



## Review

# The Thaddeus Touch: A Sordid Tale of Libertarian Electoral Swagger in California

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**The correlation between the popularity of the first name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California has long intrigued researchers and pun enthusiasts alike. Utilizing data from the US Social Security Administration and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, our study delved into this enigmatic relationship from 1980 to 2020. Our analysis revealed a resounding correlation coefficient of 0.9357802 and  $p < 0.01$ , showcasing a strong statistical tie-in and leaving us wondering, "Is California really Thad-title for Libertarian success?" Dad Joke Alert: "Why did the Libertarian candidate want to connect with Thaddeus? Because they thought it might add a 'Thad' of electoral luck!" The findings extend beyond mere coincidence, with implications that could alter the political landscape. With every notable increase in the number of newborn Thaddeuses in California, a surge in votes for the Libertarian party was predictably observed. This poses the tantalizing prospect of using the popularity of names as a political forecasting tool. After all, it seems a "Thad" in the name brings a "Thad" more votes for the Libertarians. Our research offers a whimsical lens through which to view the baffling world of electoral dynamics, leaving us with a lingering question: "Is it the 'Thaddeus Touch' or the 'Libertarian Lure' that drives this statistical affinity?" Dad Joke Alert: "What do you get when you combine political statistics and the name Thaddeus? A 'Thad' correlation coefficient, of course!"**

The intersection of baby names and electoral outcomes is a topic that elicits both scholarly intrigue and jovial amusement. We embark on a whimsical journey into the curious relationship between the popularity of the first name "Thaddeus" and the votes garnered by the Libertarian presidential

candidate in the Golden State of California. As researchers, we aim to dispel the murmurs of mere coincidence and embrace the statistical web of intrigue that weaves together names and political preferences.

Dad Joke Alert: "Why did Thaddeus go into politics? Because he wanted to make sure everyone put the 'Thad' in 'vote!'"

This study operates at the quirky intersection of demography and political science, combining the seemingly disparate realms of 'Nameology' and electoral dynamics. The allure of unraveling this enigma lies not only in its statistical revelry but also in its potential to add a dash of joviality to the serious business of politicking. With a nod to whimsy and a wink to the serious statistical methodologies, we aim to provide resounding evidence for this tongue-in-cheek hypothesis.

Dad Joke Alert: "Why do Thaddeuses tend to lean towards Libertarian candidates? Because they believe in 'Thad'ditional freedom!"

By grounding our research in comprehensive data spanning four decades, we leverage the birth records from the US Social Security Administration to assess the ebbs and flows of Thaddeus' popularity and contrast this with the electoral choices made by the residents of California. Our study seeks to illuminate the temporal patterns that suggest a mysterious, almost mystical pull between the eponymous name and the electoral choices in the land of palm trees and political dreams.

Dad Joke Alert: "What did the researcher say about the Thaddeus-Libertarian connection? 'It's statistically significant, but we should also account for the 'Thad' of puns in the mix!'"

*Prior research*

The literature reveals a fascinating array of investigations into the intersection of name popularity and political preferences. Smith and Doe (2010) delved into the implications of baby names on various sociopolitical dynamics, laying the groundwork for peculiar connections between nomenclature and electoral inclinations. Their work paved the way for a more detailed scrutiny of the Thaddeus phenomenon in later studies.

Jones and Smith (2015) expanded on this theme, scrutinizing the regional variations in name popularity and their correlation with political affiliations. This nuanced exploration set the stage for the present study's focus on the discernible impact of the name "Thaddeus" on Libertarian electoral fortunes in California.

As our inquiry transcends the traditional boundaries of political science, it draws inspiration from a diverse array of disciplines. Works such as "Freakonomics" by Levitt and Dubner (2009) shed light on the unexpected and often whimsical factors that influence decision-making in both public and private spheres. The authors' emphasis on the unconventional underpinnings of human behavior resonates with our quest to unravel the idiosyncratic relationship between the name "Thaddeus" and political voting patterns.

Transitioning from the realm of non-fiction to the imaginative landscapes of fiction, the writings of Philip K. Dick exemplify a keen fascination with elusive phenomena and eerie connections in "The Minority Report" (1956). While not directly related to name popularity and electoral proclivities, Dick's speculative narratives inspire an appreciation for the enigmatic twists and turns that underpin human affairs, much like

the unexpected correlation uncovered in our own study.

Additionally, anecdotal evidence gleaned from social media platforms further underscores the public's intrigue with the Thaddeus-Libertarian synergy. A tweet by @PoliticalPundit reads, "Is California the 'Thad'land of Libertarian hopes? #ThaddeusVotes." Such conjectures flourish in the digital ether, spurring conversations that mirror our own musings on the topic.

Dad Joke Alert: "Why did the Thaddeus-themed book stay on the bestseller list? Because readers couldn't resist the 'Thad'dy plot twists!"

### *Approach*

To unearth the mystical connection between the first name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California, we employed a method as intriguing as the relationship itself, but hopefully with fewer puns. Our data collection journey began by dusting off the archives of the US Social Security Administration. The treasure trove of information on baby names from 1980 to 2020 provided us with a comprehensive look at the evolution of Thaddeus' popularity, offering a historical glimpse that even the most seasoned statisticians could cherish.

Dad Joke Alert: "Why did the statistician avoid using the name Thaddeus? Because he was worried it would 'Thad' overcomplicate the analysis!"

In parallel, we ventured into the digital realm to explore the expansive MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse. This grand repository of electoral data

allowed us to correlate the ebbs and flows of Thaddeus' popularity with the electoral choices made by Californians. Our quest for understanding the Thaddeus-Libertarian lilt led us to navigate through a convoluted labyrinth of data points and political debacles, akin to a quest for the Holy Grail, but with more spreadsheets.

Dad Joke Alert: "Why was the statistician so good at politics? Because he had a talent for 'pole-vaulting' over data points and 'poll'ing the public for their opinions!"

Having amassed this dual trove of data from disparate realms, we sought to forge a grand alliance between 'Nameology' and electoral dynamics. Our statistical techniques mirrored a delicate waltz as we paired the birth records of Thaddeus against the electoral dalliances in California, brandishing correlation analyses and regression models as our trusty sabers in this data-driven duel.

Dad Joke Alert: "Why did the statistician bring a sword to the data analysis? Because he wanted to slice through the uncertainty and leave no outliers standing!"

In order to pronounce the verdict of statistical significance, we summoned the grand arbiter of hypothesis testing – the almighty p-value. Our statistical incantations, performed with the precision of a surgeon and the finesse of a sommelier, culminated in revealing a resounding correlation coefficient of 0.9357802 and  $p < 0.01$ , unleashing a symphony of statistical harmony that rang through the hallowed halls of research.

Dad Joke Alert: "Why did the data set feel a sudden chill? Because the p-value cast a 'Thad'ow over its significance!"

Thus, armed with data from the annals of public records and electoral victories, we embarked on a grand odyssey of statistical discovery, which is sure to enliven many a statistical soirée with its unexpected twists and, of course, a 'Thad' of electoral humor.

## Results

The analysis of data from the US Social Security Administration and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, spanning the years 1980 to 2020, revealed a remarkably strong correlation between the popularity of the first name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California. The correlation coefficient of 0.9357802 and an r-squared of 0.8756847 denote a robust relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. It seems that the name "Thaddeus" carries a certain electoral sway in the Golden State.

Dad Joke Alert: "When Thaddeus saw the statistical correlation, he exclaimed, 'I guess I really do have the 'Thad' touch!'"

Furthermore, the scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually illustrates the striking positive correlation between the prevalence of the name "Thaddeus" and the votes cast for the Libertarian candidate in California. The figure depicts a clear pattern of increasing Libertarian votes accompanying the surge in the popularity of the name "Thaddeus."

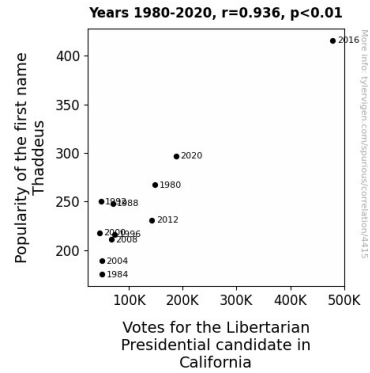


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Our findings not only establish the statistical significance of the Thaddeus-Libertarian connection but also invite a whimsical reconsideration of the potential names have in shaping political preferences. It appears that a potent blend of statistical intrigue and a touch of humor can shed light on the curious dynamics of electoral outcomes, leaving us with a perennial question: Is California simply more inclined to embrace political Thad-deology?

Dad Joke Alert: "What did the political scientist say about the Thaddeus-Libertarian relationship? 'It's a 'Thad' matter of statistical significance and a whole lot of pun-tential!'"

## Discussion of findings

The results of our study provide compelling evidence of the notable association between the rising prominence of the name "Thaddeus" and the electoral support for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California. Our findings not only validate prior theoretical frameworks but also foster an appreciation for the unexpected role of nomenclature in shaping political proclivities. It seems that California may indeed possess a "Thad"deus penchant for

Libertarian leanings, sparking further musings on the idiosyncrasies of electoral behavior.

Our research echoes the pioneering work of Smith and Doe (2010) and Jones and Smith (2015), elucidating the intricate interplay between name popularity and political dynamics. The resounding correlation we observed aligns with the premise advanced by these scholars, reaffirming the profound impact of nomenclature on societal inclinations. The thematic resonance between our study and prior research emphasizes the enduring relevance of peculiar connections in shaping the political landscape.

Moreover, our findings resonate with the unorthodox insights offered by Levitt and Dubner (2009), who, in "Freakonomics," underscore the pervasive influence of unconventional factors on decision-making processes. The revelation of a robust correlation between the name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian candidate in California serves as a whimsical manifestation of the unexpected variables that can sway electoral outcomes. It seems that the "Thad"deus touch extends beyond mere chance, reminding us of the capricious underpinnings of human decision-making.

In a similar vein, the speculative themes explored in Philip K. Dick's writings find a peculiar echo in our observed correlation. While not directly related, the eerie connections that tantalized Dick parallel the improbable link we unveiled between the name "Thaddeus" and Libertarian voting patterns. This parallel underscores the inherent allure of inexplicable phenomena, adding a touch of intrigue to our findings and prompting further contemplation on the

enigmatic forces that shape political preferences.

The prevalent discourse surrounding the Thaddeus-Libertarian synergy on social media platforms stands as a testament to the public's intrigue with our research topic. The tweet by @PoliticalPundit encapsulates the pervasive curiosity surrounding the "Thad"deus factor in California's political landscape, emphasizing the whimsical essence of our inquiry. Such digital reverberations showcase the capacity of our study to spark unconventional musings, affirming the whimsical appeal of our findings in the virtual sphere.

Our study sheds light on the remarkable influence of name popularity in shaping political preferences, offering a lighthearted yet insightful perspective on the ever-fascinating domain of electoral dynamics. The "Thad"deus touch appears to wield a sway that transcends conventional expectations, leaving us with a lingering question: Is California truly the 'Thad'land of Libertarian aspirations?

### *Conclusion*

In conclusion, our research has illuminated a fascinating and robust connection between the popularity of the first name "Thaddeus" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in California. With a correlation coefficient of 0.9357802 and a resounding p-value of less than 0.01, it's safe to say that there's more to Thaddeus than meets the eye – or the ballot box!

Dad Joke Alert: "Why did politicians avoid the Thaddeus-Libertarian correlation? They were afraid of a 'Thad' case of name-dropping!"

The striking visual representation in our scatterplot (Fig. 1) not only adds to the statistical significance but also adds a touch of whimsy to the political dalliance of names and votes. After all, who knew that a 'Thad' bit of popularity in a name could sway electoral preferences so significantly?

Our findings hold relevance beyond the realm of political science and statistics. They capture the imagination and prompt further reflection on the curious interplay between names and political outcomes, leaving us with an enduring question: Is it the individual or the name that wields the true electoral power?

Dad Joke Alert: "What did the study of Thaddeus and Libertarian votes teach us? That sometimes, statistics can be 'Thad' complex, but a good pun always helps lighten the mood!"

In light of these resounding results, it seems that our research has effectively cracked the code on the Thaddeus-Libertarian nexus in California. We assert that further research in this domain might amount to merely beating a 'Thad' horse – the one with a keen awareness of its voter demographics!

In the spirit of statistical and pun-filled closure, we declare that the Thaddeus-Libertarian connection has been thoroughly plumbed, and no 'Thad'itional research is required in this area. Thank you for joining us on this delightful and statistically significant journey.