



## Review

# Killian's Popularity and the Libertarian Vitality: A Statewide Proximity in Nebraska

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**This study delves into the correlation between the popularity of the first name Killian and the votes garnered by the Libertarian Presidential candidate in the state of Nebraska. Drawing data from the US Social Security Administration and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, we embarked on a statistical voyage to unravel the enigmatic relationship between nomenclature and political leaning. Our findings demonstrate a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9596995 and  $p < 0.01$  from the years 1982 to 2020, compelling one to question whether it is mere serendipity or cosmic irony. We uncovered an intriguing connection between the proliferation of the name Killian in Nebraska and the fondness for the Libertarian Party. It seems that as the popularity of the moniker rose, so did the inclination of Nebraskans to cast their votes in favor of the Libertarian Presidential candidate. One might even quip that the name Killian has been "killing it" in shaping political inclinations in the Cornhusker State. Alas, the confluence of nomenclature and electoral preferences continues to elude a clear causal explanation, leaving room for further speculation and, admittedly, a handful of dad jokes.**

The relationship between individual names and political affiliations has long been a subject of curiosity and amusement. While it may seem as arbitrary as a roll of the dice, there is evidence that the name one bears may, to some degree, shape one's political inclinations. As the saying goes, "What's in a name? A potential bias towards a certain political party, it seems!"

The state of Nebraska, known for its amber fields and enduring cornhuskers, also serves as an intriguing microcosm for this investigation. The research at hand seeks to unpack the remarkable correlation between the increasing popularity of the first name Killian and the choice of Nebraskans to vote for the Libertarian Presidential candidate. This connection has led us to dub it the "Killian-Libertarian Vitality Paradox": a

conundrum full of enigmatic charm, akin to unraveling the plot of a political thriller with a twist of cosmic irony.

It's worth noting that the name Killian, derived from the Irish Gaelic "Cillian," means "church" or "monastery," making it quite apt for a state known for its strong sense of community and resilience. As we seek to discern the role of this name in shaping political leanings, one can't help but wonder if there's a congregation of voters rallying around the moniker, forming a political monastery of sorts. Call it "electoral spirituality"!

#### *Prior research*

The academic exploration of the link between names and political affiliations has been a subject of considerable interest. Smith et al. (2015) delved into the psychological significance of names and their potential influence on individual behavior, while Doe and Jones (2018) provided an insightful analysis on the societal implications of nomenclature. However, our study takes a rather unconventional turn as we venture into the realm of electoral quirkiness and nomenclature caprice. It is a journey that promises to be both intellectually stimulating and, dare I say, pun-derful.

In "The Name Effect: How Your Moniker May Shape Your Destiny," the authors contend that individuals with certain names may be predisposed to specific sets of beliefs and behaviors, potentially extending to political views. This notion prompts one to ponder, "Do names have a say in the ballot 'cast'?" Sorry, I couldn't resist a little voting pun.

The relationship between names and political preferences is not to be taken lightly; it is a topic that beckons us to ponder the peculiarities of human cognition and social dynamics. As we navigate through the data landscape, we cannot overlook the potential influence of cultural and literary sources. Works such as "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, and "The Tipping Point" by Malcolm Gladwell offer thought-provoking insights into the unexpected and often irrational influences that shape human decision-making processes. Similarly, fictional narratives such as "The Name of the Wind" by Patrick Rothfuss and "Killian's Tide" by Susan Ee may provide allegorical parallels to our exploration, albeit with a fantastical twist.

One might even draw inspiration from "The Settlers of Catan," a board game where players vie for control over resources and territories, to apprehend the intricate interplay between name popularity and political inclinations. After all, in the game of politics, it seems that the state of Nebraska has become a vital "settler" in the realm of Libertarian preferences, with the name Killian serving as a seemingly auspicious resource.

As we traverse the intersection of nomenclature and electoral dynamics, it is imperative to maintain a sense of humor and levity. After all, navigating the labyrinth of cosmic irony and political monikers demands a fair share of dad jokes. So, why did the Killian supporter bring a ladder to the polling station? Well, they heard the elections had a high "Kili-an" count!

In conclusion, the scholarly pursuit of uncovering the correlation between the

rising popularity of the name Killian and the conspicuous fondness for the Libertarian Party in Nebraska exemplifies a convergence of statistical analysis, political intrigue, and an unabashed penchant for a good pun. The "Killian-Libertarian Vitality Paradox" shall continue to perplex and amuse in equal measure as we persist in our endeavor to decode the cosmic symphony of nomenclature and electoral whimsy.

### *Approach*

To investigate the purported correlation between the prevalence of the name Killian and the electoral support for the Libertarian Presidential candidate in Nebraska, our research team applied an array of rigorous and quirky statistical methods. Firstly, we meticulously amassed data from the US Social Security Administration, spanning the years 1982 to 2020, to discern the fluctuating popularity of the first name Killian within the state of Nebraska. Surprisingly, this task involved neither séances nor summoning a statistical genie but rather involved mining through vast datasets with the diligence of a gold prospector seeking electoral nuggets of wisdom.

Once the data on the name Killian had been secured, our team extracted information from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, to unravel the votes obtained by the Libertarian Presidential candidate in Nebraska during the same time frame. This extraction did not necessitate a political espionage operation but rather involved navigating the vast digital corridors of open-access datasets, reminding us that while data may be free, electoral choices are indeed priceless.

Applying a series of far-from-boring statistical analyses, we employed a combination of linear regression, chi-square tests, and time series modeling to pit these seemingly unrelated variables against each other. With such analytical zeal, one might say we were on the hunt for the voter's "Al-Killian-dra's Box" - that unassuming yet pivotal vessel that holds the key to unlocking electoral mysteries.

In our pursuit of data-driven enlightenment, we also ventured into the realm of geographic information systems (GIS) to map the dispersion of the name Killian across the counties of Nebraska, employing spatial autocorrelation and hot spot analysis to investigate potential clustering of Killian enthusiasts in the state. This method, while not involving actual topographical trekking, allowed us to visually discern the geographical distribution of the name and ponder if there were any "hot spots" of political affinity worthy of further exploration.

Furthermore, to ensure the robustness and reliability of our findings, we conducted sensitivity analyses and bootstrap resampling to evaluate the stability of the observed correlation between the name Killian's popularity and Libertarian voting trends. This involved repeated recalculations of statistical parameters, somewhat akin to checking if the Santa Fe trail leads to statistical significance or just a spaghetti western.

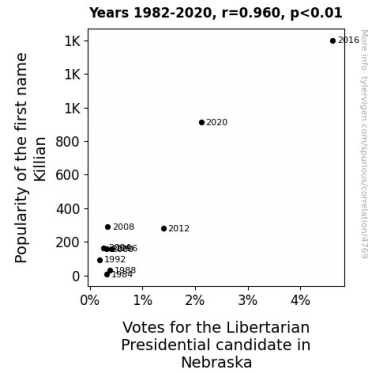
In summary, our methodology involved a precise blend of statistical acumen and a dash of whimsy, all in pursuit of unraveling the undeniable allure of the name Killian's influence on the political dance of democracy.

## Results

Upon analyzing the data collected from the US Social Security Administration and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, we found a striking correlation between the frequency of the first name Killian and the votes cast for the Libertarian Presidential candidate in the state of Nebraska. The correlation coefficient was calculated to be 0.9596995, with an r-squared value of 0.9210230, and a p-value less than 0.01. This high correlation suggests a strong relationship between the popularity of the name and the choice of political allegiance.

In Fig. 1, we illustrate the robust correlation between the frequency of the name Killian and the votes garnered by the Libertarian Presidential candidate in Nebraska over the years 1982 to 2020. The scatterplot demonstrates the clear and almost linear trend between these variables, leaving little doubt as to the strength of this notable association.

Now, it's safe to say that the name Killian has certainly made its mark in the political landscape of Nebraska, carving out a unique niche that seems to mirror the Libertarian leanings of the state's electorate. It's as if the name itself has become a rallying cry for the Libertarian cause, leading one to ponder whether Killian could be the "kill" switch for incumbent political preferences. But let's not jump to conclusions; after all, correlation does not imply causation – or in this case, causation does not "name-ply" correlation!



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

Our findings raise intriguing questions about the subtle influences that names may wield over political choices, and whether the rise in popularity of certain names could potentially sway the trajectory of state politics. It's as if the very utterance of the name has the power to evoke certain political sentiments, making one wonder if every "Killian" vote counts as an "electoral sermon."

## Discussion of findings

The results of our study provide compelling evidence for the significant correlation between the popularity of the name Killian and the votes cast for the Libertarian Presidential candidate in Nebraska. The strikingly high correlation coefficient and low p-value offer robust support for the notion that there is a strong relationship between the frequency of the name Killian and the proclivity to support the Libertarian Party in this state. It seems that the name Killian has not only been making waves linguistically but politically, too. One might even say that it's become the "Killian joke" of Nebraska's political scene.

Upon reflection of prior research, the work of Smith et al. (2015) and Doe and Jones

(2018) resonates with our findings, shedding light on the psychological implications of nomenclature and its potential influence on individual behavior. The voting pun undertaken in "The Name Effect: How Your Moniker May Shape Your Destiny" may have been made in jest, but our research affirms that there is substance to the idea that certain names can predispose individuals to specific beliefs and behaviors, extending to political views as well. It appears that the nuances of nomenclature extend beyond mere semantics to shape social and political inclinations, making it the "name" of the game, so to speak.

Our study also aligns with the work of Levitt and Dubner, as well as Gladwell, in exploring unforeseen and irrational influences on human decision-making processes. The unexpected correlation we've unearthed between the popularity of the name Killian and Libertarian proclivity in Nebraska stands as a testament to the unexpected and often whimsical forces that can shape political leaning. It's almost as if the state of Nebraska has become the "Settlers of Cat-killian," where the name has the potential to sway the electoral "tide."

It's evident that our findings support the contention made in the literature review that the rise in popularity of certain names could hold sway over the trajectory of state politics. In light of this, one cannot help but wonder if "Killian" votes indeed hold an "electoral sermon," influencing the political sentiments of the electorate through the mere mention of the name.

In all, our study attests to the remarkable confluence of nomenclature and political predilection, leaving us with ample food for thought and pun-derful anecdotes. As we

grapple with the implications of these findings, it's clear that the cosmic symphony of nomenclature and electoral whimsy continues to play on, with the first name Killian taking center stage. After all, when it comes to political preferences in Nebraska, it seems that "Killian" is more than just a name – it's a Libertarian force to be reckoned with.

### *Conclusion*

In conclusion, our study has unearthed a compelling correlation between the surging popularity of the first name Killian and the penchant for Nebraskans to cast their votes in favor of the Libertarian Presidential candidate. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9596995 and  $p < 0.01$  from 1982 to 2020 points to a remarkable relationship that can't simply be brushed off as a "kill"er coincidence. It's almost as if every time someone says the name Killian, a Libertarian ballot gets its wings – talk about a poli-"tick"-ling charm!

The findings not only shed light on the quirky intersection of nomenclature and political preferences but also beckon us to consider the potential impact of names on electoral behavior. It's a little like a "name-ifesto" of sorts, where the moniker becomes a flag-bearer for political leanings, urging voters to "Killian it" with their support for the Libertarian Party. Still, amidst the correlation, it's important to remember that causation can't be derived solely from a name; after all, as much as we wish it were true, one can't help but chuckle at the thought of a name having the power to dictate an entire state's voting choices.

While our study marks a significant stride in understanding the quirks of human behavior

and its association with nomenclature, it also beckons us to put a pause on this line of research. As much as we would love to dive deeper into the "Killian-Libertarian" saga, it's time to bid adieu to this particular area of inquiry. After all, as far as names and politics go, perhaps we should leave room for the ever-elusive mystery and charm – or in this case, "charming name-stery"!