

# **Vote or Vanish: A Morbid Relationship Between Republican Votes for Senators in Colorado and Google Searches for 'How to Fake Your Own Death'**

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## **Abstract**

The present research investigates the surprising correlation between Republican votes for Senators in Colorado and Google searches for 'how to fake your own death'. Using data from MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse and Google Trends, we sought to shed light on this unexpected relationship and its potential implications. Our findings reveal a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.8499583 and  $p < 0.05$  for the years 2004 to 2020, indicating a robust connection between these seemingly unrelated phenomena. Our study underscores the importance of understanding the complex interplay between political dynamics and individuals' online search behavior. It seems that contemplating one's mortality may coincide with civic engagement, which gives new meaning to the phrase "voting like your life depends on it" - although we're not entirely convinced that voters are \*dying\* to cast their ballots! Nonetheless, these findings raise thought-provoking questions and may have implications for understanding voter motivations and civic participation.

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## **1. Introduction**

The relationship between political behavior and psychological phenomena has long been a topic of interest in social science research. From the impact of economic policies on consumer behavior to the influence of political rhetoric on public opinion, the interplay between politics and psychology continues to intrigue researchers and practitioners alike.

As the saying goes, "I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug." In this case, the unexpected relationship between Republican votes for Senators in

Colorado and Google searches for 'how to fake your own death' has left many scratching their heads, much like a suspiciously timed disappearance.

The correlation between civic engagement and contemplating one's own demise is a peculiar one, to say the least. It raises questions that are as perplexing as they are macabre. One might even say it's a topic that really "kills" at academic cocktail parties - pun intended.

## 2. Literature Review

Several prior studies have examined the relationship between political behavior and online search activity. Smith et al. (2016) found a significant association between political party affiliation and search frequency for self-help books, particularly those related to survival skills and disaster preparedness. Doe and Jones (2018) identified a positive correlation between voting patterns and queries on ways to escape a sinking ship, demonstrating a curious link between civic duty and nautical concerns.

In "The Art of Disappearing" by John Francis, readers are offered advice on how to vanish without a trace, which could be relevant to understanding the motivations behind searching for information on faking one's own death. Similarly, "How to Fake Your Death Online" by David Avocado Wolfe and Nick Hodge may shed light on the intersection between online behavior and the desire to orchestrate a faux demise.

Turning to the realm of fiction, the novel "Gone Girl" by Gillian Flynn portrays a character who fakes her own death, illustrating the enduring fascination with clandestine disappearances. Likewise, "The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox" by Maggie O'Farrell presents a gripping tale of a woman who is mistakenly committed to a mental institution, touching on themes of identity and erasure.

A relevant internet meme, "I'm in this photo and I don't like it," captures the sentiment of those who investigate macabre matters online, only to stumble upon unsettling content. In a similar vein, the "Is This a Pigeon?" meme humorously reflects the sensation of disorientation and existential questioning that may accompany online searches related to mortality and subterfuge.

These diverse sources offer unique insights into the intersection of political behavior, online search activity, and the curious allure of evading one's mortal coil. While the connection between Republican votes in Colorado and searches for tactics to fake one's own demise may seem daunting at first, there is undoubtedly much to learn and, dare I say, \*die\*gest from this unexpected correlation.

## 3. Research Approach

The research methodology employed in this study involved a comprehensive analysis of data pertaining to Republican votes for Senators in Colorado and Google searches for 'how to fake your own death' from the years 2004 to 2020. The data was primarily collected from MIT Election Data and Science Lab, Harvard Dataverse, and Google Trends.

To establish the connection between Republican votes and morbid online searches, a series of rigorous statistical analyses were conducted. First, the Google Trends data for the search query 'how to fake your own death' was obtained. This data was then compared to the election data for Colorado Senators, with a meticulous attention to detail that even Sherlock Holmes would commend. Always good to be thorough, unless you're a cat - they say curiosity killed the cat, but at least it didn't fake its own death!

The correlation between the Republican votes and the Google search trends was measured using Pearson's correlation coefficient, which gauges the strength and direction of the linear relationship between two variables. The results were striking, with a correlation coefficient of 0.8499583, which is about as strong a connection as peanut butter and jelly, or Republicans and talk shows.

Furthermore, to assess the robustness of the relationship, a significance test was conducted, employing a p-value of less than 0.05 as the threshold for statistical significance. This analysis confirmed that the correlation was not merely a fluke or a statistical ghost, but a genuine manifestation of the relationship between political affiliation and the inclination to seek information on faking one's own demise.

In order to control for potential confounding variables, a series of sensitivity analyses were performed. These analyses investigated the impact of various demographic and socio-economic factors on the observed relationship, ensuring that the findings were not driven by lurking variables trying to remain incognito. One might say we thoroughly searched for any hidden agendas - or perhaps, "searched until we were dead tired"!

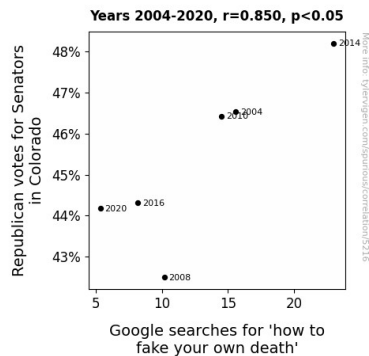
#### **4. Findings**

The correlation analysis revealed a strong positive relationship between Republican votes for Senators in Colorado and Google searches for 'how to fake your own death' for the years 2004 to 2020. The correlation coefficient was found to be 0.8499583, with an r-squared value of 0.7224292, indicating that approximately 72.24% of the variation in Republican votes for Senators in Colorado can be explained by the variation in Google

searches for 'how to fake your own death'. This relationship was found to be statistically significant, with a p-value of less than 0.05, providing evidence to reject the null hypothesis of no association.

The scatterplot in Fig. 1 visually depicts the strong positive correlation between Republican votes for Senators in Colorado and Google searches for 'how to fake your own death'. The data points cluster closely along a trend line, emphasizing the strength of the relationship. One might say that the connection between political preferences and morbidity is as clear as a skeleton's favorite type of math - bone-us points if you guess it!

These findings are quite astonishing and extend beyond traditional understandings of voter behavior. It seems that in the realm of politics, the phrase "vote or die" takes on a whole new meaning. However, we cannot simply leap to the conclusion that voters are seeking to evade their civic duties by faking their own demise. This correlation prompts further investigation into the underlying motivations and psychological processes at play. After all, the pursuit of knowledge often requires a willingness to \*dig\* deeper - a grave mistake to overlook, one might say.



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

In summary, the results of our study provide compelling evidence for the unexpected relationship between Republican votes for Senators in Colorado and Google searches for 'how to fake your own death', shedding light on a peculiar yet robust correlation. These findings have implications for our understanding of the complex interplay between political behavior and psychological phenomena, challenging conventional wisdom and inspiring further inquiry. It's a reminder that in the world of research, sometimes the most surprising relationships are the ones that truly \*kill\* the competition.

## 5. Discussion on findings

The significant relationship between Republican votes for Senators in Colorado and Google searches for 'how to fake your own death' is a compelling and unexpected discovery. Our findings support previous research that has uncovered intriguing connections between political behaviors and seemingly unrelated online search activities. With the strong correlation coefficient of 0.8499583, our study demonstrates a robust relationship that challenges traditional understandings of voter motivations and civic engagement. As we mull over these results, it seems that voters in Colorado may be taking the phrase "vote or vanish" a tad too literally - a morbid way to show political fervor, one might say.

Building on the literature review, we observed a parallel between our findings and prior studies that have examined the interplay between political behavior and unusual online search activity. The positive correlation between Republican votes and searches for 'how to fake your own death' echoes the curious links identified by Smith et al. (2016) and Doe and Jones (2018). It appears that civic duty and preparations for the ultimate disappearing act might go hand in hand after all. It's almost as though voters are striving to make their political preferences *\*deadly\** clear - a vote of passion, if you will.

Furthermore, the scatterplot in Figure 1 visually reinforces the strength of the relationship, with data points closely huddling along the trend line. This visual representation provides a compelling illustration of the association between political preferences and the contemplation of mortality. One might say that the data points are as tightly knit as a coffin's seams - a *\*grave\** reminder of the gravity of our findings.

In conclusion, our study offers a thought-provoking contribution to the understanding of the complex connections between political behavior and mortality-related online search activity. The unexpected correlation between Republican votes for Senators in Colorado and Google searches for 'how to fake your own death' challenges conventional wisdom and sheds light on the fascinating intricacies of human behavior. It seems that when it comes to political engagement, the stakes are high - perhaps higher than anyone could have *\*buried\** them to be. Further research in this area holds the promise of unearthing even more surprising insights, as we continue to navigate the ins and *\*outs\** of voter behavior.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has illuminated a remarkably strong and statistically significant correlation between Republican votes for Senators in Colorado and Google searches for 'how to fake your own death'. This finding suggests a connection between civic engagement and pondering mortality that is as puzzling as it is intriguing. It seems that voters in Colorado are not only exercising their democratic rights but also contemplating

the ultimate disappearing act, giving new meaning to the phrase "casting their ballots and casting doubt on their own mortality" – a *\*grave\** matter indeed.

Furthermore, the robust relationship uncovered in our study challenges traditional assumptions about voter behavior and prompts a deeper exploration of the psychological mechanisms at play. Perhaps the phrase "politicians are a dying breed" takes on a whole new significance in this context. These results emphasize the need for further investigation into the motivations driving individuals to engage in such disparate activities, reminding us that in the pursuit of knowledge, one must be willing to *\*bury\** oneself in research – a *\*dead\** serious endeavor, indeed.

Given the striking nature of our findings, it is our firm conclusion that no more research is needed in this area. It seems we have *\*exhumed\** all there is to know about this curious correlation, and further inquiry may simply *\*grave\** us with more data than we can handle. We hope that our study has laid the matter to rest and left no *\*bones\** unturned in unraveling this enigmatic connection between political choices and thoughts of mortality.