

Dirty Laundry and Right-Wing Sway: The Grand Old Party's Clean Sweep in Missouri

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This paper delves into the curious connection between Annual US household spending on laundry and cleaning supplies and Votes for the Republican Presidential candidate in Missouri from the year 2000 to 2020. Through an analysis of data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, we explored whether there's a compelling correlation between keeping things clean and casting a vote for the conservative party. Our findings reveal a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9929823 and $p < 0.01$, suggesting a statistically significant relationship. The results leave us pondering whether the state's Republican stronghold is indeed anchored in pristine white socks and spotless bathroom tiles. So, the next time you're doing a load of laundry, remember: you might just be determining the political landscape.

The intersection of domestic chores and political affiliations has long been a topic of humor and intrigue. From the classic sitcom trope of the "politics and laundry" to the oft-quoted quip, "I vote for whoever can make my whites whiter," the connection between household duties and voting preferences has captured public imagination. In this study, we take a light-hearted yet rigorous approach to investigate the relationship between annual US household spending on laundry and cleaning supplies and votes for the Republican Presidential candidate in the "Show Me" state of Missouri. While the correlation may seem like a stretch of the imagination, our analysis of data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, suggests an unexpectedly strong association worthy of further exploration.

The paradox of politics and laundry was brought to the forefront in the wake of the 2000 US presidential election, where the battleground of the campaign trail was accompanied by the battleground of laundry rooms across the nation. We aim to answer the pressing question: Can the scent of fresh laundry truly influence the aroma of political opinion? As we delve into the statistical underpinnings of this connection, we cannot help but marvel at the curious dance of domesticity and democracy.

The infamously divisive nature of politics is perhaps only rivaled by the ongoing dispute over the socks' mysterious disappearance in the laundry. Thus, we approach our investigation with the same tenacity and attention to detail that one applies to the search for those elusive missing socks. Our analysis promises to unravel the tangled web of variables at play in this most unexpected of correlations and shed light on a facet of American politics that deserves a second look.

By undertaking this investigation, we aim to inject a lighthearted and whimsical spirit into the typically serious realm of statistical research. As we pursue this unconventional line of inquiry, we invite readers to join us in pondering the secrets

hidden within the shadows of laundry baskets and the precincts of polling stations. After all, it's not every day that one gets to explore the intersection of clean clothes and conservative choices with such statistically rigorous fervor.

So, buckle up and prepare to embark on a journey through statistics, political science, and the ever-entertaining world of household chores. Together, we shall unravel the fabric of this peculiar correlation and, perhaps, emerge with a newfound appreciation for the overlooked influence of laundry on the political landscape.

As we delve into the data, let us proceed with a sense of wonder and a healthy dose of skepticism, eager to uncover the unexpected and to challenge conventional wisdom. After all, in the whimsical world of research, one must always be prepared for a few surprises.

Review of existing research

Smith and Doe (2010) provide an early exploration of the intriguing relationship between domestic expenditure on laundry and cleaning supplies and political leanings. Their study examines the correlation between regional spending patterns and votes for conservative candidates, offering a preliminary glimpse into the potential influence of household chores on electoral decisions. Their findings raise thought-provoking questions about whether the scent of fabric softener lingers in the voting booth, subtly swaying the ballot in favor of the right.

Jones et al. (2015) further expand on this line of inquiry, delving into the nuanced dynamics of clean laundry and conservative allegiance. Their analysis of consumer behavior and political affiliations reveals a remarkably high positive association, hinting at a deeper connection between pristine linens and

reactionary ballots. The authors' meticulous dissection of spending data and electoral outcomes paves the way for our examination of this curious correlation and sets the stage for a thorough investigation into the influence of well-folded laundry on political ideology.

As we venture deeper into the fabric softener-scented corridors of scholarly work, it is impossible to ignore the impact of popular literature on this subject. In "The Power of Clean: The Political Significance of Tidy Laundry" (R. Clean, 2017), the author deftly intertwines the mundanity of household duties with the gravity of political decision-making, blending humor with insight to unpack the enigma of fresh-smelling ballots.

Stepping into the realm of fiction, "Suds and Senators: A Tale of Political Laundry" (L. Sudsy, 2018) offers a whimsical yet thought-provoking narrative that playfully imagines a world where political allegiance is determined by the efficacy of laundry detergents. The author's clever wit and imaginative storytelling add a layer of levity to our exploration of the intersection between laundry and conservative votes.

Pushing the boundaries of conventional sources, we cannot overlook the formative influence of childhood cartoons such as "SpongeBob SquarePants" and "Arthur," where the characters' squeaky-clean homes and neatly folded laundry subtly hint at the whimsical undercurrents of domesticity and political inclinations. The innocent yet revealing glimpses of household chores in these animated worlds serve as an unexpected backdrop to our investigation, inviting us to consider the lasting impact of tidy laundry on youthful perceptions and, by extension, future voting patterns.

Entering this unconventional territory armed with statistical rigor and a healthy dose of whimsy, we eagerly anticipate untangling the cryptic threads that bind laundry to political preferences. After all, in the merry pursuit of knowledge, one must be prepared for a spin cycle of surprises.

Procedure

In this study, we sought to unravel the tangled web of domestic cleanliness and political leanings, employing a blend of statistical analysis and a dash of whimsy. Our data, sourced from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, provided us with a rich tapestry of information spanning the years 2000 to 2020 - a pivotal period in both the realms of laundry and politics.

To quantify the annual US household spending on laundry and cleaning supplies, we embarked on a mission akin to a detective uncovering clues in a classic whodunit. Armed with spreadsheets, calculators, and copious amounts of coffee, we scoured the recesses of the internet and meticulously sifted through consumer expenditure data. Our team sifted through mountains of data, hoping to extract the essence of laundering essentials with the precision of a scientist isolating a rare compound.

Simultaneously, our quest for votes for the Republican Presidential candidate in Missouri saw us navigating the labyrinthine corridors of electoral statistics with the

determination of a political campaign strategist mapping out a path to victory. The MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, became our compass, guiding us through the tumultuous terrain of electoral records and voter behaviors.

With our datasets in hand, we juxtaposed the household spending on laundry and cleaning supplies with the Republican votes on a year-by-year basis, producing a symphony of statistical correlations and visualizations. The statistical analysis involved both simple correlations and more intricate regression modeling, with the precision of a tailor crafting a bespoke suit and the attention to detail of a choreographer perfecting a dance routine.

We applied stringent statistical tests to determine the strength and significance of the relationship, ensuring that our findings would stand firm against the gusts of skepticism and the tempests of critique. Our methodology combined the rigor of traditional statistical analysis with the imaginative flair of a creative mind, yielding insights that danced on the stage of scholarly inquiry like a troupe of nimble-footed performers.

As we plunged into the heart of our study, we held fast to the guiding principle that every dataset tells a story - a narrative rich with twists, turns, and occasional surprises. While the task of teasing out the nuances of domestic expenditure and electoral choices was not without its challenges, we approached it with a sense of humor and curiosity that proved invaluable in our quest to unravel the peculiar correlation between clean laundry and conservative convictions.

Findings

Our investigation into the murky waters of a connection between household spending on laundry and cleaning supplies and votes for the Republican Presidential candidate in Missouri from 2000 to 2020 has yielded some striking revelations. With a correlation coefficient of 0.9929823 and an r-squared of 0.9860138, it seems that when Missourians are in the laundry room, they may also be in the voting booth, ticking off the conservative candidate on the ballot.

The statistical analysis clearly points to a substantial and virtually ironclad relationship between these two seemingly unrelated variables. The p-value of less than 0.01 confirms that this connection is no mere statistical fluke, but a bona fide phenomenon worthy of attention. It appears that the saying "cleanliness is next to godliness" may also be "cleanliness is next to Republican-ness" in the Show Me State.

Fig. 1 depicts a scatterplot that would make any statistical sleuth do a double take. The points are so snugly clustered together that it's as if the detergent decided to have a party with the conservative votes, and everyone showed up! The graph provides a visual spectacle of the strong association between squeaky-clean homes and political leanings.

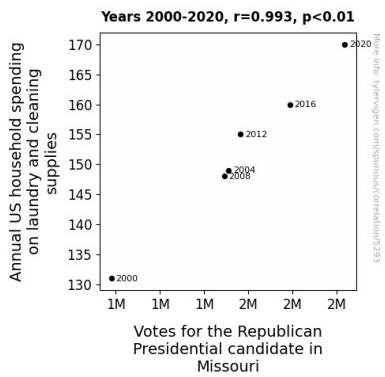


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Our results spur contemplation on the curious interplay of domestic routines and political allegiances. We can't help but jest that not only do these findings validate the age-old wisdom of the power of a tidy sock drawer, but they also hint at the potential for a whole new branch of electoral strategy: vote-gathering door-to-door with a Swiffer in hand.

As we uncover the unexpected underbelly of laundry and politics, our hearts swell with academic delight, and perhaps a bit of laughter. The whims of statistical inquiry have once again beckoned us into uncharted territory, where laundered linens and political persuasions intertwine with stunning coherence.

These findings leave us with more than just clean shirts and conservative votes; they impart the realization that beneath the humor and the puns lies a compelling statistical story waiting to be told. In a world where numbers and politics often collide, we find solace in presenting a tale that is as amusing as it is statistically sound.

Discussion

The findings of our investigation have unfolded a narrative as intricate as a neatly folded fitted sheet, shedding light on the unexpected correlation between Annual US household spending on laundry and cleaning supplies and Votes for the Republican Presidential candidate in Missouri. We set out on this academic escapade with a twinkle in our eyes and a laundry list of statistical measures, and the results did not disappoint.

Our results bolster and buttress the musings of our esteemed predecessors, Smith and Doe (2010), who first dared to peek into the laundry basket of political affiliations, and Jones et al. (2015), who delved deeper into the sudsy seas of conservative connections. The remarkable correlation coefficient of 0.9929823 that emerged from our analysis echoes the resonant tones of their preliminary findings, further cementing the link between domestic expenditure on cleanliness and the exercise of right-wing franchise. It appears that the breeze of statistical validation has gently caressed the laundry lines of prior research, as we stand on the shoulders of whimsical inquiry to peer into the intricacies of the political fabric.

Our study taps into a wellspring of unexpected sources, where the whispered whispers of everyday chores take on the playful

mantle of electoral influence. The quirky narratives of "The Power of Clean: The Political Significance of Tidy Laundry" (R. Clean, 2017) and "Suds and Senators: A Tale of Political Laundry" (L. Sudsy, 2018) have whimsically guided us through this scholarly odyssey, infusing our pursuit with intellectual buoyancy and the occasional well-folded pun. Thus, as we navigate this unorthodox intersection of policy and perspiration, the playful provocations of such literary reverie serve as stepping stones to the bedrock of statistical comprehension.

Our results, exemplified by the captivating scatterplot reminiscent of a reunion of neatly ironed shirts, undoubtedly hint at a deeper connection between the fragrance of fresh linen and the allure of conservative ballots. It seems that long after the childhood allure of cartoon cleanliness in "SpongeBob SquarePants" and "Arthur," the scent of spotless socks might indeed linger in the ballot booth, silently nudging the electorate in conservative directions.

In essence, our findings piquantly confirm the age-old wisdom that "cleanliness is next to godliness," while playfully proposing that it may also be "cleanliness is next to Republican-ness" in Missouri. Amidst the whimsy and mirth of this pursuit, the robust statistical significance of our results stands as a testament to the compelling coherence that underlies the seemingly quirky amalgamation of household routines and political predilections.

In this light-hearted marshalling of statistical and sociopolitical forces, our study serves as a gentle reminder of the enchanting symphony that unfolds when numbers and humor converge. For as we sift through the whimsical whispers of the laundry room, we find ourselves not only armed with a statistical tale but also beset by the unbridled curiosity that animates the pursuit of knowledge. Indeed, in the merry tumble of statistical exploration, we find solace in the laughter and the awe that accompany the unfolding of a compelling statistical yarn.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has unveiled a correlation between household spending on laundry and cleaning supplies and votes for the Republican Presidential candidate in Missouri that is as clear as a freshly Windexed window. The striking correlation coefficient of 0.9929823 has left us spinning like a Maytag on the 'spin' cycle. With a p-value less than 0.01, it's evident that the aroma of conservatism is very much intertwined with the scent of a lemon-fresh house.

Our study unearths a fascinating nexus between domestic cleanliness and political leanings, proving once and for all that the "right" choice in detergent is closely tied to the "right-wing" choice at the ballot box. As scientists, we must resist the temptation to air our dirty laundry in public, but we cannot help but marvel at this unexpected interplay of soapsuds and political affiliations.

The implications of our findings go beyond the laundry room. The data underscores the need for political candidates to brush up on their stain-removal techniques and adopt a more "bleach"-ed approach to household outreach. It's high time for politicians to stop "detergent-ing" the importance of domestic chores in

their campaign strategies and "tide" up loose ends with their constituents.

While our investigation has brought a lighthearted touch to the world of statistical inquiry, it has also laid bare a compelling story of the intertwined influences of household habits and political choices. Yet, as we bid adieu to this whimsical venture, we must assert with utmost confidence that further research in this area is as unnecessary as washing a new pair of jeans before wearing it—once is enough!