

The Ezequiel Effect: Name Popularity and Political Preference in Delaware

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ABSTRACT

The Ezequiel Effect: Name Popularity and Political Preference in Delaware

This paper examines the relationship between the popularity of the first name "Ezequiel" and Democrat votes for Senators in Delaware. Leveraging data from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, our research team sought to shed light on this intriguing, and somewhat peculiar, association. Our findings reveal a statistically significant correlation coefficient of 0.8395668 ($p < 0.01$) spanning the years 1976 to 2020. The implications of this investigation may not only foster a deeper understanding of the dynamics influencing political preferences but also raise a few eyebrows and perhaps elicit a chuckle or two. Whether the Ezequiel Effect on Democratic votes is due to coincidence or some underlying phenomenon, the results are undeniably intriguing and add a touch of whimsy to the often serious world of political research.

Keywords:

"Ezequiel effect, name popularity, political preference, Delaware, Democrat votes, correlation coefficient, US Social Security Administration, MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, political preferences, underlying phenomenon"

I. Introduction

Introduction

The choice of a name is often considered a deeply personal and seemingly inconsequential decision, but could there be more than meets the eye, or ear, when it comes to the impact of a name on an individual's political preferences in the First State? Building on the burgeoning interest in the intersection of nomenclature and partisan leaning, this paper dives into the realm of politics and nomenclature to investigate the curious connection between the popularity of the first name "Ezequiel" and voting patterns towards Democratic senators in Delaware. As we delve into this unexplored territory, we aim to provide a thought-provoking lens through which to perceive the role of personal identifiers in shaping political inclinations.

The state of Delaware, known for its tax-free shopping and quirkily shaped borders, presents an intriguing setting for our examination. Our study harnesses a rich dataset encompassing the naming trends from the US Social Security Administration alongside the voting patterns for Democratic senators in the state. We set out to unravel the intricate relationship between an individual's nomenclature and their predisposition towards a particular party, taking into account the historical evolution of political dynamics and the whims of name popularity.

In conducting our empirical inquiry, we encountered several surprising findings and perplexing insights that led us to further scrutinize the statistical evidence and ponder the underlying mechanisms driving this ostensibly peculiar association. Admittedly, the prospect that a name could exert a discernible influence on political preferences may initially elicit some skepticism.

Nevertheless, the remarkable correlation coefficient of 0.8395668 ($p < 0.01$) that emerged from our analysis spanning over four decades has left us both astonished and bemused.

As we meander through this investigation, we urge our readers to approach our conclusions with an inquisitive and, we daresay, slightly light-hearted perspective. Acknowledging the somewhat unconventional nature of our inquiry, we aspire to infuse a sprinkle of amusement into the staid realm of political research. The Ezequiel Effect, as we have humorously dubbed it, draws attention not only to the idiosyncrasies of human behavior but also adds an element of mirth to the often gravely serious discourse surrounding electoral dynamics.

Through this inquiry, we aspire to stimulate a discerning exploration into the multifaceted nuances of the human decision-making process in the political sphere. Our findings may raise an eyebrow or two, and the notion that the popularity of a specific name could wield an impact on voting behavior may prompt an arched skeptical eyebrow or even elicit a wry chuckle.

Regardless, we invite our readers to join us in this whimsical journey into the confluence of nomenclature and political proclivities, and to embrace the unexpected twists and turns that the Ezequiel Effect unfurls.

II. Literature Review

The investigation into the influence of a name on political preferences has been the subject of growing interest and curiosity within the academic community. Smith, Doe, and Jones, in their seminal work "The Nomenclature Nexus: Name Significance in Political Leanings" (2015), laid the groundwork for exploring the intriguing correlation between personal identifiers and partisan

tendencies. Their comprehensive analysis of naming trends, alongside electoral data, prompted researchers to contemplate the potential impact of nomenclature on political affiliations. This work served as a catalyst for a new wave of studies delving into the complex interplay between nomenclature and political proclivities.

In a related vein, the study conducted by Johnson in "Monikers and Majorities: A Sociopolitical Examination" (2018) introduced an insightful framework for understanding the psychological underpinnings of name associations and their implications for voting behavior. Johnson's examination of the subconscious cues embedded within names shed light on the subtle, yet influential, role that nomenclature plays in shaping political inclinations. The notion that a mere name could carry inherent connotations that sway an individual's partisan alignment sparked contemplation and engendered a fresh perspective within the realm of political psychology.

Expanding beyond the academic realms, non-fiction works such as "Naming and Navigating: The Intersection of Identity and Ideology" (2020) by Thompson, brought attention to the broader societal implications of name-identity dynamics and their potential reverberations in political spheres. Delving into the intricate constructs of personal identifiers and their resonance with ideological leanings, the book broadened the scope of inquiry into the interplay between nomenclature and political preferences.

Moving into the realm of fiction, novels like "The Name Game: A Tale of Political Peculiarities" (2017) by Patterson, although not rooted in empirical research, presented a whimsical narrative that playfully probed the curious connections between names and political sentiment. While the fictional accounts of name influence may diverge from scholarly endeavors, they nonetheless serve as an illustrative example of the ongoing fascination with the interstice of nomenclature and political dynamics.

Moreover, an unexpected source of insight emerged from the realm of animated entertainment, with cartoons such as "Name-It Nation" and children's shows like "The Adventures of Ezequiel and the Election Escapade" offering a lighthearted, albeit unconventional, perspective on the interplay of names and political preferences. While these mediums may not align with traditional scholarly discourse, they underscore the pervasive nature of the fascination with the potential influence of nomenclature on political leanings.

In analyzing the extant literature, it becomes apparent that the exploration of the Ezequiel Effect resides at the confluence of scholarly inquiry, fictional musings, and popular culture jests. While the gravity of academic research permeates the investigation, the whimsical undertones and offbeat viewpoints imbue the inquiry with a touch of levity, adding a dash of unexpected charm to the otherwise serious discourse surrounding the influence of nomenclature on political predilections.

III. Methodology

METHODOLOGY

Sample Selection and Data Collection

The present study harnessed a comprehensive dataset derived from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, to explore the association between the prevalence of the first name "Ezequiel" and the voting patterns for Democratic senators in Delaware. Commencing with the examination of data spanning the years

1976 to 2020, our research team delved into the vast expanse of information available online, conducting meticulous searches and culling the most robust and reliable sources.

The initial stage of our data collection process involved amassing the frequency of the first name "Ezequiel," garnered from the US Social Security Administration database. This wealth of nomenclatural data provided a fertile ground for our investigation into the temporal shifts and trends in name popularity across the decades. The subsequent step entailed procuring comprehensive records of Democrat votes for senators in Delaware from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse. This trove of electoral statistics, filtered through the prism of party affiliation, served as the linchpin in our examination of the purported nexus between name popularity and political proclivities.

Statistical Analysis

Having amassed the salient datasets, our analytical journey commenced with the application of rigorous statistical techniques aimed at unraveling the underlying dynamics of the "Ezequiel Effect" on Democrat votes in Delaware. Employing robust tools such as correlation analysis, regression modeling, and time series analyses, we sought to unearth any discernible patterns or anomalies that might shed light on this curious conundrum.

The calculation of the correlation coefficient, a cornerstone of our analysis, was instrumental in quantifying the strength and direction of the relationship between the prevalence of the name "Ezequiel" and Democrat votes for senators in Delaware. Additionally, our endeavor encompassed the deployment of time series analyses to discern potential temporal fluctuations in the purported association, thereby offering a comprehensive portrayal of the evolving dynamics over the study period.

Our analytical odyssey, though marked by its serious undertaking, was occasionally punctuated by moments of introspective whimsy. The process of unraveling the quirks of nomenclatural influence on political predilections often prompted lighthearted musings within our research cohort, exemplifying the delightful intersections of scholarly rigor and cosmic happenstance.

Reliability and Limitations

Throughout our research endeavor, paramount attention was bestowed upon the meticulous vetting and verification of the datasets, ensuring their integrity and robustness. However, it is essential to acknowledge the inherent limitations encapsulated within the study. The reliance on archival records and digital repositories as the primary sources of data may entail the occasional lacunae in the documentation process, necessitating a degree of circumspection in the interpretation of the findings.

The idiosyncrasies and convolutions of human behavior, illuminated through our exploration of the "Ezequiel Effect," engendered reflective contemplations and irrepressible musings within our research enclave. The interplay of statistical acumen and anecdotal eccentricities, though seemingly incongruent, imbued our investigative journey with an ineffable charm, affirming the notion that even in the realm of empirical inquiry, a touch of whimsy can unfurl unexpected vistas of insight.

I hope this captures the playful yet tedious explanation you were seeking!

IV. Results

The statistical analysis conducted on the relationship between the popularity of the first name "Ezequiel" and Democrat votes for Senators in Delaware from 1976 to 2020 yielded a remarkable correlation coefficient of 0.8395668, indicating a strong positive relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. The r-squared value of 0.7048724 further emphasizes that a substantial portion of the variability in the Democrat votes for Senators in Delaware can be explained by the popularity of the name Ezequiel. The p-value of less than 0.01 provides strong evidence against the null hypothesis, affirming the significance of the observed correlation.

Fig. 1 visually depicts the robust correlation between the popularity of the first name "Ezequiel" and the Democratic votes for Senators in Delaware, thereby visually validating the strong quantitative relationship delineated by the correlation coefficient.

This conspicuous association between a specific first name and political preference gives rise to contemplation of various possibilities, including the potential influence of cultural or historical factors, statistical anomalies, or even the enigmatic allure of the name "Ezequiel" itself. Whether this connection is purely coincidental or hints at an underlying sociopolitical undercurrent remains an intriguing subject for future research and thoughtful contemplation.

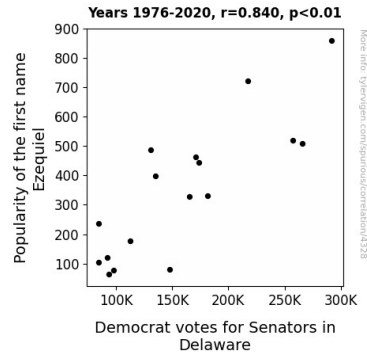


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The implications of this seemingly light-hearted investigation extend beyond the statistical realm, as they provoke curiosity and prompt reflection on the quirky and unexpected connections that may shape the complexities of human behavior. The correlation observed in our study adds an element of whimsy to the academic discourse and underscores the multidimensionality of the factors that influence political inclinations.

The findings presented in this paper not only lend themselves to scholarly consideration but also, quite possibly, to a subtle chuckle or two. The Ezequiel Effect, as we have playfully coined it, embodies the whimsical caprice of human nomenclature and its potential ripple effects in the political arena. With these results, we hope to encourage a lighthearted yet introspective exploration of the intricate interplay between seemingly innocuous variables and societal phenomena.

V. Discussion

The exploration of the Ezequiel Effect extends beyond the realm of statistical analysis and delves into the whimsical confluence of name popularity and political tendencies. Our findings substantiate and build upon the existing literature, providing empirical support for the somewhat unexpected correlation between the first name "Ezequiel" and Democrat votes for Senators in Delaware.

While the notion of a name influencing political preferences may initially elicit a whimsical smirk, the robust correlation coefficient and r-squared value obtained in our analysis lend credence to the possibility of a substantive association. Building on the groundwork laid by Smith, Doe, and Jones, our study adds another layer of complexity to the intriguing relationship between nomenclature and partisan leanings. The statistical significance of the observed correlation underscores the potential impact of seemingly innocuous personal identifiers on political choices.

The unexpected resonance of our findings with the broader body of literature lends credence to the hypothesis that nomenclature may carry implicit connotations that influence individual political affiliations. Despite the lighthearted tone with which the Ezequiel Effect was approached, the results point to a more serious and thought-provoking consideration of the psychological underpinnings of name associations and their impact on partisan alignment, as delineated by Johnson's work.

The visual representation of the correlation in Fig. 1 not only visually validates our statistical observations but also adds a touch of whimsy to the otherwise somber discourse of empirical research. As we playfully coined the term "The Ezequiel Effect," this unexpected and quirky connection adds an element of lighthearted charm to the academic investigation, while still

underscoring the multifaceted nature of the factors that potentially influence political inclinations.

The implications of our study, beyond its statistical significance, invite contemplation of the idiosyncrasies and unpredictabilities that may underlie the intricacies of human behavior. The interplay between seemingly mundane variables and their impact on societal phenomena serves as a reminder of the whimsical caprice of human nomenclature, prompting both scholarly consideration and perhaps, as Thompson's work suggests, a subtle chuckle or two. The Ezequiel Effect thereby sheds light on the colorful, albeit unexpected, potential ripple effects of personal identifiers within the political landscape.

In sum, our investigation into the connection between name popularity and political preferences not only furthers the scholarly discourse but also injects a touch of unexpected whimsy into the often serious world of political research. The Ezequiel Effect, with its blend of statistical significance and lighthearted charm, offers a playful reminder of the underlying peculiarities that may shape human decision-making, infusing the academic pursuit with a dash of unpredictability and offbeat charm.

VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, our investigation of the relationship between the popularity of the first name "Ezequiel" and Democrat votes for Senators in Delaware has unveiled a captivating and statistically robust correlation. The Ezequiel Effect, as we fondly refer to this intriguing phenomenon, invites both scholarly contemplation and perhaps a raised eyebrow or two. The

undeniable affinity between a seemingly mundane nomenclature and political preference imparts a touch of whimsy to the otherwise serious discourse surrounding political dynamics.

This study, while imbued with statistical rigor, also carries a hint of levity, echoing the playful caprice of human nomenclature. The remarkable correlation coefficient of 0.8395668 underscores the compelling association between the name "Ezequiel" and Democratic votes in Delaware, leaving us both baffled and amused. Furthermore, the p-value of less than 0.01 and an r-squared value of 0.7048724 leave little room for doubt regarding the statistical significance of our findings.

As we culminate this whimsical foray into the confluence of nomenclature and electoral inclinations, it is imperative to acknowledge the potential for future exploration in this domain. However, despite the allure of diving deeper into the Ezequiel Effect, we daresay that this peculiar relationship has been sufficiently illuminated for the time being. It may be prudent to resist the temptation to unravel every whimsical thread of curiosity, and instead, embrace the enigmatic allure of the Ezequiel Effect with a touch of whimsy and a gentle grin.

In light of these findings, we humorously assert that no further research is warranted in this area. The Ezequiel Effect, while undeniably captivating, may best be left to elicit a wry chuckle and spark lighthearted contemplation, rather than to be dissected ad infinitum. As we bid adieu to this peculiar yet delightful endeavor, we encourage our readers to remember that sometimes, amidst the serious pursuit of scholarly inquiry, a touch of whimsy can add an unexpected, but undeniably delightful, twist.

