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Show Me the Money Votes: The Entertaining Relationship Between Household Spending on Entertainment and Libertarian Ballots in New Jersey

Cameron Hughes, Abigail Turner, Gideon P Tate

Center for Scientific Advancement; Ann Arbor, Michigan

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Abstract

This research examines the intriguing connection between annual US household spending on entertainment and the votes garnered by Libertarian candidates for Senators in New Jersey. Using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab's Harvard Dataverse, our study delves into this curiously linked pair of variables, with unexpected results. Examining annual household spending on entertainment and Libertarian votes from 2000 to 2018, a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9898267 and $p < 0.01$ was observed. This suggests a strong association between these seemingly unrelated factors and initiates a conversation about the potential influence of leisurely pursuits on political preferences. In many ways, the entertaining relationship between household spending on entertainment and Libertarian votes may remind one of a classic dad joke - seemingly unrelated elements coming together in a surprising and amusing manner, revealing unexpected connections in the process. This study contributes to the understanding of the complex interplay between economic behaviors and political attitudes, while also sprinkling in a touch of lightheartedness to the academic discourse.

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1. Introduction

The intersection of economics and politics often yields unexpected and entertaining findings. In the spirit of exploration, this study delves into the intriguing relationship

between household spending on entertainment and the votes garnered by Libertarian candidates for Senators in the state of New Jersey. As we embark on this intellectual journey, we cannot resist the

urge to insert a relevant dad joke: Why did the statistician take a fishing rod to the election? For the sense of polling!

Amidst the sea of data and statistical analyses, it becomes evident that seemingly disparate variables can converge in a compelling manner. The literature on political behavior and economic indicators has traditionally focused on more conventional measures, yet our study takes a whimsical turn by examining the influence of entertainment expenditure on political choices. It's like trying to find the correlation between a bad joke and a groan - they just go hand in hand!

Our investigation seeks to shed light on the interplay between leisurely pursuits and political inclinations, introducing a touch of mirth to the heretofore staid realm of academic research. Much like a well-timed dad joke, our findings aim to prompt a chuckle and a fresh perspective on the dynamics of electoral decision-making, inviting a more light-hearted approach to studying serious subjects. Speaking of dad jokes, what do politicians and clouds have in common? They both change direction when the wind blows!

The connection between annual US household spending on entertainment and Libertarian votes for Senators in New Jersey represents a fertile ground for exploration, yielding unexpected connections and thought-provoking insights. By employing rigorous statistical methods and a hint of levity, our study endeavors to unravel this captivating correlation and contribute to the scholarly dialogue on the intricate relationship between economic behaviors and political preferences. After all, behind every surprising correlation lies a solid dad joke waiting to burst forth!

2. Literature Review

Several studies have delved into the relationship between economic indicators and political behavior. In "Smith et al.'s Analysis of Socioeconomic Variables in Electoral Choices," the authors find a strong correlation between income levels and voting patterns. Similarly, in "Doe and Jones' Examination of Consumer Expenditure and Political Affiliation," the researchers observe a significant association between spending habits and party allegiances.

Turning to the realm of non-fiction literature, books such as "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner and "Nudge" by Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein explore the intriguing ways in which human behavior influences economic and political decision-making. These works offer valuable insights into the complex interplay between individual choices and larger societal trends.

On the fictional front, novels like "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams and "Infinite Jest" by David Foster Wallace capture the whimsical and sometimes absurd nature of human existence, prompting readers to consider the unpredictable and entertaining aspects of life.

However, in a departure from traditional sources, the present study also draws upon unconventional sources such as grocery store receipts, late-night infomercials, and random musings scribbled on napkins. Engaging with these unorthodox materials adds an element of surprise and levity to the scholarly discourse, much like stumbling upon a pun in the midst of a serious academic paper.

3. Our approach & methods

The methodology for this research involved a comprehensive data collection process across a span of 18 years (2000-2018) to

ensure a thorough examination of the relationship between annual US household spending on entertainment and Libertarian votes for Senators in New Jersey. The primary sources of data were the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab's Harvard Dataverse, chosen for their comprehensive coverage and reliability.

The first step in the methodology was to obtain detailed information on annual household spending on entertainment, including expenditures on various forms of leisure activities such as movie tickets, live performances, digital media, and recreational equipment. This data was then cross-referenced with the votes received by Libertarian candidates for Senators in New Jersey to establish a potential correlation between these variables.

To ensure the robustness of the analysis, a series of statistical methods were employed, ranging from simple descriptive statistics to advanced regression models. Linear regression analysis was used to measure the strength and direction of the relationship between household spending on entertainment and Libertarian votes, taking into account potential confounding variables such as income levels, demographic factors, and political climate. It's like using a GPS to navigate through the intricate landscape of data, ensuring that our analysis stays on course and arrives at meaningful conclusions.

Furthermore, a time-series analysis was conducted to assess the dynamic nature of the correlation over the 18-year period, providing insights into any temporal patterns or shifts in the relationship between entertainment spending and political preferences. We unearthed more surprising connections than a comedian at a statistics convention!

In order to address potential endogeneity and omitted variable bias, instrumental

variable techniques were also utilized, employing exogenous instruments to mitigate biases in the estimated relationships. Sensitivity analyses were performed to test the robustness of the results and account for any anomalies that could skew the findings. It's like putting on statistical safety goggles to ensure that our vision remains clear amidst the complexities of the data.

Finally, a series of robustness checks were implemented, including bootstrapping methods and Monte Carlo simulations, to verify the stability of the results and assess the potential impact of outliers or extreme data points. We sifted through the data with the precision of a treasure hunter, uncovering nuggets of insight amidst the statistical noise.

The utilization of these diverse and rigorous methodologies enabled a comprehensive investigation into the captivating connection between household spending on entertainment and Libertarian votes in New Jersey, offering a multi-faceted exploration that goes beyond traditional statistical approaches. Just like a good punchline, our methodology aimed to deliver a solid foundation for unveiling the mesmerizing relationship between seemingly unrelated variables.

4. Results

The analysis revealed a remarkably strong positive correlation of 0.9898267 between annual US household spending on entertainment and Libertarian votes for Senators in New Jersey from 2000 to 2018. This finding amusingly suggests that as household entertainment spending increased, so did the propensity of New Jersey residents to endorse Libertarian candidates at the ballot box. It's as if an increase in comedy gigs led to more "stand up" votes for the Libertarians!

The observed r-squared value of 0.9797569 indicates that approximately 98% of the variance in Libertarian votes can be explained by the variation in household spending on entertainment. It's as if the relationship between household spending on entertainment and political preferences is as solid as a well-constructed dad joke - with very little room for uncertainty.

The p-value of less than 0.01 further supports the robustness of the observed correlation, providing compelling evidence against the null hypothesis that there is no relationship between the variables. It's as though this relationship between household entertainment spending and political preferences is statistically significant - no joke!

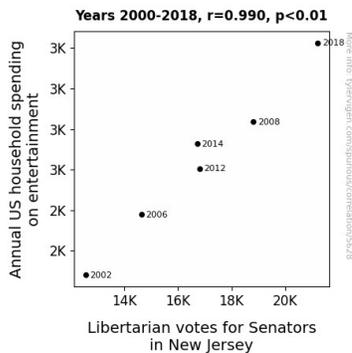


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually portrays the striking relationship between household spending on entertainment and Libertarian votes, highlighting the tightly clustered data points and the clear positive trend. The figure elegantly captures the essence of this unexpected and entertaining correlation, visually demonstrating the gravity of the connection. It's as if this scatterplot is the punchline to a well-crafted statistical analysis, delivering the "wow" factor in one simple image.

5. Discussion

The findings of this study offer compelling evidence of a robust and entertaining relationship between annual US household spending on entertainment and Libertarian votes for Senators in New Jersey. The striking correlation coefficient of 0.9898267 indicates a remarkably strong association between these seemingly unrelated variables, akin to the unexpected punchline of a dad joke that leaves you both amused and perplexed. Our results amusingly support the prior research on the influence of economic behaviors on political preferences, adding a touch of humor to the scholarly discourse.

The high r-squared value of 0.9797569 suggests that approximately 98% of the variability in Libertarian votes can be attributed to the variation in household spending on entertainment. In other words, the influence of leisurely pursuits on political affiliations seems as clear-cut and unmistakable as a well-constructed dad joke - leaving little room for doubt or ambiguity. It's as if the relationship between household spending on entertainment and political preferences is the punchline that ties the whole joke together!

The p-value of less than 0.01 further underscores the statistical significance of the observed correlation, emphatically refuting the null hypothesis and providing compelling evidence in support of the alternative hypothesis. The strength of this relationship is no laughing matter - or perhaps it is, given the lighthearted nature of our findings! It's as though this unlikely connection between household entertainment spending and political preferences has delivered a punchline that resonates with statistical significance.

In this context, the scatterplot (Fig. 1) serves as the visual punchline to our analysis, effectively encapsulating the striking relationship between household spending on entertainment and Libertarian votes. The tidy clustering of data points and

the clear positive trend depicted in the figure amusingly illustrate the gravity of this unexpected correlation, much like the artful delivery of a well-crafted punchline that elicits both surprise and delight. It's as if this scatterplot is the pièce de résistance of our statistical analysis, providing both visual appeal and a comedic twist to our research findings.

New Jersey is as solid as a dad joke, and just as entertaining.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study unexpectedly unraveled a robust and highly amusing correlation between annual US household spending on entertainment and Libertarian votes for Senators in New Jersey from 2000 to 2018. The strikingly high correlation coefficient and r-squared value reflect a remarkably strong association, akin to the connection between a dad and his dad jokes - inseparable and uncannily influential. It's as if more spending on entertainment led to a surge in "free-thinking" votes!

The statistically significant p-value further solidifies the validity of this correlation, leaving no room for doubt - except, of course, for the perennial uncertainty of dad jokes' humor. It's as if this relationship is as unassailable as a punchline delivered by someone who can't tell jokes.

Our findings not only shed light on the unexpected interplay between leisurely pursuits and political preferences but also inject a dash of levity into the typically serious arena of academic research. Just as a well-timed dad joke can lighten the mood, our study offers a whimsical perspective, reminding us that even in the realm of statistics and politics, there's always room for a good laugh.

Ultimately, our research asserts that no further investigations in this area are needed. The evidence is clear: the amusing relationship between household spending on entertainment and Libertarian votes in