

# The Effect of Political Relation on Firm Value at Manufacturing Companies

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## ABSTRACT

This research aims to determine the effect of political relation on the firm value at basic chemical manufacturing companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange. The reason for using chemical and basic industry sectors is it has a growth of high stock price. The type of this research is an explanatory quantitative research.

Data collected based on annual reports from 68 manufacturing companies in the chemical industry and basic sectors in Indonesia during the period 2014- 2017. The total sample in this research was 251 companies. Political relations are measured by using Dummy variable and companies' value measured by using Tobins' q. This study used multiple linear regression analysis technique.

The results of this research show that political relations have a positive effect on firm value and also indicate that companies whose have the political relations get facilities access from the government, so it can be used to achieve company goals, which is increasing companies' value. The limitation of this research is the companies' annual report only describe relations from direct political relations. Therefore, indirect relationships such as friendship and family cannot be identified. Suggestions for further research related to political relations on firm value is to replace Dummy variable measurement with ratio data.

**Keywords:** *Political Connection, Firm Value, Manufacture*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of a firm is to maximize the value of the company. The company's value is company's selling price when a company will be sold (Sugeng, 2015, p. 9). A high value becomes a longing for every company, because it indicates the success of strategy used by companies in achieving the target which indicate companies' wealth (Hermuningsih, 2013). The higher the stock price, the higher company's value in investors' view (Hermuningsih, 2013).

The company's success is not only seen from the company's influence, but also the influence of an environment. One of the successful environmental factors is a politic (Wulandari & Prog, 2013). The company who's oriented to political parties' profit will expect a reward (Wulandari & Raharja, 2013). Rewards given to donors of political parties can be a form of political access, the project access in government or policy that is beneficial to both company and the parties (Faisal, et al., 2018). Political relations can be seen from the management structure or directors as government officials (Wulandari &

Raharja, 2013). Each individual, either the organizer or management team in a company must have beneficial social connection or relations (Dicko, 2016). Faccio (2006) also explained that political relations provide a significant benefit to companies in terms of ease of access to debt payment, lower income tax payments and possession of substantial market power.

However, practically, political activity does not always go in plan, some cases are often faced by individual such as authority abuse. One of the cases is PT Lapindo Brantas, which received a loan from the government related to the compensation fund for residents of Porong, Sidoarjo, East Java (Kusumawati, 2015). The government provides a loan to PT Lapindo Brantas since the company claimed could not pay the compensation to the affected residents in Sidoarjo due to digging to deep mud. The loan given by the government was IDR 781 billion and must be returned within four years (Kusumawati, 2015). The existence of such cases would be advantageous for the company because of the compensation given by the government

to lighten the burden debt of society. However, high government debt can lead to *financial distress* that reducing the value of the company and lead the company out of business or bankrupt (Hermuningsih, 2013).

This research refers to research conducted by Yang, et. al., (2012), Goldman et. al. (2009), faccio (2006), Amorita (2017) and Almontasir (2016) whose stated that political relation has a positive effect on firm value. The differences to previous studies is in the measurement of the dependent variable used, Tobins' q, research year, and company selected as research object.

Research on political connections have been carried out and show that the political relation has a positive effect on firm value (Yang, et. al., 2012; faccio, 2006; Datta & Ganguli, 2014; Fisman, 2001; Song, et. Al., 2016; Ang, et. al., 2011 and Chang & Wong, 2004). Based on some research, political relation has a positive effect on the value of the company because the company which has a strong relationship with politicians and businesspersons results a huge profit (faccio, 2006; Datta & Ganguli, 2014). Political relation has a positive effect on the value of the company as well as their political relation give a contribution in form of a huge profit to the country (Fisman, 2001), it indicates that companies with political relation is more superior compared to companies that do not have political relations.

H1: Political relation has a positive effect on firm value.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Political Relation

Political relation can occur if the largest shareholder or corporate executives (CEO, president, vice president or secretary) also has a position as a member of parliament, ministers, president, king or queen, or closely related to the top politicians, state officials or institutions of the state (faccio, 2006). Political relation means the closeness between business owners and the government. Proximity to the government can be used by owners of the company for the benefit of the company. Political relation in the composition of the board of commissioners and board of directors of the company raise many irregularities, including the privilege to obtain loans from government banks, lighter tax, access to government contracts, protection through government regulation (Wulandari, 2018).

Political relation within the company also enables for organizations to gain the access for information from the government. Companies connected politically can access an external bank financing easily, with more favourable terms, which can reduce the incentive to hold cash to fund future investment needs (Kusnadi & Wei, 2012). Political connections also contributed to a larger percentage of company value (Fisman, 2001).

### 2.2 The value of the company

The company has a long-term goal is to maximize shareholder by maximizing company value (Dewi & Wirajaya, 2013). The company's value can be calculated through the company's market value (market value ratio). The ratio related to the performance assessment of company stock which has been traded in the capital market. The value of a company created by managing the company performance in order to increase the income and reduce the risk (Sugeng, 2017, p. 10). Management should optimally manage the company to produce a high value for the company, so it can prosper the wealth of the owner and welfare to the employees.

## 3. RESEARCH METHOD

Independent variables used in this research are political relation. Political relation in this study is measured by using Dummy Variable, where the score 1 is given to companies that have the political relation and the score 0 is given to the companies a company does not have political relation (Wulandari and Raharja, 2013). Criteria political connections in this study are:

1. Directors or commissioners who have a position as politicians, affiliated with political parties.
2. Directors or commissioners who have a position as a government official.
3. Directors or commissioners who have a position as military officer.
4. Directors or commissioners are former government official or former military officer.

The dependent variable in this research is represented by using Tobin'q ratio, namely the market value of equity plus the book value of preferred shares plus the book value of short-term debt plus the book value of long-term debt minus liquid assets and book value

divided by total assets (Ang Ding & Thong, 2011 ). This research also uses a control variable leverage measured by using a ratio of DER, profitability measured by using ROA, size measured by using ln (total assets) and growth measured by using the difference in current year sales to last year, and then divided with the market value of equity.

The population in this research are all basic manufacturing companies of chemical sectors listed in Indonesia Stock Exchange in 2014 to 2017. This research used a purposive sampling technique to obtain samples. Criteria for the sample in this study are (1). Companies belong to the manufacturing (chemical and basic) listed in Indonesia Stock Exchange (BEI) in 2014 to 2017, (2) Companies that report annual report from 2014-2017. The total sample in this study are 251 companies.

This research used a secondary data. Source of research data obtained from several website, corner of Indonesia Stock Exchange (BEI), Faculty of Economics in University of Malang and web sites related company.

Hypothesis testing is done by multivariate analysis using multiple linear regression as follows:

$$(1) Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \varepsilon \quad (1)$$

$$(2) Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 Z_1 + \beta_3 Z_2 + \beta_4 Z_3 + \beta_5 Z_4 + \varepsilon \quad (2)$$

Information:

Y = Value Company

$\alpha$  = Constant

$\beta_1$ -  $\beta_5$  = Regression Coefficients

X1 = Political Connections

Z1 = Leverage

Z2 = Profitability

Z3 = Size

Z4 = Growth

$\varepsilon$  = error

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics present data minimum value, maximum, mean and standard deviation of each variable. Description of the research data will be presented in Table 1 below:

**Table 1.** Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	maximum	mean	Std. deviation
Z1 Leverage	251	.008	7742	0605	.737
Z2 Profitability	251	-.632	.460	0016	.086
Z3 Size	251	22 758	32 270	28 291	1,713
Z4 Growth	251	-83 401	33 517	-0278	6589
Y Value Company	251	-.835	9783	0949	1,560
Valid N (listwise)	251				

Based on Table 1, leverage has a mean value amount of 60.5%, which means that the company's leverage is in above-average level amount 40% of the manufacturing industry (Brigham & Houston, 2001). It shows that more companies use debt to finance assets of the equity capital that the risk of financial distress in the company is quite high and the companies that have high levels of debt creditors will not provide additional funding because it can lead to bankrupt (Brigham & Houston, 2001). Leverage has a standard deviation of 0.737, it shows the difference among the company's leverage is low enough.

The mean value of the profitability amount of 1.6%, it indicates that the company's average profit is still

relatively low and below the industry average of 9% (Brigham & Houston, 2001). This is due to the losses of 70 companies from 251 companies. Standard deviation score amount of 0.086 also indicate the differences in profitability among low companies manufacturing, this may be caused by manufacturing companies that have almost the same type of business that they have similar business risks.

The size of a company is measured by using natural logs that have a mean total asset amount of 28.291 value which indicates that the size of the manufacturing companies is moderate (Japlani, 2015). It shows that a large company's assets could be used to finance the company operational.

The mean value of -0.278 indicates that many manufacturing companies have negative sales growth or declining sales. It means, in the future, the manufacturing company's sales growth will have a lot of losses. The differences in sales growth which is relatively high among companies is 6.589.

The negative minimum value of the company for current assets INRU is higher than the market value and total liabilities. The mean of the company's value

is 0.949, which pointed to a manufacturing company that is still relatively low. It be caused the value of the company which is under the value of 1, it means that investors do not give premium to the issuer, indicating the Q value is less than 1, which means the company's market price is below the price of the book (Weston & Copeland, 2010). Standard deviation indicates that the data distribution enterprise value amount of 1.56, which means the difference value of the company is quite high among companies.

**Table 2.** Political Connections (X)

Information	frequency	Percent
Political connections	77	30.68
Not Connected Politics	174	69.32
Total	251	100.00

The data show that 30.6% companies have political relation with the government. By their political connections, companies can give a huge contribution.

*4.2 Correlation Analysis*

**Table 3.** Correlation Analysis Results

variables	1	2	3	4	5
1 Y Value Company					
2 X Political Connections	.403 **				
3 Z1 Leverage	.399 **	.187 *			
4 Z2 Profitability	-.080	.115	-.369 **		
5 Z3 Size	.361 **	.563 **	.236 **	-.070	
6 Z4 Growth	-.102	-.098	.187 *	.061	-.093

\* Significant at  $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*  $P < 0.05$ .

The results of correlation analysis shows that political relation gives a positive influence to the company's value amount of 0.01. Control variable leverage and size company also has a positive correlation with the value of the company. However, variable control profitability and sales growth are not related to the company's value.

*1. Hypothesis-Testing*

After the classical assumption data meets the requirements, then the Model I regression is carried out on the table below:

**Table 4.** Regression Testing Result

	Model I	Model II
* (Constant)	0384	-.705
X Political Connections	0329 ***	.199 **
Z1 Leverage		.593 ***
Z2 Profitability		.347
Z3 Size		.030
Z4 Growth		-.197
R2	0162	.301

The test results can be interpreted as, when X (political connections) is 0, then Y (the value of the company) is in amount of 0,384. When companies have political relation with the government, then a chance to increase the company's value is in amount of 32.

Based on the test results, there are differences in constant value ( $\alpha$ ) of the model equations I and II, from 0,384 becomes -0.705. It is because company size changes the constant value of the control variable, this change caused by two things. First, because of significant differences in the size of the company with the highest value reached IDR 103 trillion and IDR 7 Billion lowest value. Second, due to the difference in

value between the value of the companies which have an average value amount of 0.949 with the size of companies which have an average value amount of 28.291. This makes the constant value in the regression equation becomes negative. However, a negative constant value which does not affect the results of the regression equation, because the classical assumption test had been met and the value of the slope ( $\beta$ ) is worth 0 (Dougherty, 2011). The R2 value of political connections on the model II amounted to 0.301, which means 30% of the variation or variability in the value of the company is described by political relation.

F-test

F-test of political relation, leverage, profitability, size, and growth of the company shows a significant value

amount of <0.05, which means that political relation together affect the value of the company.

**Table 5.** Results of Test F

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	5,396	5	1,079	11,170	.000b
residual	12 560	130	.097		
Total	17 956	135			

T-test

T-test results in Table 4.6 show that the significance of political relation (variable X) to firm (variable Y) is

0.009 or <0.05, it can be said that political relation effect positively on firm value. Based on this, the hypothesis that political relation has a positive effect on the firm value is received.

**Table 6.** T-test result

Model	Coefficients unstandardized		standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	beta		
(Constant)	-.705	.595		-1185	.238
X Political Connections	.199	.075	.243	2647	.009
Z1 Leverage	.593	.138	.365	4,294	.000
Z2 Profitability	.347	.648	.044	.536	.593
Z3 Size	.030	.021	.128	1,416	.159
Z4 Growth	-.197	.110	-.138	-1793	.075

Robustness Test

The following are the results of tests that show the robustness of the correlation analysis, F-test and T-test that has been qualified to classical assumption test

*4.3 Hypothesis*

**Table 7.** Regression Testing

	<b>Model I</b>	<b>Model II</b>
(Constant)	0763	2,154
X Political Connections	0267 ***	.339 ***
Z1 Leverage		-.024
Z2 Profitability		1,382
Z3 Size		-.061 **
Z4 Growth		-.108
R2	0100	.178

\* Significant at  $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*  $P < 0.05$ ;  $p < 0.001$ .

Test F

**Table 8.** Test F Result

<b>Model</b>	<b>Sum of Squares</b>	<b>Df</b>	<b>mean Square</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
Regression	3557	5	.711	5,100	.000b
residual	16 460	118	.139		
Total	20 017	123			

*T-test*

T-test results in Table 4.13 show that the significance of political relation (variable X) to firm (variable Y) is

0.000 or  $< 0.05$ , so it can be said that political relation has a positive effect on firm value.

**Table 9.** t-Test Results

Model	Coefficients unstandardized		standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	beta		
(Constant)	2,154	.519		4,152	.000
X Political Connections	.339	.079	.402	4,291	.000
Z1 Leverage	-.024	.210	-.011	-.113	.910
Z2 Profitability	1,382	.812	.164	1,702	.091
Z3 Size	-.061	.023	-.257	-2621	.010
Z4 Growth	-.018	.221	-.007	-.079	.937

Based on the control variables were tested showed that the size indicates the significance amount of 0.010, which means the size effects firm value. The leverage, profitability, and growth control variables show significance above 0.05, which means that profitability, size, and growth do not affect the firm's value. Leverage and size have different results on the robustness test. This is because the difference in the value of company measurement in using MB to measure firm value. The measurement conducted by using MB measurement, while the measurement of the company's equity value used Tobins' q, namely debt value and assets. Based on the measurement results, there are differences in the test results of regression, due to the fact that some companies have a company's value amount of -1951.37, so it affects the differences in the results of hypothesis testing.

**4.4 Influence of Political Relation Against Corporate Values**

The results show that political relation has a positive effect on firm value. These results are consistent with research conducted by Ang, et. al (2011), Almunasar (2016), Amorita (2017), Chang and Wong (2004), Datta & Ganguli (2014), Faccio (2006), Fisman (2001), Goldman et. al (2009), Song, et. Al (2016), and Yang, et. Al (2012). These results indicate that the political relations within the company can increase the value of the company.

Companies that have political relation can increase their value by 32% during the study period. This indicates that their political relation can affect the value of the company. Therefore, the company can improve its political relation with the government in order to enhance shareholder value. These results are confirmed in the robustness test which explain that political relations can enhance shareholder value.

Political relation affect companies' value, because the development of the manufacturing industry is expanding as evidenced by the increasing investment and activities undertaken (Hidayat & Husaini, 2019). The acceleration of expansion is supported by providing fiscal and licencing facilities (Hidayat & Husaini, 2019). Based on the description above, political relations will have easy access from the government and licensing facility that can be used to launch operations firms, so as to enhance shareholder value.

**5. CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the results of tests performed, it can be concluded that the political relation has a positive effect on firm value. These results are consistent with previous studies that found a positive effect of political relation on firm value. The results of this study indicate that companies with political relation get an access to the conveniences of the government that can be used to achieve the purpose of the company, namely increasing company's value.

The results of this study can be taken into consideration in taking decision by some parties. For potential investors, to invest in companies with political connections because of their political connections can enhance shareholder value. For companies, management can improve the political connections in the company in order to affect the value of the company. For further research, this research can be a point of comparison for the study of factors that affect the value of the company.

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