

Political Participation of the Community in Presidential Election in 2019 at Malang Regency

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ABSTRACT

Elections are a form of people's will in a democracy, without any elections a country that calls the country a democracy must not be democracy in the true sense. Democracy cannot live on its own without the participation of the people. Democracy is a *superstructure* that must be supported by substructure, namely the people. It is in this framework that society can act as a subject in determining the future direction of the nation and country. In the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections in 2019 the participation rate of the people of Malang Regency is quite high and the high level of political participation of the people of Malang Regency is inseparable from the role and function of the KPU, Political Party, Civil Society and the media during the good run to succeed the 2019 Election.

Keywords: *Political Participation of the community, Presidential and Vice Presidential elections.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Elections as a means of implementing the sovereignty of the people, then the participation of the community is an inevitability. Political participation is at the core and heart of democracy. Therefore, democracy cannot be imagined without the ability of citizens to participate freely in the nation and state. Elections are held by the Indonesian state in order to realize the sovereignty of the people to actively participate in elections for the realization of the ideals of a democratic Indonesian society [1].

Indonesia held simultaneous elections since 2018 and simultaneous elections were held again in 2019, the public elected the President and vice President, legislative members of the House of Representatives, the Regional Representative Council and the Regional People's Representative Council. Discussing elections is inseparable from public participation, where the level of political participation of the community is always associated with the percentage of voters.

Herbert McClosky stated that political participation is the voluntary activities of citizens through which they take part in the process of electing rulers, and directly or indirectly, in the process of establishing common policies [2].

Samuel P. Huntington is a citizen's activity aimed at influencing political decision-making. Political participation is carried out by people in their positions as citizens, not politicians or civil servants and the nature of this political participation is voluntary, not mobilized by the state or ruling party [3].

Ramlan Surbakti stated that political participation is the participation of ordinary citizens in determining all decisions that transport or affect their lives [4]. In general, political participation is the activity of a person or group of people to participate actively in political life, namely by choosing the leadership of the State and directly and indirectly affecting government policy (*public policy*) [5].

Thus, the political participation of the people is closely related to the democratic system of a country. In a democratic country, supreme sovereignty is in the hands of the people, by carrying out joint activities to set goals, the future and determine the people who hold the top of the leadership. Democracy cannot live on its own without the participation of the people. Democracy is a superstructure that must be supported by substructure, namely the people. If the substructure is fragile (many people are apathetic), then democracy itself is also fragile or even collapsing. It is in this framework that society can act as a subject in determining the future direction of its society.

The national political participation rate in the 2019 election exceeded the target, the result of the vote count

in the 2019 national political participation was quite high reaching 80.90 percent beyond the rpjmn target 2015-2019 by 77.5 percent. For the presidential election, the percentage in 2019 is higher than voter participation in the 2014 presidential election of 75.11% and the 2009 presidential election voter participation of 72%.

The political participation of the community is very important, as stated by Miriam Budiardjo [6]. Political participation is the activity of a person to participate actively in political life, namely by choosing the leader of the country and directly influencing government policy (Public Policy), this activity includes such as voting in elections, attending rallies, becoming a member of a party or interest group having a contacting relationship (contacting) with government officials or lawmakers and so on.

In this study focused on the level of political participation of the people in the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections in Malang Regency, with the aim to find out the level of political participation of the people in the 2019 election in harmony with the national target. This research raises two issues, namely how the level of participation of the people of Malang Regency in the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections in 2019 and what factors the high political participation of the people of Malang Regency in the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections in 2019.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a sociological juridical study, which will be studied is the applicable law in the community related to fok usresearch. The research took place in the jurisdiction of Malang Regency, related to the participation of the people of Malang Regency in the 2019 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections. In this study, there are two data used, namely primary data and secondary data. Data collection techniques through interviews with the Chairman of the Malang Regency KPU and secondary data in the form of documents of the Malang Regency KPU, then analyzed qualitatively.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

a. Level of Public Participation in the 2019 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections in Malang Regency

Elections are a mechanism taken in the democratic system to produce leaders who have high legitimacy in society. In 2019, the first elections were held simultaneously, namely presidential and vice presidential elections, legislative elections in the center and in the region. Based on the results of the vote count in the 2019 election, the political participation of the people nationally is quite high reaching 80.90 percent

beyond the 2015-2019 RPJMN target of 77.5 percent. So the political participation of the people in legislative elections and presidential elections in 2019 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 participation 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 of 75.11% of public participation.

Malang Regency, east Java, consisting of 33 sub-districts, in the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections the political participation of the community is quite high 79.97% with voter data of 1,996,857 with male voter data of 996,251 and women 1,000,606, Who used suffrage amounted to 1,602,063 (79.97%), with a male participation rate of 786,735 (78.69%) and women 815,328 (81.24%), valid votes of 1,565,242 and invalid 36,821 (2.24%). Of these, there were 2,594 disabled voters and 722 (30.90%). The overall figure passed the target of 77%, the best performance since the presidential and vice presidential elections in 2004 and 2009. With a high enough level of political participation of the people, this proves that the public believes in elections, to determine the leader of the nation democratically.

In determining the level of political participation of the community so far is associated with the number of voter percentages as an example in 2018 simultaneous elections of the governor's voter participation target set by the KPU of 77.5 percent. The overall voter turnout rate in the gubernatorial election was 72.66 percent, with male turnout of 69.90 percent and women 75.93 percent [7].

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.[7].

Similarly, elections in East Java, as stated by KPU Commissioner Jatim 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, the achievement is still far below the target of KPU Jatim of 74 percent.[8].

The current level of political participation of society is determined only in the percentage of turnout, so it has not come to the existence of guarantees and standard mechanisms, and it is comfortable for all people to be able to channel their thoughts into a formal institution.

The political participation of the community is very important for the interests of the nation and state, this is important considering that in the hands of the people the sustainability of the state. Political participation should not only be limited to the level of public participation in every general election, so it will be easy for people to declare high public political participation if it is in the range of 80% to 90% of the electorate. As stated by Irvan Mawardi [9], Figures are not the only measure of the high level of public participation in elections. More important is the existence of guarantees and standard mechanisms, and it is comfortable for all people to be able to channel their thoughts into a formal institution. With high voter turnout, it means the president and vice president-elect have high legitimacy.

This form of political participation refers to the real form of political activity, Samuel P. Huntington and Joan Nelson in Hadiwijoyo.[1], Dividing political participation includes election activities, lobbying, organizational activities, contacting, and *actsof violence*.

Meanwhile, in line with Milbart and Goel's opinion that the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections in 2019 can be categorized as, First, apathy, that is, people who do not participate and withdraw from the political process. Second, spectator means people who have at least never voted in a general election. Third, gladiators, meaning those who are actively involved in the political process, namely communicators, specialists in face-to-face contact, party activists and campaign workers, and community activists [1].

In general, the pattern of citizen participation is divided into four types, namely: first, participation in elections (*electoral participation*), second, group participation, third, contact between citizens with citizens of government (*citizen government contacting*) and fourth, direct citizen participation [10].

b. Efforts to Increase Political Participation in the 2019 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections

Malang Regency KPU Report in the 2019 Election there are several problems faced [11]:

- 1) People with a certain level of work are less able to spend less time participating in an activity.
- 2) People with a high level of heterogeneity, especially in terms of religion and culture will determine the participation strategies used and the methodologies used often the beliefs embraced can be contrary to existing concepts.
- 3) Poverty is a fundamental obstacle factor because with poverty one will think more about doing something that may not be beneficial to oneself or his group.

- 4) Heterogeneous patterns of society can result in competition and prejudice in existing systems.
- 5) The KPU budget planning system that is bottom up complicates the implementation of activities so that it is not in line with local content that must be used for efforts to increase community participation.
- 6) Apathy that arises when individuals feel unsatisfactory or uninvolved to candidates who run as election contestants
- 7) There are groups of voters who have apathy because of disappointment with candidates or political parties who are seen as only approaching voters when approaching the election only or about campaign promises that are not kept.

So based on the report of the Malang Regency KPU there are problems faced, but when viewed from the level of political participation of the community in the 2019 election is quite high. The increase in public political participation in the 2019 elections include:

First, the role of KPU. As a KPU election organizer has a major role in increasing the political participation of the community, especially in terms of exercising their suffrage. Malang Regency KPU increases community political participation through socialization and political education of the community[12]. 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 No. 2 of 2008 on Political Parties mentioned: "The special purpose of political parties is to increase the political participation of members and the public in the framework of the implementation of political and governmental activities." So political parties have the purpose and function of increasing people's political participation through political education.

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

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

Based on an interview with KPU Chairman Anis Suhartini, stated the factor of increasing public political participation in the 2019 election, only two presidential and vice presidential candidates and their implementation simultaneously with legislative elections (DPR, DPR and DPRD), this made the public enthusiastically present at the polls and elect representatives who will sit in government institutions both executive and legislative.

This is in line with Myron Weiner's opinion as quoted by Mas' Oed [13] stating the reason for the emergence of the movement towards wider participation in the political process, namely: a. Modernization; commercialization of agriculture, industrialization, binding urbanization, spreading of read-and-write intelligence, development of mass communication media; b. changes in the structure of social class; Influence of modern intellectuals and mass communication; c. conflict among groups of political leaders, d. excessive government interference in social, economic, and cultural issues.

On the other hand, elections 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 people the opportunity to;

- 1) Choose between different policy offers and competing parties or candidates;
- 2) Hold elected officials accountable for their actions, and;
- 3) Transforming symbolic conceptions (people's sovereignty) in real action [14].

4. CONCLUSION

The participation rate of the people of Malang Regency in the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections in 2019, is quite high at 79.97% exceeds the target set by the Malang Regency KPU which is 77% and this is the best achievement compared to the presidential and vice presidential elections in 2009 and 2004. With a high enough level of political participation of the people, this proves that people believe in elections, to determine the leader of the nation democratically. The factor of the high political participation of the people of Malang Regency in the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections in 2019, namely the role and function of the KPU, Political Parties, Civil Society and the media all went well, through various means such as socialization and political education of the community, resulting in significant enough results to increase public political participation in the 2019 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections.

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

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