

FB Analysis

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- After removing duplicate texts, we have 43611 observations for the US House, and 16828 observations for the US Senate.

Pre-processing

- We download the Facebook ads for both chambers of US Congress.
- We remove duplicates (in the ad-text sense)
- We merge in covariates, namely:
 - Party ID
 - Office
 - State
 - Vote share (a proxy for competitiveness)
- We create a corpus with the above mentioned document variables appended as covariates.
- We tokenize the text, removing English and Spanish stopwords, lower-casing the words, and removing most punctuation.
- We currently do not apply a stemmer.
- We create a document feature matrix, stacking the House and Senate data into one large matrix.
- The dimensions of this matrix are: 60439 x 46400.
- That is, there are 46400 features (types). The total number of tokens is 1835742.

Some of the analyses are at the ad level, but we also produce candidate level analyses. When each “document” is a candidate, and we prepare a document-feature matrix whose dimensions are: 721 x 46400.

The median number of words produced per candidate is 1110, the average number is 2546.1, but the maximum is 74402, so we will generally report “% of words” for a given candidate that meet some condition (e.g. belong to a particular dictionary).

Mentions of salient topics/figures

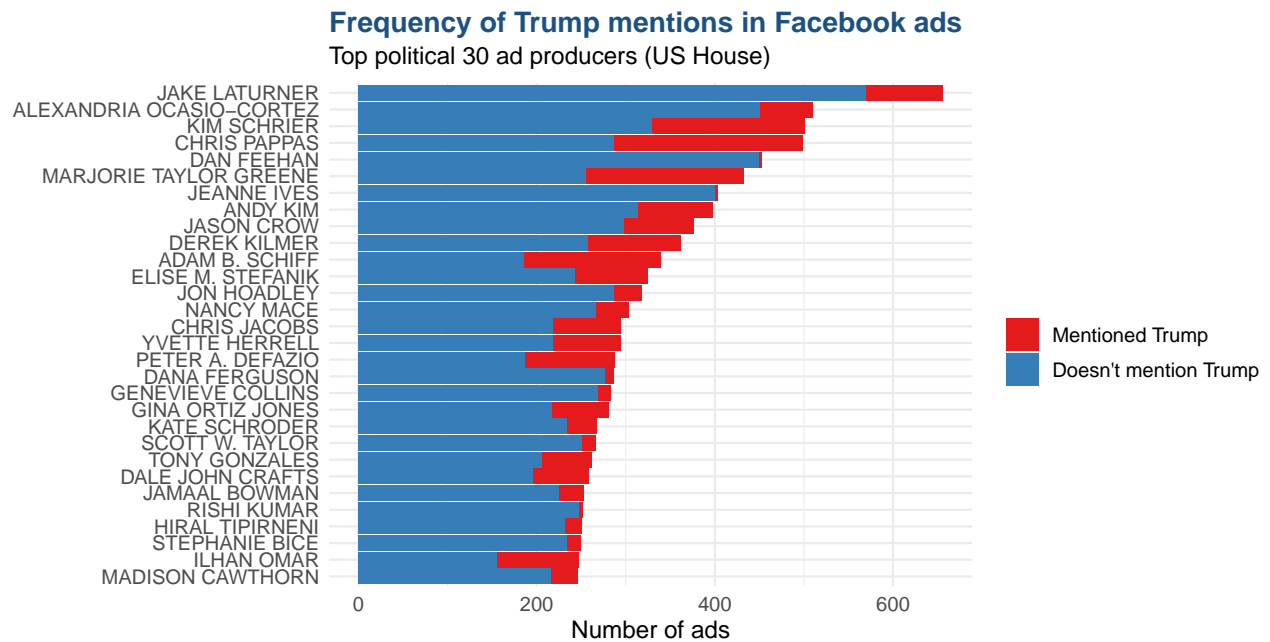


Figure 1: Mentions of Trump

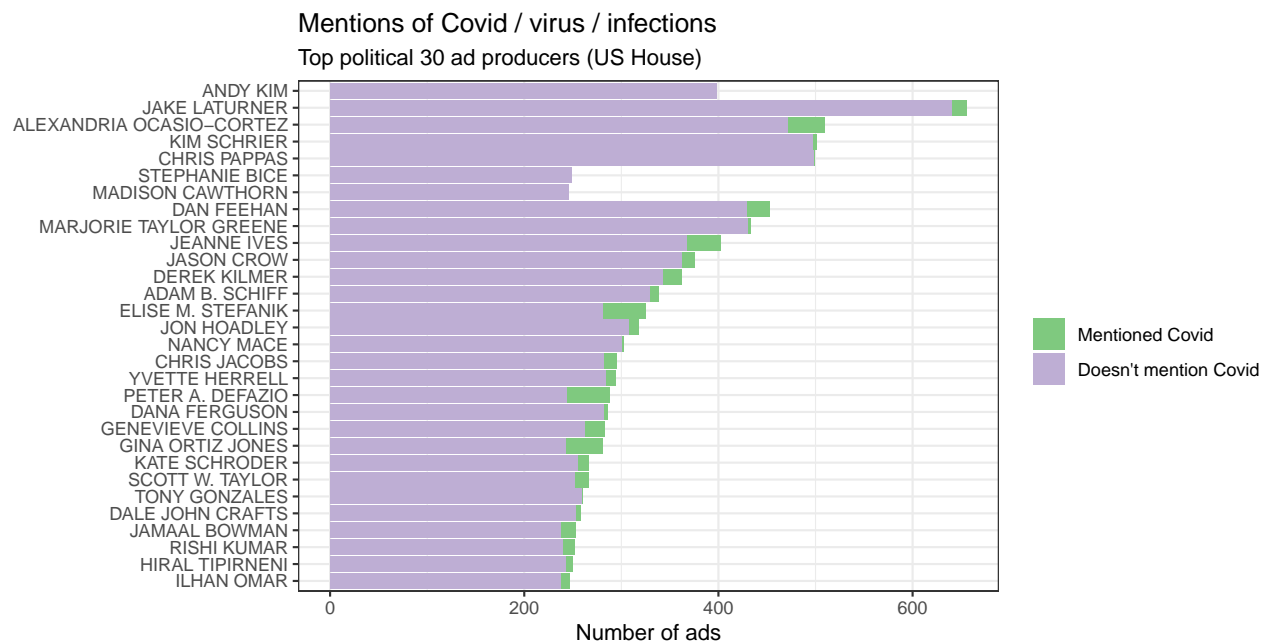


Figure 2: Mentions of Covid

Usage of salient words, broken down by PID

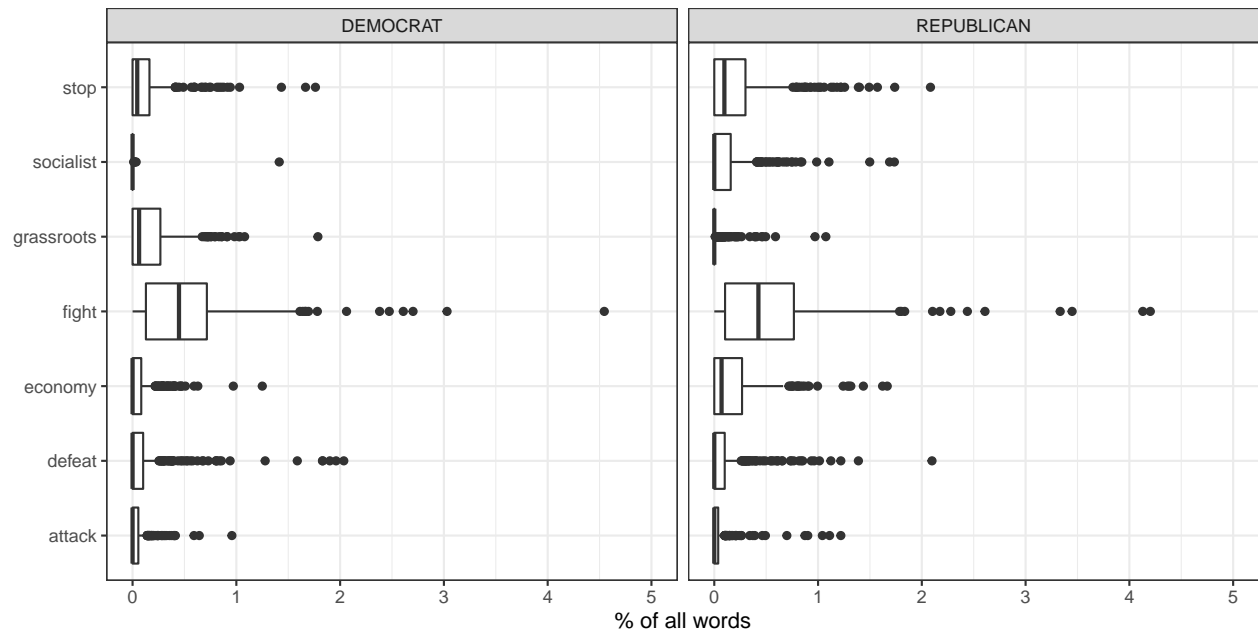


Figure 3: Candidate-level usage of selected words (% of all words used in ads)

Who produced most words for FB ads?

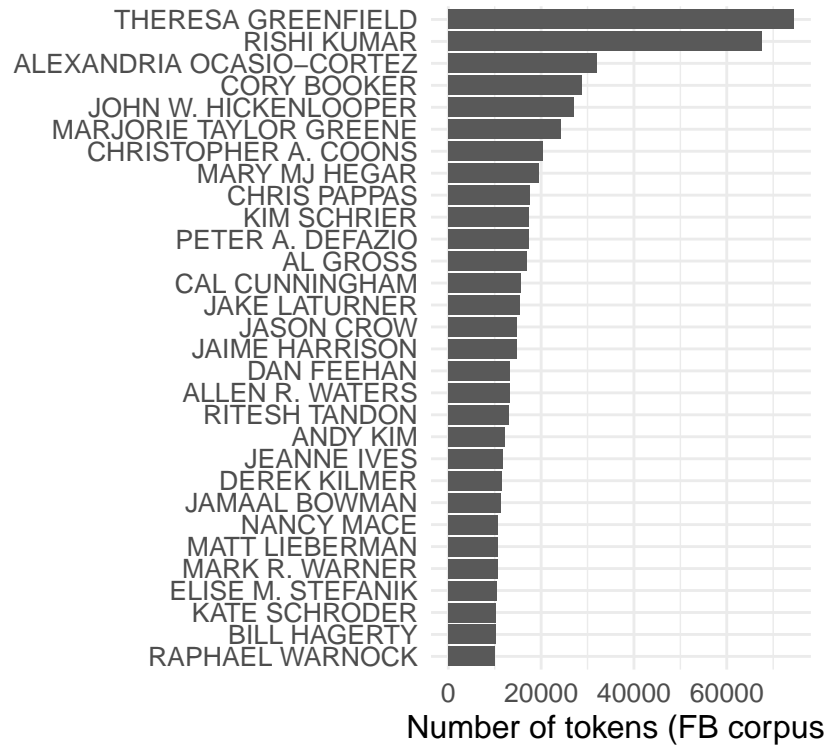


Figure 4: Number of tokens by the 30 most prolific candidates

Top features (20 most frequently occurring tokens)

All FB ads

##	help	can	\$	now	us	need	congress	campaign
##	18198	15392	14848	13992	13590	13045	11491	10767
##	today	trump	fight	senate	back	support	people	chip
##	10538	10067	9586	9237	9006	8508	8446	7930
##	vote	president	make	join				
##	7789	7572	7329	7323				

Democrats

##	help	can	\$	now	need	us	campaign	today
##	12627	11707	10854	10318	9956	9879	8374	7064
##	senate	congress	fight	chip	people	back	trump	make
##	6934	6887	6424	6250	6188	5711	5573	5520
##	take	join	just	support				
##	4966	4787	4622	4613				

Republicans

##	help	president	congress	trump	\$	support
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##	5568	5077	4596	4494	3992	3889
##	us	now	can	today	back	vote
##	3677	3668	3659	3456	3291	3275
##	fight	need	conservative	stand	join	democrats
##	3160	3084	2583	2579	2527	2418
##	like	campaign				
##	2398	2389				

Dictionary analysis

Trolling words by ad type

When a donation link is included, the language is on average more aggressive:

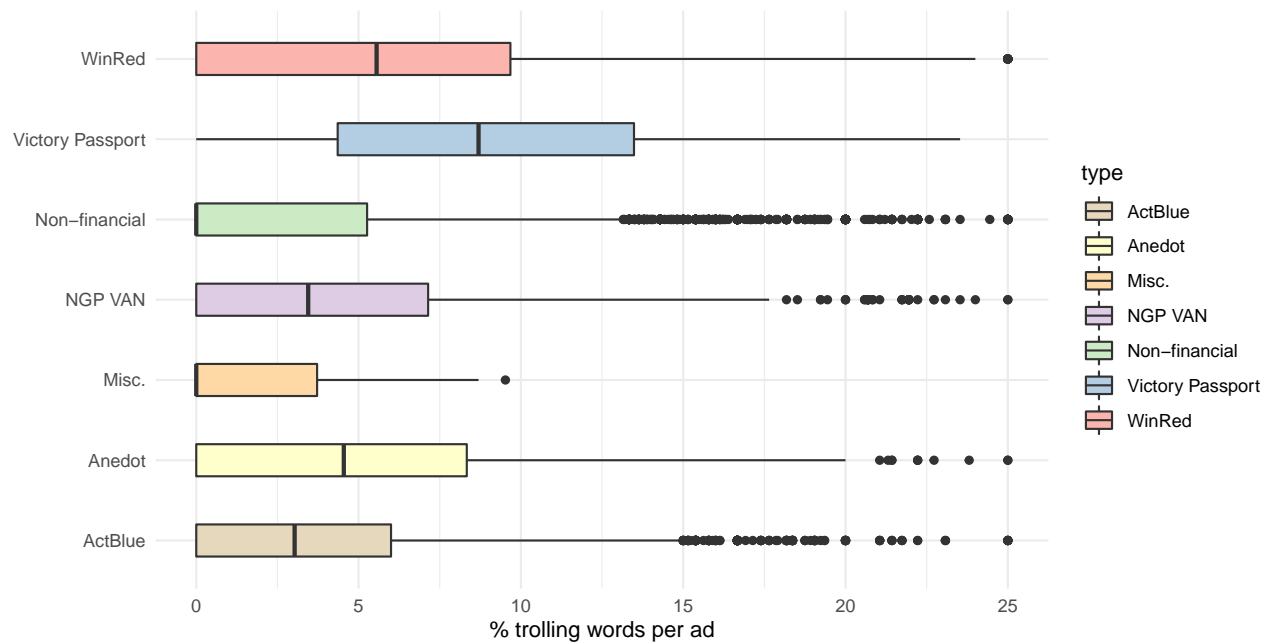


Figure 5: Percent of trolling words per ad, broken down by ad type

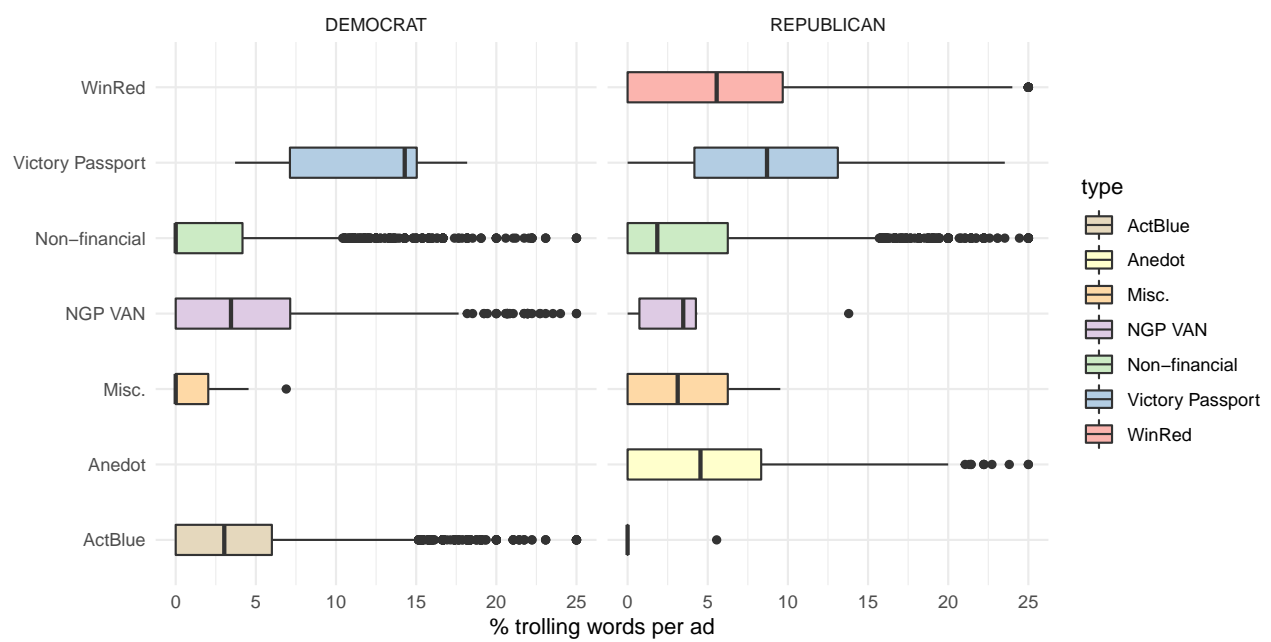


Figure 6: Percent of trolling words per ad, broken down by ad type and by Party ID

Trolling words [candidate-level analysis - PROPRTIONS]

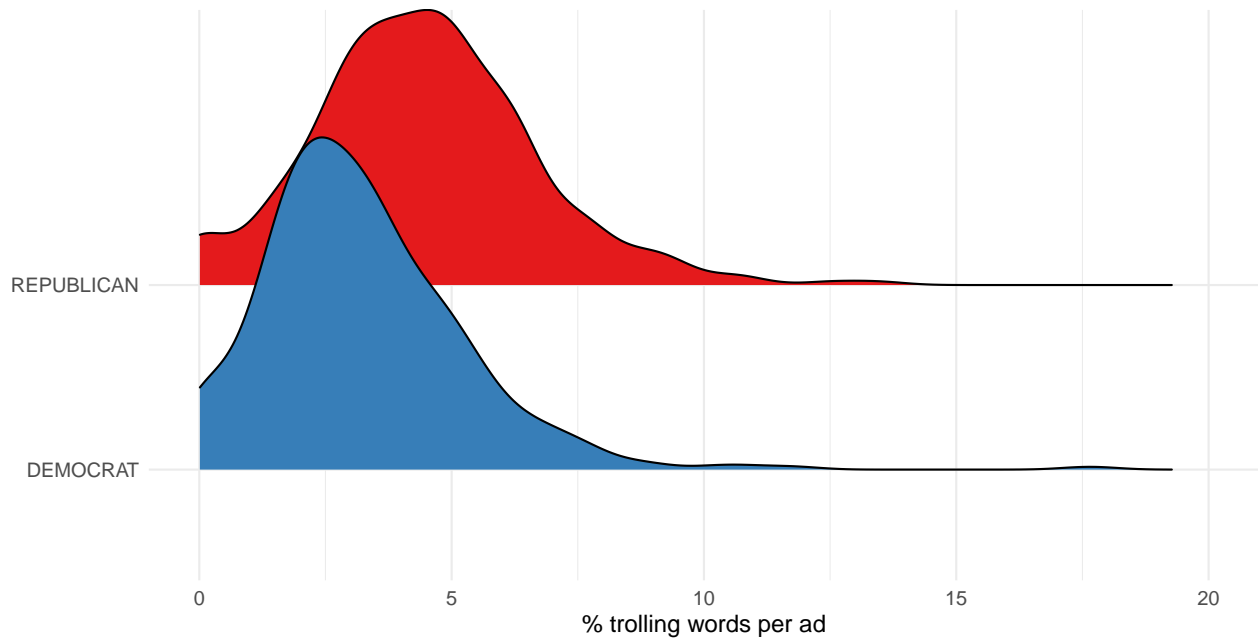


Figure 7: Distribution of candidate-level average of trolling usage (broken down by Party ID)

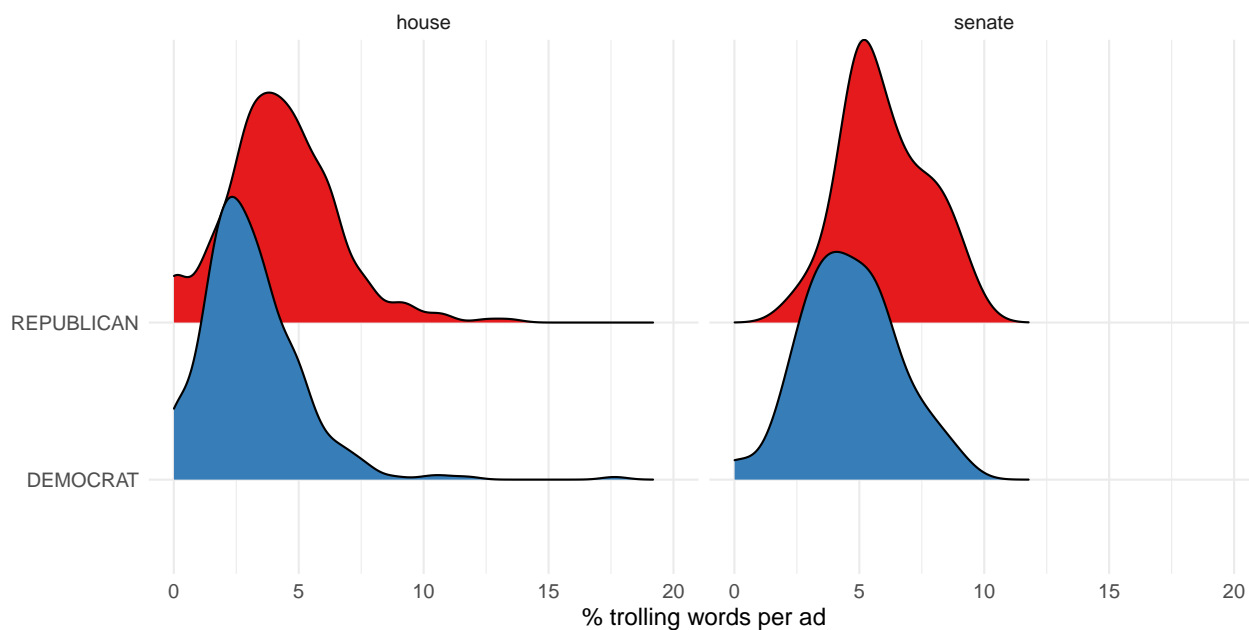


Figure 8: Distribution of candidate-level average of trolling usage (broken down by Party ID and chamber of Congress)

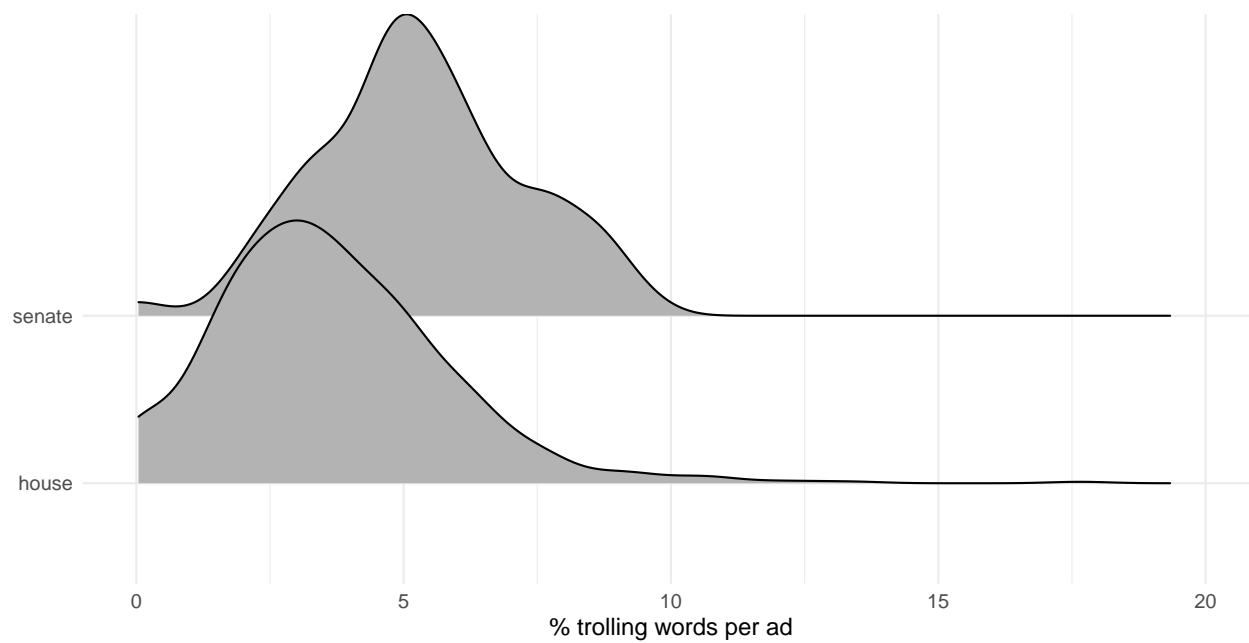


Figure 9: Candidate-level average usage of trolling words, broken down by chamber

Trolling words [ad-level analysis]

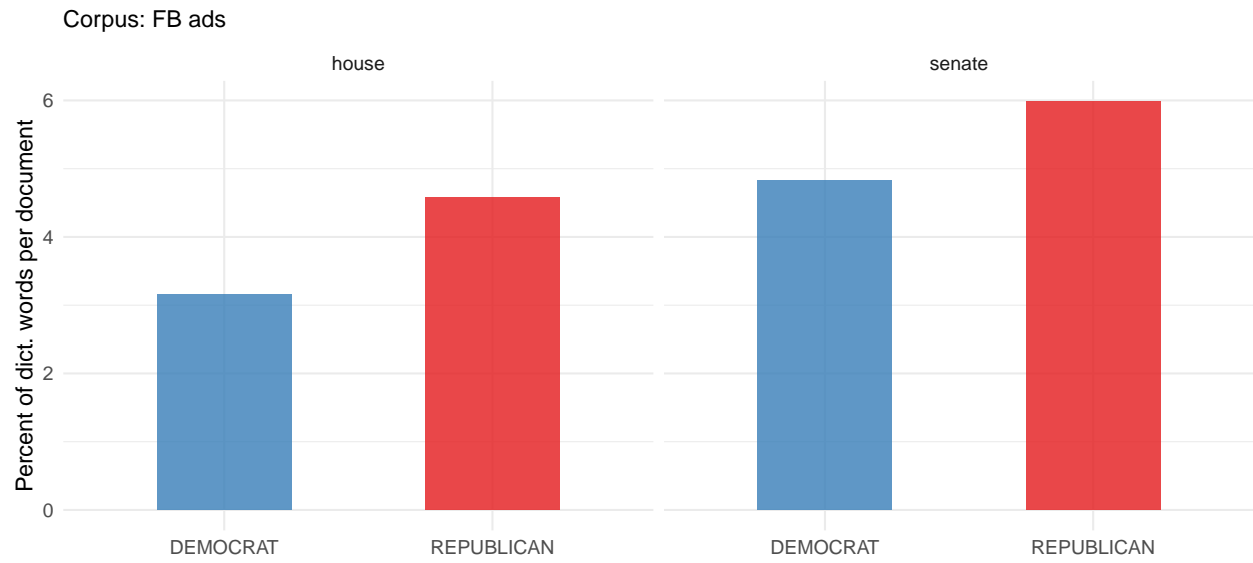


Figure 10: Average proportion of trolling words per ad, broken down by party ID and chamber

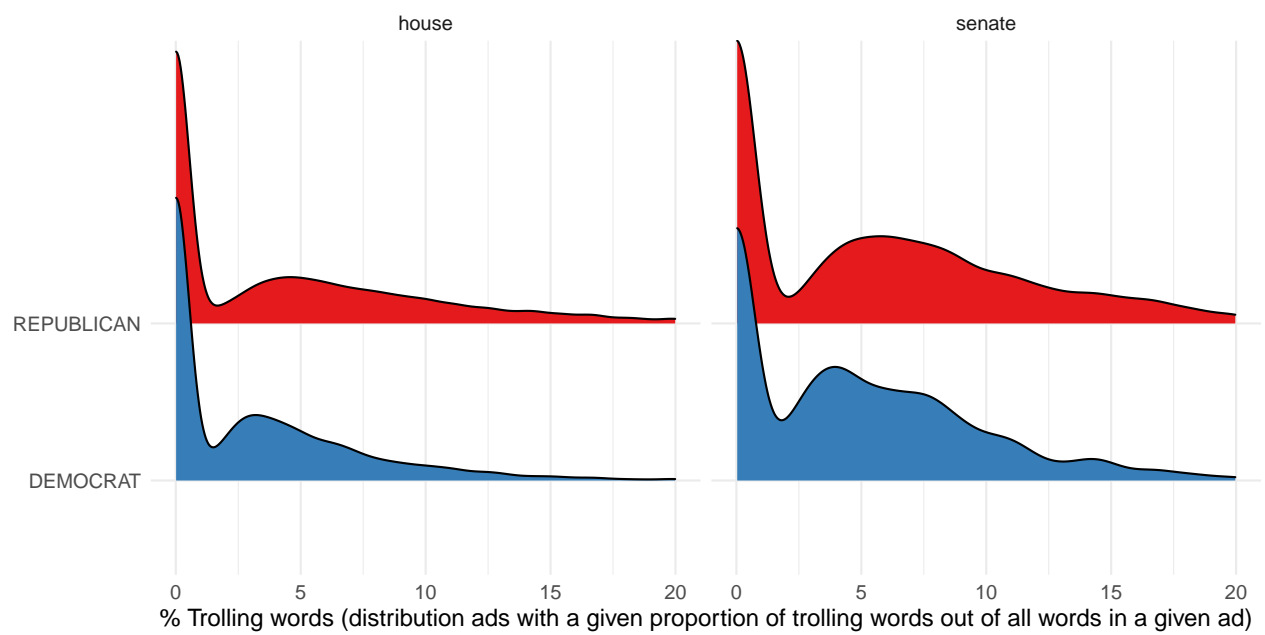


Figure 11: Distribution of trolling words per ad, broken down by party ID and chamber

Trolling words [ad-level analysis - COUNTS]

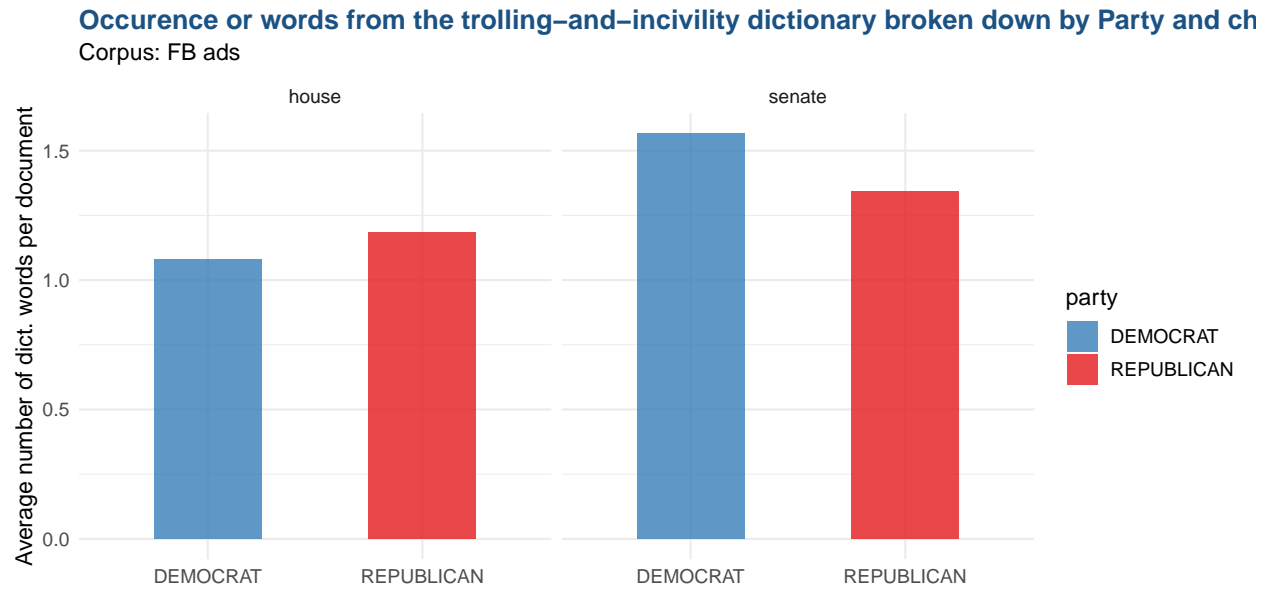


Figure 12: Average number of trolling words by party and chamber

Trolling words [candidate-level analysis - COUNTS]

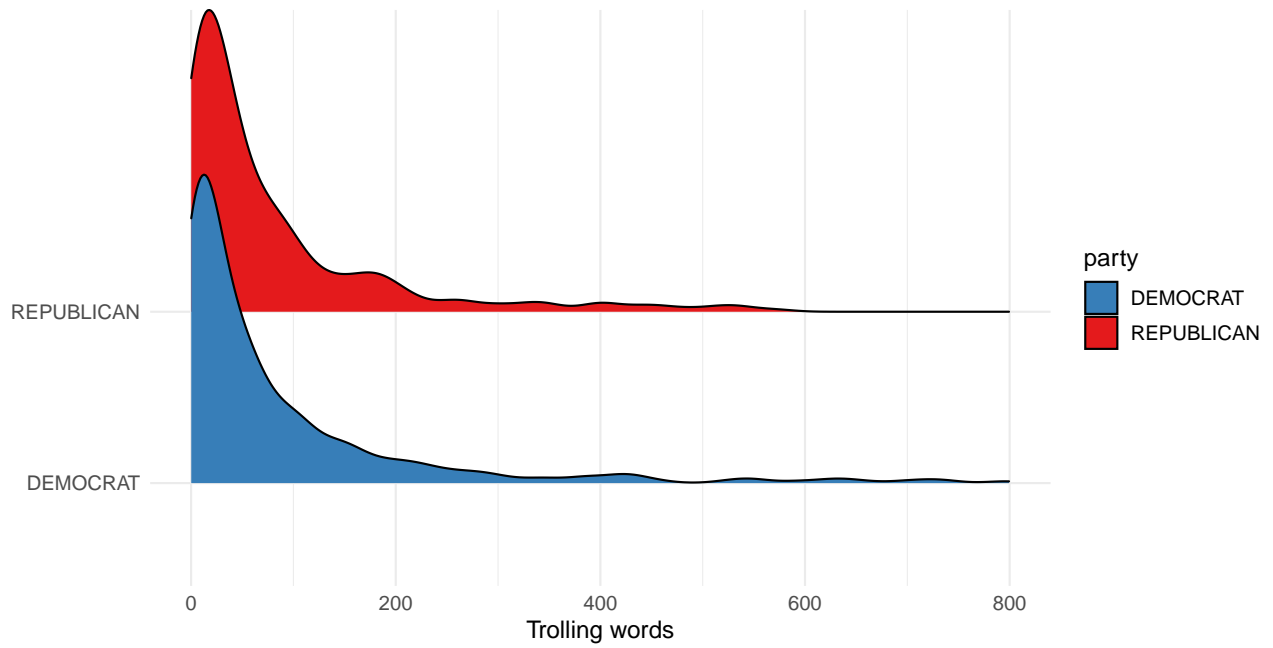


Figure 13: Distribution of candidate-level trolling words counts (totals)

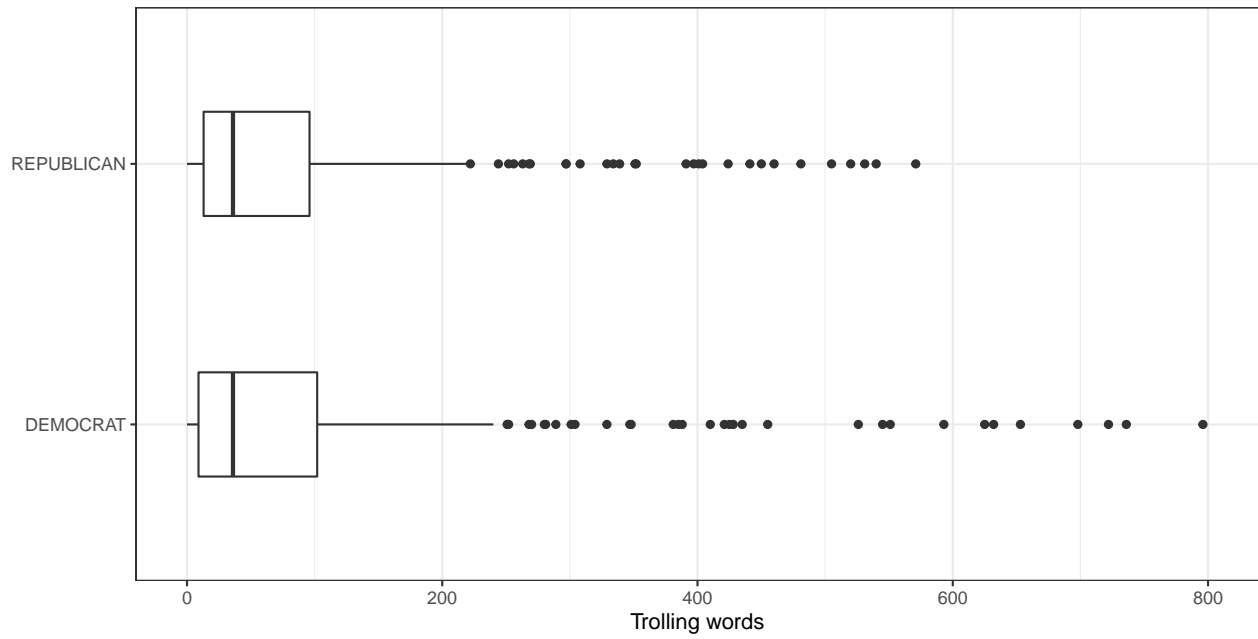


Figure 14: Distribution of candidate-level trolling words counts (totals)

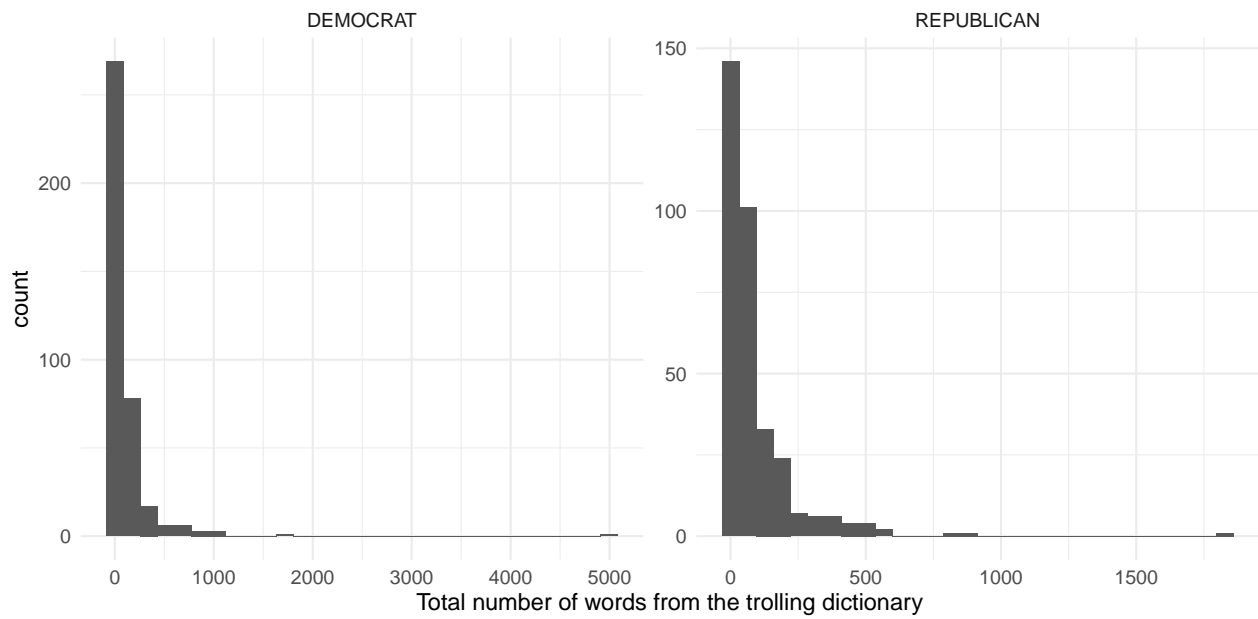


Figure 15: Total number of trolling words in the corpus produced by candidates

Moral foundations [candidate-level analysis]

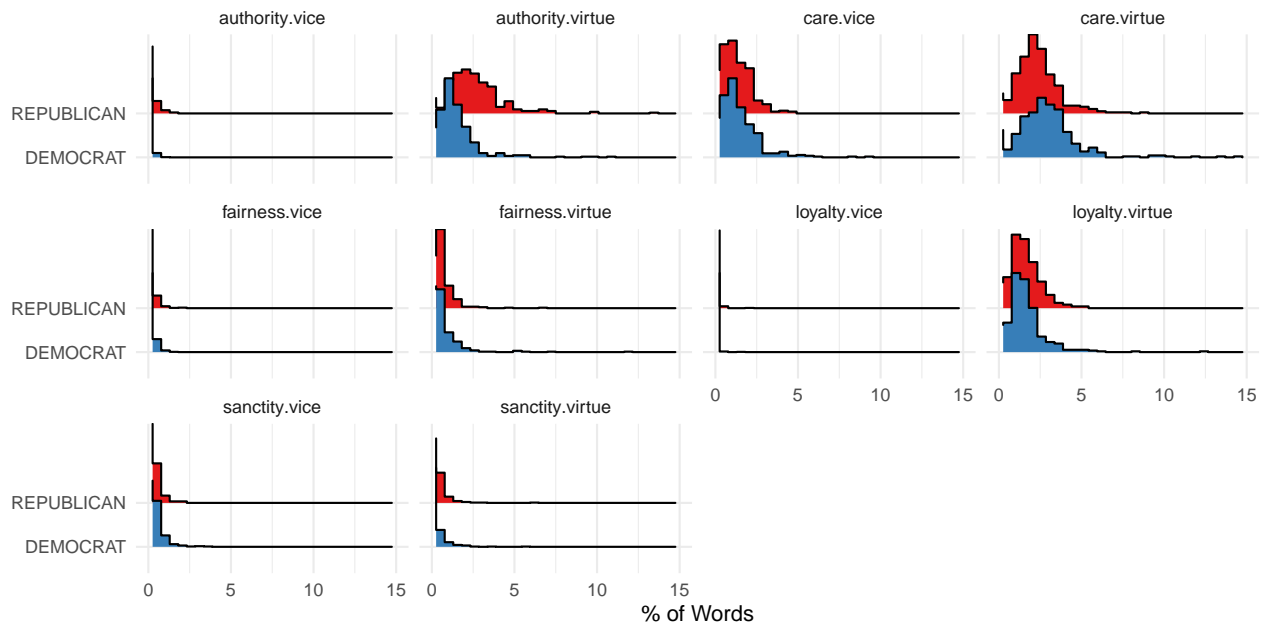
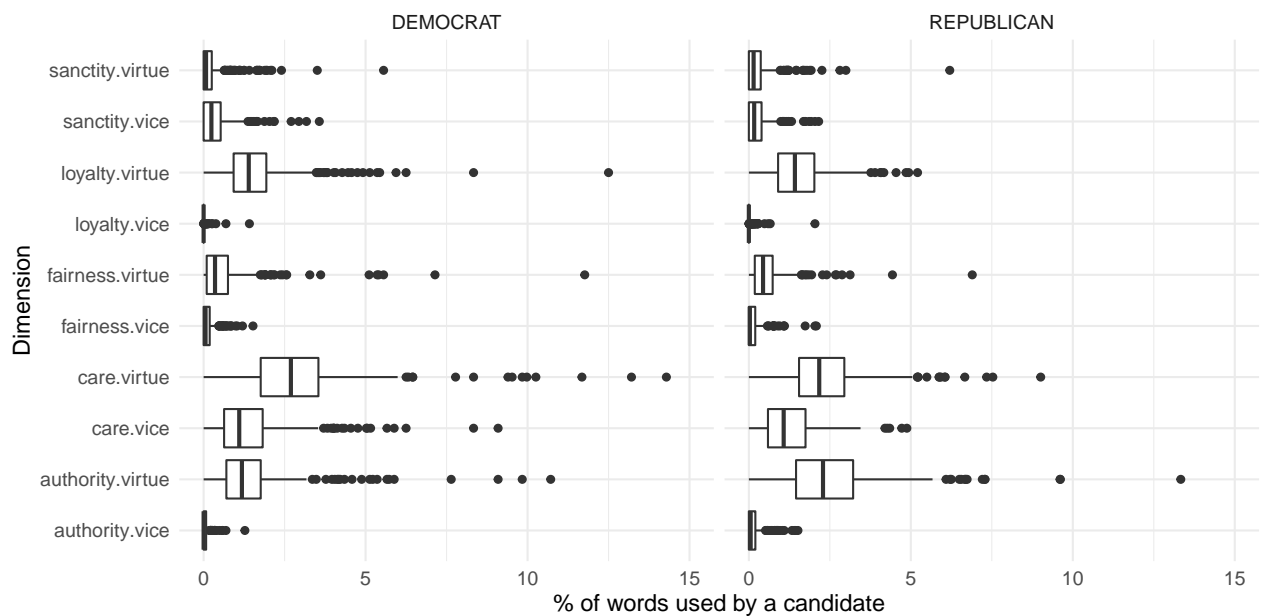


Figure 16: Distribution of Moral foundations words in FB ads, by party



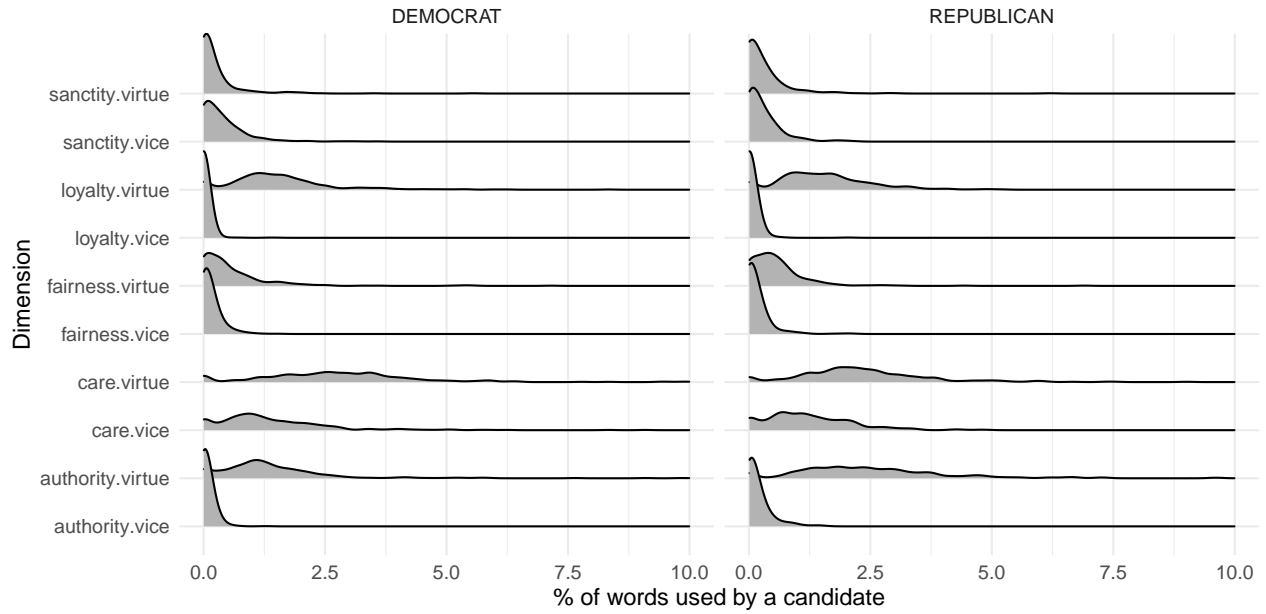


Figure 17: Candidate-level usage of moral words (MFD)

Table 1: Average Usage of words across candidates, broken down by Party ID

Average Usage of the dimension Per Candidate (in %)	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
authority.vice	0.06	0.16
authority.virtue	1.41	2.53
care.vice	1.37	1.22
care.virtue	2.93	2.33
fairness.vice	0.13	0.14
fairness.virtue	0.65	0.56
loyalty.vice	0.01	0.03
loyalty.virtue	1.57	1.54
sanctity.vice	0.38	0.27
sanctity.virtue	0.24	0.30