

**Supplementary Information for:  
Attention to the COVID-19 pandemic on Twitter: Partisan differences among U.S. state legislators**

**Manual Labeling.** Because the number of tweets to be labeled for COVID-19 relevance is huge ( $N = 1,326,220$ ), we take a supervised learning approach where we manually label a small subset of tweets from the entire data, train a machine learning classifier, and predict the label for the rest of the data. For the training set, we randomly sampled 2,000 tweets from the entire data set. We excluded tweets published prior to March 1, 2020 because they are unlikely to be related to the COVID-19 pandemic given the timeline of the spread of the COVID-19 in the U.S. We also did not include retweets to prevent duplicated texts in our training set.

Two independent coders labeled each of the 2,000 tweets for the relevance to the COVID-19 pandemic. For retweets with a comment, the comment was treated as an independent tweet. For such tweets, the coders were presented with the text of a tweet (the comment) along with the text of quoted content (the original tweet). The meaning of the former is much clearer with the latter than without. For any external links (images, news articles, websites, and so on), we did not consider the content. Rather, we only took into account the text of the URL (e.g., “<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>”). We labeled a tweet relevant to the pandemic only when the tweet can be read as relevant without knowing the publication date. By doing so, we were able to rule out generating false positives where authors discuss things that can be related *both* to the pandemic *and* to other events (e.g., helping local businesses by placing take-out orders).

For 300 of the 2,000 tweets, the two coders labeled the tweets together, meaning that each of the 300 tweets got a label from each coder. After the labeling of the initial 300 tweets, we updated specific labeling rules—as described in the above paragraph—and set out to label another 200 tweets, again, together. The level of inter-coder reliability achieved on the 200 tweets is 0.88 (both for Cohen’s Kappa and for Krippendorff’s Alpha). For the initial 300 and 200 tweets for which the coders had disagreement, they discussed about their disagreement and agreed upon a common labeling decision. Based on the coding rules, the two coders labeled the remaining 1500 tweets separately with each coder labeling 750 tweets. As a result, 24.4% ( $N = 488$ ) were coded as relevant to the pandemic among the 2,000 tweets.

**Classifier.** To label the rest of the tweets in the entire data, we experimented with various classifiers: Random Forest, XGBoost, and BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers). We relied exclusively on text-related information for features. For the feature matrix for the first two, we used count vectorization, TF-IDF vectorization, and 200-dimensional GloVe word embeddings (1). To estimate the performance of our models reliably, we conducted 5-fold cross-validation. Table S2 reports the precision, recall, and the harmonic mean of the two (i.e., F-1) of the classifiers from 5-fold cross-validation. Since the BERT-based fine-tuned model achieves the best performance, we used it to label the rest of the tweets.

In Figure S1, we illustrate the textual attributes that differentiate pandemic relevant and non-relevant tweets. Specifically, we use the “fightin’ words” (FW) measure and visualization (2) to illustrate the textual features that best differentiate pandemic-related tweets and non-pandemic tweets. The *x*-axis in this plot depicts the relative frequency with which the term occurs in the respective group. The *y*-axis depicts the strength with which the term correlates with group membership. Terms located higher on the *y*-axis signal a stronger association with the tweet belonging to the respective group. Each plot includes (up to) the 100 top words that discriminate between the two groups. The FW measure produces a *z*-score that quantifies the significance with which the use of a term differs between the two groups of documents. We only plot terms for which the *z*-score exceeds 1.96 in magnitude.

The words that effectively identify tweets about COVID-19 are largely intuitive, with the most prominent being words that are clearly on the topic of the pandemic (e.g., coronavirus, pandemic, testing, cases). An interesting result regarding terms that best identify tweets that are not relevant to the pandemic is that they are generally positive words (e.g., happy, great, thank, love). The highly intuitive nature of the terms differentiating pandemic from non-pandemic tweets underscores why we were able to so effectively machine-classify pandemic relevance based on the text of the tweets.

**Descriptive Statistics.** Table S1 compares the sample used for our regression analysis (4,092 accounts) and the population of state legislators in terms of political party, gender, and chamber. Gender data for state legislators in our sample were generated mainly using **gender** R package that infers gender categories from first names. For 91 state legislators whose gender the automated approach failed to infer, we manually collected relevant information. In terms of political party, the sample slightly over-represent Democrats relative to Republicans and independents. Also, women and upper-chamber legislators are over-represented in the sample. Although the sample generally resembles the population of state legislators with respect to these key attributes, any findings based on the sample should only be generalized to state legislators on Twitter, and not to the full population of state legislators.

Table S3 reports the descriptive statistics for categorical variables: political party and majority status in the chamber. Note that non-Republican legislators involve the members of other parties and independents as well as Democrats. The majority status indicates whether the legislator belongs to the majority party in the chamber. Note that this variable is not used in the model in the main text but included in the models for robustness check.

Table S4 provides the descriptive statistics for all the other variables included in the regression analysis. The statistics are recorded at different units of analysis to summarize the distribution effectively. The data involve 4,092 state legislators, 30 weeks, and 49 states. Nebraska’s non-partisan legislature is excluded. The number of COVID-19 relevant tweets are log-transformed. The pandemic indicator variables are presented both with and without standardization based on population (per 10k). The legislator ideology variable is a quantitative measure of conservatism based on legislators’ roll call votes (3, 4)

and, like the majority status variable in Table S3, is only included in the models for robustness check. While all the other variables have no missing values, this variable has 1,170 missing observations.

Figure S2 depicts the distributions of the number of pandemic-related tweets that of all tweets recorded at the legislator-week level (without log-transformation). Note that both of the distributions are right-skewed and so the  $x$ -scale is condensed for more effective visualization. Figure S3 illustrates the distribution of the two categorical variables (see Table S3 as well): the political party of state legislators and the majority status in the chamber. Figure S4 shows the distributions for continuous and discrete variables (see Table S4 as well). The pandemic indicators, (a)–(d), are standardized based on population (per 10k). For the plot for the legislator ideology variable, greater numbers indicate greater conservatism.

Figure S5 illustrates the timeline of new cases and deaths at the national-level. Each dot in the plots represents the relevant statistic per week. Figure S6 shows two heat maps for the number of new cases and that of new deaths, at the state level. The state in the  $x$ -scale is ordered alphabetically and the statistics are standardized based on population (per 10k). Figure S7 depicts the state-level timeline of the number of states with zero new cases (a) and with zero new deaths (b). The timelines show why we exclude the early months of the pandemic from our analysis. As seen in the two plots, it was not until the week of March 30 (March 30–April 5) when the pandemic started to spread nationwide. Figure S8 depicts the timelines for the number of pandemic-related tweets (a) and for the number of all tweets (b), with each dot indicating the tweet count per week. The states in the plots are the five most populous states. As discussed in the main text, we see the general diminishing trend in panel (a), which is consistent with the novelty fading dynamic (5, 6). In contrast, the trend in panel (b) does not exhibit a consistent trend over time.

**Regression Analysis.** In Tables S5–S7, we assess whether the results of our regression analysis are robust to alternative forms of the dependent variable. The first three columns in each of the tables model state legislators' attention as homogeneous across political parties, at the state-level, nation-level, and both, respectively (Models 1–3). The next four columns take partisan heterogeneity into account (Models 4–7). Model 7 incorporates two additional variables to account for the influence of state legislators' ideology and the majority status in their respective chamber. We run Model 7 to assess whether our conclusions are robust to including more variables related to individual legislators. The ideology measure is not available for legislators who started in the legislature in 2020, so the sample size is lower in Model 7. In each model we include legislator and week random effects as well as state fixed effects (unreported). Note that we cannot include legislator or time fixed effects—an alternative approach to accounting for unit and/or time heterogeneity—as partisanship varies only by legislator, and national pandemic indicators vary only with time.

In Table S5, we log-transform (natural log) the linear-scale dependent variable after adding 1 (Model 6 in Table S5 is the model reported in the main text). To assess whether our results are robust to the constant value added to the linear-scale dependent variable, we added 0.01, instead of 1, for the models in Table S6. Also, Table S7 reports models where the dependent variable is the proportion of pandemic-related tweets, out of the total number of tweets per week for the respective legislature. The results are consistent across the two transformations, in that the effects of the pandemic variables are generally positive and significant for Democrats, and either negative and significant, or not statistically significant, for Republicans. We also note that one additional form of regression model that we considered was a hierarchical count model (e.g., (7)). However, we had convergence problems with several alternative implementations of hierarchical count models. This is likely due to the fact that approximately 10% of the legislators in our data never tweet about the pandemic—a feature of the data that poses challenges for fitting legislator heterogeneity within count model functional forms.

To evaluate the how gubernatorial partisanship might factor into our results in the main text, we fit two sets of additional models in Tables S8–S11. First, Tables S8 and S9 replicate our main analysis (Table S5) on two subsets of data based on the partisanship of governors. Table S8 is for observations with a Republican governor and Table S9 is for observations with a Democratic governor. Second, Tables S10 and S11 show models for observations that share partisanship with the governor and observations that do not share partisanship with the governor, respectively. Note that we cannot fit state fixed effect for these two sets of models because the party variable only varies across states. The results across all four of these models are highly consistent with the main results that do not account for gubernatorial partisanship (see Figures S9–12 for effect plots).

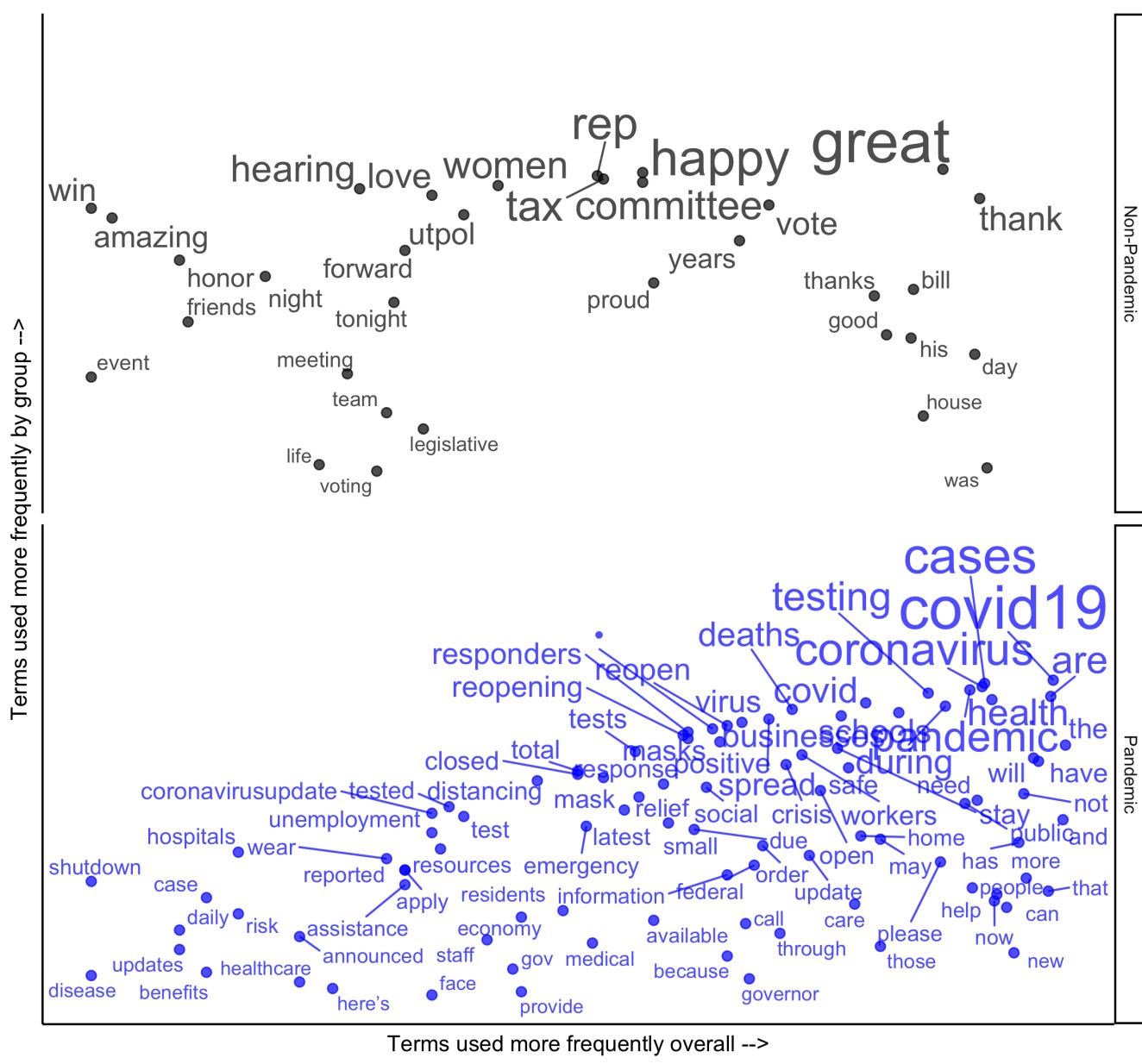
To assess whether our findings are robust to any unobserved legislator-level attributes, Tables S12–S13 model Republican and Democratic legislators separately and include legislator fixed effects. This is a within-legislator model of legislator change over time, rather than a comparison across legislators or states. The findings are similar to those in the our models and the  $R^2$  is higher by an order of magnitude. This also alleviates concerns about omitted variable bias. Note that social media usage is inherently “bursty” (i.e., heavy-tailed), which can lead to a relatively low signal-to-noise ratio and a low  $R^2$ , in general.

**Drivers of Pandemic-related Discussion.** Trump was a pivotal actor in the formation of the discourse about the pandemic, at least for the period under our study (Mar 2020 – Oct 2020). It is possible that state legislators' discussions reflect their responses to Trump's actions/remarks related to the pandemic. To evaluate the extent to which state legislators' discussions are driven by Trump, we use the relative frequency of the mentions of Trump's account (@realDonaldTrump) to the mentions of governors' accounts in pandemic-related tweets as a proxy. Table S14 reports a) the proportion of tweets mentioning Trump's account to all pandemic-related tweets, b) the proportion of tweets mentioning any of the governors' accounts to all pandemic tweets, c) the proportion of a) relative to b). We can see that Trump is not overly prominent in state legislators' pandemic discussion in general, with governors mentioned much more frequently than Trump. The table also reveals some partisan differences where Trump is more prominent in Republican state legislators' pandemic discussion than non-Republicans'. Also, Figure S13 depicts the timeline of the relative frequency. It shows that the relative frequency increases over time. We believe

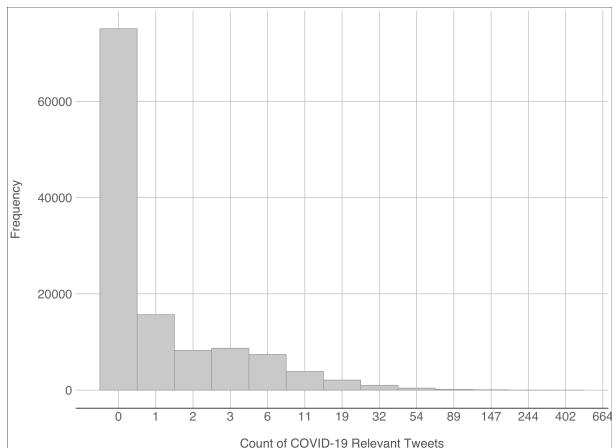
that this is likely because Trump received more attention as the election came closer (in addition to his COVID-19 infection and hospitalization in October). Note that, although the relative frequency of Trump mentions rapidly increases after August, it remains low in general due to the decline in the total number of all mentions in pandemic related tweets over time.

## Figures S1 - S13

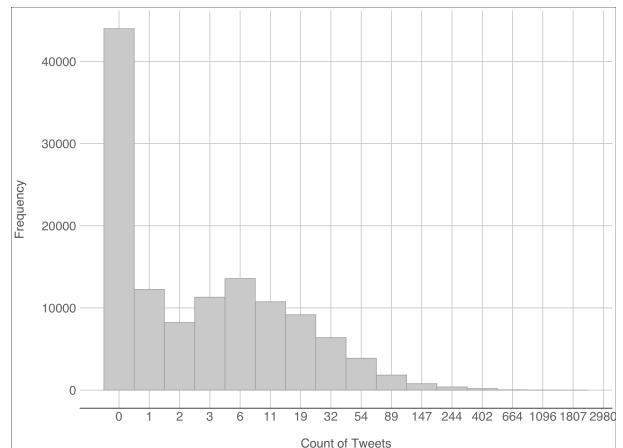
## Comparison of Terms by Groups



**Fig. S1.** Words that differentiate between the content of tweets by COVID-19 relevance, identified using a flight of words (C).

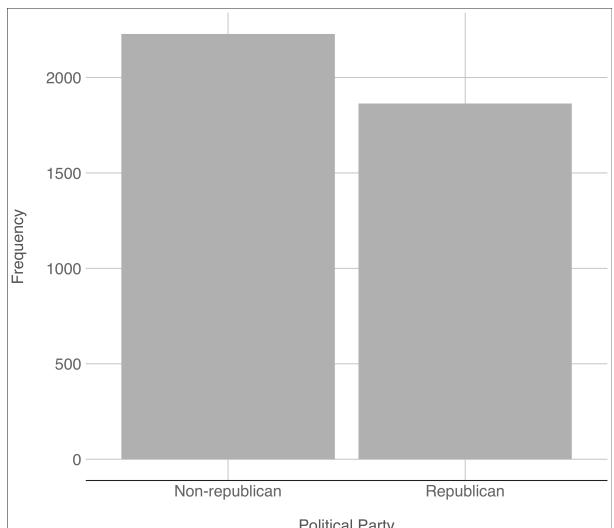


(a) Pandemic-related Tweets (per legislator-week)

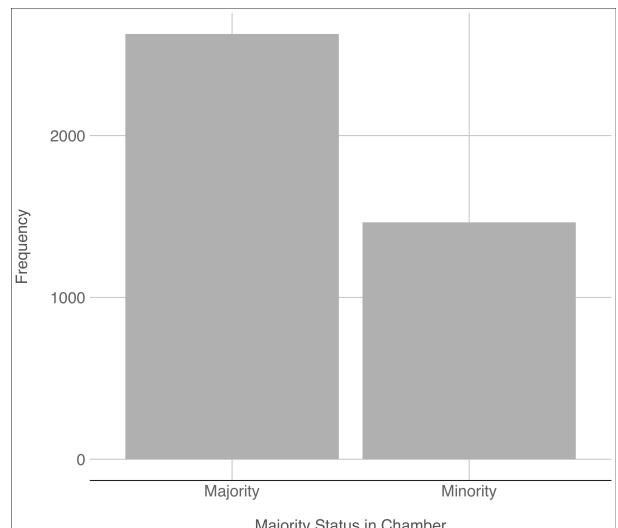


(b) All Tweets (per legislator-week)

**Fig. S2.** Distribution of Tweet Count Variables

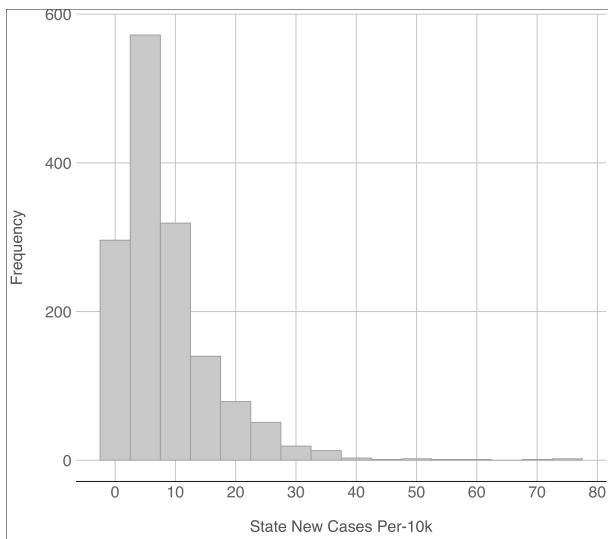


(a) Political Party

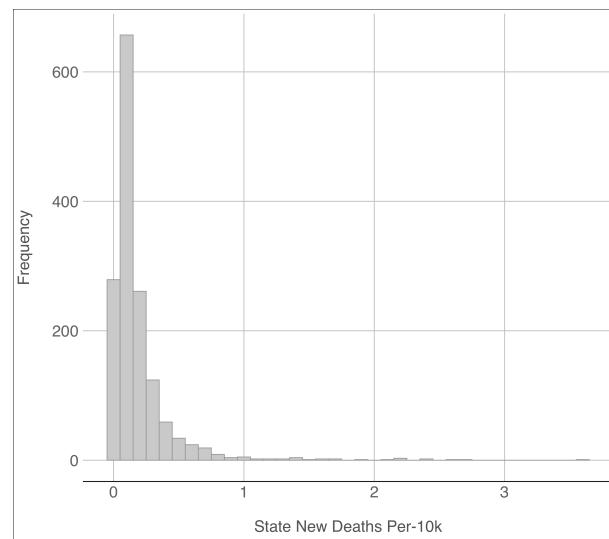


(b) Majority Status in Chamber

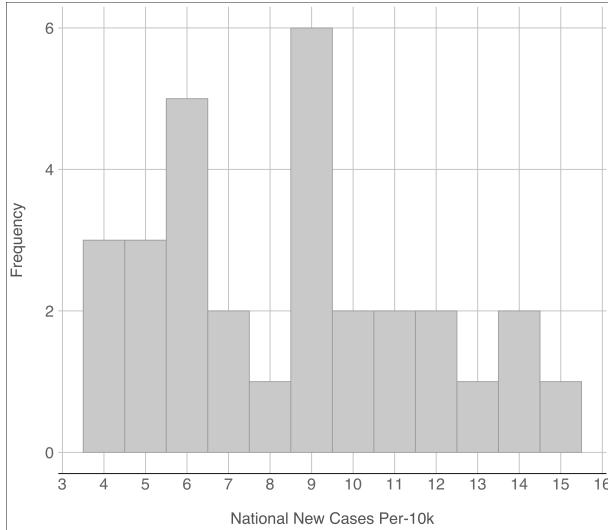
**Fig. S3.** Distribution of Categorical Variables



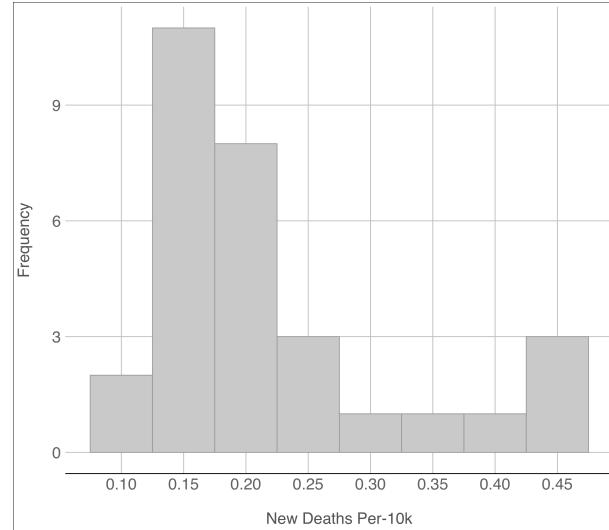
(a) Weekly State New Cases



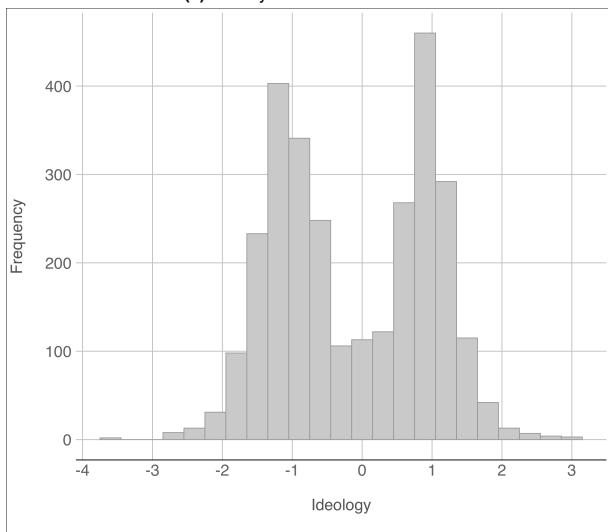
(b) Weekly State New Deaths



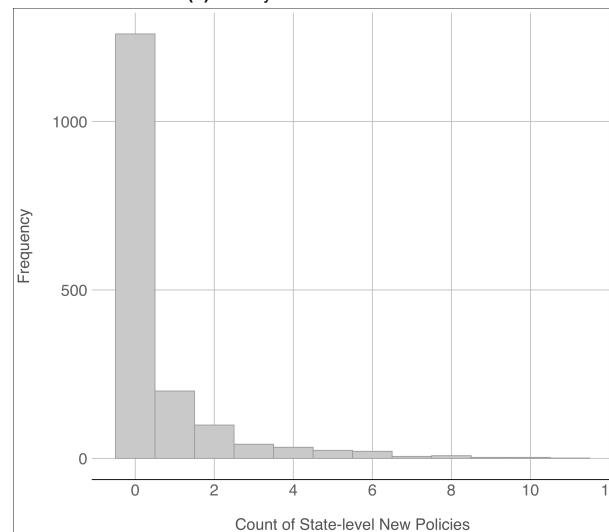
(c) Weekly National New Cases



(d) Weekly National New Deaths

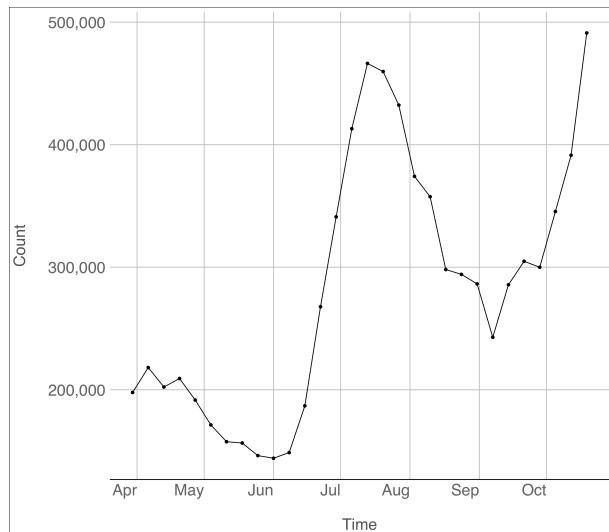


(e) Legislator Ideology

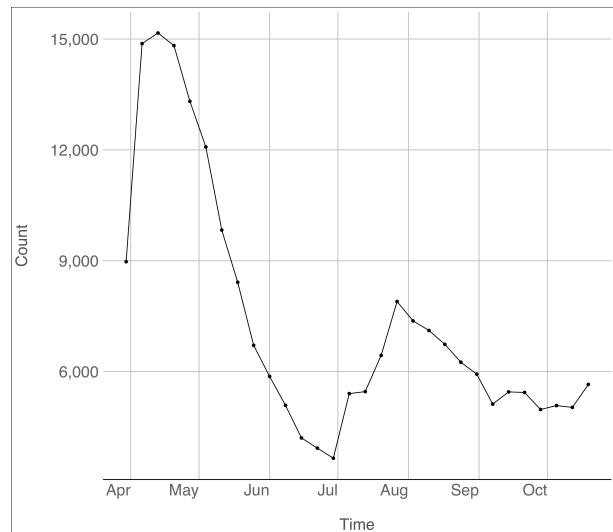


(f) Weekly State-level COVID-19 Policies

**Fig. S4.** Distribution of Discrete and Continuous Variables

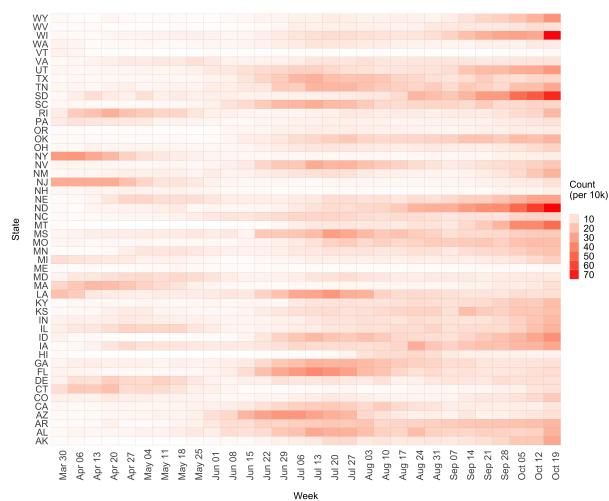


(a) National New Cases

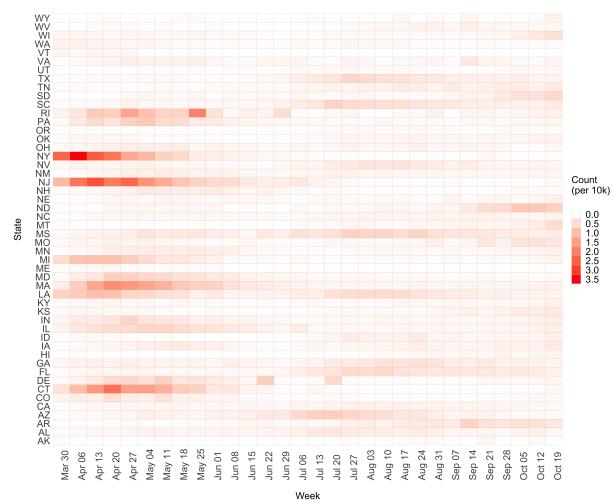


(b) National New Deaths

Fig. S5. Weekly Trend of Pandemic: National-level New Cases and Deaths

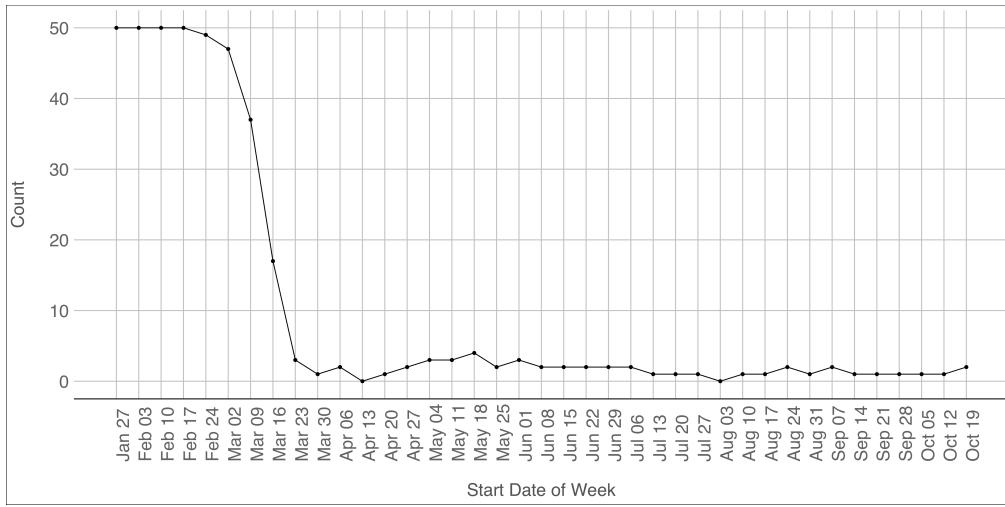
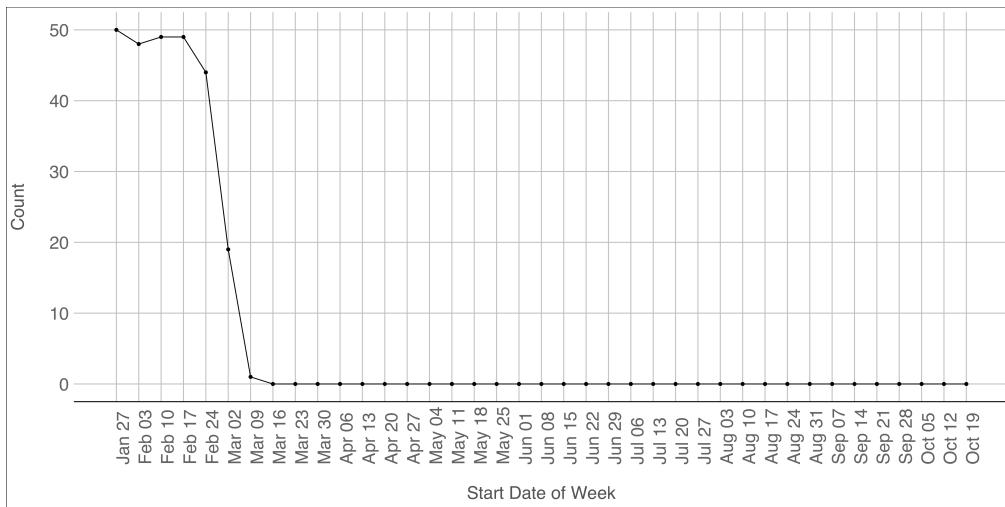


(a) State New Cases

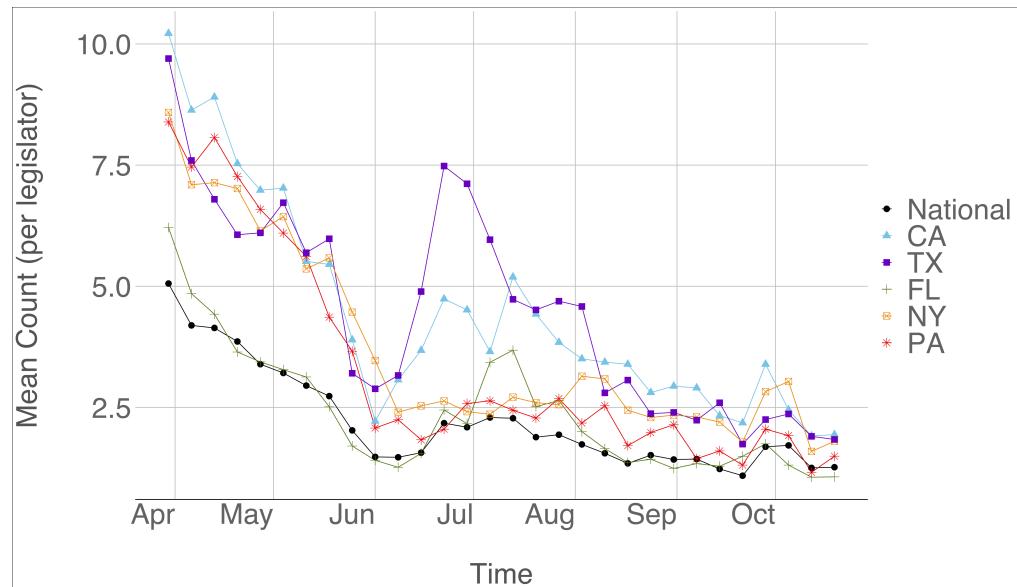


(b) State New Deaths

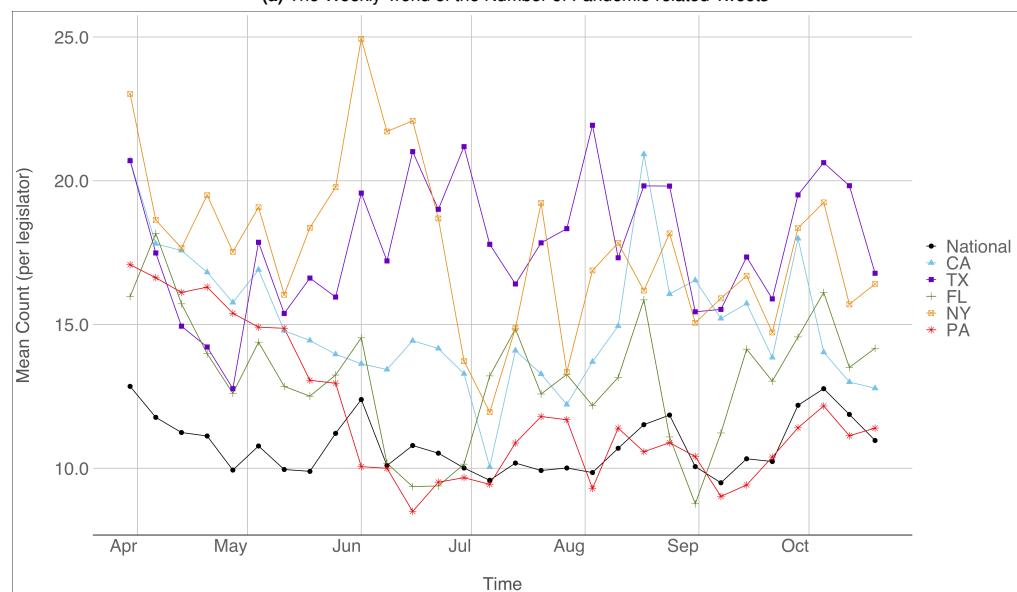
Fig. S6. Weekly Trend of Pandemic: State-level New Cases and Deaths



**Fig. S7.** Weekly Trend of Pandemic: Count of States with Zero New Cases and Zero New Deaths

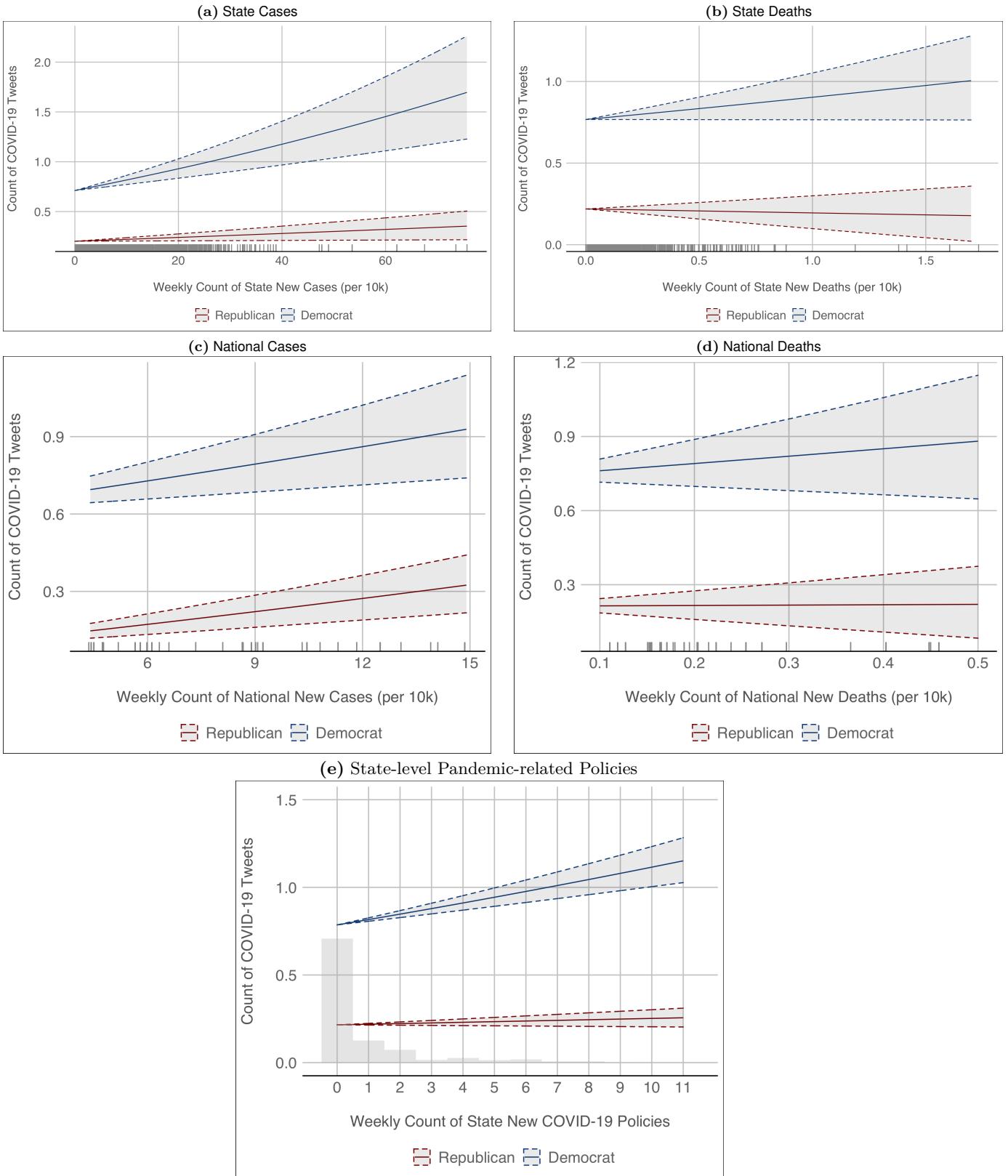


(a) The Weekly Trend of the Number of Pandemic-related Tweets

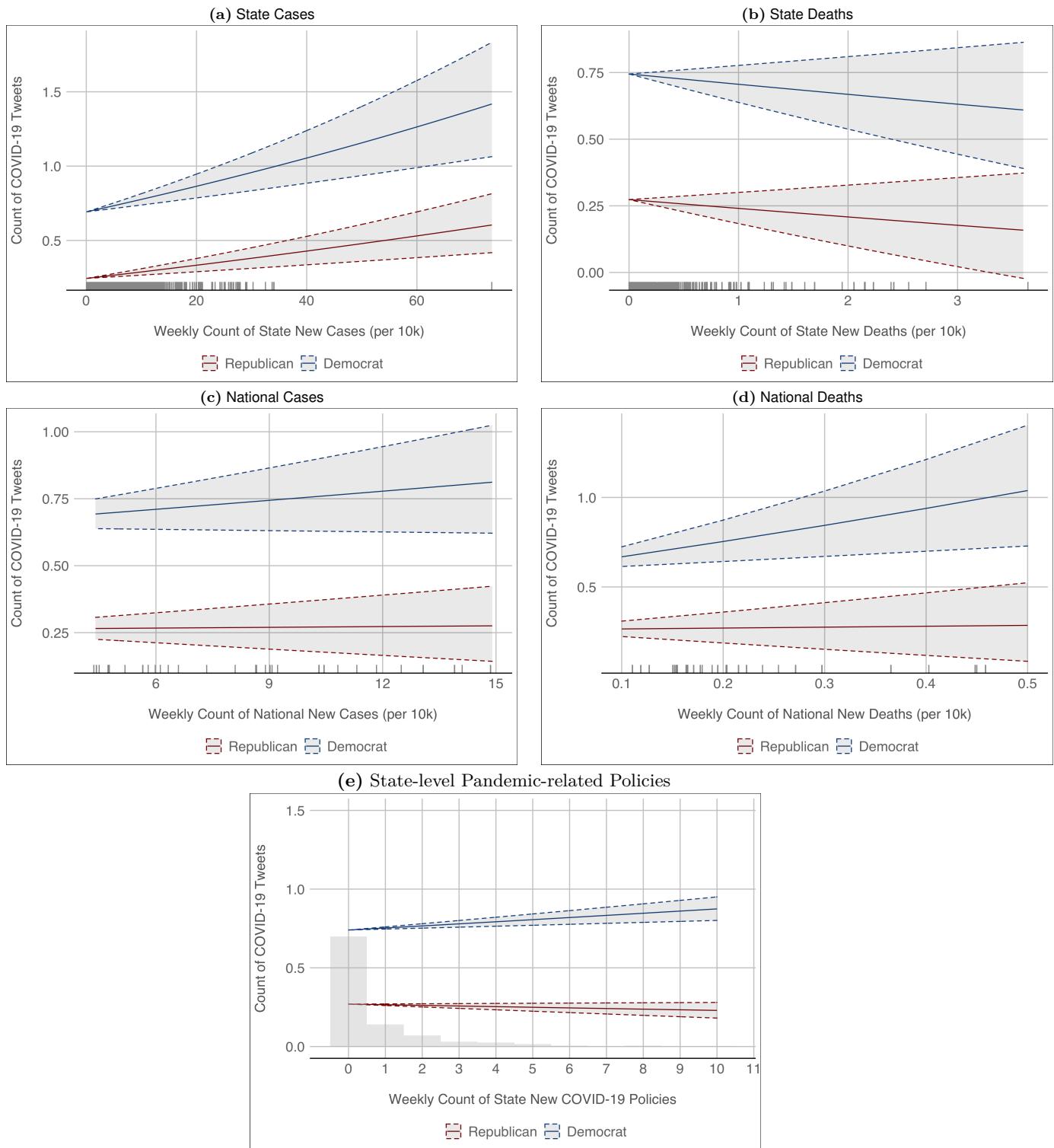


(b) The Weekly Trend of the Number of All Tweets

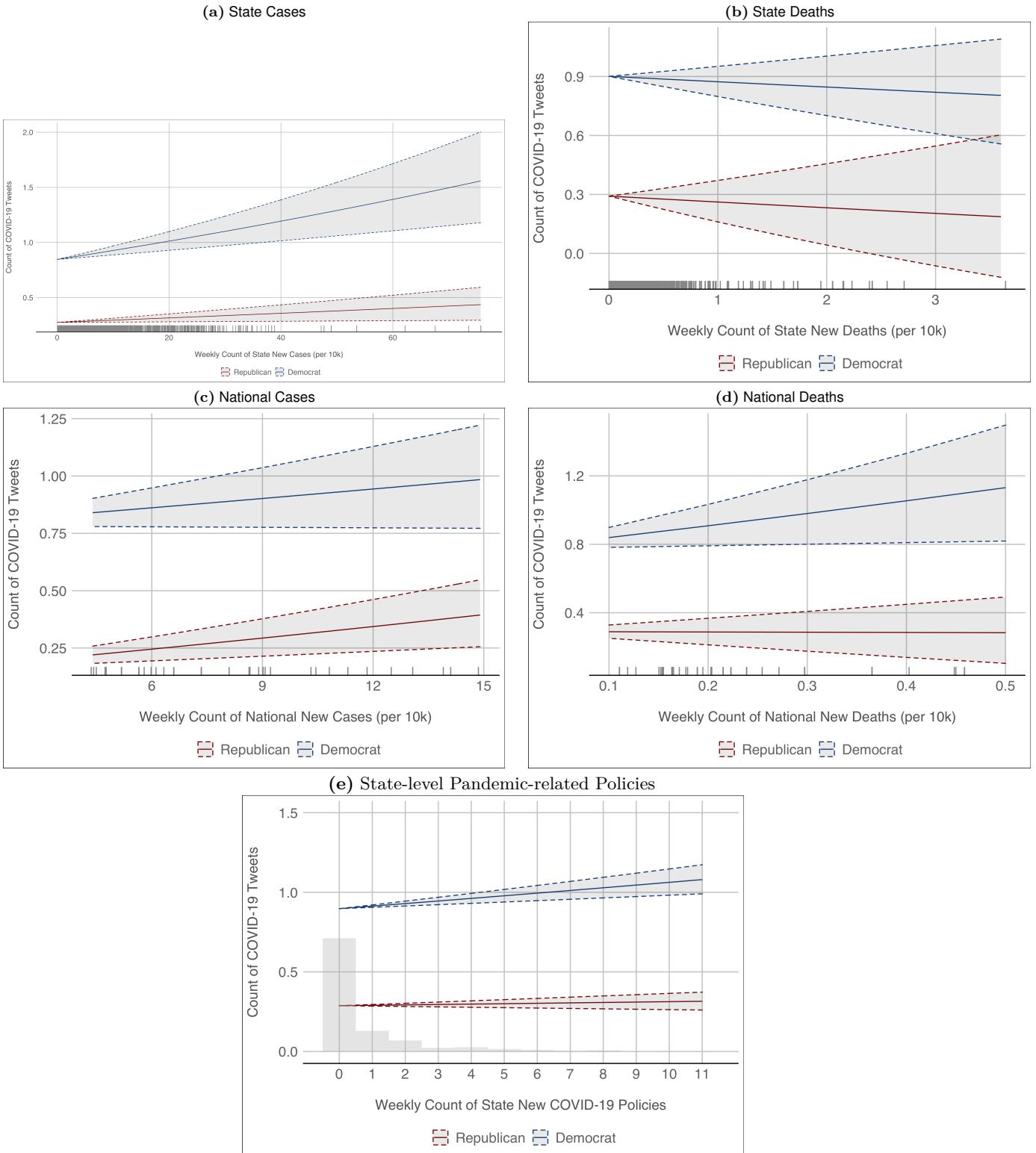
**Fig. S8.** The Weekly Trend of the Number of Tweets



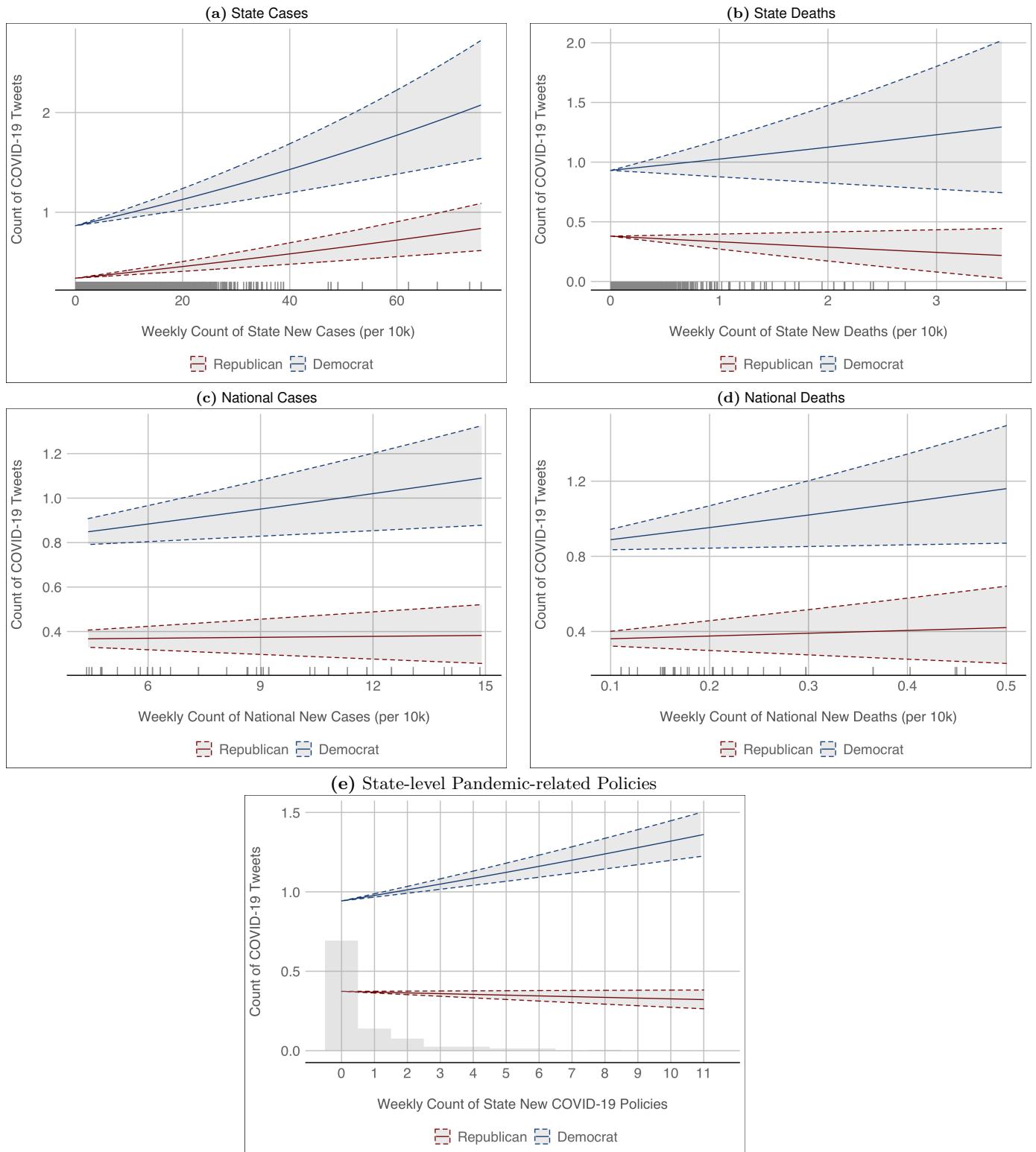
**Fig. S9.** Relationships estimated with regression on Rep-governor observations.  $y$ -axis gives the predicted value for a legislator/week with median values of the variables not depicted in the plot. Grey bounds depict the 95% confidence intervals for the predicted value. The effects for Democratic, Republican, and independents/other parties are estimated but only the first two groups are reported because there are so few other-party observations that the confidence intervals are too big to visualize clearly. The distribution of the respective independent variable is depicted in each plot. For the pandemic indicator variables, we use rug plots. For the number of policies passed, which takes on integer values 0–11, we use a histogram.



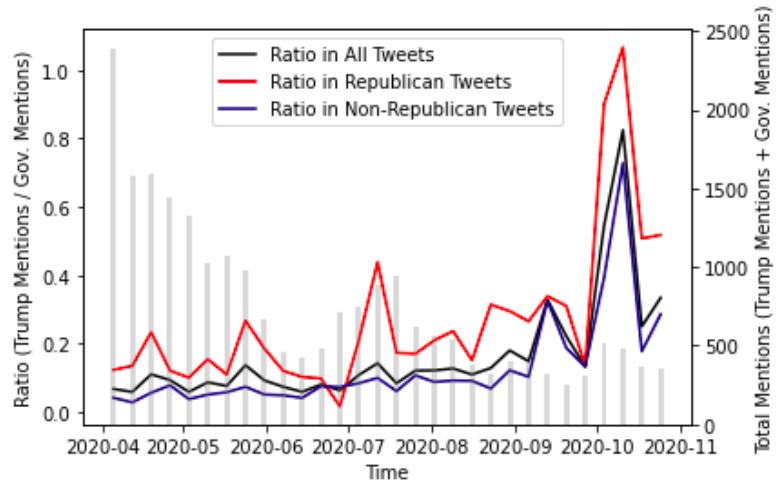
**Fig. S10.** Relationships estimated with regression on Dem-governor observations. *y*-axis gives the predicted value for a legislator/week with median values of the variables not depicted in the plot. Grey bounds depict the 95% confidence intervals for the predicted value. The effects for Democratic, Republican, and independents/other parties are estimated but only the first two groups are reported because there are so few other-party observations that the confidence intervals are too big to visualize clearly. The distribution of the respective independent variable is depicted in each plot. For the pandemic indicator variables, we use rug plots. For the number of policies passed, which takes on integer values 0–11, we use a histogram.



**Fig. S11.** Relationships estimated with regression on legislator-governor partisanship-match observations.  $y$ -axis gives the predicted value for a legislator/week with median values of the variables not depicted in the plot. Grey bounds depict the 95% confidence intervals for the predicted value. The effects for Democratic, Republican, and independents/other parties are estimated but only the first two groups are reported because there are so few other-party observations that the confidence intervals are too big to visualize clearly. The distribution of the respective independent variable is depicted in each plot. For the pandemic indicator variables, we use rug plots. For the number of policies passed, which takes on integer values 0–11, we use a histogram.



**Fig. S12.** Relationships estimated with regression on legislator-governor partisanship-mismatch observations.  $y$ -axis gives the predicted value for a legislator/week with median values of the variables not depicted in the plot. Grey bounds depict the 95% confidence intervals for the predicted value. The effects for Democratic, Republican, and independents/other parties are estimated but only the first two groups are reported because there are so few other-party observations that the confidence intervals are too big to visualize clearly. The distribution of the respective independent variable is depicted in each plot. For the pandemic indicator variables, we use rug plots. For the number of policies passed, which takes on integer values 0–11, we use a histogram.



**Fig. S13.** Weekly Trend of the Frequency of the Mentions of Trump's Account Relative to the Mentions of Governors' Accounts

## Tables S1 - S14

| Variable        | Category          | Population Proportion | Sample Proportion |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Political Party | Republican        | 0.520                 | 0.455             |
|                 | Democrat          | 0.460                 | 0.542             |
|                 | Independent/other | 0.020                 | 0.003             |
| Gender          | Men               | 0.710                 | 0.654             |
|                 | Women             | 0.290                 | 0.346             |
| Chamber         | Lower             | 0.730                 | 0.719             |
|                 | Upper             | 0.270                 | 0.281             |

**Table S1. Comparison between the State Legislator Population and the Sample for Regression Analysis**

\* Sources for the population proportion: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/about-state-legislatures/state-legislator-demographics.aspx> and <https://www.ncsl.org/research/about-state-legislatures/number-of-legislators-and-length-of-terms.aspx>

|                 | Precision    | Recall       | F-1          |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| RF + Count      | 98.05 (0.02) | 36.59 (0.04) | 53.11 (0.05) |
| RF + TFIDF      | 97.94 (0.02) | 35.84 (0.04) | 52.33 (0.04) |
| RF + GloVe      | 83.07 (0.09) | 24.97 (0.05) | 38.30 (0.06) |
| XGB + Count     | 93.85 (0.04) | 65.74 (0.02) | 77.27 (0.02) |
| XGB + TFIDF     | 93.55 (0.03) | 63.46 (0.03) | 75.56 (0.02) |
| XGB + GloVe     | 77.13 (0.03) | 47.03 (0.07) | 58.22 (0.06) |
| BERT Fine Tuned | 87.20 (0.02) | 82.40 (0.04) | 84.60 (0.01) |

**Table S2. Performance of Classifiers**

|                     | Republican | Non-Republican | Total |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|-------|
| Party               | 1864       | 2228           | 4092  |
|                     | Majority   | Minority       | Total |
| Majority in Chamber | 2628       | 1464           | 4092  |

**Table S3. Descriptive Statistics for Categorical Variables**

|        | COVID tweet (log) | State Case | State Case (per 10k) | State Death | State Death (per 10k) | National Case | National Case (per 10k) | National Death | National Death (per-10k) | State COVID Policy | Legislator Ideology |
|--------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Unit   | legislator-week   | state-week | state-week           | state-week  | state-week            | week          | week                    | week           | week                     | state-week         | legislator          |
| Min.   | 0.0               | 4          | 0.04                 | 0.0         | 0.0                   | 144106        | 4.35                    | 3655           | 0.11                     | 0.0                | -3.7                |
| 1st Q. | 0.0               | 921.2      | 3.10                 | 17.0        | 0.06                  | 193126        | 5.84                    | 5191           | 0.15                     | 0.0                | -1.1                |
| Med.   | 0.0               | 2982.5     | 6.18                 | 54.0        | 0.12                  | 286048        | 8.65                    | 6092           | 0.18                     | 0.0                | -0.3                |
| Mean   | 0.6               | 5620.0     | 8.49                 | 147.7       | 0.19                  | 282742        | 8.55                    | 7409           | 0.22                     | 0.6                | -0.1                |
| 3rd Q. | 1.1               | 6208.8     | 11.17                | 139.2       | 0.21                  | 354538        | 10.72                   | 8287           | 0.25                     | 1.0                | 0.9                 |
| Max.   | 6.0               | 80236.0    | 75.73                | 7114.0      | 3.64                  | 491180        | 14.85                   | 15164          | 0.46                     | 11.0               | 3.0                 |

**Table S4. Descriptive Statistics for Discrete and Continuous Variables**

|  | Model 1              | Model 2              | Model 3              | Model 4              | Model 5              | Model 6              | Model 7              |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| State New Cases (per 10k)                  | 0.005***<br>(0.001)  |                      | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.000***<br>(0.001)  |                      | 0.006***<br>(0.001)  | 0.007***<br>(0.001)  |
| State New Deaths (per 10k)                 | 0.001<br>(0.014)     |                      | 0.002<br>(0.014)     | 0.013<br>(0.017)     |                      | -0.010<br>(0.019)    | -0.020<br>(0.022)    |
| State COVID-19 Policies                    | 0.006***<br>(0.001)  | 0.005***<br>(0.001)  | 0.006***<br>(0.001)  | 0.012***<br>(0.002)  | 0.010***<br>(0.002)  | 0.011***<br>(0.002)  | 0.010***<br>(0.002)  |
| National New Cases (per 10k)               |                      | 0.012**<br>(0.004)   | 0.008*<br>(0.004)    |                      | 0.013***<br>(0.004)  | 0.008*<br>(0.004)    | 0.008*<br>(0.004)    |
| National New Deaths (per 10k)              |                      | 0.218<br>(0.145)     | 0.205<br>(0.147)     |                      | 0.386*<br>(0.151)    | 0.354*<br>(0.153)    | 0.388**<br>(0.148)   |
| Other                                      | -0.147<br>(0.200)    | -0.147<br>(0.200)    | -0.147<br>(0.200)    | -0.113<br>(0.184)    | 0.017<br>(0.225)     | 0.011<br>(0.225)     | 0.261<br>(0.244)     |
| Republican                                 | -0.380***<br>(0.021) | -0.380***<br>(0.021) | -0.380***<br>(0.021) | -0.339***<br>(0.022) | -0.272***<br>(0.023) | -0.264***<br>(0.022) | 0.122*<br>(0.060)    |
| Other * State New Cases (per 10k)          |                      |                      |                      | -0.012<br>(0.009)    |                      | -0.004<br>(0.010)    | -0.008<br>(0.009)    |
| Republican * State New Cases (per 10k)     |                      |                      |                      | -0.002*<br>(0.001)   |                      | -0.004***<br>(0.001) | -0.005***<br>(0.001) |
| Other * State New Deaths (per 10k)         |                      |                      |                      | 0.209<br>(0.309)     |                      | 0.069<br>(0.296)     | 0.879***<br>(0.234)  |
| Republican * State New Deaths (per 10k)    |                      |                      |                      | -0.060*<br>(0.025)   |                      | -0.006<br>(0.027)    | 0.012<br>(0.031)     |
| Other * State COVID-19 Policies            |                      |                      |                      | -0.011<br>(0.021)    | -0.025<br>(0.016)    | -0.023<br>(0.015)    | -0.023<br>(0.013)    |
| Republican * State COVID-19 Policies       |                      |                      |                      | -0.013***<br>(0.003) | -0.009***<br>(0.002) | -0.010***<br>(0.002) | -0.010***<br>(0.003) |
| Other * National New Cases (per 10k)       |                      |                      |                      | -0.023<br>(0.012)    | -0.020<br>(0.016)    | -0.021<br>(0.016)    |                      |
| Republican * National New Cases (per 10k)  |                      |                      |                      | -0.002<br>(0.001)    | -0.001<br>(0.001)    | -0.002<br>(0.002)    |                      |
| Other * National New Deaths (per 10k)      |                      |                      |                      | 0.240<br>(0.553)     | 0.163<br>(0.536)     | -0.043<br>(0.494)    |                      |
| Republican * National New Deaths (per 10k) |                      |                      |                      | -0.366***<br>(0.058) | -0.313***<br>(0.064) | -0.327***<br>(0.078) |                      |
| Legislator Ideology                        |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.196***<br>(0.030) |                      |
| Chamber Majority Status                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | 0.003<br>(0.026)     |                      |
| Week                                       | -0.085***<br>(0.012) | -0.074***<br>(0.014) | -0.075***<br>(0.014) | -0.085***<br>(0.012) | -0.074***<br>(0.014) | -0.075***<br>(0.014) | -0.073***<br>(0.013) |
| Week (quadratic)                           | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  |
| Week (cubic)                               | -0.000***<br>(0.000) | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  | -0.000***<br>(0.000) | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  |
| (Intercept)                                | 0.903***<br>(0.075)  | 0.750***<br>(0.095)  | 0.758***<br>(0.096)  | 0.884***<br>(0.073)  | 0.699***<br>(0.096)  | 0.698***<br>(0.096)  | 0.466***<br>(0.106)  |
| S.D. (observation)                         | 0.492                | 0.493                | 0.492                | 0.492                | 0.493                | 0.492                | 0.490                |
| S.D. (legislator)                          | 0.635                | 0.635                | 0.635                | 0.635                | 0.635                | 0.635                | 0.631                |
| S.D. (week)                                | 0.038                | 0.038                | 0.039                | 0.036                | 0.038                | 0.038                | 0.035                |
| R <sup>2</sup>                             | 0.014                | 0.011                | 0.014                | 0.016                | 0.013                | 0.016                | 0.021                |
| Adj. R <sup>2</sup>                        | 0.014                | 0.011                | 0.014                | 0.015                | 0.013                | 0.015                | 0.020                |
| Num. obs.                                  | 122760               | 122760               | 122760               | 122760               | 122760               | 122760               | 87660                |

\*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*  $p < 0.05$

**Table S5. Panel Regression Model (State Fixed Effect and Legislator-week Random Effect): Population Normalized + Three-fold Party Variable + Week Polynomial + Logged DV (1 added)**

|  | Model 1              | Model 2              | Model 3              | Model 4              | Model 5              | Model 6              | Model 7              |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| State New Cases (per 10k)                  | 0.010***<br>(0.002)  |                      | 0.010***<br>(0.002)  | 0.016***<br>(0.003)  |                      | 0.014***<br>(0.003)  | 0.016***<br>(0.003)  |
| State New Deaths (per 10k)                 | -0.042<br>(0.039)    |                      | -0.041<br>(0.039)    | -0.078<br>(0.047)    |                      | -0.058<br>(0.050)    | -0.062<br>(0.060)    |
| State COVID-19 Policies                    | 0.021***<br>(0.004)  | 0.019***<br>(0.004)  | 0.021***<br>(0.004)  | 0.029***<br>(0.006)  | 0.029***<br>(0.006)  | 0.032***<br>(0.006)  | 0.030***<br>(0.007)  |
| National New Cases (per 10k)               |                      | 0.029**<br>(0.011)   | 0.021<br>(0.011)     |                      | 0.034**<br>(0.011)   | 0.025*<br>(0.011)    | 0.023*<br>(0.011)    |
| National New Deaths (per 10k)              |                      | 0.889*<br>(0.412)    | 0.903*<br>(0.417)    |                      | 0.951*<br>(0.421)    | 0.922*<br>(0.418)    | 1.001*<br>(0.410)    |
| Other                                      | -0.679<br>(0.557)    | -0.679<br>(0.557)    | -0.679<br>(0.557)    | -0.568<br>(0.513)    | -0.294<br>(0.633)    | -0.318<br>(0.627)    | 0.517<br>(0.696)     |
| Republican                                 | -1.264***<br>(0.066) | -1.264***<br>(0.066) | -1.264***<br>(0.066) | -1.177***<br>(0.069) | -1.117***<br>(0.080) | -1.099***<br>(0.079) | -0.003<br>(0.190)    |
| Other * State New Cases (per 10k)          |                      |                      |                      | -0.040<br>(0.033)    |                      | -0.018<br>(0.036)    | -0.028<br>(0.034)    |
| Republican * State New Cases (per 10k)     |                      |                      |                      | -0.010***<br>(0.003) |                      | -0.007*<br>(0.003)   | -0.009*<br>(0.004)   |
| Other * State New Deaths (per 10k)         |                      |                      |                      | 0.653<br>(0.876)     |                      | 0.224<br>(0.854)     | 2.252**<br>(0.847)   |
| Republican * State New Deaths (per 10k)    |                      |                      |                      | 0.037<br>(0.076)     |                      | -0.002<br>(0.083)    | 0.031<br>(0.092)     |
| Other * State COVID-19 Policies            |                      |                      |                      | -0.004<br>(0.073)    | -0.041<br>(0.055)    | -0.041<br>(0.055)    | -0.037<br>(0.057)    |
| Republican * State COVID-19 Policies       |                      |                      |                      | -0.019*<br>(0.008)   | -0.021**<br>(0.008)  | -0.022**<br>(0.008)  | -0.021*<br>(0.009)   |
| Other * National New Cases (per 10k)       |                      |                      |                      | -0.066*<br>(0.032)   | -0.052<br>(0.036)    | -0.052<br>(0.036)    | -0.057<br>(0.037)    |
| Republican * National New Cases (per 10k)  |                      |                      |                      | -0.012**<br>(0.004)  | -0.009<br>(0.005)    | -0.009<br>(0.005)    | -0.013*<br>(0.006)   |
| Other * National New Deaths (per 10k)      |                      |                      |                      | 0.946<br>(1.730)     | 0.787<br>(1.731)     | 0.787<br>(1.731)     | 0.325<br>(1.775)     |
| Republican * National New Deaths (per 10k) |                      |                      |                      | -0.138<br>(0.169)    | -0.040<br>(0.187)    | -0.040<br>(0.187)    | -0.134<br>(0.224)    |
| Legislator Ideology                        |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.534***<br>(0.089) |
| Chamber Majority Status                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | 0.010<br>(0.080)     |
| Week                                       | -0.233***<br>(0.033) | -0.189***<br>(0.037) | -0.191***<br>(0.037) | -0.233***<br>(0.032) | -0.190***<br>(0.037) | -0.191***<br>(0.036) | -0.189***<br>(0.035) |
| Week (quadratic)                           | 0.010***<br>(0.002)  | 0.007**<br>(0.002)   | 0.008**<br>(0.002)   | 0.010***<br>(0.002)  | 0.008**<br>(0.002)   | 0.008**<br>(0.002)   | 0.008***<br>(0.002)  |
| Week (cubic)                               | -0.000***<br>(0.000) | -0.000*<br>(0.000)   | -0.000*<br>(0.000)   | -0.000***<br>(0.000) | -0.000*<br>(0.000)   | -0.000*<br>(0.000)   | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  |
| (Intercept)                                | -1.487***<br>(0.244) | -2.061***<br>(0.304) | -2.052***<br>(0.305) | -1.530***<br>(0.242) | -2.128***<br>(0.307) | -2.132***<br>(0.303) | -2.800***<br>(0.351) |
| S.D. (observation)                         | 1.805                | 1.805                | 1.805                | 1.805                | 1.805                | 1.804                | 1.796                |
| S.D. (legislator)                          | 1.934                | 1.934                | 1.934                | 1.934                | 1.934                | 1.934                | 1.913                |
| S.D. (week)                                | 0.116                | 0.118                | 0.119                | 0.112                | 0.119                | 0.116                | 0.108                |
| R <sup>2</sup>                             | 0.013                | 0.012                | 0.013                | 0.013                | 0.012                | 0.013                | 0.017                |
| Adj. R <sup>2</sup>                        | 0.012                | 0.011                | 0.012                | 0.013                | 0.012                | 0.013                | 0.017                |
| Num. obs.                                  | 122760               | 122760               | 122760               | 122760               | 122760               | 122760               | 87660                |

\*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*  $p < 0.05$

**Table S6. Panel Regression Model (State Fixed Effect and Legislator-week Random Effect): Population Normalized + Three-fold Party Variable + Week Polynomial + Logged DV (0.01 added)**

|  | Model 1              | Model 2              | Model 3              | Model 4              | Model 5              | Model 6              | Model 7              |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| State New Cases (per 10k)                  | 0.001***<br>(0.000)  |                      | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.000***<br>(0.001)  |                      | 0.006***<br>(0.001)  | 0.007***<br>(0.001)  |
| State New Deaths (per 10k)                 | -0.006<br>(0.003)    |                      | 0.002<br>(0.014)     | 0.014<br>(0.017)     |                      | -0.010<br>(0.019)    | -0.020<br>(0.022)    |
| State COVID-19 Policies                    | 0.002***<br>(0.000)  | 0.005***<br>(0.001)  | 0.006***<br>(0.001)  | 0.012***<br>(0.002)  | 0.010***<br>(0.002)  | 0.011***<br>(0.002)  | 0.010***<br>(0.002)  |
| National New Cases (per 10k)               |                      | 0.008<br>(0.006)     | 0.008*<br>(0.004)    |                      | 0.013***<br>(0.004)  | 0.005<br>(0.004)     | 0.008*<br>(0.004)    |
| National New Deaths (per 10k)              |                      | 0.782***<br>(0.220)  | 0.205<br>(0.147)     |                      | 0.386*<br>(0.151)    | 0.897***<br>(0.154)  | 0.388**<br>(0.148)   |
| Other                                      | -0.048*<br>(0.021)   | -0.147<br>(0.200)    | -0.147<br>(0.200)    | -0.113<br>(0.185)    | 0.017<br>(0.225)     | 0.011<br>(0.225)     | 0.261<br>(0.244)     |
| Republican                                 | -0.053***<br>(0.003) | -0.380***<br>(0.021) | -0.380***<br>(0.021) | -0.339***<br>(0.022) | -0.272***<br>(0.023) | -0.264***<br>(0.022) | 0.122*<br>(0.060)    |
| Other * State New Cases (per 10k)          |                      |                      |                      | -0.012<br>(0.009)    |                      | -0.004<br>(0.011)    | -0.008<br>(0.009)    |
| Republican * State New Cases (per 10k)     |                      |                      |                      | -0.002*<br>(0.001)   |                      | -0.004***<br>(0.001) | -0.005***<br>(0.001) |
| Other * State New Deaths (per 10k)         |                      |                      |                      | 0.209<br>(0.305)     |                      | 0.070<br>(0.293)     | 0.879***<br>(0.234)  |
| Republican * State New Deaths (per 10k)    |                      |                      |                      | -0.060*<br>(0.025)   |                      | -0.006<br>(0.027)    | 0.012<br>(0.031)     |
| Other * State COVID-19 Policies            |                      |                      |                      | -0.011<br>(0.021)    | -0.025<br>(0.016)    | -0.023<br>(0.015)    | -0.023<br>(0.013)    |
| Republican * State COVID-19 Policies       |                      |                      |                      | -0.013***<br>(0.003) | -0.009***<br>(0.002) | -0.010***<br>(0.002) | -0.010***<br>(0.003) |
| Other * National New Cases (per 10k)       |                      |                      |                      | -0.023<br>(0.012)    | -0.020<br>(0.016)    | -0.021<br>(0.016)    |                      |
| Republican * National New Cases (per 10k)  |                      |                      |                      | -0.002<br>(0.001)    | -0.001<br>(0.001)    | -0.002<br>(0.002)    |                      |
| Other * National New Deaths (per 10k)      |                      |                      |                      | 0.240<br>(0.553)     | 0.162<br>(0.536)     | -0.043<br>(0.494)    |                      |
| Republican * National New Deaths (per 10k) |                      |                      |                      | -0.366***<br>(0.058) | -0.313***<br>(0.064) | -0.327***<br>(0.078) |                      |
| Legislator Ideology                        |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.196***<br>(0.030) |                      |
| Chamber Majority Status                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | 0.003<br>(0.026)     |                      |
| Week                                       | -0.022***<br>(0.004) | -0.014***<br>(0.003) | -0.075***<br>(0.014) | -0.019***<br>(0.002) | -0.074***<br>(0.014) | -0.014***<br>(0.002) | -0.073***<br>(0.013) |
| Week (quadratic)                           | 0.001***<br>(0.000)  |                      | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  |                      | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  |                      | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  |
| Week (cubic)                               | -0.000***<br>(0.000) |                      | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  |                      | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  |                      | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  |
| (Intercept)                                | 0.231***<br>(0.021)  | 0.346***<br>(0.083)  | 0.758***<br>(0.096)  | 0.624***<br>(0.054)  | 0.699***<br>(0.096)  | 0.302***<br>(0.064)  | 0.466***<br>(0.106)  |
| S.D. (observation)                         | 0.131                | 0.493                | 0.492                | 0.492                | 0.493                | 0.492                | 0.490                |
| S.D. (legislator)                          | 0.085                | 0.635                | 0.635                | 0.635                | 0.635                | 0.635                | 0.631                |
| S.D. (week)                                | 0.012                | 0.038                | 0.039                | 0.036                | 0.038                | 0.039                | 0.035                |
| R <sup>2</sup>                             | 0.016                | 0.011                | 0.014                | 0.016                | 0.013                | 0.016                | 0.021                |
| Adj. R <sup>2</sup>                        | 0.015                | 0.011                | 0.014                | 0.015                | 0.013                | 0.015                | 0.020                |
| Num. obs.                                  | 122760               | 122760               | 122760               | 122760               | 122760               | 122760               | 87660                |

\*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*  $p < 0.05$

**Table S7. Panel Regression Model (State Fixed Effect and Legislator-week Random Effect): Population Normalized + Three-fold Party Variable + Week Polynomial + Proportion DV**

|  | Model 1              | Model 2              | Model 3              | Model 4              | Model 5              | Model 6              | Model 7              |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| State New Cases (per 10k)                  | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  |                      | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  | 0.006***<br>(0.001)  |                      | 0.006***<br>(0.001)  | 0.008***<br>(0.002)  |
| State New Deaths (per 10k)                 | 0.069*<br>(0.029)    |                      | 0.075**<br>(0.029)   | 0.089*<br>(0.035)    |                      | 0.074<br>(0.038)     | 0.055<br>(0.044)     |
| State COVID-19 Policies                    | 0.009***<br>(0.002)  | 0.007***<br>(0.002)  | 0.009***<br>(0.002)  | 0.018***<br>(0.003)  | 0.014***<br>(0.003)  | 0.017***<br>(0.003)  | 0.016***<br>(0.003)  |
| National New Cases (per 10k)               |                      | 0.016***<br>(0.004)  | 0.013***<br>(0.003)  |                      | 0.017***<br>(0.004)  | 0.012***<br>(0.004)  | 0.011**<br>(0.004)   |
| National New Deaths (per 10k)              |                      | 0.115<br>(0.140)     | 0.058<br>(0.134)     |                      | 0.234<br>(0.151)     | 0.164<br>(0.135)     | 0.189<br>(0.151)     |
| Other                                      | -0.310**<br>(0.109)  | -0.310**<br>(0.109)  | -0.310**<br>(0.109)  | -0.383***<br>(0.093) | -0.174<br>(0.091)    | -0.262**<br>(0.097)  | -0.078<br>(0.117)    |
| Republican                                 | -0.417**<br>(0.032)  | -0.417***<br>(0.032) | -0.417***<br>(0.032) | -0.349***<br>(0.033) | -0.345***<br>(0.032) | -0.324***<br>(0.032) | 0.063<br>(0.095)     |
| Other * State New Cases (per 10k)          |                      |                      |                      | -0.002<br>(0.005)    |                      | -0.003<br>(0.008)    | -0.002<br>(0.008)    |
| Republican * State New Cases (per 10k)     |                      |                      |                      | -0.003*<br>(0.001)   |                      | -0.004**<br>(0.001)  | -0.007***<br>(0.002) |
| Other * State New Deaths (per 10k)         |                      |                      |                      | 0.548***<br>(0.127)  |                      | 0.643***<br>(0.111)  | 0.630***<br>(0.125)  |
| Republican * State New Deaths (per 10k)    |                      |                      |                      | -0.132*<br>(0.052)   |                      | -0.094<br>(0.057)    | -0.064<br>(0.066)    |
| Other * State COVID-19 Policies            |                      |                      |                      | -0.027<br>(0.021)    | -0.028<br>(0.015)    | -0.018<br>(0.018)    | -0.018<br>(0.020)    |
| Republican * State COVID-19 Policies       |                      |                      |                      | -0.017***<br>(0.004) | -0.011***<br>(0.003) | -0.014***<br>(0.003) | -0.014***<br>(0.004) |
| Other * National New Cases (per 10k)       |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.011<br>(0.010)    | -0.002<br>(0.009)    | -0.008<br>(0.010)    |
| Republican * National New Cases (per 10k)  |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.002<br>(0.002)    | 0.001<br>(0.002)     | 0.002<br>(0.003)     |
| Other * National New Deaths (per 10k)      |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.106<br>(0.589)    | -0.521<br>(0.510)    | -0.356<br>(0.587)    |
| Republican * National New Deaths (per 10k) |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.219**<br>(0.082)  | -0.152<br>(0.090)    | -0.171<br>(0.112)    |
| Legislator Ideology                        |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.181***<br>(0.045) |
| Chamber Majority Status                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.039<br>(0.050)    |
| Week                                       | -0.085***<br>(0.012) | -0.078***<br>(0.014) | -0.082***<br>(0.013) | -0.086***<br>(0.010) | -0.078***<br>(0.013) | -0.082***<br>(0.011) | -0.079***<br>(0.013) |
| Week (quadratic)                           | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  |
| Week (cubic)                               | -0.000***<br>(0.000) | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  | -0.000***<br>(0.000) | -0.000***<br>(0.000) | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  | -0.000***<br>(0.000) | -0.000***<br>(0.000) |
| (Intercept)                                | 0.913***<br>(0.074)  | 0.772***<br>(0.094)  | 0.815***<br>(0.090)  | 0.876***<br>(0.065)  | 0.732***<br>(0.095)  | 0.751***<br>(0.084)  | 0.538***<br>(0.110)  |
| S.D. (observation)                         | 0.490                | 0.491                | 0.490                | 0.489                | 0.491                | 0.489                | 0.484                |
| S.D. (legislator)                          | 0.641                | 0.641                | 0.641                | 0.641                | 0.641                | 0.641                | 0.635                |
| S.D. (week)                                | 0.035                | 0.036                | 0.034                | 0.028                | 0.036                | 0.030                | 0.031                |
| R <sup>2</sup>                             | 0.020                | 0.016                | 0.021                | 0.027                | 0.017                | 0.026                | 0.031                |
| Adj. R <sup>2</sup>                        | 0.019                | 0.016                | 0.020                | 0.026                | 0.017                | 0.025                | 0.030                |
| Num. obs.                                  | 62670                | 62670                | 62670                | 62670                | 62670                | 62670                | 43380                |

\*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*  $p < 0.05$

**Table S8. Panel Regression Model (State Fixed Effect and Legislator-week Random Effect): Rep-governor Observations, Population Normalized + Three-fold Party Variable + Week Polynomial + Logged DV (1 added)**

|  | Model 1              | Model 2              | Model 3              | Model 4              | Model 5              | Model 6              | Model 7              |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| State New Cases (per 10k)                  | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  |                      | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.005***<br>(0.001)  |                      | 0.005***<br>(0.001)  | 0.005***<br>(0.001)  |
| State New Deaths (per 10k)                 | -0.021<br>(0.016)    |                      | -0.022<br>(0.016)    | -0.005<br>(0.020)    |                      | -0.022<br>(0.021)    | -0.027<br>(0.025)    |
| State COVID-19 Policies                    | 0.003*<br>(0.001)    | 0.003*<br>(0.002)    | 0.003*<br>(0.001)    | 0.007***<br>(0.002)  | 0.008***<br>(0.002)  | 0.007***<br>(0.002)  | 0.007**<br>(0.002)   |
| National New Cases (per 10k)               |                      | 0.007<br>(0.004)     | 0.004<br>(0.004)     |                      | 0.009*<br>(0.004)    | 0.006<br>(0.004)     | 0.007<br>(0.004)     |
| National New Deaths (per 10k)              |                      | 0.332<br>(0.171)     | 0.327<br>(0.178)     |                      | 0.520**<br>(0.167)   | 0.501**<br>(0.168)   | 0.531**<br>(0.162)   |
| Other                                      | 0.157<br>(0.516)     | 0.157<br>(0.516)     | 0.157<br>(0.516)     | 0.332<br>(0.484)     | 0.326<br>(0.579)     | 0.266<br>(0.645)     | 0.987<br>(0.535)     |
| Republican                                 | -0.343***<br>(0.029) | -0.343***<br>(0.029) | -0.343***<br>(0.029) | -0.318***<br>(0.029) | -0.174***<br>(0.032) | -0.172***<br>(0.032) | 0.222**<br>(0.081)   |
| Other * State New Cases (per 10k)          |                      |                      |                      | -0.034***<br>(0.006) |                      | -0.002<br>(0.009)    | 0.004<br>(0.009)     |
| Republican * State New Cases (per 10k)     |                      |                      |                      | -0.001<br>(0.001)    |                      | -0.001<br>(0.001)    | -0.001<br>(0.002)    |
| Other * State New Deaths (per 10k)         |                      |                      |                      | 0.248<br>(0.203)     |                      | -0.404***<br>(0.114) | 0.648***<br>(0.184)  |
| Republican * State New Deaths (per 10k)    |                      |                      |                      | -0.060*<br>(0.029)   |                      | -0.004<br>(0.032)    | -0.010<br>(0.035)    |
| Other * State COVID-19 Policies            |                      |                      |                      | 0.034<br>(0.018)     | 0.014<br>(0.012)     | 0.007<br>(0.010)     | 0.008<br>(0.017)     |
| Republican * State COVID-19 Policies       |                      |                      |                      | -0.010**<br>(0.003)  | -0.011***<br>(0.003) | -0.011***<br>(0.003) | -0.010**<br>(0.003)  |
| Other * National New Cases (per 10k)       |                      |                      |                      | -0.049*<br>(0.024)   | -0.054<br>(0.030)    | -0.076***<br>(0.021) |                      |
| Republican * National New Cases (per 10k)  |                      |                      |                      | -0.006**<br>(0.002)  | -0.006**<br>(0.002)  | -0.008**<br>(0.002)  |                      |
| Other * National New Deaths (per 10k)      |                      |                      |                      | 1.091<br>(0.973)     | 2.211*<br>(0.952)    | 1.246<br>(0.686)     |                      |
| Republican * National New Deaths (per 10k) |                      |                      |                      | -0.500***<br>(0.084) | -0.462***<br>(0.095) | -0.436***<br>(0.114) |                      |
| Legislator Ideology                        |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.202***<br>(0.041) |                      |
| Chamber Majority Status                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | 0.048<br>(0.035)     |                      |
| Week                                       | -0.084***<br>(0.015) | -0.069***<br>(0.016) | -0.069***<br>(0.016) | -0.084***<br>(0.014) | -0.069***<br>(0.015) | -0.069***<br>(0.015) | -0.068***<br>(0.013) |
| Week (quadratic)                           | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.003**<br>(0.001)   | 0.003**<br>(0.001)   | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.003**<br>(0.001)   | 0.003**<br>(0.001)   | 0.003**<br>(0.001)   |
| Week (cubic)                               | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  | -0.000*<br>(0.000)   | -0.000*<br>(0.000)   | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  | -0.000*<br>(0.000)   | -0.000*<br>(0.000)   | -0.000*<br>(0.000)   |
| (Intercept)                                | 1.690***<br>(0.106)  | 1.514***<br>(0.123)  | 1.505***<br>(0.125)  | 1.682***<br>(0.102)  | 1.449***<br>(0.119)  | 1.439***<br>(0.119)  | 1.111***<br>(0.129)  |
| S.D. (observation)                         | 0.494                | 0.494                | 0.494                | 0.494                | 0.494                | 0.493                | 0.495                |
| S.D. (legislator)                          | 0.628                | 0.628                | 0.628                | 0.627                | 0.628                | 0.627                | 0.626                |
| S.D. (week)                                | 0.044                | 0.044                | 0.046                | 0.040                | 0.041                | 0.041                | 0.036                |
| R <sup>2</sup>                             | 0.016                | 0.014                | 0.015                | 0.018                | 0.018                | 0.020                | 0.028                |
| Adj. R <sup>2</sup>                        | 0.015                | 0.014                | 0.015                | 0.018                | 0.018                | 0.019                | 0.027                |
| Num. obs.                                  | 60090                | 60090                | 60090                | 60090                | 60090                | 60090                | 44280                |

\*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*  $p < 0.05$

**Table S9. Panel Regression Model (State Fixed Effect and Legislator-week Random Effect): Dem-governor Observations, Population Normalized + Three-fold Party Variable + Week Polynomial + Logged DV (1 added)**

|  | Model 1              | Model 2              | Model 3              | Model 4              | Model 5              | Model 6              | Model 7              |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| State New Cases (per 10k)                  | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  |                      | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  | 0.003**<br>(0.001)   |                      | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.004**<br>(0.001)   |
| State New Deaths (per 10k)                 | 0.016<br>(0.018)     |                      | 0.017<br>(0.018)     | 0.026<br>(0.020)     |                      | -0.014<br>(0.021)    | -0.019<br>(0.025)    |
| State COVID-19 Policies                    | 0.004*<br>(0.001)    | 0.003<br>(0.002)     | 0.004**<br>(0.001)   | 0.010***<br>(0.002)  | 0.008***<br>(0.002)  | 0.008***<br>(0.002)  | 0.008***<br>(0.002)  |
| National New Cases (per 10k)               |                      | 0.012**<br>(0.004)   | 0.009*<br>(0.004)    |                      | 0.010*<br>(0.004)    | 0.007<br>(0.004)     | 0.007<br>(0.004)     |
| National New Deaths (per 10k)              |                      | 0.185<br>(0.143)     | 0.163<br>(0.149)     |                      | 0.392*<br>(0.153)    | 0.368*<br>(0.162)    | 0.404*<br>(0.174)    |
| Republican                                 | -0.415***<br>(0.026) | -0.405***<br>(0.026) | -0.414***<br>(0.026) | -0.394***<br>(0.028) | -0.346***<br>(0.027) | -0.347***<br>(0.027) | 0.027<br>(0.087)     |
| Republican * State New Cases (per 10k)     |                      |                      |                      | 0.001<br>(0.001)     |                      | -0.003*<br>(0.001)   | -0.003*<br>(0.002)   |
| Republican * State New Deaths (per 10k)    |                      |                      |                      | -0.104*<br>(0.045)   |                      | -0.009<br>(0.048)    | 0.016<br>(0.057)     |
| Republican * State COVID-19 Policies       |                      |                      |                      | -0.013***<br>(0.003) | -0.007*<br>(0.003)   | -0.006*<br>(0.003)   | -0.007*<br>(0.003)   |
| Republican * National New Cases (per 10k)  |                      |                      |                      |                      | 0.005**<br>(0.002)   | 0.006***<br>(0.002)  | 0.005*<br>(0.002)    |
| Republican * National New Deaths (per 10k) |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.431***<br>(0.076) | -0.379***<br>(0.084) | -0.454***<br>(0.101) |
| Legislator Ideology                        |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.169***<br>(0.039) |
| Chamber Majority Status                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.003<br>(0.045)    |
| (Intercept)                                | 1.307***<br>(0.073)  | 1.175***<br>(0.090)  | 1.178***<br>(0.093)  | 1.310***<br>(0.073)  | 1.144***<br>(0.091)  | 1.140***<br>(0.095)  | 0.952***<br>(0.112)  |
| Week                                       | -0.097***<br>(0.013) | -0.088***<br>(0.014) | -0.089***<br>(0.015) | -0.099***<br>(0.013) | -0.089***<br>(0.014) | -0.089***<br>(0.015) | -0.088***<br>(0.015) |
| Week (quadratic)                           | 0.005***<br>(0.001)  | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.005***<br>(0.001)  | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  |
| Week (cubic)                               | -0.000***<br>(0.000) |
| S.D. (observation)                         | 0.482                | 0.483                | 0.482                | 0.482                | 0.482                | 0.481                | 0.483                |
| S.D. (legislator)                          | 0.631                | 0.632                | 0.631                | 0.627                | 0.628                | 0.627                | 0.633                |
| S.D. (week)                                | 0.038                | 0.038                | 0.039                | 0.037                | 0.038                | 0.040                | 0.040                |
| R <sup>2</sup>                             | 0.015                | 0.013                | 0.014                | 0.016                | 0.016                | 0.016                | 0.020                |
| Adj. R <sup>2</sup>                        | 0.015                | 0.013                | 0.014                | 0.015                | 0.016                | 0.016                | 0.019                |
| Num. obs.                                  | 70110                | 70110                | 70110                | 70110                | 70110                | 70110                | 50070                |

\*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*  $p < 0.05$

**Table S10. Panel Regression Model (Legislator-week Random Effect): Legislator-governor Partisanship Match, Population Normalized + Three-fold Party Variable + Week Polynomial + Logged DV (1 added)**

|  | Model 1              | Model 2              | Model 3              | Model 4              | Model 5              | Model 6              | Model 7              |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| State New Cases (per 10k)                  | 0.006***<br>(0.001)  |                      | 0.006***<br>(0.001)  | 0.008***<br>(0.001)  |                      | 0.007***<br>(0.001)  | 0.009***<br>(0.002)  |
| State New Deaths (per 10k)                 | -0.022<br>(0.021)    |                      | -0.022<br>(0.021)    | 0.036<br>(0.036)     |                      | 0.048<br>(0.039)     | 0.025<br>(0.044)     |
| State COVID-19 Policies                    | 0.008***<br>(0.002)  | 0.007***<br>(0.002)  | 0.008***<br>(0.002)  | 0.017***<br>(0.003)  | 0.015***<br>(0.003)  | 0.018***<br>(0.003)  | 0.017***<br>(0.003)  |
| National New Cases (per 10k)               |                      | 0.011**<br>(0.004)   | 0.007<br>(0.004)     |                      | 0.017***<br>(0.004)  | 0.012**<br>(0.004)   | 0.010**<br>(0.004)   |
| National New Deaths (per 10k)              |                      | 0.263<br>(0.156)     | 0.264<br>(0.152)     |                      | 0.387*<br>(0.155)    | 0.336*<br>(0.147)    | 0.364*<br>(0.154)    |
| Other                                      | -0.254<br>(0.228)    | -0.267<br>(0.228)    | -0.255<br>(0.228)    | -0.201<br>(0.219)    | -0.094<br>(0.262)    | -0.080<br>(0.266)    | 0.133<br>(0.319)     |
| Republican                                 | -0.382***<br>(0.032) | -0.386***<br>(0.032) | -0.382***<br>(0.032) | -0.319***<br>(0.032) | -0.200***<br>(0.034) | -0.187***<br>(0.034) | 0.265**<br>(0.084)   |
| Other * State New Cases (per 10k)          |                      |                      |                      | -0.013<br>(0.009)    |                      | -0.004<br>(0.011)    | -0.008<br>(0.010)    |
| Republican * State New Cases (per 10k)     |                      |                      |                      | -0.004**<br>(0.001)  |                      | -0.002<br>(0.001)    | -0.004*<br>(0.002)   |
| Other * State New Deaths (per 10k)         |                      |                      |                      | 0.191<br>(0.308)     |                      | 0.013<br>(0.294)     | 0.823***<br>(0.245)  |
| Republican * State New Deaths (per 10k)    |                      |                      |                      | -0.068<br>(0.041)    |                      | -0.083<br>(0.046)    | -0.069<br>(0.050)    |
| Other * State COVID-19 Policies            |                      |                      |                      | -0.015<br>(0.021)    | -0.029<br>(0.015)    | -0.030<br>(0.015)    | -0.029*<br>(0.013)   |
| Republican * State COVID-19 Policies       |                      |                      |                      | -0.019***<br>(0.004) | -0.018***<br>(0.003) | -0.021***<br>(0.003) | -0.020***<br>(0.004) |
| Other * National New Cases (per 10k)       |                      |                      |                      | -0.027*<br>(0.013)   | -0.023<br>(0.016)    | -0.024<br>(0.016)    |                      |
| Republican * National New Cases (per 10k)  |                      |                      |                      | -0.013***<br>(0.002) | -0.011***<br>(0.002) | -0.012***<br>(0.003) |                      |
| Other * National New Deaths (per 10k)      |                      |                      |                      | 0.369<br>(0.556)     | 0.284<br>(0.538)     | 0.116<br>(0.502)     |                      |
| Republican * National New Deaths (per 10k) |                      |                      |                      | -0.279**<br>(0.090)  | -0.229*<br>(0.101)   | -0.156<br>(0.123)    |                      |
| Legislator Ideology                        |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.244***<br>(0.044) |
| Chamber Majority Status                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | -0.033<br>(0.038)    |
| (Intercept)                                | 1.205***<br>(0.070)  | 1.042***<br>(0.092)  | 1.037***<br>(0.089)  | 1.169***<br>(0.064)  | 0.952***<br>(0.088)  | 0.953***<br>(0.081)  | 0.687***<br>(0.092)  |
| Week                                       | -0.069***<br>(0.012) | -0.056***<br>(0.014) | -0.057***<br>(0.013) | -0.068***<br>(0.011) | -0.054***<br>(0.013) | -0.057***<br>(0.012) | -0.053***<br>(0.012) |
| Week (quadratic)                           | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  | 0.002*<br>(0.001)    | 0.002*<br>(0.001)    | 0.003***<br>(0.001)  | 0.002*<br>(0.001)    | 0.002**<br>(0.001)   | 0.002*<br>(0.001)    |
| Week (cubic)                               | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  | -0.000<br>(0.000)    | -0.000<br>(0.000)    | -0.000**<br>(0.000)  | -0.000<br>(0.000)    | -0.000*<br>(0.000)   | -0.000<br>(0.000)    |
| S.D. (observation)                         | 0.505                | 0.506                | 0.505                | 0.504                | 0.506                | 0.504                | 0.497                |
| S.D. (legislator)                          | 0.694                | 0.696                | 0.694                | 0.692                | 0.696                | 0.692                | 0.682                |
| S.D. (week)                                | 0.037                | 0.039                | 0.038                | 0.033                | 0.037                | 0.033                | 0.032                |
| R <sup>2</sup>                             | 0.018                | 0.013                | 0.018                | 0.023                | 0.016                | 0.024                | 0.033                |
| Adj. R <sup>2</sup>                        | 0.018                | 0.013                | 0.018                | 0.022                | 0.016                | 0.023                | 0.032                |
| Num. obs.                                  | 52650                | 52650                | 52650                | 52650                | 52650                | 52650                | 37590                |

\*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*  $p < 0.05$

**Table S11. Panel Regression Model (Legislator-week Random Effect): Legislator-governor Partisanship Mismatch, Population Normalized + Three-fold Party Variable + Week Polynomial + Logged DV (1 added)**

|                               | Model 1              | Model 2              | Model 3              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| State New Cases (per 10k)     | 0.010***<br>(0.001)  | 0.007***<br>(0.001)  |                      |
| State New Deaths (per 10k)    | -0.049**<br>(0.017)  | -0.019<br>(0.019)    |                      |
| State COVID-19 Policies       | 0.006***<br>(0.002)  | 0.007***<br>(0.002)  | 0.008***<br>(0.002)  |
| National New Cases (per 10k)  |                      | 0.018***<br>(0.001)  | 0.013***<br>(0.001)  |
| National New Deaths (per 10k) |                      | 0.142***<br>(0.043)  | 0.122**<br>(0.047)   |
| Week                          | -0.088***<br>(0.004) | -0.081***<br>(0.004) | -0.081***<br>(0.004) |
| Week (quadratic)              | 0.004***<br>(0.000)  | 0.003***<br>(0.000)  | 0.003***<br>(0.000)  |
| Week (cubic)                  | -0.000***<br>(0.000) | -0.000***<br>(0.000) | -0.000***<br>(0.000) |
| R <sup>2</sup>                | 0.129                | 0.128                | 0.132                |
| Adj. R <sup>2</sup>           | 0.099                | 0.098                | 0.102                |
| Num. obs.                     | 66480                | 66480                | 66480                |

\*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*  $p < 0.05$

**Table S12. Panel Regression Model (Legislator Fixed Effect): Democratic Legislators, Population Normalized + Three-fold Party Variable + Week Polynomial + Logged DV (1 added)**

|                               | Model 1              | Model 2              | Model 3              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| State New Cases (per 10k)     | 0.002***<br>(0.001)  | 0.002***<br>(0.001)  |                      |
| State New Deaths (per 10k)    | 0.006<br>(0.019)     | -0.008<br>(0.020)    |                      |
| State COVID-19 Policies       | 0.008***<br>(0.001)  | 0.009***<br>(0.001)  | 0.009***<br>(0.001)  |
| National New Cases (per 10k)  |                      | 0.004***<br>(0.001)  | 0.002*<br>(0.001)    |
| National New Deaths (per 10k) |                      | 0.324***<br>(0.038)  | 0.332***<br>(0.042)  |
| Week                          | -0.081***<br>(0.004) | -0.066***<br>(0.004) | -0.066***<br>(0.004) |
| Week (quadratic)              | 0.004***<br>(0.000)  | 0.003***<br>(0.000)  | 0.003***<br>(0.000)  |
| Week (cubic)                  | -0.000***<br>(0.000) | -0.000***<br>(0.000) | -0.000***<br>(0.000) |
| R <sup>2</sup>                | 0.113                | 0.114                | 0.115                |
| Adj. R <sup>2</sup>           | 0.082                | 0.084                | 0.084                |
| Num. obs.                     | 55920                | 55920                | 55920                |

\*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*  $p < 0.05$

**Table S13. Panel Regression Model (Legislator Fixed Effect): Republican Legislators, Population Normalized + Three-fold Party Variable + Week Polynomial + Logged DV (1 added)**

|                | Mention Trump | Mention Governors | Mention Trump / Mention Governors |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| All            | 0.9%          | 7.4%              | 12.0%                             |
| Republican     | 1.8%          | 9.3%              | 19.9%                             |
| Non-Republican | 0.6%          | 6.8%              | .890%                             |

**Table S14. Percentage of Tweets Mentioning Trump's and Governors' Accounts**

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