



# The Potential of Money Politics in Convenient Village Head Elections Perspective Law Number 6 Of 2014

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**Abstract.** The principle of democracy from the people by the people for the people is a phrase that is manifested in the social interaction of Village Head Elections. The Village Head is a position that can be contested by Indonesian citizens who are elected in the Village Head Election as legitimacy for a six-year term of office. Elections for Village Heads often have the potential for money politics which is interpreted as an effort to influence voters (voters). In general, money politics in village head elections is given in the form of money for transportation from place of residence to polling stations, provision of groceries, assistance for worship facilities and even construction of roads, this has become a social phenomenon in society which later became the theme of this research. This research was carried out using a normative juridical approach, while the problem identification was 1) what are the forms, methods and potential impacts of money politics in village head elections? 2) What efforts can be made by policy makers in tackling the problem of money politics? In its implementation, often money politics in the Pilkades implementation cannot be resolved in accordance with the applicable legal regulations with various existing problems.

**Keywords:** Democracy, Pilkades, and Money Politics

## 1 Introduction

The village head election is generally a manifestation of the democratic joy felt by the Indonesian local government. It is accomplished by choosing a formal leader candidate who will serve as the village's highest leader for a specific time. Based on Law Number 6 of 2014 Concerning Villages, H. Nasuka asserts that village head elections are a way of citizen sovereignty within the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. It is anticipated that by holding elections, the populace will be able to select leaders who will improve their lives. All citizens participate in this local democracy's system of government, which is represented by the House of Representatives.

The village head election procedure has undergone numerous alterations to reflect socioeconomic advancements and a democratic setting. A variety of laws addressing social difficulties in rural areas have been passed throughout the reformation era, including the rules for selecting village leaders. Laws, ministerial regulations, or re-

gional restrictions may apply where the village is located [1]. The regulations are intended to raise the bar and sense of democracy in the selection of the village leader. The introduction of village head elections is therefore predicted to produce village leaders who are accountable, qualified, and capable of raising the standard of village governance for the benefit of the populace.

The implementations of village head election are in line with several regulations, i.e., a) Articles 31 of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, b) Government Regulation Number 43 of 2014 concerning Regulations for Implementing Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, c) Article 49 of Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 112 of 2014 concerning Village Head Elections, d) Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 65 of 2017, e) Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 110 of 2016 concerning village council, f) Regional Regulation of Cianjur Regency Number 5 of 2015 regarding village head election amended by Regional Regulation of Cianjur Regency Number 11 of 2019, Regulation of Cianjur Regent Number 41 of 2015 concerning the guideline enforcement of Cianjur Regency Regional Regulation Number 5 of 2015 concerning village head elections.

Even though the average standard of living in Indonesia is below average, some candidates for village head positions engage in money politics by handing voters money throughout their campaigns. It is used as a potent tool to win over local supporters and win their election as village chiefs. Additionally, it is demonstrated by citing a variety of motives, such as altering working hours or doing alms. However, the use of money politics in village head elections is a competitive field.

It saddens that some village head candidates assume that the more money given to prospective voters, the greater the probability that village head candidates will be elected. It happens because the money given to the prospective voters will determine who they will vote for in the village head elections. It is the origin of money politics. The community as prospective voters should be aware that money politic practice is not allowed in the village head election. The money politic practice is a negative aspect of village head elections conducted by village head candidates as a leap in local democracy even though it reflects a unilateral interpretation of the benefits and process of selecting village heads. The process is often seen as citizens' democratic euphoria interpreted as meaning that the citizens have the right to do anything they wish, including anarchic actions, either on their own initiative or those mobilized by prospective candidates and their supporters or encouragement from the third parties (financiers) nominating prospective candidates. For the citizens, village head elections are often interpreted as an opportunity to share some money. In addition, the citizens as candidate voters know well that each prospective candidate provides sufficient budget to win the election competition.

Village head elections at the Cianjur Regency will take place in 77 villages distributed across 28 subdistricts, and 300 candidates may run in these elections. On July 17, 2022, a village head election was held. The possibility for the practice of money politics is one of the issues with the village head elections. Because the crime is thought to exist in this instance, the terms potential or potency are used. The current regulations haven't been able to handle it, though, successfully. The author plans to examine the study on "the potential for money politics in simultaneous village head election

contestations based on the perspective of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages," using the example as an example.

### **1.1 Identification of Research Problems**

The above description depicts the village head elections held at Cianjur Regency in 2022. In this case, the author explored the phenomena through a study with identification of the following problems:

What are the background, methods, and potential impacts of money politics in village head elections?

What efforts are being made by the Regional Government in anticipating and tackling the potential for money politics in the implementation of simultaneous village head elections in Cianjur Regency in 2022?

## **2 Discussion**

### **2.1 Simultaneous Village Head Elections in 2022**

The election of the village chief represents the residents' sovereignty in the villages by allowing them to choose the chief directly, typically, freely, secretly, openly, and fairly. Village heads are directly elected by Republic of Indonesian citizens who reside in the villages and meet the conditions for a term of six years beginning on the day of the induction, according to Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages. In addition, each village head has the opportunity to officiate a maximum of 3 consecutive terms or not consecutively. The latest development from the House of Representatives of the Indonesia Republic discussing changes to the Law on Villages agreed on a 19-point of the Issues Inventory List to revise Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages. One of the materials changed in the law is the village head's office term, previously projected from 6 years of office term and can be elected three times to 9 years of office term and can be elected for two terms.

The village head election is implemented by voting the image of the village head candidate at the polling station. Village heads have been elected in various regions in Indonesia to create a fair and honest democratic system. It is conducted to organize a better government in the future and escalate citizens' prosperity. It is in line with the concept of democracy, stating from the citizens, by the citizens, and for the citizens [2].

In addition, the village head election is part of the political process to strengthen community participation in realizing significant changes at the village level. National democracy will be sturdy if it is supported by democracy at the lowest level, the village. The village head election illustrates the village community historically that from the beginning the community has been directly involved in politics. Thus, the village head election becomes an interesting discourse. It is undeniable that community involvement in the village head election system can develop enthusiasm for democratic life.

The Cianjur Regency Regional Regulation Number 11 of 2019 pertaining to amendments to Regional Regulation Number 5 of 2015 focused on village head elections is the reference for the simultaneous election of village heads at Cianjur Regency in 2022. In addition, village head elections are carried out by referring to Article 7, consisting of a) preparation; b) nomination; c) voting; and d) determination.

The village head elections' implementation process begins with planning. On the basis of the Regent's Decree, this stage is carried out by creating the village head election committee at the district level. When the term of the village head office expires in a given year, the Village Council establishes the committee of head village elections. The election committee is tasked with planning every step of the simultaneous village head elections by using the example of Article 7 from above. The preparation phases begin with defining the voting rights of voters (temporary voter list and fixed voter list), registering candidates for village head, running for office, holding the village head election, and counting votes.

The campaign and pre-election phases of the village head election are those that show the likelihood of money politics. A person, campaign team, or political party will engage in pre-election activity known as campaigning to support their candidate and increase support for them in the village head election. Additionally, it is anticipated that via the campaign, eligible voters will recognize the village head candidate well and comprehend the vision and objective of the village head candidate they are endorsing.

Several media types are applied for campaigns, i.e., banners, billboards, YouTube, and social media. Moreover, at the campaign stage, head village candidates often use public facilities for campaigns. This stage has the potential for money politics. Besides, the pre-election is also an arena for potential money politics, considering that the geographic locations of the villages in Cianjur Regency are broad and far apart from one location to another, between one neighborhood association and another in one village. Therefore, it requires transportation from the voters' houses to the polling places. The village head candidates usually take the initiative to provide some transportation means by bargaining for voters, directly or indirectly.

Based on the *modus operandi* illustrated above, money politics is carried out overtly by providing basic necessities to prospective voters. In rural communities, it is known as the dawn attack. Village head candidates carry out the dawn attack by giving groceries or money to prospective voters just before going to the polling stations with one condition prospective voters must choose a particular village head candidate who is a perpetrator of money politics. However, the models of money politics are difficult to prove because neither the giver nor the recipient will admit that they are involved in money politics. In addition, all parties have an interest. In this case, village head candidates as perpetrators of money politics or citizens possessing voting rights as recipients of money politics.

It serves as an example of the possibility of money politics developing during the simultaneous village head election procedures in Cianjur Regency in 2022. Given the difficulty of law enforcement monitoring in demonstrating the crime in village head elections, the use of money in politics has never been demonstrated under the applicable law.

### **The Evaluation Results of Village Head Election in 2022**

Evaluation is measuring and improving the quality of activity by comparing and analyzing activity results. To ensure that operations go as planned and that goals are met as effectively as possible, regular evaluation is required. The term evaluation derives from an English term which means assessment. According to A.D. Rooijakkers, the definition of evaluation is an attempt to determine value carried out specifically based on quantitative data and measurement results for decision-making purposes.

In addition, Kelsey and Herney argue that the objectives of evaluation, i.e. 1) determining the starting point of a program; 2) indicating how far progress has been made as a result of program implementation; 3) indicating whether the program is conducted appropriately or not; 4) showing the effectiveness of the program; 5) helping identify weak points in program implementation; 6) as a direction for escalating skills and collaboration with local potential; 7) proving the planning systematics; 8) providing satisfaction in planning, implementation, and assessment.

Through various stages of monitoring, evaluation of the concurrent village head elections in Cianjur Regency, carried out by the district-level village head election committee, Community and Village Empowerment Service for Cianjur Regency, and the Director General of Village Government Development at the Ministry of Home Affairs, had been accomplished. During the village head elections in 2022, it was performed online by video conference, and a live event was held in the Garuda Hall, Cianjur Regency.

The village head elections were monitored in 28 sub-districts out of thirty-two sub-districts holding village head elections. Seventy-seven villages participated in the village head elections, with 300 village head candidates and a maximum of 5 candidate pairs. Moreover, there are 900 polling stations used in the village head elections. In addition, ten villages were prone to conflict. Thus, at each polling station, there were two soldiers, two police, and two civil servants as an anticipatory effort during the village head elections.

By referring to Regional Regulation 11 of 2019, the budget for village head elections recommended by the Local Government Budget for Cianjur Regency in 2022 was Rp. 20,000,000.00 for each village. In addition, the costs were added by Rp. 5,000.00 for each citizen and multiplied by the number of citizens possessing suffrage and the costs for carrying out the academic selection. These costs were the responsibility of each prospective village head candidate consisting of more than five people. This is a summary of the assessment made at the simultaneous village head elections in Cianjur Regency.

Furthermore, the post-election evaluation of the simultaneous village head elections was carried out by the District Legislative Council of Cianjur Regency by inviting the organizers, supervisors, and partners of the Law Faculty of Suryakencana University held in the hall of District Legislative Council of Cianjur Regency. The report included several suggestions for enhancing the simultaneous village head elections the next year. Additionally, the Cianjur Regency's Community and Village Empowerment Service evaluated the execution of village head elections through discussion forums as the top sector for staging simultaneous village elections in 2022. Participants in the discussion included partners from Suryakencana University's Faculty

of Law and village, sub-district, and district-level election organizers. The forum's recommendations included ways to improve future simultaneous village head election implementation and address the potential for money politics in the conduct of the subsequent simultaneous village head election. These recommendations were made in order to advance the implementation of simultaneous village head elections.

### **The Background of Money Politics in the Simultaneous Village Head Elections in 2022 at Cianjur Regency**

According to Juliansyah, employing material incentives to persuade other people is known as money politics. Additionally, the act of distributing money that belongs to either individuals or parties in order to influence voters' votes is referred to as money politics. This includes the buying and selling of votes during the political process or election process. Money and politics are two English words that are related etymologically. Based on the two concepts, it can be said that money politics is, etymologically speaking, money used unlawfully in politics. Meanwhile, bribe money is used in Indonesian political finance. Thus, using money to influence certain decisions is known as money politics. Money is being used in this instance as a technique to persuade a voter to choose a particular candidate for village head [3].

Moreover, Yusril Ihza Mahendra clearly defines money politics as an effort to predispose related parties during the election period using material rewards. Besides, Hamdan Zoelva states that money politics is an effort to affect voters' behavior to choose a particular candidate in exchange for material goods (money or goods). In addition, money politics is an attempt to influence organizers with certain rewards to steal or inflate votes, including buying votes from particular participants or candidates. Money politics is different from political costs. In this case, the political cost is the reasonable cost of winning and is legal by law.

Similarly, Johny Lomulus stated that money politics is a policy and act of giving a certain amount of money to voters or political party leaders to take part as a definitive regional head candidate and the voting public to cast their votes for the candidate providing the payment or assistance [4]. Compared with Gary Goodpaster's statement that money politics is part of the corruption in electoral processes, including presidential, regional head, and legislative elections [5]. The difference between both experts focuses on the occurrence of corruption. In this case, Johny Lomulus argues that money politics is corruption packaged with a policy. Meanwhile, Gary Goodpaster's opinion is that money politics is corruption taking place in implementing elections. It is one of the two experts' different concepts of money politics.

In general, all prospective candidates are too eager to win the simultaneous village head election contestation in 2022, and their victory is attained through various efforts including attempts to carry out money politics with various risks. This is the background to the occurrence of money politics in the implementation of simultaneous village head elections at Cianjur Regency in 2022.

### **Government Policy in Anticipating the Potential of Money Politics in the Simultaneous Village Head Elections in 2022 at Cianjur Regency**

According to Anderson, a policy is a course of action with a goal established by a person or group of people for resolving a problem or issue. Policy implementation should be based on the law so that it has the authority to make citizens willing to obey it. Meanwhile, Miriam Budiardjo argues that policy is a set of decisions taken by individuals and political groups to choose goals and the methods used to realize these goals. According to B.N. Marbun and Benedictus Nahot Marbun, a policy is a set of concepts and values that serve as the framework and foundation for organizing and carrying out a task, as well as a statement of ideals, principles, aims, or intents that serve as guides for achieving that objective.

Meanwhile, the Government's Policy in anticipating money politics in the simultaneous village head elections in 2022 at Cianjur Regency is manifested through various approaches, i.e.

Implementation of legal counseling policies and dissemination to villagers who are willing to take part in simultaneous village head elections either through formal activities at the village office or regular recitation activities in each of the neighborhood on an ongoing basis;

The village head election committee at the district level, along with the village level committee and the village head election committee at the sub-district level, implements the policy. It entails potential candidates distributing information on the detrimental effects of money politics and ready-to-win and ready-to-lose agreements they have signed in front of the Village Committee and District Committee.

It details the measures made by the regional government to foresee the possibility of money politics when the simultaneous village head elections in Cianjur Regency in 2022 are implemented.

### **3 Closing**

#### **3.1 Conclusion**

The village head election represents the exercise of the inhabitants' sovereignty to choose a village head in a way that is generally free, private, honest, and impartial. The village head is directly elected by the villagers who have the status of Citizens of the Republic of Indonesia and who meet the conditions with an office term of 6 years, according to Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages. The adoption of simultaneous village head elections in Cianjur Regency in 2022 creates a number of issues that will require more extensive answers in the future, with the main concern in this study being the possibility for money politics.

In general, all prospective candidates who are very eager to win the simultaneous village head election contestation in 2022 serve as the main source of money politics in the Cianjur Regency. Their victories are attained by a variety of risky financial political maneuvers.

A policy of legal counseling and outreach to village residents who will conduct simultaneous village head elections through both formal activities at the village office

and routine recitation activities at each neighborhood on a regular basis is how the Cianjur Regency Government anticipates money politics being practiced in the simultaneous election of village heads at Cianjur Regency in 2022.

The village head election committee at the district level implements the policy with the help of committees at the sub-district and village levels. It entails potential candidates distributing information on the detrimental effects of participating in money politics and ready-to-win and ready-to-lose agreements they sign in front of the Village Committee and District Committee.

This article presents the research findings on the possibility for money politics in the implementation of simultaneous village head elections in 2022 using a variety of alternative solutions and through a variety of current and future laws. In order for future village head elections to go easily and successfully, it is done to improve the stakeholder quality, in this case, the village head election committee.

### 3.2 Suggestions

Referring to the various discussions and illustrations above, the authors provide notes as suggestions for improving the implementation of simultaneous village head elections in 2024 and 2025, especially in overcoming potential money politics in the future, including:

There is a commitment of all prospective candidates through massive outreach efforts concerning money politics to all voters involving prospective candidates and the stakeholders involved;

There is an institutionalization of commitment through an agreement not to engage in money politics in the future village head election.

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