

How Constituents Respond to LGBTQ Representation in Congress

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The Rainbow Wave Has Arrived



Tuesday's midterms saw more than 100 LGBTQ candidates elected.

BY GLENN GARNER

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Responses to LGBTQ representation

1. Do constituents evaluate LGB representatives differently?
2. Do LGBT and straight/cis constituents respond differently to LGB representation?

Responses to LGBTQ representation

For other minority representatives, differences in

- approval ratings
- knowledge
- liberal stereotyping

Data and measures

Pooled CES surveys, 2016-2023

- 329,000 constituents
- 3,600 Representative/district/year observations

Data and measures

Dependent variables (all 0—1)

- Approval of Representative
- Knowledge of their party affiliation
- Their perceived ideology

Data and measures

Constituent-level variables

- LGBT identity
- partisanship
- political interest
- other characteristics (race, ethnicity, gender, age, income, education, religiosity)

Data and measures

Representative-level variables

- LGB identity
- voting record
- other characteristics (their party, race, ethnicity, gender, time in office)

Data and measures

Representative-level variables

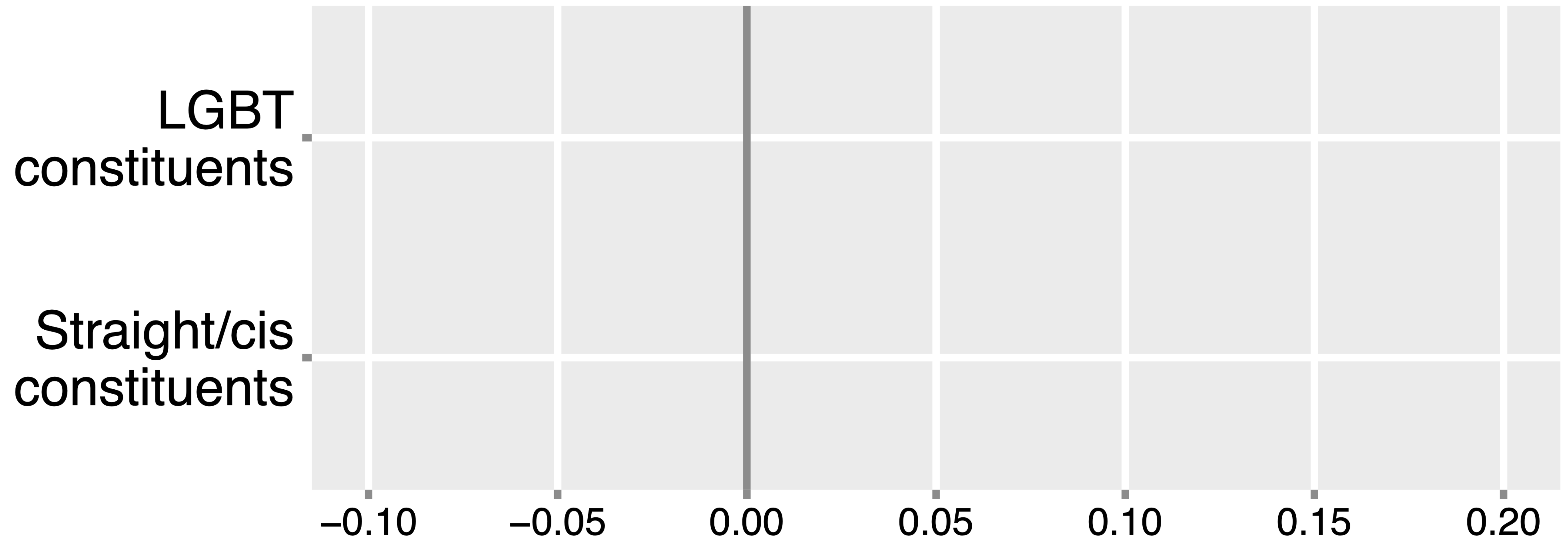
- LGB identity
- voting record
- other characteristics (their party, race, ethnicity, gender, time in office)

District-level variables

- Partisan lean
- Electoral competition

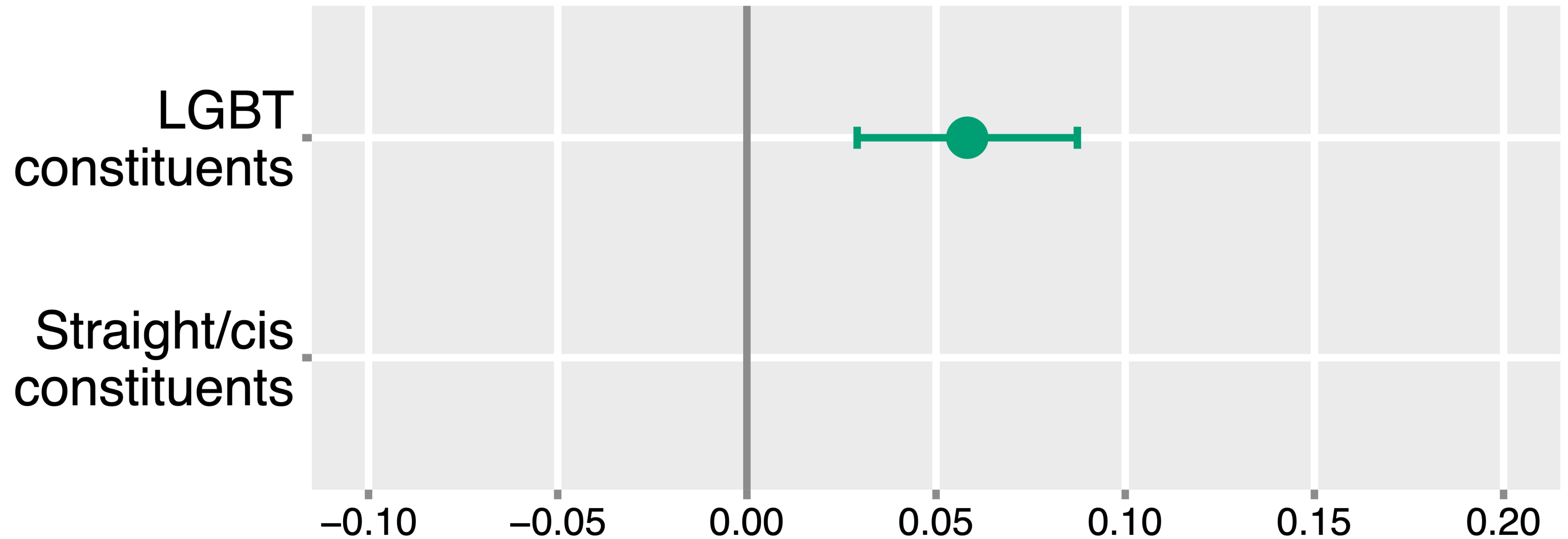
Results

Difference in **approval** of LGB representatives



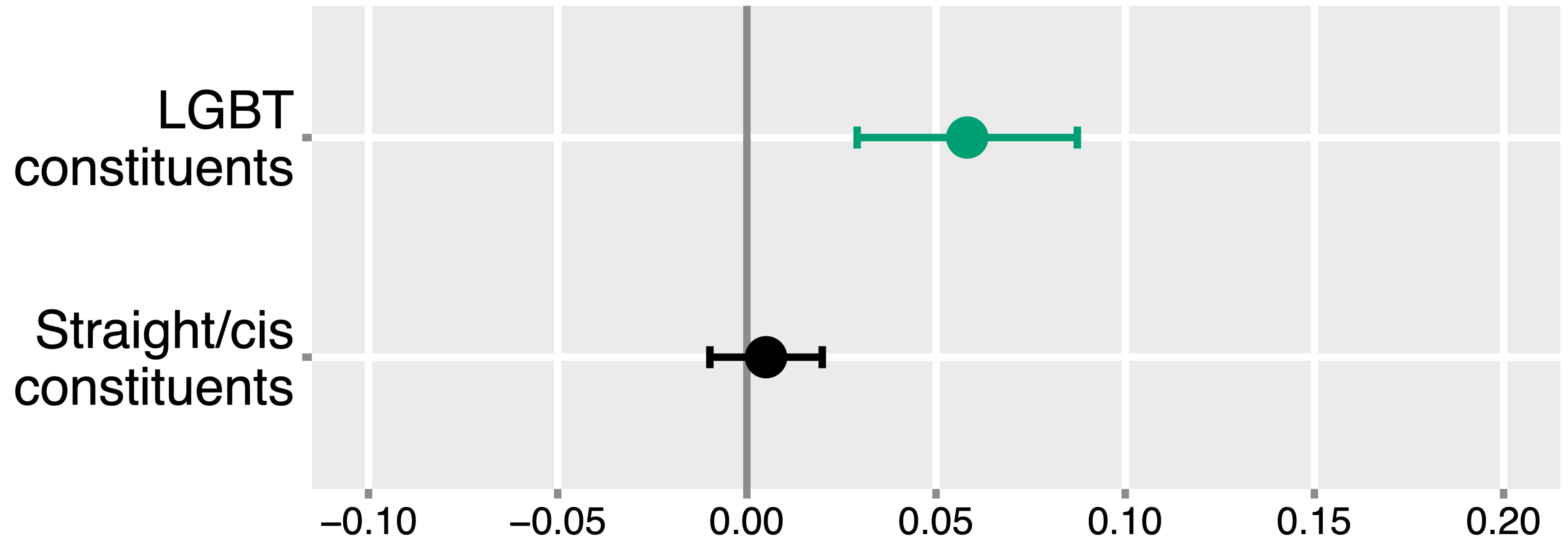
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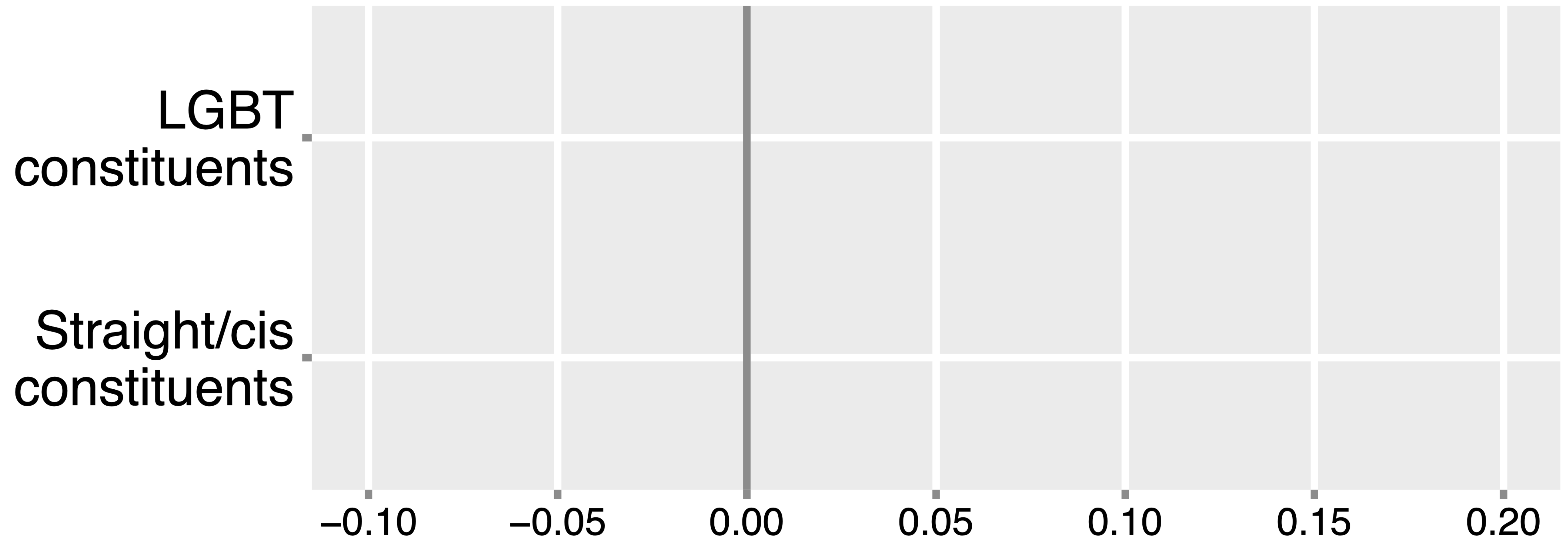
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Difference in **approval** of LGB representatives



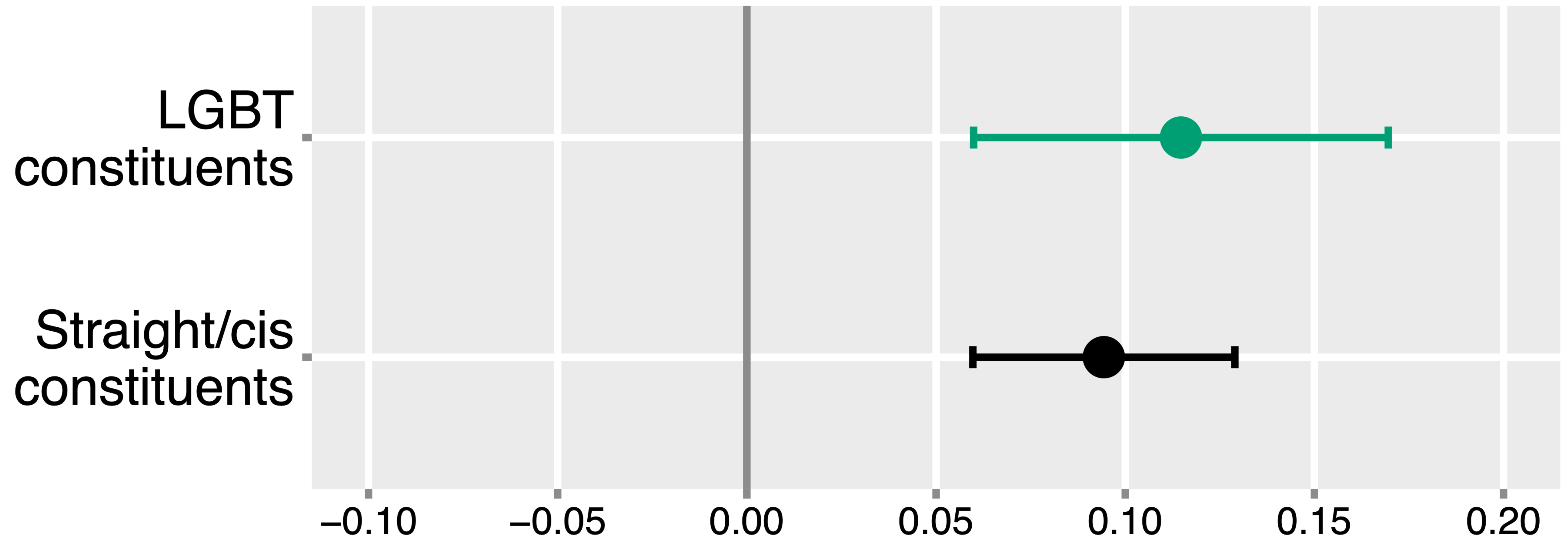
Results

Difference in **knowledge** of party affiliation



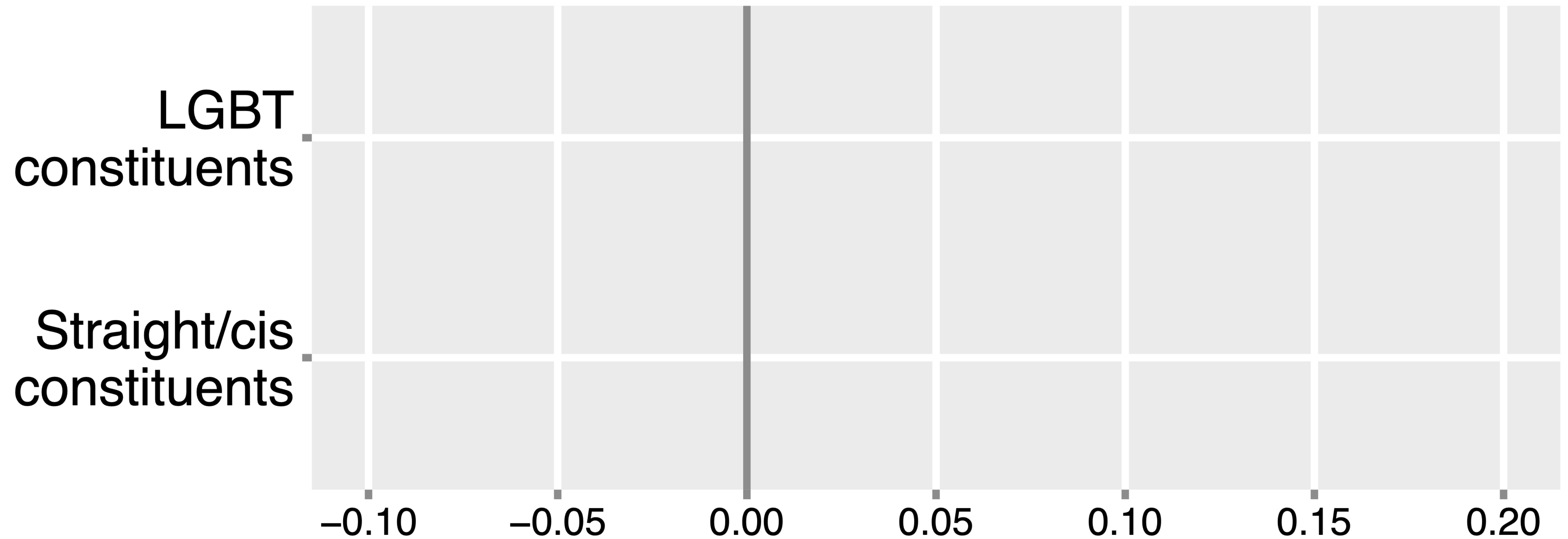
Results

Difference in **knowledge** of party affiliation



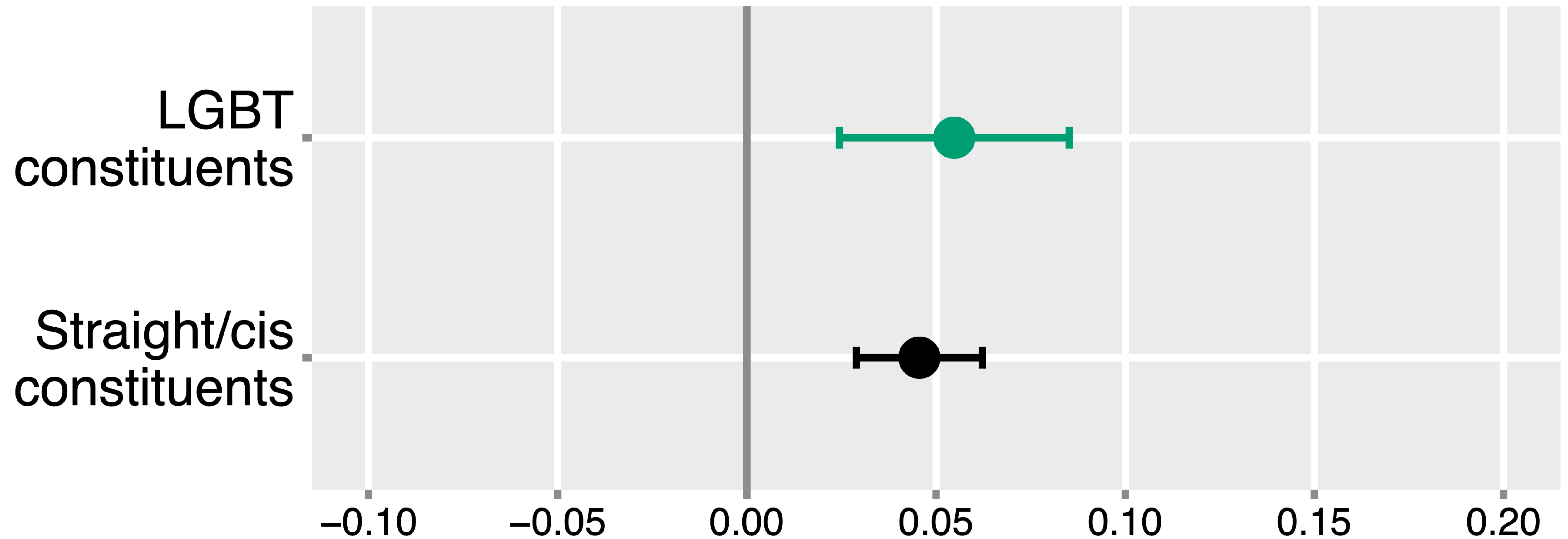
Results

Difference in **perceived liberalism**



Results

Difference in **perceived liberalism**



Conclusions

LGB representatives are evaluated differently
by constituents

Conclusions

LGB representatives are evaluated differently by constituents:

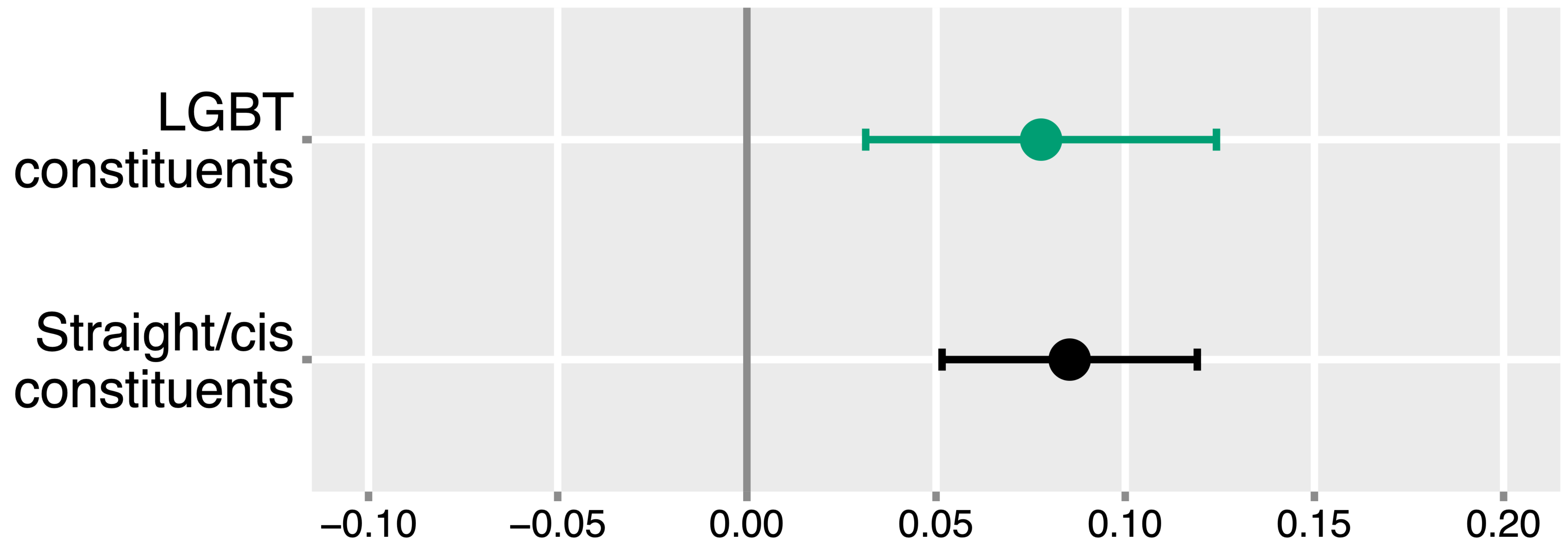
- higher approval ratings (LGBT constituents only)
- greater knowledge (all constituents)
- stereotyped as more liberal (all constituents)

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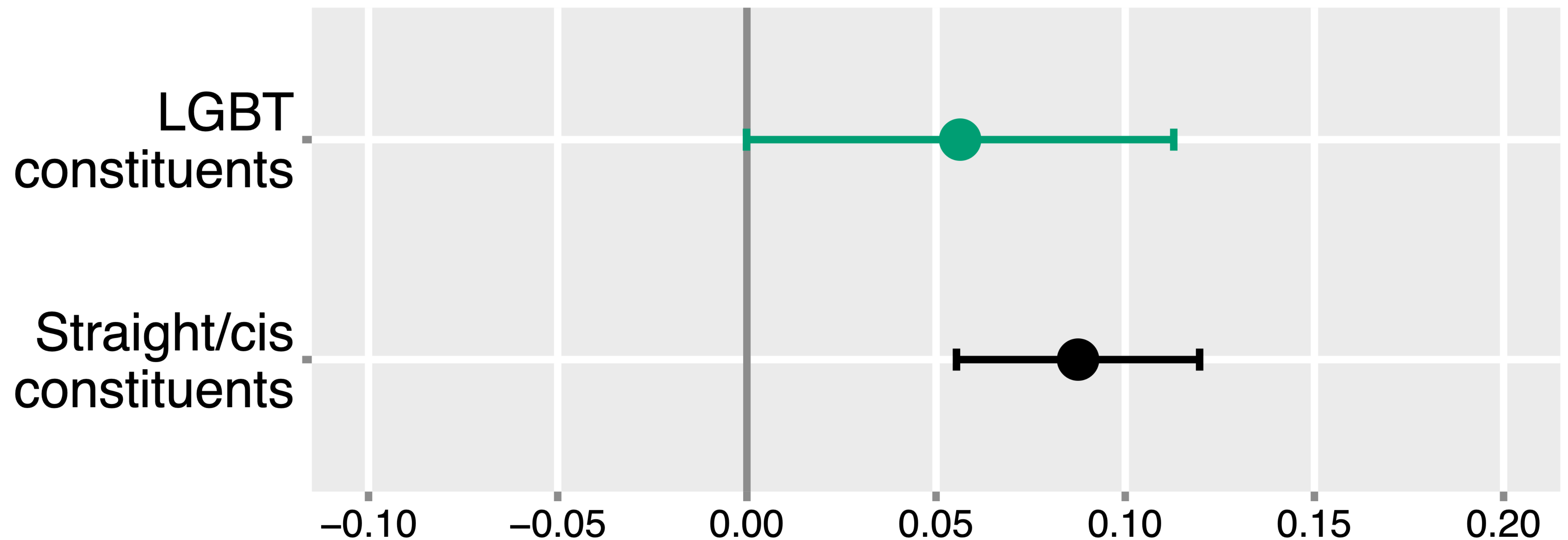
Additional DVs

Difference in ability to rate their job



Additional DVs

Difference in ability to rate their ideology



Additional DVs

Difference in approval of Congress

