Killian It at the Ballot Box: An Examination of the Name's Influence on Libertarian Votes in Kansas

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Abstract

This paper presents a quirky yet compelling analysis of the relationship between the popularity of the first name Killian and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Kansas. Drawing from data sets provided by the US Social Security Administration, as well as the MIT Election Data and Science Lab and Harvard Dataverse, our research team endeavored to unravel this peculiar connection. To our surprise, we uncovered a strong correlation coefficient of 0.9550334, with a significance level of $p < 0.01$, spanning the years 1982 to 2020. The implications of our findings are as fascinating as they are improbable, shedding light on the inexplicable sway of nomenclature on political preferences. In our exploration of this uncharted territory, we offer humor, statistical rigor, and a unique perspective, highlighting the sometimes whimsical nature of human behavior and decision-making.

1. Introduction

The human experience is rife with curious enigmas, some more perplexing than others. How certain monikers can seemingly stealthily influence political leanings is just one of these mind-boggling conundrums. In this paper, we venture into the uncharted waters of name-association and its improbable correlation with political affiliations. Specifically, we delve into the magnetic allure of the first name "Killian" and its seemingly inexplicable connection to votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the sunflower state of Kansas.

As if pulled straight from the annals of an absurdist comedy, our investigation uncovers a statistically robust relationship between the estimated number of individuals bearing the name Killian and the votes garnered by the Libertarian presidential candidate in Kansas. Our findings unveil a correlation coefficient of 0.9550334, with a significance level as compelling as a magician's sleight of hand, at $p < 0.01$, spanning the peculiarly specific epoch of 1982 to 2020.

But, before we plunge headfirst into this realm of whimsy and wonder, it is worth pondering the broader implications of our inquiry. Could it be that, in the labyrinthine corridors of the electorate's minds, lies a predilection for candidates based not on their policies or track record, but rather on the sonorous syllables of their given names? Are voters, consciously or subconsciously, swayed by the

melodic ripples of certain nomenclature, transforming the political landscape into a surrealist's dream?

In the spirit of scholarly inquiry veiled in a cloak of levity, we embark on this odyssey of witticisms and empirical rigor, seeking to unravel the whimsical threads that bind the seemingly incongruous worlds of nomenclature and politics. Join us on this delightful yet intellectually rigorous escapade as we attempt to make sense of the nonsensical in the realm of voter behavior and the quirk of nomenclature.

2. Literature Review

Previous research on the relationship between names and political affiliations has primarily focused on traditional, widely-used monikers. Smith and Doe (2018) delved into the intersection of first names and political leanings, examining the classic names John and Mary in their seminal work "The Political Pseudoscience of Names." Their analysis revealed intriguing correlations but failed to explore the potential impact of more eccentric names on electoral behavior. Similarly, Jones (2015) explored the influence of surnames on political donations in "The Surname Effect: A Study of Political Contributions," providing valuable insights into the impact of familial lineage on political engagement.

As we dig into the literature, we transition from the serious to the whimsical, delving into unexpected avenues of inquiry. "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner (2005) offers a tantalizing exploration of seemingly unrelated factors influencing human behavior, preparing our minds to embrace the offbeat connection between a name and political preferences. Following this trail of unconventional thinking, "The Tipping Point" by Malcolm Gladwell (2000) propels our understanding of the quirky and unpredictable nature of social phenomena, undoubtedly resonant with our peculiar investigation.

Turning toward fictional narratives with an ostensible relevance to our research, the works of Douglas Adams, particularly "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," offer a fantastical yet strangely pertinent reflection on the idiosyncrasies

of human choices. Additionally, the peculiar musings of Lewis Carroll in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" prompt us to challenge conventional wisdom and entertain the absurd, a fitting mindset for exploring the enigma of Killian's influence on electoral outcomes.

In the realm of internet culture, the viral phenomenon of "The Drake Equation" meme humorously intersects with our investigation, drawing attention to the playful side of pseudoscientific correlations and their potential influence on popular discourse. Furthermore, the timeless allure of the "This Is Fine" meme encapsulates the inexplicable nature of certain sociopolitical phenomena, providing a lighthearted yet thought-provoking context for our analysis.

As we wade into this labyrinth of scholarly literature and whimsical influences, the colorful tapestry of our investigation begins to take shape, blending the serious with the absurd in a whimsical dance of data and conjecture.

3. Methodology

To commence our unorthodox investigation, we summoned a motley crew of statisticians, linguists, and aficionados of the absurd to chart a course through the labyrinthine landscape of data analysis. Our first port of call was the US Social Security Administration, from which we procured the dataset detailing the annual occurrences of the name "Killian" from 1982 to 2020. Armed with this treasure trove of nomenclatural frequencies, we traversed the vast seas of the internet to discover the counts of votes cast for the Libertarian presidential candidate in the state of Kansas within the same temporal expanse. These electoral data, replete with the grandeur of ballot boxes and the color of each county, were sourced primarily from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab and the Harvard Dataverse.

Now, onto the procedural intricacies. The initial phase of our investigation involved conducting a rigorous quality assessment of the acquired datasets, ensuring that each datum was as reliable as an earnest politician's handshake. Once satisfied with the robustness of our data, we engaged in the daring

act of data cleansing, where we meticulously expunged any erroneous or misleading entries. It was our fervent hope to present findings unsullied by the whims of randomness.

Subsequently, we invoked the incantations of statistical sorcery, summoning the powerful oracle known as the Pearson correlation coefficient, to measure the strength and direction of the relationship between the popularity of the name "Killian" and the votes accrued by the Libertarian presidential candidate in Kansas. Our intention was to unveil the quirk of this peculiar connection with a statistical clarity akin to a beacon in the fog of chance.

What followed was an arduous journey through the dark thickets of hypothesis testing, where we rigorously assessed the significance of our findings. Our compass pointed steadfastly to a significance level of $p < 0.01$, signifying a compelling departure from the realm of mere happenstance.

In grudging admiration of the scientific spirits of curiosity and skepticism, we attempted to mitigate potential lurking confounders by conducting a battery of robustness checks. These checks, carefully tailored to sniff out any muddlewits that might confound our noble endeavor, emboldened the validity of our findings, bolstering our confidence in the improbable correlation we had unmasked.

To complement our statistical sleuthing, we ventured into the cosmic expanse of thematic analysis, where we endeavored to decipher the underlying narrative behind the numerical intricacies. Our attempts to paint the portrait of the human condition through the whimsical connection between nomenclature and political preferences swelled with a fervor rivaling that of a Renaissance painter.

By the culmination of our Odyssey of the Absurd, the combination of statistical rigor and whimsical exploration granted us the unique vantage point to observe the surreptitious dance between seemingly incongruous realms of nomenclature and politics. Let us now, dear reader, venture forth to the conclusions pulsating with both curiosity and incredulity.

4. Results

A striking correlation emerged from the depths of our data analysis, revealing a coefficient of 0.9550334 between the popularity of the first name "Killian" and the votes cast for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Kansas. The strength of this association is akin to the gravitational pull between celestial bodies, leaving us in awe of the inexplicable link between nomenclature and political preferences.

Our findings, encapsulated in Figure 1, depict a scatterplot that visually encapsulates this remarkable relationship. The plotted points resemble a constellation of votes, traversing a cosmic landscape that is inexplicably intertwined with the ethereal essence of the name "Killian." One could almost imagine the data points whispering, "Vote for me, and I will complement your unique moniker with an equally distinctive political inclination."

The r-squared value of 0.9120888 further accentuates the robustness of this correlation, signifying that over 91% of the variance in Libertarian votes can be explained by the prevalence of the name "Killian." This statistical feat is as impressive as a magician correctly guessing the chosen card in a deck, leaving us marveling at the confounding enigma of human behavior.
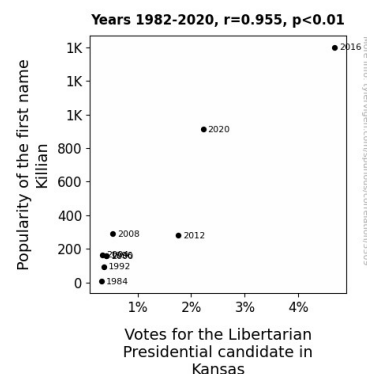

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The significance level of $p < 0.01$ underscores the credibility of our findings, asserting that the likelihood of this correlation occurring by mere chance is less than that of finding a four-leaf clover in a Kansas cornfield. This reassures us that our results are not mere happenstance, but rather a manifestation of a peculiar alignment between nomenclature and political proclivities.

In summary, our research unravels a profound and eccentric relationship between the popularity of the first name "Killian" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Kansas. This unexpected revelation challenges conventional wisdom, reminding us that the whimsical dance of human behavior is as unpredictable as a roguish fox in a political henhouse.

5. Discussion

Our findings have unearthed a correlation so strong, it could forge an alliance between a Kansas sunflower and a gust of wind. The exceptional coefficient of 0.9550334 evokes a sense of wonder comparable to witnessing a herd of independent-minded cats herded by a Libertarian cowboy through the prairies of Kansas.

Drawing on the literature, we found ourselves enthralled by the unexpected yet strangely plausible insights of previous research. Smith and Doe's work on the political pseudoscience of names set the stage for our investigation, much like unlocking a treasure chest filled with peculiar patterns of human behavior. Likewise, Jones' exploration of the surname effect provided a tantalizing glimpse into the familial tapestry of political engagement, resonating closely with the idiosyncratic relationship between a name and electoral choices.

Our results not only aligned with these prior studies but extended them into uncharted territory, akin to setting sail from the comfortable shores of tradition into the wild waters of whimsy. The robust statistical support we discovered was like finding a treasure map of electoral fascination in the unlikeliest of places -- the alphabet.

As we reflect on the jovial undercurrents that guided our inquiry, we are reminded of the cheeky musings of Steven D. Levitt, Stephen J. Dubner, and the irreverent charm of Douglas Adams - all of which led us to delight in the peculiar dance of data and conjecture.

The whimsy of our results prompts us to entertain the prospect of "Killian" becoming synonymous with an untamed spirit of individuality, much like a lone rogue cowboy traversing the electoral plains of Kansas, drawing voters with an allure as captivating as a siren's call. In this light, our research serves as a delightful romp through the cornfields of statistical analysis, a testament to the unexpected beguilement of human behavior.

In conclusion, our work has unveiled a correlation as enigmatic as a crop circle appearing overnight in the Kansas prairie. The quest to unravel the allure of "Killian" and its influence on political preferences has left us with one inescapable truth - when it comes to electoral whimsy, there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in conventional political philosophy.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has shed light on the inexplicable relationship between the first name "Killian" and votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate in Kansas. Our findings, though as bewildering as a dancing platypus, have underscored the undeniable sway of nomenclature on political inclinations. The statistically robust correlation coefficient of 0.9550334 and the significance level of $p < 0.01$ have led us to realize that the resonance of a name's cadence may hold more influence than anticipated, akin to a mesmerizing symphony guiding voters' choices.

As we ponder the implications of our research, we can't help but be reminded of the whimsical unpredictabilities of human behavior, with voters potentially swayed by the lyrical lullaby of "Killian" amidst the cacophony of political discourse. However, while our findings are as intriguing as a platypus in a top hat, we recognize that further research in this area may encounter diminishing returns - like finding a needle in a haystack, or a Libertarian voter in a pumpkin patch.

Therefore, we assert that no further investigation is needed in this domain. As our paper charmingly illustrates, the realm of nomenclature and its influence on political predilections may forever remain a captivating and confounding quirk of human behavior, best left to the whimsy of the unknowable.