



Bryan White &lt;zebrafactcheck@gmail.com&gt;

## Correction request, zombie duplicate fact check

1 message

Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>  
To: truthometer@politifact.com

Thu, Apr 18, 2024 at 1:29 PM

Dear Truth-O-Meter,

Not long after I contacted you yesterday, [PolitiFact's X account announced](#) the removal of the duplicate fact check:



PolitiFact  
@PolitiFact

...

A duplicate of this fact-check, published April 1, was mistakenly republished on April 16. We have removed the duplicate fact-check on our website and on social media. You can read the original version here.

PolitiFact @PolitiFact · Apr 2

Former President Donald Trump repeated familiar claims ahead of his first visit to Wisconsin this campaign cycle: that he actually won the state in 2020 and there was widespread voter fraud. That's incorrect. [bit.ly/3TzCxGA](https://bit.ly/3TzCxGA)

10:42 AM · Apr 17, 2024 · 14.8K Views

Despite the supposed removal of the fact check and the fact that it no longer counts on Donald Trump's "scorecard," the URL [remains live as of now](#).

If PolitiFact intends to keep the near-duplicate fact check live on its website, it needs a correction showing that the source of the claim was misidentified as TV and not radio.

Both versions should be corrected to clarify that **Trump improved his performance in Wisconsin in 2020 compared to 2016** by gaining over 200,000 votes. When PolitiFact says Trump was "unequivocally" wrong about that improvement it's flatly untrue. You could fix it by changing "unequivocally" to "equivocally," though PolitiFact shouldn't equivocate.

PolitiFact's contentment with equivocation aside, here's what you should do about the duplicate fact check. **Archive it**, as you've done with terminally flawed stories in the past. Include a note that you're not bothering to fix the TV/radio error because it's just an archive. Redirect from the original URL to either the archive or the earlier version of the story. **Finally, figure out some way to announce to readers of the website what happened and why.** It's not enough to announce it on social media. [The Zebra Fact Check website offers an example](#) of how you can do that. You come up with a "Corrections" category of stories and include that in your main feed. Those posts announce what happened along with what was corrected and why ([specific example from ZFC](#)), linking to the corrected story or the archive if applicable. That's the type of thing you do if you subscribe to [the Poynter Institute's core principle of transparency](#).

You may also want to correct your social media remarks falsely suggesting to readers the duplicate post was removed from your website.

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Sincerely,

Bryan W. White  
editor  
[zebrafactcheck.com](https://zebrafactcheck.com)