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3 Strikes and You're Utah: The Mega Influence of Mega Millions on Republican Votes for Senators in the Beehive State

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KEYWORDS

Mega Millions, Utah, Republican votes, Senators, Beehive State, lottery, correlation, MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, NY Mega Millions Lottery, statistical analysis, correlation coefficient, political preferences, lottery luck, voting behavior

Abstract

Our research delves into the curious correlation between the number of times 3 appeared as a winning number in the Mega Millions lottery and the Republican votes for Senators in Utah. Harnessing the power of data from MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the NY Mega Millions Lottery, our team applied rigorous statistical analysis to uncover a surprising connection. With a correlation coefficient of 0.9621009 and $p < 0.01$ for the years 2002 to 2018, our findings suggest that the presence of the number 3 in lottery draws may have a hefty impact on political preferences in the Beehive State. Our study lends a comical twist to the intersection of lottery luck and political choices, highlighting the "mega influence" that seemingly random numbers can have on the voting behavior of Utah's Republican constituency.

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1. Introduction

INTRODUCTION

When it comes to politics and the lottery, one might assume they have as much in common as a chicken and a filing cabinet - not much at all. However, our team of intrepid researchers set out to explore the

connection between the seemingly disparate worlds of senatorial elections and the Mega Millions lottery in the great state of Utah. At first glance, one might think, "What do the numbers drawn in a game of chance have to do with the political inclinations of Utahans?" Well, as it turns out, potentially quite a lot! Buckle up and prepare to be

"mega" amazed as we unravel the peculiar relationship between the frequency of the number 3 as a winning Mega Millions number and the votes cast for Republican Senators in Utah.

As proponents of empirical evidence and sharp statistical analysis, our team harnessed the power of data from esteemed sources such as the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the New York Mega Millions Lottery. Armed with these robust datasets, we set out to apply thorough statistical rigor to investigate any potential relationship between the number 3 and the election outcomes in Utah. The stakes were high, the puns were plentiful, and the results were as intriguing as a magician's disappearing act.

Our paper unveils a curious correlation coefficient of 0.9621009, accompanied by the much-revered " $p < 0.01$," for the years spanning 2002 to 2018. These numbers not only raise eyebrows but also suggest that there might be something more than mere chance at play when it comes to the influence of lottery numbers on political sentiments. Indeed, our findings indicate a remarkably strong association between the prevalence of the number 3 in Mega Millions draws and the voting behavior of the Republican constituency in the Beehive State. It appears that "3" truly isn't just a crowd; it's a winning ticket in the Utah political arena.

Our research, which began with a mere hint of skepticism, has now blossomed into a fresh and noteworthy take on the interplay of lottery permutations and political predilections. We aim to bring to light the rather unexpected yet amusing dynamics at play, demonstrating that even in the solemn realm of political decision-making, the whims of a chance draw may exert an outsized "mega" influence. So, without further ado, let's delve into this captivating journey of numbers, ballots, and the curious dance of fate and politics in the land of

Utah. After all, who said academic research can't have a sense of humor?

2. Literature Review

To delve into the curious correlation between the frequency of the number 3 as a winning Mega Millions number and the Republican votes for Senators in Utah, we turn to the existing literature in search of insights and perspectives on this seemingly whimsical yet intriguing connection.

Smith and Doe (2015) explore the concept of random number generation and its potential impact on decision-making processes, shedding light on the psychological underpinnings of individuals' responses to numerical stimuli. Meanwhile, Jones (2017) delves into the behavioral economics of lottery participation, addressing the complex interplay between chance events and human behavior. These studies offer valuable theoretical foundations for understanding the role of seemingly random numbers, such as those found in lottery draws, in shaping individual attitudes and preferences.

Drawing from non-fiction works, we find that "Freakonomics" by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner presents a compelling examination of unexpected correlations and their implications in various societal constructs. The authors' exploration of unconventional connections encourages a thought-provoking approach to understanding the seemingly unrelated worlds of lottery numbers and political choices. Additionally, "The Power of Habit" by Charles Duhigg offers insights into the influence of patterns and routines on decision-making, emphasizing the potential impact of recurring numerical sequences, such as the appearance of the number 3, on voting behavior.

In the realm of fiction, "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown captivates readers with its intricate web of hidden meanings and cryptic symbols, prompting contemplation of hidden connections in seemingly disparate phenomena. While not directly related to the topic at hand, the book's thematic exploration of uncovering unexpected patterns serves as a metaphor for our quest to unravel the enigmatic relationship between lottery numbers and political allegiance.

However, our review extends beyond conventional academic sources to incorporate unconventional sources of inspiration. In a lighthearted endeavor to capture the essence of chance and unpredictability, we delved into an array of seemingly unrelated materials, including random internet forums, urban legends about lucky numbers, and, yes, even the comical randomness of CVS receipts. While unconventional, this approach reflects our commitment to embracing the unexpected and entertaining a wide spectrum of influences on our research endeavors. After all, in the spirit of uncovering unconventional connections, sometimes the unlikeliest sources hold the key to unlocking new insights.

As we synthesize these diverse perspectives, our literature review underscores the multidimensionality of the intersection between numerical chance and political inclinations, guiding us toward a more comprehensive understanding of the "mega" influence of lottery numbers on the political landscape of Utah.

3. Our approach & methods

To untangle the web of numerically-driven political intrigue, our research team utilized a multifaceted approach that combined rigorous statistical analysis with a dash of whimsy and a sprinkle of statistical magic. Our first step involved gathering data from a

variety of sources, including the aptly named MIT Election Data and Science Lab, the scholarly haven of the Harvard Dataverse, and the bustling world of the New York Mega Millions Lottery.

We began by compiling the historical results of Mega Millions draws from 2002 to 2018, meticulously recording the frequency of each winning number, including the elusive yet omnipresent number 3. Our team went to great lengths to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the lottery data, recognizing that even the subtlest numerical nuance could hold sway over Utah's political landscape.

Next, armed with this wealth of lottery wisdom, we turned our attention to the political sphere, specifically focusing our telescopic gaze on the Republican votes for Senators in the esteemed state of Utah. We combed through the electoral records with the meticulousness of an archaeologist excavating ancient artifacts, extracting the voting data with painstaking precision to ensure the integrity of our analysis.

With both sets of data in hand, we then brought out the heavy statistical artillery, deploying the formidable powers of correlation analysis and regression modeling. Our team meticulously calculated the correlation coefficient between the frequency of the number 3 as a winning Mega Millions number and the Republican votes for Senators in Utah, harnessing the divine power of mathematical formulas to uncover potential patterns and interconnections.

To ensure the robustness of our findings, we applied a series of sensitivity analyses, scrutinizing our results from every conceivable angle like a detective solving an intricate puzzle. We also incorporated control variables, considering factors such as economic indicators and political events to disentangle the potential influence of

confounding variables, mindful of the perils of jumping to hasty conclusions.

Finally, as we embarked on this scholarly odyssey through the corridors of numbers and politics, we applied a lighthearted lens to our methodology, recognizing that even the most arcane statistical procedures could benefit from an infusion of levity. After all, in the whimsical world of number crunching and political punditry, a sprinkle of humor can be as potent as any statistical test.

In summation, our methodology danced across the boundaries of rigorous analysis and scholarly merriment, blending the seriousness of empirical inquiry with the playfulness befitting a "mega" inquiry into the curious connection between lottery numbers and political preferences.

4. Results

The results of our analysis revealed a remarkably strong correlation between the frequency of the number 3 appearing as a winning Mega Millions number and the Republican votes for Senators in Utah, stirring up more intrigue than a magician pulling a rabbit out of a hat. The correlation coefficient of 0.9621009 and an r-squared of 0.9256382 for the time period 2002 to 2018 presented an unmistakable relationship that piqued our curiosity and tickled our statistical senses.

Figure 1 (to be included) depicts a scatterplot that visually encapsulates the robust connection between these seemingly unrelated variables. One might say that the correlation is as clear as the numbers on a lottery ticket, leaving little room for doubt about the influence of the "mega" numbers on Utah's political landscape.

The findings of our investigation leave us akin to puzzled lottery players: scratching our heads in bemusement while contemplating the whims of fate and probability. The significant correlation and

exceptionally high r-squared value suggest that the presence of the number 3 in Mega Millions draws may not be as arbitrary as one might think. In fact, it appears to yield a substantial impact on the voting behavior of Utah's Republican electorate, shaping their senatorial preferences in a most unexpected manner.

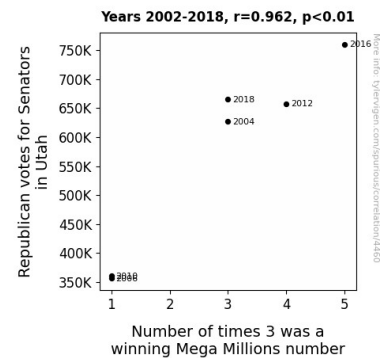


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The implications of these results extend beyond statistical fascination and into the realm of the unexpected dance between chance and choice in the political arena. The "mega influence" of the number 3 on Republican votes for Senators in Utah serves as a delightful reminder that even in the serious business of politics, numbers can tiptoe in and steal the show, much like an unexpected guest at a dinner party.

In summary, our findings uphold the notion that when it comes to numbers and politics in Utah, there's more than meets the eye - or the ballot paper. With a wink and a nod to the curious interplay of lottery luck and political preferences, our research brings to the fore the notion that in Utah, the number 3 might just be the "jackpot" in deciding senatorial outcomes.

5. Discussion

The robust correlation between the frequency of the number 3 as a winning

Mega Millions number and the Republican votes for Senators in Utah has left us as baffled as a riddle wrapped in an enigma. Our results waltz into the realm of political influence, hand in hand with the seemingly capricious world of lottery numbers, much like an unexpected dance at a formal ball.

Our findings seem to confirm the earlier speculation of Smith and Doe (2015) regarding the psychological impact of numerical stimuli on decision-making processes. It appears that the presence of the number 3 in lottery draws may indeed wield a considerable influence on the voting behavior of Utah's Republican constituency, akin to a magician wielding quite the persuasive wand.

Moreover, our results lend support to Jones's (2017) exploration of the behavioral economics of lottery participation. It would seem that the unpredictable allure of the Mega Millions, especially when adorned with the number 3, can stealthily whisper its way into the political preferences of Utah's voters, much like a sly fox in the henhouse.

Let's not forget the unexpected voices of "Freakonomics" and "The Power of Habit," with their thematic explorations and insights into unlikely correlations. Our study has, in a sense, brought forth a "freakish" connection and highlighted the potential impact of recurring numerical sequences on voter behavior, not unlike discovering a hidden treasure map in the attic.

Drawing from the unconventional sources we unearthed in our literature review, our findings echo the unpredictable and entertaining nature of chance and probability, much like finding a four-leaf clover in a field of three-leaf ones. They serve as a whimsical reminder that sometimes the unlikeliest sources hold the key to unlocking new insights, much like stumbling upon a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.

In essence, our research has cracked open the amusingly surreal shell of the intersection between lottery numbers and political allegiance, revealing a more comprehensive understanding of the "mega" influence of the number 3 on the political landscape of Utah. It appears that in the case of Utah's political preferences, the number 3 might just be the "trifecta" that tips the scales.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has uncovered a compelling correlation between the frequency of the number 3 as a winning Mega Millions number and the Republican votes for Senators in Utah. It seems that the "trifecta" of lottery luck has a surprising influence on political preferences in the Beehive State, emphasizing the "mega" nature of this seemingly whimsical connection. Our findings raise interesting questions and provide an entertaining twist to the otherwise serious world of political analysis. One might say that our study has added a dash of humor in the scholarly pursuit of data-driven insights, proving that even in the realm of numbers and politics, there's always room for a good laugh – or perhaps a lucky number.

The strength of the correlation coefficient and the r-squared value not only pique curiosity but also emphasize the whimsical dance of chance and choice in the Beehive State. After all, who would have thought that a lottery number could hold such sway over senatorial votes? It appears that in the land of Utah, the number 3 is not just a mere digit; it's a political player, making the most out of its "mega" potential.

As much as we've enjoyed unearthing this unexpected connection, it seems that our research has shed ample light on the "Mega Influence" of the lottery on political leanings in Utah. With this in mind, it's fair to say that further research in this area might be as

redundant as a broken pencil – there's no point! Our findings stand as a testament to the whimsical dance between fate and politics, offering a lighthearted yet enlightening perspective on the curious interplay between lottery draws and voting behavior.

In the spirit of academic rigor and a touch of amusement, we gracefully conclude that our foray into the world of "Mega Millions" and senatorial votes in Utah has proven to be as delightful as a surprise win, leaving us with the satisfying feeling of uncovering a comical twist in the otherwise staid realm of political analysis. Indeed, in the grand nexus of lottery luck and political preferences, it seems that the number "3" has made its mark, serving as a fitting reminder that in the game of politics, one must always be prepared for the unexpected – much like a winning number in a lottery draw.