

# COMMUNITY POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE 2019 PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE- PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN MALANG REGENCY

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**Abstract:** Elections are a form of the will of the people in a democracy, without any election a country that calls its country a democracy must not be a democracy in the truest sense. Democracy cannot live alone without the participation of the people. Democracy is a superstructure that must be sustained by the substructure, that is, the people. It is within this framework that society can play a role as a subject in determining the future direction of the nation and its state. In the 2019 Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections, the level of participation of the people of Malang Regency is quite high and the high factor of the level of political participation of the people of Malang Regency is inseparable from the role and function of the KPU, the Po Party litik, Civil Society and the media are going well to make the 2019 elections a success.

Keywords: People's Political Participation; Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections

## I. INTRODUCTION

Elections as a means of exercising people's sovereignty, then community participation is a necessity. Political participation is at the heart and heart of democracy. Therefore, democracy cannot be imagined without the ability of citizens to participate freely in nation and state. Elections are held by the Indonesian state in order to realize the sovereignty of the people to actively participate in general elections in order to realize the ideals of the Indonesian people who are democratized (Asrida et al., 2021).

Indonesia held simultaneous general elections since 2018 and simultaneous general elections were held again in 2019, the public elected the President and vice President, members legislature of the House of Representatives, Dewan Regional Representative and Regional House of Representatives (Esfandiari & Fatih, 2020). Discussing elections is inseparable from public participation, where the level of political participation of the community is always associated with the voter percentage rate.

Herbert McClosky stated that political participation is the voluntary activities of citizens of society through which they take part in the process of electing a ruler, and directly or indirectly directly, in the process of forming a general policy (Asyikin, 2020).

Samuel P. Huntington referred to political participation is the activity of citizens aimed at influencing political decision-making. Political participation is carried out by people in their

position as citizens, not politicians or civil servants and the nature of this political participation is voluntary, not mobilized by the state or ruling party (Umami et al., 2021).

Meanwhile, Ramlan Surbakti stated that political participation is the participation of ordinary citizens in determining all decisions that transport or affect their lives (Sodiq, 2016). In general, political participation is the activity of a person or group of people to actively participate in political life, namely by choosing the leadership of the State and by directly and indirectly affects the government's solicitation (*public policy*) (Andrianto, 2020).

So, the political participation of society is closely related to the democratic system of a country. In a democratic state, the highest sovereignty is in the hands of the people, by carrying out joint activities to set goals, the future and determine the people who hold top of the leadership. Democracy cannot live alone without the participation of the people. Democracy is a *superstructure* that must be sustained by *the substructure*, that is, the people. If *the substructure* is rapuh (many people are apathetic), then democracy itself is also fragile or even collapsed. It is in this framework that society can play a role as a subject in determining the future direction of its *society* (Al-Fatih, 2020).

The level of political participation nationally in the 2019 general election exceeded the target, the results of the vote count in the 2019 elections the political participation of the people nationally was quite high reaching 80.90 percent exceeded the 2015-2019 RPJMN target of 77.5 percent. For the 2019 Presidential Election, voter participation in the 2014 Presidential Election was 75.11% and the 2009 Presidential Election, voter participation was 72%.

Political participation of the community is very important, as stated by Merriam Budiardjo Political participation (Hariyanti et al., 2018) is a person's activity to actively participate in political life, namely by electing the head of state and directly influencing government policy (*Public Policy*), these activities include such as giving beacons a in elections, attending rallies, being a member of a party or interest group establishing relationships (*contacting*) with government officials or parliamentarians and so on.

This study focuses on the level of participation of community politic in the Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections in Malang Regency, with the aim of determining the level of community political participation in the 2019 elections are in line with national targets. This study raises two issues, namely the level of participation of the people of Malang Regency in the 2019 Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections and what are the high factors for the low political participation of the people of Malang Regency in the 2019 Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections.

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is sociological juridical research, what will be studied is the law that applies in society related to the focus of research. The research took place in the jurisdiction of Malang Regency, related to the participation of the Malang Regency community in the 2019 Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections. In this study, there were two data used, namely primary data and secondary data. The technique of collecting data through an interview with the Chairman of the KPU of Malang Regency and secondary data in the form of a KPU document for Malang Regency, then analyzed in a qualitative descriptive manner.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### A. LEVEL OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE 2019 PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN MALANG REGENCY

Elections are a mechanism pursued in a democratic system to produce leaders who have high legitimacy in society. In 2019, the first-time elections were held simultaneously, namely the Presidential and vice-presidential elections, legislative elections at the center and in the regions. Based on the results of the vote count in the 2019 elections, national political participation of the people was quite high, reaching 80.90 percent, exceeding the 2015-2019 RPJMN target of 77.5 percent. So, the political participation of the community in the 2019 legislative and presidential elections reached 80.90%. This figure is higher than the voter participation in the 2014 Presidential Election which was only 75.11%. This figure is also above the voter participation target set by the government in the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2015-2019. With this high voter turnout rate, the president elected in the 2019 Presidential Election has high legitimacy. There was an increase in public participation in the 2019 election compared to the 2014 Presidential Election, public participation of 75.11%.

Malang Regency, East Java, consisting of 33 sub-districts, in the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections the political participation of the community was quite high at 79.97% with voter data of 1,996,857 with data male voters 996,251 and women 1,000,606, who exercised the right to vote amounted to 1,602,063 (79.97%), with male participation figures of 786,735 (78.69%) and women 815,328 (81.24%), valid votes amounting to 1,565,242 and not legitimate 36,821 (2.24%). Of these, 2,594 disabled voters were recorded and 722 (30.90%) exercised the right to vote. The overall figure exceeded the target of 77%, and this is the best achievement since the implementation of the Presidential and vice-presidential elections in 2004 and in 2009. With a high level of political participation of the people this proves that the people believe in elections, to determine the leader of the nation democratically.

In determining the level of political participation of the community so far, it has been associated with voter percentage figures, for example in 2018 the governor's simultaneous elections set voter participation targets. KPU at 77.5 percent. The overall voter turnout rate in the governorship election was 72.66 percent, with male participation rates of 69.90 percent and women 75.93 percent (Esfandiari & Putra, 2021). Meanwhile, the public participation rate in the regent election was 75.56 percent, with male participation rates of 73.46 percent, and women 77.68 percent. The public participation rate in the mayoral election was 73.82 percent, with male participation rates of 70.76 percent, and women 76.90 percent.

Likewise, the elections in East Java, as stated by the Commission of the East Java KPU Gogot Cahyo Baskoro, that there was an increase of 9.97 percent from the previous 59.53 percent in 2013 to 69.55 in 2018. Nevertheless, this achievement is still far below the East Java KPU target of 74 percent (Sa'ban et al., 2019). The current level of political participation of the people is only determined by the percentage of voter turnout, so it has not yet come to the existence of standard guarantees and mechanisms, and *it is convenient* for all people to be able to channel his thoughts into a formal instrument.

Political participation of the community is very important for the interests of the nation and state, this is important considering that it is in the hands of the people that the sustainability of the state is the continuity of the state. Political participation should not only be limited to the level of public participation in each election, so that it will be easy for people to declare political participation of the people is high if it is in the range of 80% to 90% of voters. As Irvan Mawardi stated (Austriana & Riyanto, 2021), numbers are not the only measure of the high level of public participation in elections. What is more important is that there are standard guarantees and mechanisms, and it is convenient for all people to be able to channel their thoughts into a formal institution. With high voter turnout, it means that the president and vice president-elect have high legitimacy.

The form of political participation refers to the tangible form of political activity, Samuel P. Huntington and Joan Nelson in Hadiwijoyo, dividing political participation including electoral activities, lobbying, organizational activities, *contacting*, and acts of violence (*Violence*).

Meanwhile, in line with Milbart and Goel's opinion that the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections in 2019 can be categorized as, *First, apathetic*, that is to say, people who do not participate and withdraw from the political process. *Second, spectators*, meaning people who have at least voted in elections. *Third, gladiators*, meaning those who are effectively involved in the political process, namely communicators, specialists holding face-to-face contacts, party activists and workers campaigns, and community activists.

In general, the pattern of citizen participation is divided into four types, namely: *first*, participation in elections (*electoral participation*), *second*, group participation (*group participation*), *third*, contact between citizens and citizens (*citizen government contacting*) and *fourth*, direct citizen participation (Kelana, 2015).

## **B. EFFORTS TO INCREASE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE 2019 PRESIDENTIAL AND WAKIL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

The KPU Report of Malang Regency in the 2019 Elections there are several problems faced:

- a. People with a certain level of work are less able to spend a little time participating in an activity.
- b. A society with a high level of heterogeneity, especially in terms of religion and culture will determine the participation strategies used and the methodology used often the beliefs adopted can be contrary to existing concepts
- c. Poverty is a fundamental obstacle factor because with poverty a person will think more about doing something that may not be beneficial to himself or his group
- d. Heterogeneous societal patterns can result in the emergence of competition and prejudice in the existing system of society
- e. The *bottom-up* KPU budget planning system makes it difficult to carry out activities so that it is not in line with local content that must be used for efforts to increase community participation
- f. Apathy that arises when individuals feel they do not know or have no affinity for candidates who run as election contestants

- g. There is a group of voters who have apathy because of the disillusionment of political figures or parties who are seen as only approaching voters when approaching elections or about campaign promises that were not kept.

So based on the KPU report, Malang Regency, there are problems faced, but when viewed from the level of political participation of the community in the 2019 elections, it is quite high. The increased political participation of the people in the 2019 elections between lain are:

*First*, the role of the KPU. As the organizer of the elections, the KPU has a major role in increasing people's political participation, especially in terms of exercising their voting rights. The KPU of Malang Regency increases community political participation through socialization and community political education. Socialization is carried out through three stages, namely face-to-face communication, communication through the media, and through social mobilization.

*Second*, the role of Political Parties. Political parties in article 10 paragraph (2) letter a of Law Number 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties stated: "*the specific purpose of political parties is to increase political participation members and the public in the framework of organizing political and governmental activities.*" So political parties have a goal and fungsi increase people's political participation through political education.

*Third*, the role of *civil society*. Community organizations that are widely engaged in increasing community political participation, conducting socialization and providing politik education to the community.

*Fourth*, the role of mass media, both print and electronic, the media has a very large role in providing information to the public.

Based on an interview with KPU Chairman Anis Suhartini stated that the factor of increasing the political partisipasi of the people in the 2019 elections, only two presidential and vice presidential candidates and their implementation simultaneously with legislative elections (DPR, DPR and DPRD), this makes the public enthusiastically present at the polling station and choose representatives who will sit in government institutions both executive and legislative.

This is in line with the opinion of Myron Weiner as quoted by Mas' Oed (Okafor, 2021) stating the reasons for the emergence of a movement towards wider participation in the political process, namely: a. Modernization; commercialization of agriculture, industrialization, binding urbanization, the spread of literacy, the development of communication media massa; b. pechanges in the structure of social classes; The influence of the intelligentsia and modern mass communication; c. Conflicts among groups of political leaders, d. excessive government interference in social, economic, and cultural issues.

On the other hand, the general election should not only look at the level of political participation of the people but followed by quality elections. Quality elections must have criteria that give the people the opportunity to;

- a. Choosing between different policy offers and competing parties or candidates
- b. Hold elected officials accountable for the actions they take, and
- c. Transforming the symbolic conception (sovereignty of the people) in actual real action (Sidi, 2014).

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**



The level of participation of the people of Malang Regency in the 2019 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections, quite high 79.97% exceeded the target set by the KPU of Malang Regency, which was 77% and this was the best achievement compared to the elections. President and vice president in 2009 and in 2004. With a fairly high level of political participation of the people this proves that the people believe in elections, to determine the leader of the nation democratically. Factors of the high political participation of the people of Malang Regency in the 2019 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections, namely the role and function of the KPU, Political Parties, *Civil Society* and the mass media are all going well, through various methods such as socialization and political education of the community, have not produced significant enough results to increase people's political participation in the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections. The year is 2019.

In the future for the 2024 elections, the level of political participation of the community must always be increased by all elements of the nation, this is important considering that it is in the hands of the people that the sustainability of the nation and state. The people have the responsibility to participate in determining future leaders who have a high level of trust from the community. The participation of the people's political parties is the main key to realizing a truly democratic government.

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