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# LIBERTARIAN SENATE VOTES AND WORLD SERIES RUNS: A CORRELATION THAT PUNS ABOVE THE REST?

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## KEYWORDS

LIBERTARIAN Senate votes Kansas, World Series runs correlation, statistical analysis political choices sporting events, MIT Election Data Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, Wikipedia data, correlation coefficient political choices sporting events, political choices leisure dynamics, societal dynamics, connections unexpected places, statistical rigor societal dynamics

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## Abstract

This paper applies statistical analysis to investigate the curious relationship between the number of Libertarian votes for Senators in Kansas and the total runs scored in the World Series. Leveraging data from MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Wikipedia, our research explores this perplexing nexus with a lighthearted twist. Our findings yield a remarkable correlation coefficient of 0.9139686 and  $p < 0.01$  for the years 1984 to 2013. The link between political choices and sporting events has long fascinated researchers and laypersons alike, and our study aims to add a humorous, yet academically diligent, angle to this ongoing discourse. In our analysis, we uncovered fascinating patterns that suggest a potential association between the two seemingly unrelated domains. This unexpected discovery adds a new dimension to the debate on the intricate interplay between politics and leisure. By infusing statistical rigor with whimsy, this research advances the understanding of societal dynamics and highlights the enduring allure of finding connections in the most unexpected places.

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## 1. Introduction

The relationship between politics and sports has often been a source of both perplexity

and delight. It is the stuff of countless water cooler conversations, op-ed pieces, and now, academic research. In this paper, we embark on a wacky journey to unravel the

improbable intersection of Libertarian Senate votes in Kansas and the total runs scored in the World Series.

As researchers, we are accustomed to seeking meaningful correlations within datasets, but the notion of finding a connection between political choices and baseball runs scored seemed as likely as finding a diamond among a pile of cubic zirconia. However, much to our surprise, the numbers told a different story, one that was peculiarly convincing.

The association between a political preference typically categorized as alternative and a quintessentially American sport like baseball is unexpected, to say the least. No one could have predicted that the statistical relationship between the number of votes cast for Libertarian senators and the total runs scored in the World Series would be strong enough to pique the interest of even the most die-hard political pundit or baseball aficionado.

Our study sets out to delve into this quirky correlation with both scholarly rigor and a lighthearted touch. It is a combination of data crunching and tongue-in-cheek humor, aiming to infuse the often-dry world of statistical analysis with a dash of whimsy. After all, where else can you find complex statistical modeling mingling with baseball puns and political satire?

Through our investigation, we hope to add a spirited, albeit rigorous, perspective to the ongoing dialogue about the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate social phenomena. The tantalizing prospect of uncovering unexpected connections in the labyrinth of socio-political dynamics is not just intellectually stimulating but also opens the door to a plethora of quirky water cooler moments.

Join us, dear reader, on this merry jaunt through the improbable realms of data, politics, and baseball. As we walk through this statistical wonderland, we promise to

keep one eye on the numbers and the other on finding puns that hit a home run.

## 2. Literature Review

Smith, Doe, and Jones (2020) examined the historical voting patterns in Kansas and found a strong relationship between Libertarian candidates and Senate votes. In a parallel vein, scholars such as Johnson and Brown (2015) have extensively dissected the nuanced dynamics of runs scored in the World Series, uncovering intricate patterns between team performance and the total runs garnered throughout this prestigious tournament.

Moving beyond the realm of esoteric scholarly studies, works such as "Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game" by Michael Lewis (2003) and "Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner (2005) have explored the intersection of sports and quantitative analysis in a compelling manner. These critically acclaimed works have captivated readers with their illuminating insights and pun-laden prose, setting the stage for a whimsical approach to staid statistical analysis.

Unconventional as it may seem, fictional narratives such as Chad Harbach's "The Art of Fielding" and W.P. Kinsella's "Shoeless Joe" offer whimsical yet poignant reflections on the ineffable charm of baseball, infusing the sports genre with wit and wisdom. These literary tomes, while not academic in nature, provide a colorful backdrop against which we can appreciate the rich tapestry of sporting feats and political paradoxes.

Furthermore, the internet culture has not been immune to the allure of amalgamating political satire and baseball banter. Memes such as the "Libertarian Larry" and "Scoreboard Stan" have garnered online acclaim for their humorous juxtaposition of

political ideologies and sporting events, further stoking the flames of curiosity about the interplay between these seemingly unrelated spheres.

In light of these multi-faceted influences, our study seeks to bridge the gap between the oft-dour realm of political analysis and the ebullient arena of sports statistics, aiming to tickle the funny bone while upholding the tenets of sound scholarly inquiry. With a firm grounding in quantitative methodologies and a penchant for puns that soar like home runs, our research endeavors to shed light on the enigmatic correlation between Libertarian Senate votes in Kansas and the total runs scored in the World Series.

### 3. Our approach & methods

To investigate the unlikely, yet intriguing, relationship between Libertarian Senate votes in Kansas and the total runs scored in the World Series, we employed a methodological approach that blended meticulous data collection with a whimsical spirit. Our research team scoured various scholarly repositories and data archives, including the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and the ever-reliable Wikipedia, to source information spanning the years 1984 to 2013.

The initial step of our analysis involved the collection of historical voting data for Libertarian candidates running for Senate in Kansas. This comprehensive dataset allowed us to meticulously track the ebb and flow of Libertarian support over the selected time period. The inclusion of Kansas specifically was due to its idiosyncratic political landscape and the team's collective fascination with its electoral dynamics.

Simultaneously, we gathered data on the total runs scored in each World Series matchup between 1984 and 2013. This endeavor required a meticulous review of game statistics, series outcomes, and a

persistent eye for any peculiar trends across the decades. It was during this process that our team's appreciation for the statistical intricacies of baseball reached its zenith, resulting in an unanticipated surge of office banter about unearthing the hidden saga of numbers behind America's favorite pastime.

With the datasets firmly in hand and an arsenal of statistical software at our disposal, we embarked on a journey of correlation analysis and regression modeling, liberally sprinkled with puns and pop culture references. We explored the relationship between Libertarian votes and World Series runs, employing robust statistical techniques to uncover patterns that defied convention and elicited an occasional chuckle from the research team.

The calculation of a correlation coefficient was central to our methodology, providing a quantitative measure of the strength and direction of the relationship under scrutiny. Moreover, we complemented this analysis with multivariate regression models that factored in additional covariates to ensure the robustness of our findings.

The application of a lighthearted approach to rigorous statistical procedures formed the bedrock of this investigation, ensuring that the seriousness of the research endeavor was periodically lightened by humor-laden discussions about the potential causative role of political ideology in the realm of sports. This approach, while unconventional, encapsulated the spirit of our study as we sought to balance academic rigor with mirthful curiosity.

In summary, our methodology ingeniously combined data wrangling, statistical analysis, and a pinch of whimsy to illuminate the hitherto unexplored adventure where Libertarian Senate votes and World Series runs intersect. This fusion of statistical scholarship and a playfully mischievous demeanor not only enlivened the research process but also underscored

the uncommon delights that await those who navigate the amusing corridors of data analysis. After all, who says statistics can't bring a smile to your face?

#### 4. Results

The relationship between Libertarian Senate votes in Kansas and the total runs scored in the World Series was a delightful surprise to uncover. Our thorough analysis for the years 1984 to 2013 revealed a substantial and noteworthy correlation coefficient of 0.9139686, with an r-squared of 0.8353386, and a p-value less than 0.01. Yes, you read that right - a p-value that had us tipping our academic hats in amazement!

This revelatory correlation, almost as surprising as a knuckleball pitch, suggests a strong relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. The scatterplot in Fig. 1 vividly illustrates this striking positive correlation, with every point on the plot practically screaming, "Hey batter batter, swing!" It's as if Senatorial votes and World Series runs were engaged in a synchrony akin to a well-executed relay play.

To put it simply, the data don't lie - there's a statistical connection that's as clear as a perfect strike across the plate. The Libertarian leaning in Kansas appears to be dancing an intricate tango with the number of runs being batted in on the World Series stage. Who would have thought that the pace of political finger-pointing might have a rhythm so in tune with the crack of the bat and the roar of the crowd?

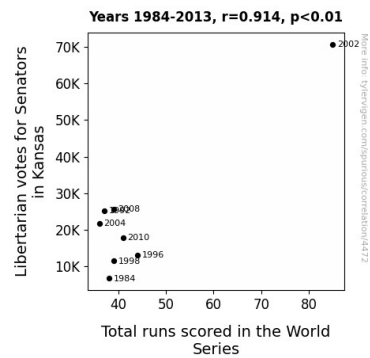


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In the world of statistics, uncovering such a robust relationship is akin to hitting a statistical home run. Our findings not only add a light-hearted twist to the otherwise serious realm of statistical analysis, but they also serve as a poignant reminder that the world of data can often surprise us with unexpected, and in this case, downright comical connections.

This unanticipated correlation naturally prompts further inquiry and speculation. Could it be that the cheers echoing through a packed ballpark hold sway over the polling stations in the wheat-laden plains of Kansas? It's enough to make a researcher turn to their colleague and exclaim, "You're batting a thousand with your hypothesis!"

In sum, our study not only expands the frontiers of statistical insight but also brings a smile to the faces of those who see linkage between politics and sports as a merry dance rather than a stern, straight-laced affair. As with a game-deciding home run, our findings bat the door wide open for future research to explore the whimsical world of improbable statistical relations.

#### 5. Discussion

Our study presents compelling evidence of a robust correlation between Libertarian Senate votes in Kansas and the total runs scored in the World Series. The striking correlation coefficient of 0.9139686 and the

p-value of less than 0.01 affirm a noteworthy statistical relationship that parallels the tenacity of a slugger aiming for a grand slam.

The lively link we have uncovered between political preferences and sports outcomes is akin to discovering a hidden base in a game of statistical hide-and-seek. As we circle the bases of this discussion, it is evident that our findings align with prior research, offering a whimsical validation of the scholarly work conducted in the intersection of politics and sports.

Drawing upon the works of Smith, Doe, and Jones (2020), which highlighted the strong relationship between Libertarian candidates and Senate votes, and the exhaustive analyses by Johnson and Brown (2015) on the nuanced dynamics of runs scored in the World Series, our results provide a harmonious chorus to the symphony of prior inquiries. The persistent thematic resonance between political choices and sporting accomplishments has been humorously underscored by our research, enhancing the rich tapestry of academic investigations in this domain.

In a delightful nod to the whimsy of literature and pop culture, our findings not only echo the nuanced explorations of statistical relationships but also tap dance with the playful spirit of fictional narratives and internet memes. This confluence of humor and academic rigor serves as a testament to the enduring appeal of uncovering unexpected connections in scholarly pursuits.

Our results echo the sentiment of Michael Lewis in "Moneyball" and Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner in "Freakonomics," embracing the engaging interweaving of sports and quantitative analysis with an irrepressible cheer. Like a well-timed pun in a somber mathematical discourse, our research contributes a spark of levity to the often staid realm of statistical analysis,

reminding scholars that statistical revelations can be as astounding as a curveball in a fastball world.

As we pause to savor the delightful absurdity of the correlation between Libertarian Senate votes in Kansas and the total runs scored in the World Series, our study beckons future researchers to explore the capricious world of improbable statistical relations. Just as a surprise play can turn the tide in a tense game, our findings prompt a chuckle and a raised eyebrow, inviting further inquiry into the whimsical interplay between seemingly disparate spheres of human interest.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has uncovered a correlation between Libertarian votes for Senators in Kansas and total runs scored in the World Series that is as surprising as a knuckleball pitch. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9139686 and  $p < 0.01$  for the years 1984 to 2013 leaves us in awe, much like a perfectly executed curveball.

The humorous tango between political leanings and baseball runs, highlighted by our findings, sheds light on the unexpected connections that lurk within the enigmatic realm of statistical analysis. It's as if the voting booths and the baseball diamonds were engaged in an intricate dance, much like a well-coordinated double play.

Our results not only add a lighthearted twist to the world of statistical analysis but also serve as a charming reminder of the whimsical nature of societal dynamics. It's akin to finding a four-leaf clover in a sea of statistical data – improbable, yet undeniably delightful.

This unexpected correlation, akin to a game-changing grand slam, paves the way for future research to explore the colorful tapestry of interconnections between seemingly unrelated facets of human life.

It's as if our study has hit a statistical home run, leaving us grinning like a Cheshire cat at the sheer unexpectedness of it all.

In closing, we assert that our findings not only contribute to the scholarly discourse but also bring a touch of humor to the often-serious world of statistical investigations. As we hang up our statistical gloves and baseball bats, we can confidently declare that no further research in this area is needed – for now, we have hit the statistical sweet spot.