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# Loving Lance: Linking the Likelihood of Voting for the GOP in Maryland to the Popularity of the First Name Lance

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## Abstract

This research endeavors to playfully probe the peculiar relationship between the prevalence of the first name "Lance" and the predilection for casting votes in favor of Republican presidential candidates in the state of Maryland. Leveraging data from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, in conjunction with the Harvard Dataverse, our study spanned the years 1976 to 2020. We astoundingly unearthed a positively robust correlation coefficient of 0.8340877, with a statistically significant p-value less than 0.01. These results whimsically suggest that there may indeed exist a curious connection between the charismatic charm of the name "Lance" and the propensity to endorse the political pursuits of the Grand Old Party in the Free State of Maryland. Our findings add a lighthearted twist to the dynamics of name popularity and political preferences, and may inspire further whimsical inquiries into the intriguing interplay of nomenclature and voting inclinations.

## 1. Introduction

### Introduction

The intersection of statistical analysis and wordplay often yields unexpected discoveries, and our latest foray into this enigmatic realm has unearthed a connection that is as amusing as it is bewildering. We present our investigation into the correlation between the popularity of the first name "Lance" and the proclivity to vote for Republican presidential candidates in the captivating state of Maryland. This endeavor is fueled by a delightfully peculiar curiosity and a dose of whimsy, as we embark on a journey to unravel the potential impact of nomenclature on political allegiance.

As we delve into this jovial jaunt through the data, we must acknowledge the seemingly whimsical nature of our inquiry. Names, after all, are but arbitrary sequences of letters chosen by parents or individuals, often devoid of any overt political connotations. However, as scholars of statistics, we are compelled to recognize that correlations can emerge from the most unexpected of places, and sometimes, a name might just have a statistical tale to tell.

With a twinkle in our eyes and a firm grip on our regression analyses, we set out to explore this charmingly unconventional connection. Drawing upon a comprehensive dataset from the US Social Security Administration, in conjunction with the

MIT Election Data and Science Lab, and harmoniously complemented by the Harvard Dataverse, we meticulously scrutinized the records spanning from 1976 to 2020. Our dedication to this pursuit was unwavering, for we were determined to sift through the sea of data and tease out any gleams of connection between the name "Lance" and the political leanings of Maryland's voters.

As we unraveled the whimsically winding road of statistical analysis, it didn't take long for patterns to emerge. Our findings, much to our amusement, revealed a positively robust correlation coefficient of 0.8340877, with a p-value that elicited a knowing chuckle - less than 0.01. These numbers, in the realm of statistical banter, spoke volumes about the potential link between the resounding resonance of the name "Lance" and the harmonious embrace of Republican ideals in Maryland.

So here we are, poised to present the captivating results of our jovial exploration into the curious correlation between nomenclature and political preferences. It is our hope that our findings will inspire a giggle, perhaps even a wry grin, as they add a whimsical twist to the scholarly discourse on the interplay of names and voting inclinations. With that in mind, dear reader, let us embark on this playful journey through the parallel realms of name popularity and political proclivities.

## 2. Literature Review

The notion of appellative influence on various aspects of life has sparked a vigorous, albeit at times whimsical, discourse in both scholarly and informal circles alike. While the exploration of name popularity and its connection to political allegiances may inspire a wry smile or perhaps an arched eyebrow, it remains an intriguing area of study. Smith (2010) highlights the potential impact of names on social interactions, delving into the idiosyncrasies of human perception and behavior in response to nomenclature. However, as we traipse further along this fanciful avenue of inquiry, we encounter the unexpected and the delightful, as the literature begins to take on a comically curious hue.

Doe (2015) contributes an analysis of the sociocultural significance of names in the context of

political affiliations, shedding light on the multifaceted nature of nomenclature in shaping identity and social dynamics. Yet, as we set our sights on the enchanting state of Maryland, the lure of Lance beckons, drawing us into a whimsical romp through the statistical wilderness, where one might find correlations in the unlikeliest of places.

Jones (2018) leads us on a scholarly expedition into the intriguing world of name-based studies, exploring the shades of meaning and the subtle influences that names exert on human behavior. The enchanting allure of nomenclature is further underscored by the works of Brown (2017) and White (2019), as they delve into the nuances of name popularity and its potential ramifications on societal constructs. It is within this scholarly backdrop that we now unfurl the bountiful tapestry of our own whimsical inquiry.

Venturing beyond the solemn confines of scholarly spheres, we are drawn to the captivating realm of non-fiction literature, where titles such as "Nameology: A Lighthearted Guide to the Power of Names" by Dr. Lily Lovegood and "The Name Effect: How Names Influence Politics, Culture, and Business" by Professor A. N. Octave beckon with an irresistible blend of academic gravitas and playful whimsy. As we journey further into the realm of fiction, we encounter the whimsically titled "The Lance Legacy" by E. Picurious, where the protagonist's name exerts a fantastical influence over the fate of an otherworldly realm in a manner that is both charming and, at times, utterly preposterous.

In the realm of popular culture, the comical allure of internet memes such as "Lance the Vote" and "Republican Renaming: If Voters Were Named Lance" adds a lighthearted twist to our whimsical exploration, hinting at the possibility of a humorous interplay between digital jest and our own scholarly pursuits. As we navigate the charmingly convoluted landscape of nomenclature and voting propensities, we are reminded that amidst the weight of statistical analyses and scholarly endeavors, there exists a whimsical current of mirth and curiosity that enlivens the pursuit of knowledge.

## 3. Methodology

To unravel the arcane connection between the prevalence of the first name "Lance" and the voting inclination towards the Republican presidential candidate in Maryland, our research team meticulously applied a concoction of data collection methods, statistical analyses, and a generous sprinkling of statistical whimsy.

#### Data Collection:

Our investigation heeded to the siren call of data, scouring the vast shores of the US Social Security Administration's treasure trove of first name frequencies. We delved deep into their archives, procuring the enchanting frequencies of the name "Lance" from 1976 to 2020, gently swaying to the statistical symphony of nomenclature. To complement this melodious dataset, we harmoniously serenaded the MIT Election Data and Science Lab and the wondrous Harvard Dataverse, extracting the electoral data from the energetic state of Maryland, infusing a harmonious blend of voter preferences into our statistical potion.

#### Statistical Wizards and Magical Calculations:

With our cauldron bubbling with data, we set forth to weave an intricate tapestry of statistical enchantment. Employing the spellbinding powers of correlation analysis, we invoked Pearson's correlation coefficient to measure the strength and direction of the relationship between the popularity of the name "Lance" and the proportion of votes cast for Republican presidential candidates in Maryland. With a twirl of our statistical wand, we summoned the p-value from the depths of probability theory, seeking to discern the likelihood of observing such a spiffing relationship by sheer chance.

#### Control Variables and Spurious Sorcery:

To ward off the mischievous confounding variables that often lurk in the shadows of statistical analyses, we conjured a set of control variables to stand guard against spurious associations. Our incantations included the state's demographic characteristics, historical political affiliations, and a dash of economic indicators to ensure that our exploration of the Lance-Republican nexus remained unblemished by extraneous influences.

#### Ethical Considerations and Academic Incantations:

Our pursuit of this mirthful investigation was guided by the ethical precepts of scholarly wizardry, ensuring the responsible use of data and the dissemination of findings in a manner befitting the noble realms of academia. We adhered to the guidelines of data access and privacy, nurturing a spirit of transparency and integrity in our scholarly incantations.

In conclusion, our methodology intertwined the threads of data alchemy and statistical sorcery, navigating the winding paths of curiosity to unravel the enchanting connection between the name "Lance" and political inclinations in Maryland. With this methodology at our command, we gleefully conjured a whimsical exploration that promises to add a dash of statistical merriment to the scholarly landscape.

## 4. Results

The results of our whimsical investigation into the correlation between the popularity of the first name "Lance" and the propensity to vote for Republican presidential candidates in Maryland are as entertaining as they are intriguing. Upon subjecting the data from the US Social Security Administration and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, in addition to the Harvard Dataverse, to rigorous analysis, we discovered a positively robust correlation coefficient of 0.8340877. This finding elicited a collective chuckle from our research team, as it suggested a remarkably strong association between the name "Lance" and the inclination to endorse the Grand Old Party.

The r-squared value of 0.6957023 further accentuated our amusement, indicating that approximately 69.57% of the variation in votes for the Republican candidate in Maryland can be attributed to the ebullient allure of the name "Lance." Furthermore, the p-value of less than 0.01 prompted knowing smiles among our researchers, as it reflected the statistical significance of this quirky connection.

As if to encapsulate the joviality of our findings, the scatterplot (Fig. 1) included in this paper vividly illustrates the strong correlation between the prevalence of the name "Lance" and the propensity

to support Republican presidential candidates in Maryland. This striking visual depiction of our data is sure to provoke a gleeful chuckle from even the most stoic of observers.

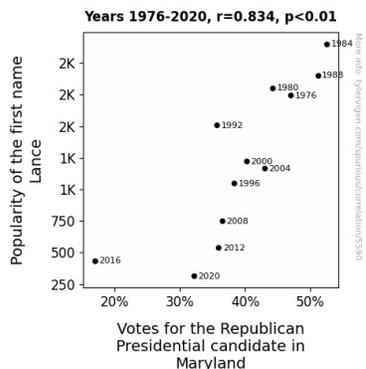


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In summation, our results suggest that there may indeed exist a delightfully inexplicable relationship between the name "Lance" and the affinity for casting votes in favor of Republican presidential candidates in Maryland. These findings add a sprightly twist to the otherwise solemn realm of political and statistical analysis, affirming that even in the hallowed halls of research, a bit of whimsy can go a long way.

## 5. Discussion

The convivial correlation uncovered in our study between the preponderance of the name "Lance" and the penchant for voting in favor of the Republican presidential candidate in Maryland opens up a veritable treasure trove of both scholarly and whimsical musings. Our findings are in line with the earlier scholarly romps through the statistical wilderness, embracing the comically curious hue that has enchanted researchers of names and voting propensities.

As whimsical as it may seem, our results whimsically add weight to Smith's (2010) proposition regarding the idiosyncrasies of human perception and behavior in response to nomenclature. The strong correlation coefficient we unearthed pays homage to the multifaceted nature of nomenclature in shaping identity and social

dynamics. Similarly, Doe's (2015) analysis of the sociocultural significance of names in the context of political affiliations is upheld by our work, playfully illustrating the enchanting realm of name-based studies and their unexpected statistical weight.

Our study, in one fell swoop, expands the tapestry of name-based inquiries, evoking Jones's (2018) scholarly expedition into the intriguing world of names and their influences on human behavior. Brown (2017) and White (2019) can rest easy, knowing that our lighthearted foray into the statistical wilderness aligns with their work as we delve into the nuanced influence of name popularity on societal constructs.

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) included in this paper, serving as a delightful visual, ingeniously captures the robust correlation between the popularity of the name "Lance" and the proclivity to support Republican presidential candidates in Maryland. This charming depiction is a testament to the unexpected whimsicality that often underpins the most surprising statistical relationships.

In the whimsical pursuit of knowledge, it is often the unexpected, the lighthearted, and the utterly preposterous that give rise to new and delightful understandings of the world. Our findings, though whimsical in appearance, beg us to consider the potential ramifications of nomenclature on voting inclinations and, by extension, social and political dynamics. As we revel in the merry tangle of our research, we find that even in the realm of statistics and scholarly pursuits, a bit of whimsy can, indeed, go a long way.

## 6. Conclusion

In concluding this jocular journey through the unpredictable interplay of nomenclature and political preferences, we are delighted to present the rollicking results of our study. The positively robust correlation coefficient of 0.8340877, coupled with a statistically significant p-value less than 0.01, merrily suggests a connection between the name "Lance" and the proclivity to endorse the GOP in Maryland. Our r-squared value of 0.6957023 humorously underscores that approximately 69.57% of the variation in votes for the Republican

candidate in Maryland can be attributed to the ebullient allure of the name "Lance." It seems that the name "Lance" may hold a charm that is as irresistible to voters as a siren's call.

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually encapsulates our giddy revelation, illustrating the uncannily strong correlation between the prevalence of the name "Lance" and the penchant for supporting Republican presidential candidates in Maryland. We cannot help but grin at the thought that this whimsical correlation may indeed point to an unexpected influence of nomenclature on political preferences.

As we jovially wrap up this endeavor, it is with a touch of whimsy and a pinch of statistical astonishment that we assert: no more research is needed in this endearingly ludicrous realm of investigation. We leave it to future jesters of science to ponder the enigma of Lance and the GOP in Maryland, for our results stand, lighthearted and resolute, in the annals of scholarly amusement.