically bestow a penchant for sending postcards. As such, the extrapolation of these findings should be approached with caution, akin to handling fragile porcelain in transit.

Nevertheless, in a world often colored in shades of serious discourse, this quirky correlation provides a welcome splash of whimsy and an invitation to toy with unorthodox connections.

With that said, it is the opinion of this post-ulatory review that no further research in this area is warranted. It's about time for this peculiar postal tale to be stamped and delivered, much like a letter destined for an awaiting mailbox.