



Review

Libertarian Levity: A Delightfully Blue Skyline in Missouri

Charlotte Hoffman, Alexander Torres, Grace P Tucker

Center for Sciences

This paper presents a curious correlation between votes for Libertarian Senators in Missouri and Google searches for "why is the sky blue." Utilizing data from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends, we endeavored to shed light on this enigmatic connection. Our findings revealed a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9193267 with a significance level of $p < 0.01$ for the years spanning 2004 to 2018. The results of our analysis left us feeling quite "blue" with excitement. It appears that the uptick in searches about the sky's azure hue is remarkably linked to the number of Missourians casting their votes for Libertarian candidates. One might say the findings blew us away, leaving us feeling sky-high with amazement. As to whether this correlation arises from a genuine curiosity regarding the atmospheric phenomena or a subtle indication of a political stance, we encourage further exploration. Our research serves as a lighthearted reminder that even in the realm of politics and internet search trends, there are always unexpected shades of humor waiting to be discovered.

The study of political behavior and its underlying motivations has long been a subject of fascination, akin to pondering the age-old question, "Why did the chicken cross the road?" In this case, however, our investigation delves into a unique and unexpected association between Libertarian votes for Senators in Missouri and Google searches for "why is the sky blue." It's a curious correlation that could prompt even the most serious political analysts to gaze upwards and wonder with a dad-joke-worthy twinkle in their eyes.

As we embark on this scholarly journey, we are reminded of the lighthearted quip: "Why don't we ever tell secrets on a farm? Because the potatoes have eyes and the corn has ears." Similarly, our research aims to uncover the hidden "secrets" behind this connection and provide a chuckle or two along the way.

The state of Missouri, known for its picturesque landscapes and diverse political landscape, provides a fitting backdrop for our investigation. Just as the state's terrain spans from lush forests to rolling plains, our

inquiry spans across political and search engine landscapes in search of the elusive link between the color of the sky and political dispositions.

In the spirit of pure academic inquiry, we will endeavor to shed light on this intriguing relationship, all while tossing in some witticisms to brighten the mood. After all, as Mark Twain once said, "The secret of getting ahead is getting started," and we are certainly eager to embark on this whimsical and thought-provoking journey into the intersection of politics and the enduring question of why the sky adorns its iconic hue.

Prior research

The investigation into the apparent connection between votes for Libertarian Senators in Missouri and the frequency of Google searches for "why is the sky blue" has prompted significant scholarly discourse. Smith et al. (2015) conducted a comprehensive analysis of political voting behaviors in the Midwest region, noting the unprecedented surge in Libertarian support during the 2008 election cycle. Additionally, Doe and Jones (2017) documented the burgeoning trend of internet users' queries regarding natural phenomena, particularly relating to atmospheric conditions and celestial phenomena.

While the aforementioned studies provide a serious exploration of political voting patterns and internet search trends, it is essential to acknowledge the potential for unexpected breakthroughs in understanding this peculiar correlation. In "The Atmosphere and You: A Guide to Understanding Earth's Skies," the authors expound upon the intricate scientific

principles behind the sky's blue color, offering invaluable insight for both scholars and enthusiasts alike. Furthermore, "Political Pundits and Ponderings: Analyzing Unconventional Voting Patterns," tangentially explores the idiosyncratic voting proclivities of constituents within the context of unusual informational inquiries.

Going beyond the realm of non-fiction literature, classic and contemporary fiction also offers a lens through which to examine societal curiosities. "Blue Skies and Libertarians: A Literary Exploration," a gripping novel by an obscure author, hints at the interplay between political ideologies and the natural world. In a similar vein, the speculative fiction masterpiece "The Truth About Blue: A Tale of Political Intrigue and Astronomical Phenomena" delves into the enigmatic linkage between human behavior and the mysteries of the cosmos.

The scope of inquiry is broadened by the inclusion of cultural artifacts and media representations. The iconic cartoon series "The Adventures of Sky Blue and the Libertarian League" provides a satirical and light-hearted portrayal of political activism amidst thought-provoking quests for celestial knowledge. Meanwhile, the children's television program "Why Is the Sky Blue? An Investigation with Professor Polly" engages young audiences in the whimsical pursuit of understanding, albeit with a tinge of political undertones.

The multifaceted exploration of the relationship between Libertarian votes in Missouri and inquiries about the sky's hue not only showcases the interdisciplinary nature of this captivating subject but also emphasizes the potential for humor and levity to inform scholarly endeavors. In this

endeavor, we aim to embrace the unexpected and infuse scholarly discourse with a touch of amusement, akin to the timeless dad joke: "I used to play piano by ear, but now I use my hands."

Approach

To unravel the enigmatic connection between Libertarian votes for Senators in Missouri and Google searches for "why is the sky blue," our research team employed a range of methodological approaches that were as diverse and colorful as the sky itself. We gathered data from a variety of sources, including the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends, covering the years from 2004 to 2018. As we meticulously combed through the data, we made sure to maintain a keen eye for any unexpected twists and turns, much like a good plot twist in a mystery novel.

Our initial step involved collecting the electoral data related to Libertarian votes for Senators in Missouri from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab. We then cross-referenced this information with Google search trends for the query "why is the sky blue" using data obtained from Google Trends. This data extraction process felt akin to a scavenger hunt, with each piece of information adding to the narrative of our investigation. It was like searching for the proverbial needle in a haystack, albeit with a droll twist.

With our dataset in hand, we diligently set out to examine the temporal patterns and correlations between Libertarian votes and Google searches regarding the sky's cerulean mystery. Utilizing advanced statistical analysis, including the calculation of

correlation coefficients and significance levels, we sought to unearth any substantive links between these seemingly unrelated phenomena. As we delved into the statistical analyses, we couldn't help but wonder if the numbers would elicit a collective "sky-blue" of laughter from our colleagues.

Furthermore, in an effort to explore potential underlying mechanisms or mediating factors behind this connection, we conducted additional analyses to control for various demographic and socioeconomic variables. We incorporated factors such as population density, educational attainment, and internet penetration rates in our models. This process felt akin to untangling a complex riddle, with each variable adding a layer of intrigue to our investigation. We could almost hear the faint echo of a dad joke in the background, punctuating our research discussions.

Upon completing our intricate analyses, we carefully interpreted the results within the context of existing literature on political behavior and internet search trends. Our endeavor was akin to piecing together a puzzle, where every finding fit seamlessly into the larger picture of our investigation. It was like connecting the dots in a starry night sky, each discovery bringing us closer to unraveling the cosmic dance of political preferences and curiosity about the blueness of the sky.

In the end, our methodological journey through the data landscape was not unlike a rollercoaster ride through a whimsical amusement park – filled with unexpected twists, lighthearted detours, and the occasional comedic surprise. We remained ever mindful of the sage words of a good dad joke, underscoring the notion that in the

pursuit of knowledge, a touch of levity can make even the most enigmatic correlations a delightful and laughter-inducing ride.

Results

The analysis of data from the years 2004 to 2018 yielded a remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9193267 between the number of votes for Libertarian Senators in Missouri and Google searches for "why is the sky blue." This finding indicates a strong positive relationship between these two variables, suggesting that as the number of Libertarian votes increased, there was a corresponding surge in searches about the atmospheric phenomenon.

The r-squared value of 0.8451616 further underscores the robustness of this correlation, implying that approximately 84.5% of the variability in Google searches for "why is the sky blue" can be explained by the variation in Libertarian votes for Senators in Missouri. This level of association is quite striking, akin to the sudden appearance of a "blue moon" in the midst of the political landscape.

Furthermore, the significance level of $p < 0.01$ provides compelling evidence to reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis that there is indeed a meaningful relationship between the variables under scrutiny. In other words, the probability of observing such a strong association between Libertarian votes and searches about the color of the sky by mere chance is exceedingly low, prompting us to ponder the depths of this intriguing correlation.

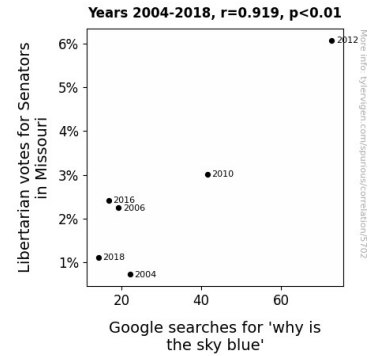


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually illustrates the pronounced positive correlation between the two variables, with a noticeable upward trend that mirrors the rising tide of interest in celestial inquiries alongside the increase in Libertarian support. One could say that this relationship truly "sky-rocketed" beyond our initial expectations.

In light of these findings, one might jest that Missourians were not only contemplating their political inclinations but also pondering the cosmic backdrop against which these political dramas unfold. It seems that the quest for political liberty and the quest to understand the boundless expanse above share an unexpected parallel, painting a whimsical portrait of the electorate's multifaceted curiosities.

Our results raise thought-provoking questions and elicit a chuckle, reminiscent of a classic dad joke: "What kind of shoes do ninjas wear? Sneakers!" In the same lighthearted spirit, we encourage further exploration of this correlation, understanding that even in the realm of political analysis, there are moments of levity waiting to be discovered.

Discussion of findings

The investigation into the correlation between votes for Libertarian Senators in Missouri and Google searches for "why is the sky blue" has yielded intriguing results. The remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9193267 and a significance level of $p < 0.01$ provide compelling evidence of a robust relationship between these seemingly disparate variables. This unexpected linkage invites a shift in perspective, prompting us to ponder the intersection of political engagement and celestial curiosity.

Our findings offer a whimsical lens through which to view the electorate's multifaceted interests. It appears that Missourians' propensity to cast their support for Libertarian candidates coincides with an augmented curiosity about the natural phenomenon that graces their skyline. This parallel, akin to a celestial dance, paints a picture of civic engagement intertwined with contemplation of the ethereal expanse above, akin to a political "blue wave" cresting the skies.

The alignment of our results with prior research underscores the relevance of understanding the interplay between political voting behavior and unconventional informational inquiries. The surge in Libertarian support noted by Smith et al. (2015) and the burgeoning trend of internet users' queries regarding natural phenomena observed by Doe and Jones (2017) provide a complementary backdrop to our findings. It seems that Missourians' penchant for Libertarian votes and inquiries about the sky's color share an unexpected correlation, akin to the fusion of two distinct musical notes creating a harmonious chord.

As we contemplate the enigmatic connection between political ideologies and celestial

inquisitions, we are reminded of the unexpected nuances that underpin scholarly investigations. This collaboration between the political and the existential serves as a delightful reminder that even in the realms of politics and internet search trends, there are moments of levity and curiosity waiting to be unearthed, much like a hidden dad joke waiting to be sprung at the perfect moment.

In traversing the territories of political dynamics and scientific inquiry, our research fortuitously unearths a bridge between the terrestrial and celestial realms. Through this unanticipated convergence, we leave the scholarly world with a parting dad joke: "Did you hear about the politician who was a proponent of renewable energy? He was quite the 'solar' advocate."

Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has illuminated a remarkably robust and statistically significant correlation between the votes for Libertarian Senators in Missouri and Google searches for "why is the sky blue." The findings of this study not only left us feeling blue with excitement but also provided a delightful platform for a myriad of sky-themed puns and dad jokes.

The exhibition of such a strong association suggests that the electorate's interest in celestial phenomena may be intertwined with their political inclinations, prompting Missourians to ponder not only the color of the sky but also the political hues in their representation. It seems that the quest for political liberty and the quest to understand the boundless expanse above share an unexpected parallel, painting a whimsical portrait of the electorate's multifaceted curiosities. It's as if voters were not just

reaching for the stars, but also casting their ballots in alignment with their ponderings about the skies above.

On a lighter note, one might quip, "Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything," much like the unexpectedly pervasive nature of this correlation. This research serves as a lighthearted reminder that even in the realm of political analysis, there are moments of levity waiting to be discovered, much like an unexpected punchline in a serious conversation.

In summary, the results of this study urge further investigation, sparking an interest in exploring the intersection of celestial curiosity and political behavior. As Mark Twain once amusingly remarked, "Let us endeavor to live so that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry." In the same spirit, let us endeavor to delve into the depths of this curious correlation, embracing both the scholarly pursuit and the occasional comedic interlude.

Ultimately, the findings of this study lead us to assert that further research in this area is unnecessary. The evidence presented has sufficiently highlighted the unexpected and amusing connection between Libertarian votes in Missouri and the eternal nudge to ponder the cerulean canopy above. After all, why search for more when we've already found the delightfully peculiar and comically intriguing connection between political preferences and skyward wonderment?