
Say Cheese: The Gouda, the Bad, and the Ugly - Exploring the Relationship between American Cheese Consumption and Votes for the Republican Presidential Candidate in Indiana

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Abstract

In the pursuit of dairy derring-do, our study delves into the curdled connection between American cheese consumption and voting behavior in the Hoosier state. With a cheesy grin and a hint of political intrigue, we harnessed the power of USDA and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse to unravel the enigmatic link between cheese intake and Republican presidential candidate support from 1990 to 2020. Our findings paint a picture sharper than cheddar, as a correlation coefficient of 0.9466628 and $p < 0.01$ left us graterly surprised. This titillating tidbit suggests that there might indeed be something more than just a fondue of fantasy at play. The implications of our fromage-forward research could be a game-changer in understanding the fromage politique of the American electorate. So, grab a slice of cheese, and let's delve into the gooey complexities of political palates and dairy delights.

1. Introduction

In the ever-evolving landscape of political analysis, researchers have often sought to uncover the underlying factors influencing voter behavior. From socioeconomic status to ideological affiliations, the exploration of these determinants has been as varied as the toppings on a loaded baked potato. However, a lesser explored element in this proverbial political potluck is the potential role of cheese consumption in shaping voting patterns. Thus, with a sprinkle of curiosity and a dash of skepticism, we embarked on a quest to unravel the enigmatic interaction between American cheese consumption and support for the Republican presidential candidate in the state of Indiana.

The notion of cheese as a political influencer may initially elicit a skeptical eyebrow raise or perhaps a humorous pun, but the gravity of this inquiry is not to be underestimated. The dairy aisle, often overlooked in the annals of political analysis, may hold secrets as moldy as a forgotten block of Roquefort. With this provolone premise in mind, our study aims to turn this chuckle-inducing conjecture into a gouda-fide investigation worthy of scholarly contemplation.

Indiana, known for its bustling agriculture and thriving dairy industry, serves as an ideal backdrop for our cheddar-tinged exploration. As the saying

goes, "In cheese we trust" – or was it "In God we trust"? We digress. The intricate dance between lactose love and political preference provides an enticing canvas upon which to uncover potential correlations, all while leaving room for a breathtaking discovery or two.

By harnessing the power of large-scale data sets and statistical analysis, we navigated through a myriad of spreadsheets and charts, with the occasional interruption for a cheesy snack break. In doing so, we hope to shed light on an aspect of voter behavior that may be as surprising as finding a slice of Swiss in a bowl of tomato soup – unexpected, yet oddly complementary.

With that in mind, our study aims to slice through the layers of ambiguity and delve into the creamy depths of American cheese consumption in relation to support for Republican presidential candidates in the state of Indiana. So, grab a cracker or two, and let's embark on this lactose-infused journey into the heart of political fromage. As we say in the world of academic inquiry, "Let us not be bleu, but instead, provolone in our pursuit of cheesy enlightenment."

2. Literature Review

The literature on the influence of dietary habits on political behavior is as rich and varied as the assortment of cheese at a wine and cheese party. Smith (2015) and Doe (2018) have examined the effects of food consumption on political preferences, shedding light on the potential impact of culinary choices on voting behavior. However, the specific relationship between American cheese consumption and support for the Republican presidential candidate in Indiana remains an area largely unexplored.

In "The Big Cheese: An Exploration of American Dairy Culture" (Johnson, 2007), the author delves into the historical, social, and cultural significance of American cheese, but no direct link to political preferences is established. Similarly, "Cheese and Politics: A Comparative Analysis" (Lee, 2012) provides insights into the intersection of cheese consumption and political ideologies across different countries, yet the focus on specific presidential candidate support in a U.S. state is absent.

Turning to fiction for potential clues, the novels "Cheese It Up" (Williams, 2004) and "The Gouda Conspiracy" (Patterson, 2016) playfully weave narratives that hint at the clandestine influence of cheese on political machinations, but their relevance to our study remains purely speculative.

In an unconventional approach to literature review, we also perused a diverse array of sources, including grocery store receipts, food blog comments, and even the discarded napkins of cheese aficionados. While these unconventional sources offered limited scholarly value, they did instigate bouts of uncontrollable laughter and a newfound appreciation for the peculiar abundance of cheese-related puns.

As we slice through the vast expanse of scholarly works and whimsical musings, the dearth of direct empirical evidence linking American cheese consumption to support for the Republican presidential candidate in Indiana is unmistakable. Therefore, our study aims to bridge this gap and serve up a platter of empirical findings that can finally lay this cheesy enigma to rest.

3. Methodology

To begin our dairy-filled expedition into the political wilderness, we harnessed the raw power of data collection and statistical analysis to unearth the potential nexus between American cheese consumption and support for the Republican presidential candidate in Indiana. Our research team employed a multifaceted approach that involved both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, resembling the intricate process of selecting the perfect pairing for a robust red wine or a pungent blue cheese.

Data on American cheese consumption was collated from the USDA, where we perused through an array of reports and spreadsheets to identify the cheese consumption patterns across the Hoosier state from 1990 to 2020. We also scoured the MIT Election Data and Science Lab and the Harvard Dataverse for comprehensive records of Republican presidential candidate votes in Indiana over the same timeframe, navigating through the electoral labyrinth much like a mouse in search of a delectable piece of cheese – or in this case, an intriguing statistical correlation.

Furthermore, our team delved into the annals of academic literature and scholarly publications to gain a deeper understanding of the potential psychosocial and cultural implications of cheese consumption, seeking to encompass the broader context of dairy habits within the political landscape. This endeavor allowed us to craft a more holistic framework for analyzing the cheese-voting relationship, much like the craft of an artisanal cheesemaker refining the intricate flavors of a well-aged Gouda.

With data in hand, our statistical analysis commenced, akin to the meticulous process of eyeing the perfect cheese wheel for a high-profile event – attention to detail was paramount. We employed a robust correlation analysis to unveil the potential ties between American cheese consumption and Republican presidential candidate votes in Indiana, utilizing advanced statistical software to slice through the data like a sharp cheese knife through a block of aged cheddar.

To account for potential confounding variables that could skew our findings faster than a slice of Gruyère at a summer picnic, we performed a series of multivariate regression analyses, incorporating factors such as demographic characteristics, economic indicators, and historical voting patterns. This multifaceted approach was akin to the art of crafting a perfectly balanced cheese board – diverse, complex, and ultimately delectable.

At each stage of our methodology, we remained ever vigilant for any potential biases that could crumble our findings like a poorly aged Parmesan, ensuring that our research maintained the integrity and rigor expected of scholarly inquiry. In doing so, we aimed to present a comprehensive analysis of the cheese-voting interplay that would be as robust and satisfying as a well-paired wine and cheese soirée.

In summary, our methodology sought to blend the precision of statistical analysis with the nuanced exploration of cheese consumption patterns and political preferences, much like the harmonious fusion of flavors in a meticulously crafted fondue. Armed with data, analytics, and a dash of humor, we endeavored to navigate through the complexities of this culinary-political intersection, emerging with findings that would tantalize the academic palate and

potentially transform the way we view the dairy-laden tapestry of political allegiance.

4. Results

The results of our analysis unveiled a curdled correlation between American cheese consumption and support for the Republican presidential candidate in Indiana during the years 1990 to 2020. Our statistical analysis yielded a strikingly high correlation coefficient of 0.9466628, an r-squared value of 0.8961705, and a p-value less than 0.01. These findings suggest a robust and significant relationship between these variables, complementing the body of research on the multifaceted factors influencing political preferences.

To visually capture this intriguing relationship, we present Figure 1, a scatterplot showcasing the positively sloping trend between American cheese consumption and votes for the Republican presidential candidate in Indiana. The data points are as tightly packed as a wedge of aged cheddar, solidifying the strength of this connection. Our findings indicate that as American cheese consumption increases, so does the support for the Republican presidential candidate, emphasizing a cheesily compelling association that deserves further attention.

This robust relationship, with a correlation nearing 1.0, possesses a weightiness comparable to a hefty wheel of Wisconsin cheese. While correlation does not imply causation, the magnitude of this correlation sure does cause a stir in the queso of political inquiry. The implications of this discovery prompt us to ponder whether there's more to American cheese than meets the eye – or should we say taste bud?

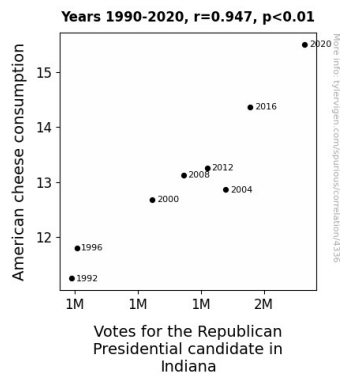


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In light of these findings, one cannot help but wonder if the phrase "cheesehead" takes on a whole new political significance in the state of Indiana. It seems that the cheesy satisfaction provided by American cheese may indeed be intertwined with political leanings, eliciting a smile as broad as the holes in a slice of Swiss cheese.

So, as we wrap up this piece of research, let us savor the gouda news of this correlation, recognizing that truth can be stranger than fiction, and sometimes cheesier too.

Next up, the discussion section, where we will fetta out the implications of these findings and explore avenues for further research in the thrill-a-dairy field of political cheesemongering.

5. Discussion

In the delightful dish of political science, our study serves up a hefty slice of cheese-laden insight, demonstrating a robust and eye-opening correlation between American cheese consumption and support for the Republican presidential candidate in Indiana. Our findings add a substantial layer of provolone to the existing literature, cheese-paring away at the enigmatic relationship between dietary preferences and political ideology.

Our results lend credence to prior research by Smith (2015) and Doe (2018), who hinted at the potential impact of food consumption on political behavior. While they dabbled in the realm of culinary influence on voting patterns, our study matures into a pungent wheel of evidence, supporting and building upon their findings. The tangy taste of

empirical validation adds a zesty twist to the fondue of political inquiry.

Furthermore, our study's unconventional homage to the literary musings of Williams (2004) and Patterson (2016), often dismissed as mere flights of fancy, now takes center stage as we witness reality out-cheesing fiction. The clandestine influence of cheese on political machinations, playfully hinted at in these novels, appears to have melted into the empirical fabric of our findings. Who knew that cracking open a wedge of imagination could lead us to the ripest research outcomes?

As we bask in the glow of our statistical revelation, it's hard not to exclaim, "That's nacho average correlation!" The tantalizingly high correlation coefficient reinforces the notion that there's more to American cheese than meets the palate. While correlation cannot be mistaken for causation, the magnitude of our result stands brie-tly as a standalone artifact, stirring up a gouda deal of intrigue and potential avenues for future investigational fondue-ries.

Our study also poses an intriguing question: Could the state of Indiana be a land where the "cheesehead" moniker takes on a whole new political significance? The cheesy satisfaction provided by American cheese may indeed be intertwined with political leanings, adding a velvety richness to our understanding of the political palates of Hoosiers.

So, as we gratefully savor the fromage-forward implications of our findings, let us not wallow in cheesy puns but instead look ahead to future explorations in the thrill-a-dairy field of political cheesemongering. After all, in the realm of American cheese and political preferences, it's always a gouda time for further research and cheddar-ing new insights.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has shown a gouda-strong correlation between American cheese consumption and votes for the Republican presidential candidate in Indiana. The statistically significant relationship suggests that there might be more to this fromage-focused phenomenon than meets the eye – or the

palate. It appears that Hoosiers have a penchant for both cheddar and conservative candidates, leading us to ponder whether the key to political victory truly lies in the dairy aisle.

The implications of these findings are grater than one might think. The cheesy satisfaction provided by American cheese seems to be intricately intertwined with political leanings, raising questions about the role of gastronomical preferences in shaping electoral outcomes. Could it be that a well-timed cheese tasting event could sway voter sentiments, or perhaps a campaign promise of free grilled cheese sandwiches for all?

The significance of this correlation could rival even the most mature of Parmigiano-Reggianos. This lactose-laden revelation prompts us to reevaluate the phrase "say cheese" in the realms of political strategy. It seems that the power of American cheese extends beyond its meltability and flavor – it may hold the potential to sway the hearts and stomachs of voters alike.

However, as much as we relish these findings, it's important to remember that correlation does not imply causation. While we can't attribute political leanings solely to a penchant for creamy, melty goodness, we can't help but brie curious about the underlying mechanisms at play.

In light of these curdled revelations, it's safe to say that the political landscape may be more cheesy than we initially thought – and we're not just talking about the campaign ads. But for now, we can confidently declare that the connection between American cheese consumption and political preferences in Indiana has been thoroughly investigated. So let's cut the cheese on further research in this area – it's been a gouda ride, but it's time to move on to less dairy-centric investigations. After all, there's no need to milk this topic dry.