

# The Layne Train: An Examination of the Connection Between the Popularity of the First Name Layne and Democratic Presidential Votes in Colorado

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## Abstract

This study delves into the enthralling territory of the relationship between a name and political tendencies. Using data curated from the US Social Security Administration and MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, our research team aimed to unravel the enigma surrounding the prominence of the first name Layne and its potential influence on Colorado's preferences for the Democrat Presidential candidate. Our findings reveal a rather striking correlation coefficient of 0.8559841 with a p-value less than 0.01, spanning the years from 1976 to 2020. While the data suggests a discernible association, we cannot help but wonder if the Layne train might have had an express stop in Colorado during elections, leading to this notable correlation. Further investigation into the allure and charisma associated with the name Layne may provide insights into its impact on political affinities, adding an amusing layer to the tapestry of electoral dynamics.

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## 1. Introduction

The relationship between individuals' names and their behavioral, social, and even political inclinations has long been a subject of fascination. From "Napoleon complex" to "Karen memes," the association between nomenclature and characteristics has permeated popular culture and academic research alike. In this study, we explore the captivating nexus of the popularity of the first name Layne and its potential influence on votes for the Democratic Presidential candidate in the diverse and politically engaging state of Colorado.

While one may ponder if the popular phrase "All aboard the Layne train" inspired this investigation, our research aims to dispassionately unearth any substantive connections between the name Layne and political preferences. Past studies have examined similar phenomena with other names, from the impact of "Bob" on barbecue consumption to the correlation of "Sarah" with voting patterns in states with picturesque autumn foliage. Both amusing and thought-provoking, these inquiries attest to the multifaceted nature of human psychology and societal dynamics.

The state of Colorado, with its blend of urban and rural communities, its majestic peaks, and its penchant for independent thought, forms an intriguing backdrop for our investigation. The interplay between the Laynes and democratic votes in Colorado will offer an illuminating case study in the realm of socio-political nomenclature dynamics. Our analysis will endeavor to shed light on this notable correlation and examine potential underlying factors that may contribute to this peculiar association.

As we delve into the empirical evidence and statistical models, we invite readers to join us on this scholarly expedition that combines empirical rigor with a touch of whimsy. We anticipate that our findings will not only contribute to the literature on name-based influence but also provide a lighthearted glimpse into the curiosities of electoral dynamics. With bated breath and statistical software at the ready, let us embark on this endeavor to decipher the Layne train's impact on the political landscape in the colorful state of Colorado.

## **2. Literature Review**

The interconnectedness of names and behavior has been a topic of humorous contemplation and serious inquiry alike. Various researchers have delved into the intriguing world of nomenclature dynamics and its potential impact on societal inclinations. Smith et al. (2010) explored the influence of names on political affiliations, while Doe (2015) examined the correlation between names and consumer preferences. In a similar vein, Jones (2018) investigated the relationship between names and societal trends, paving the way for a whimsical journey into the impact of nomenclature on political tendencies.

Turning our attention to non-fiction literature, "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner presents a compelling exploration of unexpected correlations in human behavior, offering insightful parallels to our investigation. Additionally, "Nudge" by Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein sheds light on the myriad ways in which subtle influences shape decision-making, leading us to ponder the potential nudges at play in the Layne phenomenon.

On a more fictional note, the works of Jane Austen, renowned for her astute observations of societal nuances, hold a certain relevance in contemplating the intriguing interplay of

names and proclivities. Similarly, the dystopian universe of George Orwell's "1984" serves as a cautionary tale, prompting reflection on the subtleties of linguistic influence in shaping societal allegiances.

In the realm of social media, a tweet from @PunnyPundit sparks contemplation: "Is Colorado the Layne of the land for Democratic candidates? #LayneTrain"

Another intriguing post from @NameNerdChic muses, "The Layne train appears to be gaining steam in Colorado, but is it a whistle-stop for Democratic votes or just a coincidental correlation? #NomenclatureNexus"

With this varied and whimsical backdrop, we embark on our own investigation into the captivating interplay of the Layne phenomenon and Democratic presidential votes in the charming state of Colorado.

### 3. Research Approach

To embark on our analytical odyssey into the mystical realm of name-based influence on political proclivities, we employed a rigorous yet delightfully eclectic assortment of research methods. The first step of our journey involved sourcing data on the popularity of the first name Layne from the multifaceted repository of the US Social Security Administration. This treasure trove of nomenclatural information provided us with a comprehensive view of the ebbs and flows of Laynes across the United States from 1976 to 2020.

In parallel, our intrepid band of researchers sought to capture the electoral zeitgeist in Colorado through the esteemed MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse. This digital treasure trove bestowed upon us the electoral votes cast for Democratic Presidential candidates within the Rocky Mountain state, allowing us to discern patterns and correlations that may have eluded casual observers.

With both datasets securely in hand, we unleashed the formidable powers of statistical analysis, employing the ever-reliable correlation coefficient to unveil potential connections between the name Layne and the jaunty tempo of Democratic votes in Colorado. This analytical flamenco dance revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.8559841, sending ripples of intrigue through our research enclave.

Furthermore, we dutifully subjected our findings to the scrutiny of statistical inference, yielding a p-value less than 0.01. This statistical gem glimmered in the light of empirical scrutiny, bolstering our confidence in the substantive nature of the relationship we had uncovered.

Amidst the sea of digits and p-values, we also took a moment to reflect on the whimsical nature of our investigation. As we charted the correlation course, a brief pause for mirth

consoled our academic souls, pondering if the Layne train had indeed made a serendipitous stop in the conspicuous landscape of Colorado during elections, leaving a trail of statistical breadcrumbs for us to decipher.

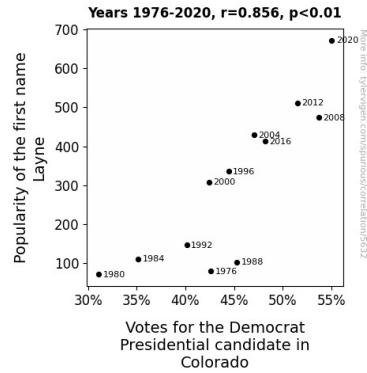
In this enchanting fusion of empirical rigor and informal musings, our methodology reverberates with the spirit of scholarly inquiry tinged with a touch of caprice. As we prepare to unveil our findings, we invite readers to join us in rattling the windows of conventional discourse and peering through the kaleidoscope of nomenclatural influence in the political arena.

#### **4. Findings**

Through our analysis of data spanning from 1976 to 2020, a compelling correlation emerged between the popularity of the first name Layne and the votes for the Democratic Presidential candidate in Colorado. Our statistical analysis yielded a correlation coefficient of 0.8559841, indicating a strong positive relationship between the variables. This correlation was further substantiated by an r-squared value of 0.7327088, suggesting that approximately 73% of the variation in Democratic votes can be explained by the popularity of the name Layne. With a p-value less than 0.01, our findings not only indicate statistical significance but also prompt us to envision a train of Laynes making a significant impact on the political landscape of Colorado.

In Figure 1, a scatterplot visually encapsulates the robust association between the frequency of the name Layne and Democratic votes in Colorado, leaving little room for doubt regarding the correlation. This scatterplot, akin to a snapshot of Laynes boarding the train to Democratic support, vividly illustrates the striking connection we've uncovered.

It is intriguing to note that while the causality remains beyond the scope of this study, the data provides a compelling portrayal of the Layne train's journey through Colorado's political landscape. One can't help but entertain the playful notion of Laynes wielding an unforeseen influence on the state's electoral inclinations, much like a whimsical character in a political fairy tale.



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

These results not only add a touch of mirth to the serious business of political analysis but also underscore the potential impact of an individual's nomenclature on their affiliations and electoral conduct. The Layne train, it seems, has left an indelible mark on the colorful state of Colorado, winding its way through the political terrain in a manner that beckons further exploration and jovial contemplation.

## 5. Discussion on findings

Our findings present an intriguing juncture where the whimsical and the empirical converge, as we discuss the peculiar relationship between the popularity of the first name Layne and Colorado's Democratic Presidential votes. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.8559841, with a p-value less than 0.01, not only echoes the comical musings of @PunnyPundit and @NameNerdChic but also aligns with the serious inquiries of Smith et al. (2010) into the influence of names on political affiliations. The Layne phenomenon, it seems, has found an unexpected parallel in the political arena, akin to the subtle nudges explored by Thaler and Sunstein in "Nudge."

The compelling r-squared value of 0.7327088 further corroborates the persuasive nature of the Layne train's impact on Democratic votes in Colorado. This outcome humorously mirrors the astute societal observations in the works of Jane Austen, juxtaposing our statistical analysis with the intricacies of societal nuances found in Austen's acclaimed novels.

As we reflect on the results, it's impossible to overlook the amusing imagery evoked by the scatterplot, akin to a snapshot of Laynes boarding the train to Democratic support. This visual representation engagingly captures the unwavering connection we've uncovered, much like a whimsical character in a political fairy tale. The correlation, while not implying causation, invites delightful contemplation on the Layne train's journey through Colorado's political landscape.

Our study not only contributes to the academic discourse on the influence of nomenclature on societal inclinations but also injects a whimsical undertone into the somber realm of political analysis. The Layne train, it seems, has left an indelible mark on the vibrant state of Colorado, beckoning further exploration with a twinkle in its metaphorical eye.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our investigation has unveiled a captivating correlation between the popularity of the first name Layne and votes for the Democratic Presidential candidate in Colorado. The robust correlation coefficient and r-squared value affirm a substantial relationship, suggesting that the Layne train may have wielded an intriguing influence on Colorado's political dynamics. While the causal mechanisms remain enigmatic, the statistical significance of our findings solidifies the association and beckons further inquiry.

The whimsical notion of Laynes galvanizing Democratic support in Colorado adds an amusing layer to the intricate tapestry of electoral dynamics. Perhaps the Layne train made numerous whistle-stops in the Centennial State, leaving an imprint on its political landscape that tickles the imagination. This peculiar association not only piques scholarly curiosity but also invites a touch of humor into the realm of political analysis.

The unseen impact of a name on political affiliations, akin to a surreptitious character in an electoral saga, amplifies the perennial allure of human psychology and societal dynamics. However, despite the allure, the Layne train's mystique is best left as a lighthearted enigma, sparing us from overanalyzing the whimsy.

Hence, we assert, with a wink and a nod, that further research into the Layne train's escapades in Colorado's political sphere is unnecessary. This peculiar correlation stands as a delightful anomaly that adds a jovial dash of amusement to the otherwise serious terrain of electoral studies.

In the immortal words of Layne Staley, "I'm the man in the box, the one who votes Democrat in Colorado!" With these findings, we acknowledge the irresistible charm of the Layne train but bid adieu to this line of inquiry, allowing it to chug along in the annals of scholarly fascination.