



# The Power Of Political Party Elites In Determining The Nomination Pairs Of Regional Head Candidates

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**Abstract.** This study aims to determine the role of the power of the party elite in determining the nomination of regional head candidates. The type of research used is qualitative with a case study approach. Data was obtained through primary and secondary data and in-depth analysis. Data collection techniques used to understand the understanding of subjects with in-depth interviews and tracing related documents, the author sees the role of party elites in determining the nomination of candidates for regional heads as very large by not providing full legitimacy of regional administrators in determining candidate pairs, this results in a weakening of the function of parties at the regional level in carrying out their functions as political recruitment. The freedom of political parties at the regional level should be given the flexibility to determine the direction of support because regional administrators better understand the needs of the people in each region. One case example occurred in the 2018 Makassar City regional election by winning an empty box and defeating a large coalition of political parties. This occurred as a form of public resistance against the central party elite and elites outside the party in determining the nomination of candidates for the 2018 Makassar City election.

**Keywords:** Elite, Party, Regional elections, Power.

## 1 Introduction

This paper focuses on the role of political party elites in determining pairs of candidates for regional heads at the local level. Every implementation of regional head elections has an elite influence in determining the nomination of pairs of regional head candidates, is very dominant, and is full of high dynamics. The role of elites in political parties has enormous power, this is due to the power possessed by each elite of the political party. In recent decades, social scientists have increasingly paid attention to the role played by both business and social elites [1]. A series of experimental studies over the past two decades have shown that elites and the public have fundamental dif-

related to elites, among others, studies on how social structures and elite relations affect the lives of individuals [3] and studies on the institutionalization of Huntington's political parties. According to Huntington, the institutionalization of political parties is a process of organizing and procedures to achieve stability and certain values. In this case, the Randal and Svasand framework can measure the extent to which political parties institutionalize themselves [4]. Four indicators can be used as a tool to measure the level of institutionalization of political parties. First is the system, which looks at how the party manages the power structure. The analyzed in this dimension include (1) internal structure power, (2) succession regulation, (3) decision-making process, (4) relation between the central lead and regional branches, and (5) regularization of access to financial resources.

**Table 1.** Dimensions of Party Institutions

Dimension	Internal	External
Structural (formal)	System	Autonomy in making decisions
Behavior (informal)	Value Internalization	Reification

Second, autonomy in making decisions, which looks at the degree of autonomy of political parties over other institutions. In this case, the degree of autonomy can mean two things: first, the extent to which autonomous political parties in the party financing process do not depend on other institutions or actors outside the party. Second, the extent to which political parties are autonomous in the policy process is not influenced by institutions or actors outside the party. Third is value internalization, which examines how political parties become infused or embedded in a value used as a reference in every decision-making. Simply, it can be interpreted that political parties act according to their ideology. Fourth, reification, which is to see the extent to which political parties have succeeded in shaping public perceptions related to the policies they carry. Specifically, it can be interpreted as a bond between a political party and its members at the root of the *rumut* so that the identity of the political party, or party id, is formed. This study has several problems, namely, identifying political party elites, the selection process of candidate pairs, factors that influence decisions, and local political dynamics. From the formulation of this problem, the author will develop and describe who is the elite in a political party, whether the political party elite is the head of a political party, a person who has power other than a political party, or a person who is outside a political party but has a strong relationship or influence with the head of a political party. This elite identification influences the decision-making process in determining the nomination of pairs of candidates for regional heads. The process carried out in political parties related to decision-making on the nomination of pairs of candidates for regional heads can be studied in the institutional approach of political parties.

## 2 Research Methods

This research was conducted in Jakarta and Makassar because Jakarta is the center of political party activities in determining the nomination of regional head candidate pairs. Makassar City is an example of a unique and rare case in the 2018 regional head election. The type of research used is qualitative with a case study approach. The criteria for subjects chosen in research are based on understanding and experience, assuming it is inseparable from experience, knowledge, space, and time related to the object under study. Data collection techniques were used to understand the understanding of subjects with in-depth interviews and document searches related to the nomination process of pairs of candidates for regional heads [12].

## 3 Results and Discussion

This research focuses on elites and party institutionalization in the process of determining the nomination of regional head candidate pairs determined by certain elites. In some political parties, the role of political party leaders is very dominant, while political parties determining the nomination of regional head candidate pairs is left to a structural mechanism. In addition to the internal party elite who are very influential, there are also elites outside the political party who are quite influential in determining the nomination of regional head candidates. The elite outside this political party is a group of people with economic and social influence. In terms of the institutionalization of political parties, the decision-making process in determining the nomination of pairs of candidates for regional heads for a political party will provide an overview of how political parties become an organization that works under mechanisms and is always sensitive to changes and demands of the community, as developed by Huntington (2011) namely party institutionalization is an organizing process and procedure to achieve stability and certain values. The institutionalization of political parties has a relationship with the political party elite itself because the obstacles to the success or failure of political party institutionalization are carried out by poor elites and systems, especially in the decision-making process of determining the nomination of pairs of regional head candidates. An example of the case in the direct election of regional heads in Makassar in 2018 is how political elites and political parties did not understand and know the political reality, so empty boxes won in the mayoral election. This provides an overview of the process of determining the nomination candidates for regional head candidates, which is managed only by a handful of party elites and influenced by elites outside the party.

The role of political parties has contributed significantly to the national and local political system, especially in the dynamic and changing life of Indonesian society. Suppose the capacity and performance of political parties can be increased in capacity, quality, and performance. In that case, it can realize the aspirations and will of the people and improve the quality of democracy. Strengthening political parties in Indonesia can be done at three levels: grassroots, central, and government, so that the synergy of

political parties from local to central levels runs well, including in the political party recruitment process.

The recruitment model of political parties is generally carried out openly and privately by each party's Bylaws (ADRT). Openly political parties provide opportunities for every best son and daughter of the nation, both from within the party and those from non-parties, to follow the selection process with various stages of selection carried out by party administrators at the DPC level at a grassroots level, submitting several names to the DPD to be carried out verification. After that, the names are submitted to the central level, namely the DPP, to get party recommendations. The recruitment system is closed through the appointment system without going through the election process so that political processes are carried out internally. Structurally, the pattern of political party recruitment in Indonesia is hierarchical, which means that all processes are carried out from the DPC/DPD level to the central level of the DPP as a recommendation holder. Seeing these processes, the dominance of central power determines the direction of greater support so that at the local level, only the selection process is carried out.

Strengthening politics at the grassroots level should be the spearhead of the party; they are the ones who are directly in contact with society in general. The management of political parties at the grassroots will ultimately determine the strength of weak support for the party. Maintaining supporter loyalty is a major problem for political parties at the grassroots level. Here, the party's role at the central level should not only be an umbrella for party activities at the grassroots level but also as a supporter of party workers' activities in various interests. Whatever policies are taken must be communicated to the party at the grassroots level and transformed into multiple policies by prioritizing the people's interests.

The victory of the empty box in the Makassar City Regional Election should be a record of democracy that party elites must use as experience in determining candidates for regional heads in each region. Elite power in centralized decision-making impacts the party's failure to win political contestation. This is due to political interests and lobbying factors, even political dowries by elites outside the party. Ideally, political parties should go through the political process in carrying out party functions, namely conducting political recruitment. In carrying out these functions, of course, to achieve the goals of political parties by involving and increasing political participation of the community to be actively involved in political administration.

The openness of political parties in conducting the recruitment process will have a more significant impact, especially in presenting candidates for qualified regional heads who have leadership spirit and are prospective leaders who can improve society. This can be achieved if regional administrators entirely give legitimacy to determine candidates or carry candidate pairs in political contestations at the local level. This is because party administrators at the regional level or Regional Management Council (DPD) better understand who candidates have the capacity, credibility in winning political contests, and regional administrators better understand the community's needs and what kind of leader the community wants. The legitimacy of political parties in determining candidates for regional heads requires a long preparation starting from the recruitment process to the determination of candidates, the hard work of political parties in addition to personal branding in forming actors including increasing popularity, and electability,

acceptance is needed to attract public sympathy as voters. The existing party machine in the regions continues to work so that the candidates win political contests. The central management must provide full support without interfering with the recruitment process and determination of nominations carried out by regional administrators, which often occurs in various regions, especially Makassar, divisions or differences in views between the Central Management Council (DPP) and the Regional Management Council (DPD) in determining candidates, So that the party machine that should synergize and work optimally instead raises different support maps, resulting in defeat. This is what happened in the Makassar City election in 2018.

A political phenomenon that often occurs before the regional elections is the decline of party ideology, which we can see through the recruitment process that occurs in several political parties. The nomination process no longer comes from within the party, but the recruitment process is carried out openly so that cadres who have been prepared long in advance are eliminated by the open recruitment process, especially candidates who come from non-parties, So that the practices of cooperation between parties are elementary to form, and can raise money politics issues or what is familiar to the ear, namely the existence of political dowries that candidates must give for regional heads to political parties, of course, this can be said to be one of the triggers of internal conflicts between party officials. A form of disappointment can occur because we can see a party cadre who has raised the party, built solid sympathizers, had to withdraw from the candidacy market because he did not get support from his internal party. So, what happened was that a candidate chose to move away from the party. Ideally, political parties give cadres the greatest freedom to build political communication between parties in forming coalitions in the community and let the people make choices through political surveys as to whether or not a cadre should be nominated as a candidate for regional head.

Reflecting on the Makassar City Regional Elections, the victory of the empty box in 2018 became an example of public criticism of political parties in carrying out their functions as political recruitment functions. At the beginning of the registration process the Regional Management Council (DPD) had its internal cadre candidates to be carried as candidates for Mayor of Makassar, namely the Muhammad Ramdan Pomanto-Indira Mulya Sari (DIA MI) couple, but what happened at the end of the registration of candidate pairs was 10 of the 11 political parties that Having a seat in the Makassar City DPRD gives support to only one pair of candidates, namely Munafri Arifuddin-drg A.Rahmatika Dewi (Appi Cicu), so the author can see that the power of the central elite and elites outside the party greatly influences the political process in the regions, especially in determining the nomination of candidates for regional heads.

The party's institutionalization process, as proposed by Huntington [8], is largely determined by how organized and procedural it is in achieving certain degrees and values. Therefore, when political party elites and elites outside political parties dominate in determining the pair of candidates for regional heads in each regional head election, this shows that there is no process of institutionalization of political parties and makes political parties unable to be part of improving and maintaining the quality of democracy that is the ideal of reform.

## 4 Conclusion

The conclusion from the explanation above is that the decision-making process for the nomination of pairs of candidates for regional heads is determined by party elites and elites outside the party and is directly proportional to the absence of party institutionalization because most of it is determined by elites, not based on existing systems and values. The institutionalization of the party would not have been possible if the influence of the main elite, the party chairman, was so dominant in every decision-making process of the political party. Elites and party institutionalization are not separated because elites are the main actors in institutionalizing political parties. So far, the process of determining the pair of candidates for the regional head has been influenced more by factors outside the party's institution. By looking at the example of the regional head election in Makassar in 2018, where only one pair of candidates and the dominance of party support was centralized in one pair of candidates but ultimately lost to an empty box, The problem of institutionalizing political parties can be a starting point for efforts to build a better and modern party system.

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