

Tribal or principled?

Evidence from the 2016 presidential
election

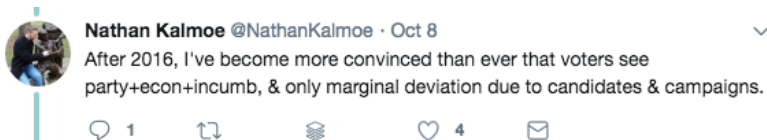
Jan Zilinsky, NYU

Claim: Partisan loyalty trumps other considerations

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- Converse (1964): attitudes are not stable
- Psychological group membership
 - Campbell et al. (1960)
 - Green et al. (2002)
- Kinder (1998): Most voters are “mystified” by ideological concepts. Many hold inconsistent positions.
- Jessee (2009, JOP): “partisans are strongly biased toward their party’s nominee”

Claim: Partisan loyalty trumps other considerations



Maybe. I think Trump is evaluated differently b/c of celebrity status, but PID is a hell of a drug and negative partisanship for days.



Claim: Partisan loyalty trumps other considerations



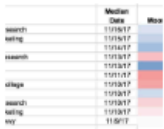
Chris Warshaw

@cwarshaw

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I told my public opinion class this week that I thought Moore would probably still win given the massive Republican-lean in Alabama. Maybe I was too pessimistic about the effect of partisanship as a drug in 2017 America?



Nate Silver @NateSilver538

Much less ambiguity about the polling trend in Alabama now. Things have gotten worse for Moore since the allegations first came out.

3:01 PM - 17 Nov 2017



Sam Stein

@samstein

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This is insane. 84% of Trump voters will to believe assault allegations against Clinton. 74% believe them about Weinstein. Just 18% believe them about Bill O'Reilly, 6% about Trump [huffingtonpost.com/entry/most-hil](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/most-hil) ...

Most Hillary Clinton Voters See Accusations Against Bill Clinton As Credible

"A number of women have accused [name] of [sexual harassment/sexual harassment or sexual assault]. Do you think that these assertions generally are or are not credible?"

Harvey Weinstein



Policy voting?

- Ansolabehere et al. (2008) show that few issue items are significant predictors of presidential voting
 - 9% of 33 economic issue items in the 1992 ANES
 - 22% of moral issue items in the 1992 ANES

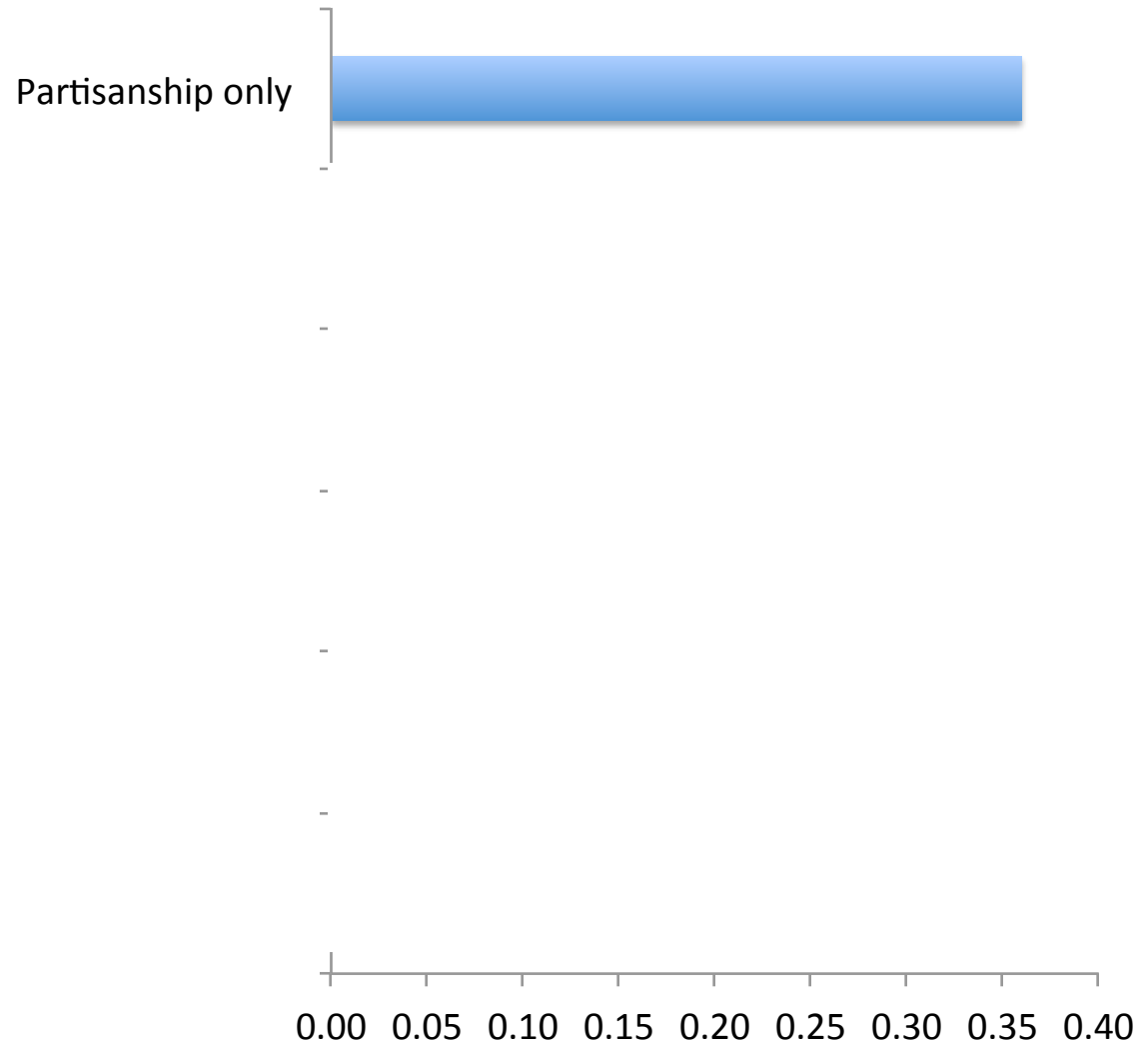
Policy voting?

- Ansolabehere et al. (2008) show that few issue items are significant predictors of presidential voting
 - 9% of 33 economic issue items
 - 22% of moral issue items
- But economic issue **scale** and moral issue **scale** are significant
- Implication: need to aggregate expressed positions

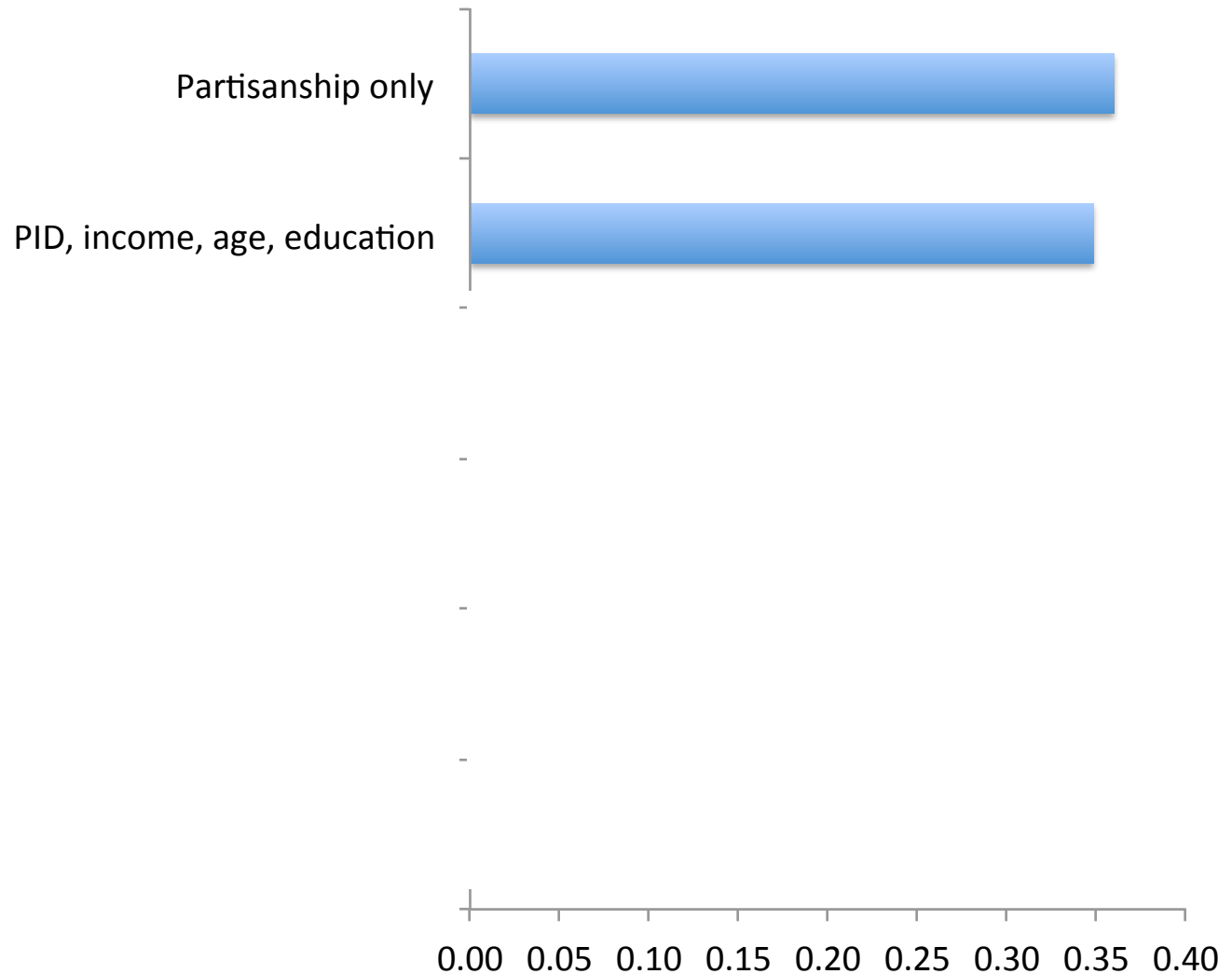
This project

- Data: VOTER Survey (Democracy Fund), N=8,000
- Outcome: Vote for the GOP nominee
- **Research question:**
Is there a “policy/issue position” that has an independent effect on voting for Trump?

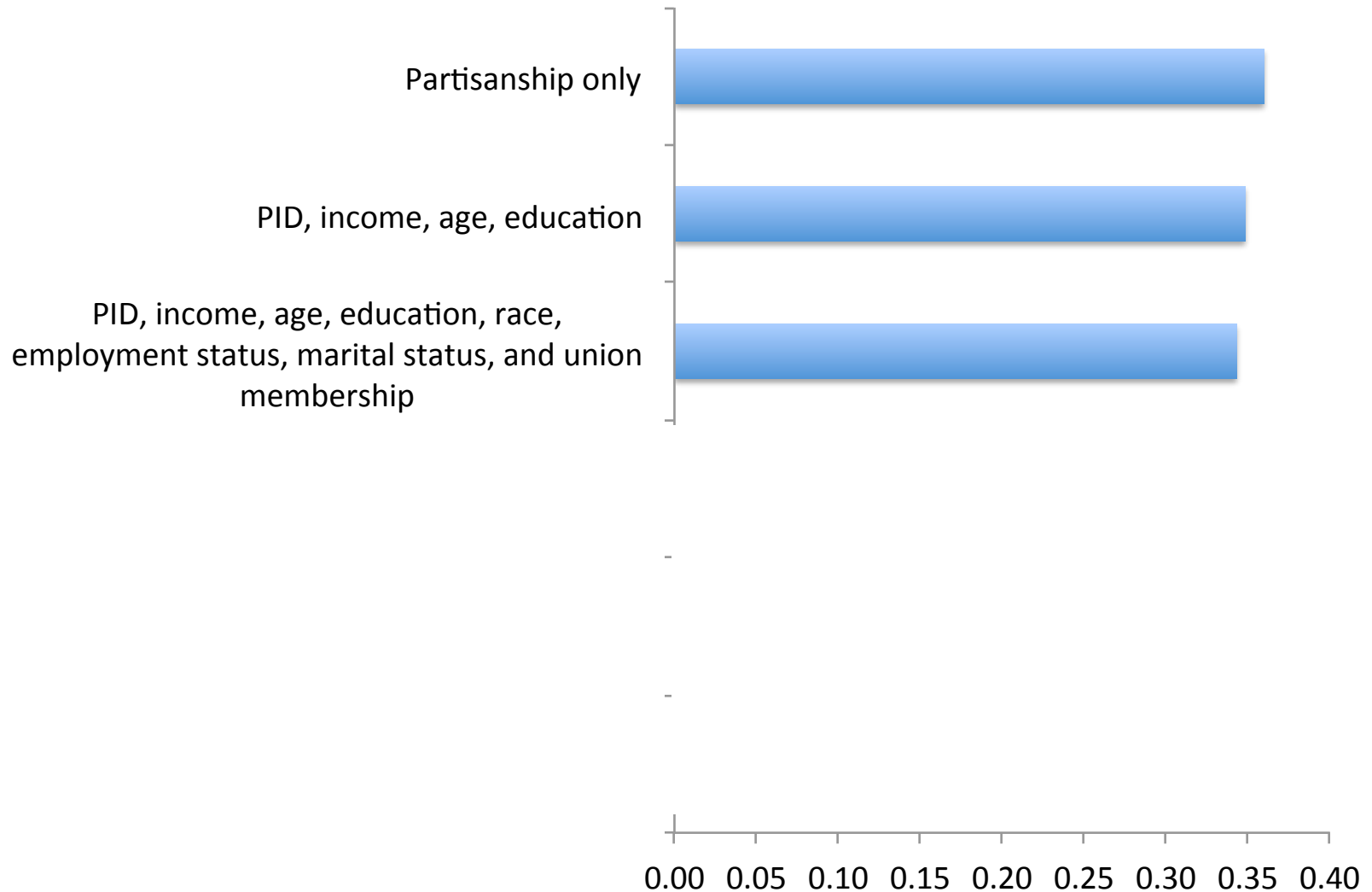
Marginal effect of Republican Party ID on the probability of voting for Trump



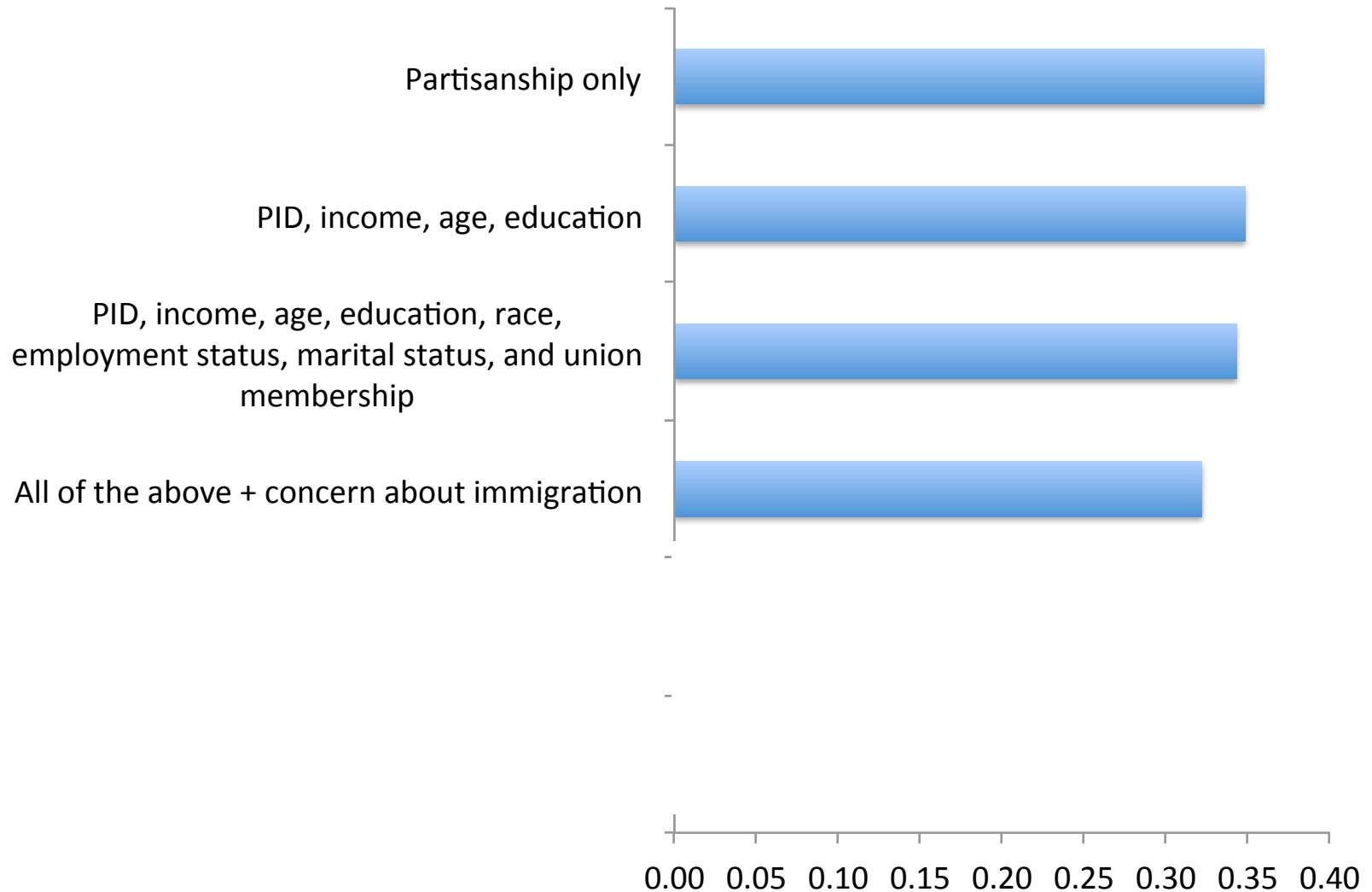
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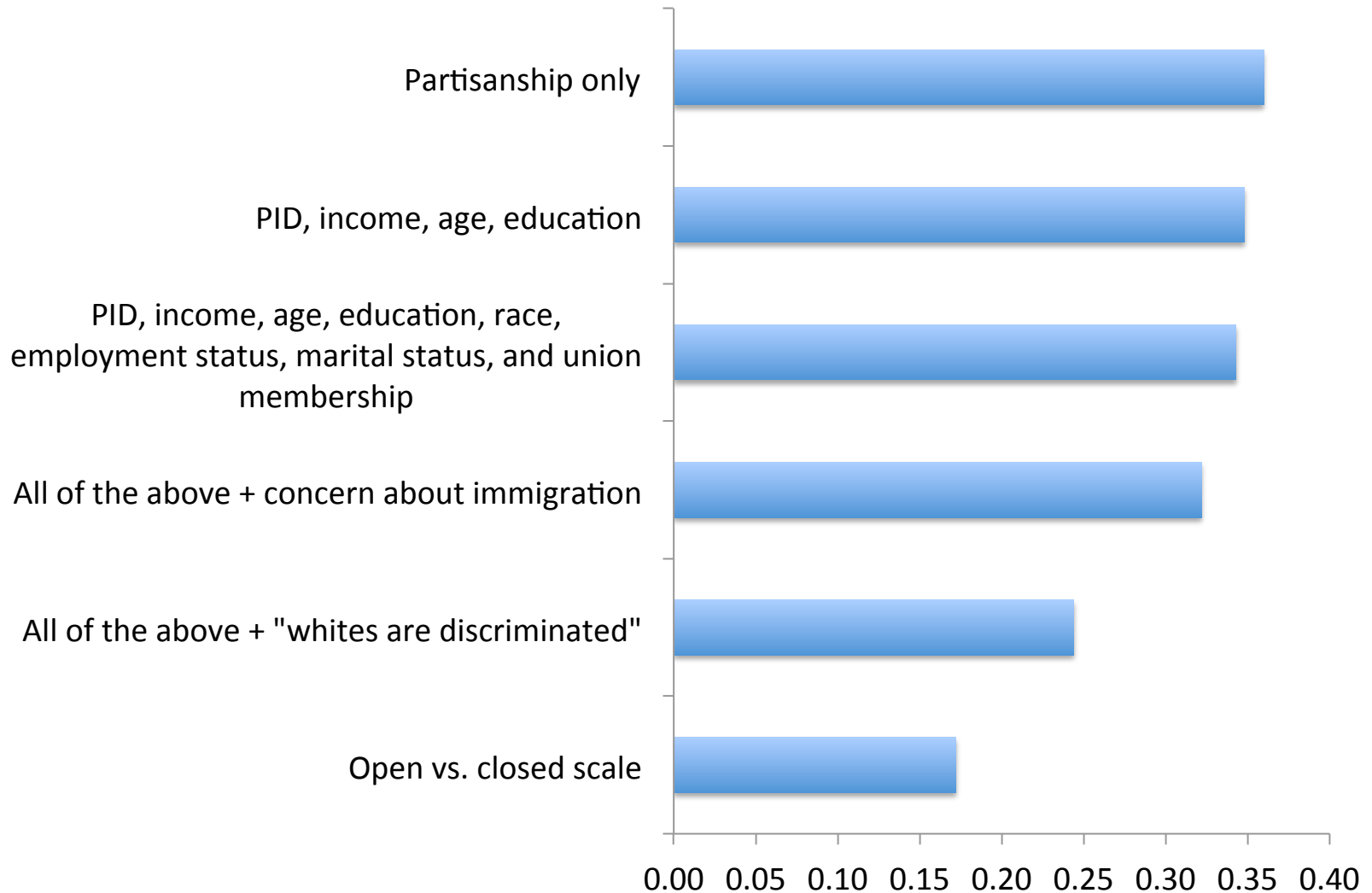
Marginal effect of Republican Party ID on the probability of voting for Trump



Predicting the Trump vote

- Aggregate responses to 7 questions
 - Whites are discriminated
 - Illegal immigrants are a drain
 - Concerned about crime
 - Concerned about immigration
 - Concerned about terrorism
 - Feelings toward Muslims
 - Feelings toward immigrants
- Claim: preference for an open vs. closed society dimension

Marginal effect of Republican Party ID on the probability of voting for Trump



Predicting the Trump vote

Sole predictor	Marginal effect of Republican PID	Expected percent correctly predicted	Percent correctly predicted
Partisanship indicators only	0.36	73.20%	78.16%

Predicting the Trump vote

Sole predictor	Marginal effect of Republican PID	Expected percent correctly predicted	Percent correctly predicted
Partisanship indicators only	0.36	73.20%	78.16%
	Marginal effect of 1SD more open	EPCP	PCP
Open-vs-closed scale only	-0.30	77.09%	85.30%