



Analysis of increasing public participation in electoral politics in Sidoarjo district in 2024

Mulyaningsih¹, Ika Widiastuti²

¹ Ilmu Administrasi Negara, Universitas Garut, Universitas Garut, Indonesia

² Administrasi Publik, Universitas 17 Agustus 1945, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The problem that occurs is that community participation in politics has not increased regarding general elections in Sidoarjo Regency. The aim of the research is to find out how community participation in general elections in Sidoarjo Regency can increase. The research method uses descriptive qualitative. Data collection techniques were carried out using observation, interviews and documentation methods. The results of the research are that the implementation of community political participation in the 2024 general elections in Sidoarjo Regency has experienced quite a high increase.

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Corresponding Author:

Mulyaningsih,
Ilmu Administrasi Negara,
Universitas Garut, Universitas Garut,
Jl. Raya Samarang No.52A, Mekarwangi, Kec. Tarogong Kaler, Kabupaten Garut, Jawa Barat 44151, Indonesia
Email: mulyaningsih@uniga.ac.id

1. INTRODUCTION

The principles of elections are formulated explicitly in laws and regulations, both in the law and the Constitution (Atupare, 2021; Chemerinsky, 2023). According to Law No. 7 of 2017, the principle of elections is explained as the principles of direct, general, free, secret, honest, and fair, which are known as *luber and jurdil*. This means that elections must be conducted in a direct manner, involve public participation without discrimination, give citizens the freedom to vote without pressure, maintain the confidentiality of votes, be conducted with integrity and without fraud, and provide equal opportunities to all election participants. Political participation is an active effort by individuals or groups to influence and play a role in the political process, either through general elections, political party activities, or interaction with the government and parliament (Kriesi, 2013; Steiner, 1988; Van Deth, 2001). Political participation is an important element in maintaining and strengthening democracy in a country (Khatib, 2012; Weede, 1984). The political participation of the community in elections provides an opportunity for the community to elect leaders who they believe can lead the country well and fight for the interests of the people and also provide opportunities for the community to channel their aspirations and desires (Fennema & Tillie, 2001; Macedo, 2006; Zukin et al., 2006).

Elections in Indonesia have experienced various challenges such as money politics, polarization, violence between groups, fraud and many more (Aspinall & Mietzner, 2019; Hargono et al., 2024; Hidayat, 2024; Siahaan & Tampubolon, 2021). The above is a form of money politics ahead of the election and also violates the campaign carried out in places of worship (Bryan & Baer, 2005; Gentile, 2020; Phillips, 2006).

Violations in elections are mostly caused by polarization (Barber et al., 2015; McCoy & Somer, 2019). Social polarization can be interpreted as the division or division of society based on differences in ideology, religion, ethnicity, race, or other groups (McCoy et al., 2018).

Sidoarjo Regency has a large number of DPTs, so there are many challenges faced by the Sidoarjo Regency government because of the increasing diversity of its society, which makes the government have to socialize politics to the community, improve the quality of education, improve community welfare, strengthen political parties, and increase the availability of political information. Based on the table above, the General Election Commission (KPU) of Sidoarjo Regency targets the voter participation rate in the 2024 election to reach 85%. The target was set based on the results of the evaluation of the implementation of the 2019 Election. The political participation of the community in elections plays a role in giving legitimacy to the elected government. With high participation, the elected government will have strong legitimacy because it is supported by the majority vote of the people.

The research GAP also only exists and is a special problem that occurs at the research locus, namely community political participation in the 2024 election in Sidoarjo Regency.

The purpose of the study is to find out and analyze the supporting factors and inhibiting factors of Community Political Participation in the 2024 General Election in Sidoarjo Regency, To find out and analyze the efforts made in overcoming the inhibiting factors in the political participation of the community in the 2024 general election in Sidoarjo Regency.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative research methods and adopts an inductive approach. (Azungah, 2018; Jebreen, 2012; Liu, 2016) argues that quasi-idatatic research believes that the focus of quasi-idatatic research is to find meaning. Quasi-Conceptual research is different from the expression of questions that are arranged into "subjective and multipel research topics". A research instrument is a tool or means used by researchers to assist in the data collection process so that the process is simplified.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Political participation is the participation of ordinary citizens in determining all decisions that concern or affect their lives (Surbakti, 1992). Attitude is not necessarily participation, but participation is a political attitude. Silence in the sense of not participating in a political activity or not participating, is a political attitude. Political attitudes and political choices begin with the formation of perceptions. This perception is formed from the result of the interaction between political stimulus and cognitive awareness or the nature of a person's mind (Masduki, 2017). This will later affect attitudes, aspirations, political behaviors and also political choices.

The definition of political participation, according to Michael Rush and Philip Althoft, political participation is an activity of ordinary citizens in influencing the process of making and implementing general policies and in participating in determining government leaders. All citizen activities that affect the process of making and implementing general policies, including in choosing government leaders, can be classified as political participation activities (Damsar, 2010).

Samuel P. Huntington and Joan Nelson in their book entitled Political Development in Developing Countries give a broader interpretation by explicitly including illegal and violent acts. According to them, political participation is the activity of citizens who act as individuals who are meant to influence decision-making by the government, because participation can be individual or collective, organized or spontaneous, steady or sporadic, peaceful or violent, legal or illegal, effective or ineffective in (Miriam Budiardjo, 2007).

Keith Fauls (1999:133) defines political participation as the active involvement of individuals or groups into the government process (Sagala, 2020). This involvement includes involvement in the decision-making process as well as opposition to the government.

Elections are an arena of competition to fill political positions in the government based on the formal choice of qualified citizens. In modern times, elections occupy an important position because they are related to several things; First, elections occupy an important position for the sustainability of representative democracy. Second, elections are an indicator of a democratic country. Dhal said that two of the six characteristics of political institutions needed by large-scale democracy are related to elections, namely elected officials and free, fair and periodic elections. Third, elections are also important to talk about related to the broad implications of elections, in which phase Huntington refers to elections as a tool and goal of democratization. The statement departs from the reality of the collapse of authoritarian rulers as a result of elections that they sponsor themselves because they try to renew legitimacy through elections (Magaloni, 2010).

The people make a social contract with the leaders through elections. At the time of elections, the people can choose trustworthy figures to fill legislative and executive positions. In elections, the people who have been qualified to vote, freely, and in secret, drop their choice on figures who are judged to be in accordance with their aspirations. Therefore, the power possessed by the current leaders does not arise because of themselves, but is entrusted by the people through elections. In essence, general elections are an example of political participation, namely the activities of ordinary citizens in influencing government policies. In essence, general elections are a means and means available for the people to determine their representatives who will sit in the people's representative bodies to exercise the sovereignty of the people. Elections are very meaningful for everyone, so elections are an indicator of a country's democracy. Departing from the limitations of the definition of political participation in the general election.

In the end, this study also cannot deny the social characteristics that occur in the object of research, especially Garut. Because in the end, researchers must also be able to agree that there are other factors that affect this political participation. The study of the results of Seymour Martin Lipset's research, in *Political Man: the Social Bases of Politics* (1960) in Miriam Budiardjo, 2008 (Miriam Budiardjo, 2007) clearly confirms that social characteristics affect political participation.

These social characteristics include income, education, employment, race, gender, age, place of residence, situation, condition, status and organization. Thus, the typical social characteristics of the arrowroot, become a complementary spice in the discussion of this research.

The definition of Election or abbreviation for General Election is a democratic process to elect people's representatives or government officials directly by citizens of a country. General elections are an important mechanism in modern democratic systems that allow the people to participate in determining the country's leaders and policies.

The main purpose of elections is to give citizens the opportunity to express their voices and elect leaders who will represent them in government. In General Elections, eligible citizens have the right to cast their votes for the candidate or political party they choose. The election results are then used to determine who will hold political office, both at the local, regional, and national levels.

General elections aim to create a system of government based on the will of the people, maintain democratic principles, encourage citizens' political participation, and ensure that elected leaders represent the interests and aspirations of society at large. Fair, free, and transparent elections are very important in maintaining the integrity of a country's democracy.

Election functions include:

- 1) To exercise the sovereignty of the people by allowing citizens to directly elect their representatives in the government.
- 2) Forming a legitimate government because it gives legitimacy to a democratically elected government. On the other hand, elections have an important role in determining the people's representatives by allowing citizens to elect their representatives in the legislature.
- 3) Playing a role in strengthening democracy by providing opportunities for the people to participate in the election of leaders and determine state policies.
- 4) Encourage citizens' political participation by providing opportunities for them to be involved in the political process and increase political awareness.

- 5) Facilitate a peaceful transition of power by providing an organized path to change the government without conflict or violence.

In the implementation of General Elections in Indonesia in accordance with Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning Elections, there are several election principles that must be met. These principles include:

- 1) Self-sufficient
General elections must be held by the General Election Commission (KPU) and the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) in order to maintain neutrality and independence.
- 2) Proportional
General elections must represent various interests and aspirations of the community proportionally, both in representatives of political parties and the general public.
- 3) Honest
Elections must be conducted honestly, free from fraud, fraud, or manipulation of the results of the General Election.
- 4) Professional
Election Organizers must act professionally in carrying out their duties and functions, by complying with the code of ethics and work standards established.
- 5) fair
It must be carried out fairly without discrimination, ensuring equal opportunities for all participants in the General Election to compete fairly.
- 6) Accountable
The organizer must be responsible and accountable for the actions and decisions taken in its implementation.
- 7) Legal Certainty
It must be implemented in accordance with applicable law, with clear provisions that can be understood by all parties involved.
- 8) Effective
The implementation of general elections must be effective in achieving the goals that have been set, including in terms of voter participation, security, and election integrity.
- 9) Orderly
General elections must be carried out in an orderly manner, maintaining order and security during the process.
- 10) Efficient
Implementation must be carried out efficiently, by making optimal use of available resources.
- 11) Open
It must be carried out openly and transparently, by providing opportunities for political parties, candidates, and voters to obtain the necessary information about the General Election process. All of these principles aim to ensure the implementation of democratic, fair, and trustworthy elections by the community.

In his book *Participation and Political Parties*, Miriam Budiardjo (1998:9)(Miriam Budiardjo, 2007) defines political participation as the activity of a person or a group of people to actively participate in political life, namely by choosing state leaders and directly or indirectly influencing government policies (public policy).

The results of the research and discussion are the results obtained by the researcher based on data findings in the field at the research stage. In the 2024 general election, Sidoarjo Regency is one of the districts in Indonesia that participated in enlivening the democracy party which was held in February 2024. The researcher uses the theory of Herbert Mclosky in Budiardjo (2010: 367)(Miriam Budiardjo, 2007), participation can be analyzed as follows: Direct volunteer activities are all activities of community participation in helping the process of the 2024 general election in Sidoarjo Regency. This is like the existence of KPPS members who were inaugurated in accordance with General Election Commission Regulation number 8 of 2022 to help the election process in 2024 from the election of

KPPS members to play an active role here with the assistance of KPU members, Bawaslu and several other related agencies. Referring to the Operationalization of Concepts in the implementation of research, volunteer activities directly consist of:

1) Voter Data Verification

The process of verifying voter data is an integral part of the preparation for the election which aims to ensure the validity and accuracy of the voter list and maintain the integrity of the election. This stage is carried out in accordance with the provisions stipulated in PKPU Number 3 of 2022 and is part of efforts to hold transparent, fair, and democratic elections.

2) Ballot folding

Ballot folding is done carefully and meticulously to ensure that each ballot has been prepared correctly in accordance with the applicable rules.

3) Establishment of TPS

In Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, polling stations are locations where voters cast their votes in elections, both at home and abroad. Each polling station has a supervisory officer and an order officer. The DPT of Sidoarjo Regency in the 2019 election was set at 1,397,570 people. This number consists of 689,536 men and 708,034 women. This DPT is spread across 18 sub-districts in Sidoarjo Regency, with a total of 5,579 polling stations with a total of 6 constituencies.

4) Voting

The voting process is the core process in a general election in Sidoarjo Regency, the voting process is not found to be a big thing in the process of voting.

5) Vote Count

The level of political participation in the 2024 general election in Sidoarjo Regency has experienced something positive.

Voluntary activities indirectly in elections can be carried out by the community as a form of community political participation, such as activities to enforce election rules or create an orderly atmosphere in elections. Here are some indirect activities:

1) Enforcement of election rules

In enforcing election rules, it is an important process to maintain integrity, transparency and fairness in the implementation of the 2024 general election. In Sidoarjo Regency, a tool has been enforced and implemented based on law number 7 of 2017 concerning general elections. This regulation regulates many aspects of elections, including election stages, election participation, campaigns, voter data, and also the handling of election violations.

2) Creating an orderly atmosphere

Active participation of the community in elections is important in creating an orderly atmosphere. This participation includes the activity of electing state leaders and influencing government policies directly or indirectly and general elections that are held periodically and regularly are the main indicators of a democratic country. In elections, the people use their votes, exercise their political rights, and make their choices directly and freely without any intervention from any party.

The level of public understanding of the function of political participation and its influence on society can affect political participation. The low economic level of the community can also be an obstacle to taking the time to participate in political voting.

Political culture is a bad habit that can have a big impact on the implementation of political activities in Sidoarjo Regency, the elite society is often a group that has personal interests and does not represent the people. This can lead to distrust and apathy towards politics, so that the lower classes do not feel compelled to participate. In addition, based on the findings of researchers, the people of Sidoarjo Regency have another culture, namely cases of corruption from leaders such as regents that have been committed by regents who were suspects before.

The findings have similarities with the findings from Huda, M. (2011)(Huda, 2012), namely the weak public awareness related to politics so that it is used by several parties for certain interests.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that public political participation in the 2024 election in Sidoarjo Regency is very good because it shows an increase in participation of 3 percent. The dimensions of participation are as follows: voter data verification is carried out properly and in detail, the folding of ballots carried out by volunteers, the formation of polling stations has been carried out very well. This is a community participation activity. Employees or members of KPSS, RT RW and the community are enthusiastic about the formation of TPS.

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