

The Importance of Participatory Supervision For Political Education For First-Time Voters to Increase Voter Participation in The 2024 Simultaneous Elections

Lilies Pratiwining Setyarini¹

Member of Bawaslu Surabaya City 2019-2023

ABSTRACT

The Community Service Program is carried out on grade XI high school students who are included in the category of novice voters to answer the problems: (a) novice voters who do not fully understand or are still confused about the meaning of elections and their role as voters, (b) novice voters, especially those who are high school students are still unstable and still need to need political introduction and education, especially about simultaneous elections in 2024, (c) limited socialization to novice voters in facing the 2024 simultaneous elections, and (d) low voter participation rates in the Tuban Regency Regional Elections in 2020 (e) lack of understanding and limited information regarding the existence of election organizing institutions, especially Bawaslu. The purpose of this Community Service activity is to increase the participation rate of novice voters in Tuban Regency in the 2024 simultaneous elections. Education, coaching, and awareness activities for novice voters are carried out through Virtual Classes with the Zoom application. The results of this Community Service activity are expected to increase the participation rate of novice voters in Tuban Regency in the simultaneous elections in 2024.

KEY WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS: Participatory Supervision, Novice voters, Concurrent elections 2024

INTRODUCTION

In the near future, there will be a democratic party event in Indonesia, the 2024 simultaneous elections. The 2024 election consists of Legislative Elections (Pileg) to elect members of the DPR, DPD, Provincial DPRD, and District/City DPRD. Concurrently, the 2024 Indonesian Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections (Pilpres) and Regional Head Elections (Pilkada) 2024 will also be held. Based on factual and administrative verification, there are 17 political parties that have qualified to compete in the 2024 elections, consisting of nine parliamentary parties and eight non-parliamentary parties. Meanwhile, there are 548 regions that will hold simultaneous regional elections in 2024, with details of 37 provinces, 415 districts, and 98 cities.

The many types of elections that will be held together make political education important for first-time voters. The lack of awareness in understanding democracy and low political education for novice voters can certainly reduce the level of voter participation in the 2024 election (Almuntasor, 2022). In accordance with Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, citizens who have the right to vote are those who are 17 (seventeen) years old or older, married, or have been married. In terms of age, the beginning has the right to vote for those who are even 17 (seventeen) years old,

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namely those who are studying at the Senior High School (SMA) level. Currently, the birth of this age is the modern generation called the millennial generation, which ranges in age from 17-36 years (Fitri, 2021). In the 2020 Tuban Regional Head Election, the number of novice voters in the Tuban Regency reached 30.8% of the total DPT 942,519.

Table 1
Voter Turnout by Age in Tuban Regency in 2022

No.	Voter Age	Data	Number of Valid Votes	Number of Invalid Votes
1	17-30	216.861		
2	31-50	383.532		
3	51-100	342.126		
Total Amount		942.519	705.189	15.900

Source : Tuban district election commission, 2022

According to the data in Table 1, the number of invalid votes was sufficient in the Tuban regional election in 2020 was quite high. Of the number of invalid votes, there are also votes from novice voters. The existence of invalid votes and not exercising their right to vote in elections is a fairly complex problem in the sustainability of the development of the Tuban Regency and the State. One of the reasons is the lack of political education for the public, especially novice voters, as the beginning of contributing to Indonesia in electing people's representatives or state leaders.

Why do first-time voters get so much attention in every election? Because of their large number as voters or beacon-givers a. So in the context of political participation, as well as determining the direction and outcome of elections, their role is very important. The main challenge in elections for novice voters is money politics, which has the potential to occur in novice voters in rural to urban areas (Harjanta, 2021). So an effort is needed to overcome the problem. Therefore, the proposing team offers a solution to overcome this problem, namely by providing political education for novice voters in Tuban Regency High School (SMA), which is expected to increase the political participation rate of novice voters during the simultaneous elections in 2024 and prevent the use of voting rights with quality vote output.

As a reinforcement in increasing the output of quality political participation, political education and socialization of participatory supervision are needed to be aimed at novice voters who are currently studying at Tuban Regency High School (SMA). The delivery of political education is not only how in the process of voting, but novice voters are given extensive knowledge about what state institutions are, political practices, money politics, democracy, and defending the country, as well as the role of social media in politics and the role of Bawaslu's participatory supervision in preventing potential

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violations of the election stages. So far, social media needs to be more utilized in getting information about politics for first-time voters.

The selection of political education methods is intended for novice voters at Tuban Regency High School because novice voters still need to strengthen their understanding of elections and the effects of voting rights used during elections. So it is necessary for novice voters to know about the politics that exist in Indonesia and what the real democratic process is. In addition, it was also explained that participatory supervision involves various segments of society, one of which is novice voters as agents of change.

Tuban Regency itself is an area that will also be part of the simultaneous elections in 2024, where the election of Regent and Vice Regent will be held. In order to increase voter participation in the 2024 simultaneous elections, political education for novice voters is very urgent. A significant number, many first-time voters still need to fully understand or are still confused about the meaning of elections and their role as voters. So that it moved the Community Service Team of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences (FISIP) Unirow Tuban to hold a Webinar with the theme "Political Education for Novice Voters to Increase Voter Participation in the 2024 Concurrent Elections".

METHOD

Research more participants, the Community Service implementation method is carried out with education, coaching, and awareness through Virtual Class with the Zoom application for grade 11 students from SMA Negeri 1 Tambakboyo and MAN Negeri 1 Tuban. The selection of grade 11 students is because, in terms of age, their age is included in the category of Novice Voters. From the two high schools, ten people were taken per class to participate in the Zoom Meeting. The Community Service Team consisting of four people held socialization with Novice Voters in the 202 Concurrent Election 4 through the Zoom Meeting application. The Webinar material itself is broken down into four quite interesting themes, Novice Voters in the 2024 Concurrent Elections and the Role of Participatory Supervision, Being Smart Voters, Rules in Organizing the 2024 Concurrent Elections, and the Significance of Novice Voters' Votes in the 2024 Elections.

The ultimate goal of this socialization is to increase the knowledge of novice voters about the 2024 simultaneous elections, as well as their important role in the democratic party event. So that there is awareness among these novice voters to exercise their voting rights in the simultaneous elections in 2024.

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RESEARCH RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The involvement of first-time voters in elections is very important, given the considerable amount. They are always targeted in every election. Therefore, education for first-time voters is very important and increases their awareness to be actively involved in overseeing the electoral process. Educating first-time voters is important because they are considered the most vulnerable to negative outside influences, resulting in them becoming apathetic and pragmatic towards elections. Political education is not only the task of election organizers, such as the KPU and Bawaslu, but the duty of all communities, such as Political Parties, NGOs, OKP, and other institutions, including academics. Involving all parties in socializing novice voters will produce smart voters. With the knowledge they gain, it will increase the political participation of first-time voters. In the next five years for them, one of them also depends on a leader who is successfully elected by all the people.

Participatory supervision is a program from Bawaslu that involves the community working together with Bawaslu as cadres to conduct supervision in their respective environments. Participatory supervision is one of the mandates of Law No. 7 of 2017 Bawaslu is tasked with increasing public participation in election supervision (Bawaslu.go.id, 2017). Based on 2019 data collected from Bawaslu, there were 5,985 receipts of findings from Bawaslu and 601 reports from the community that had been processed by Bawaslu. The low level of reports from the public to Bawaslu's findings indicates that there needs to be better public participation in monitoring and enforcing electoral justice (Bawaslu.go.id, 2019). The implementation of community service activities led by a team of lecturers from FISIP PGRI University Ronggolawe Tuban is part of the participants to provide political education to novice voters about the 2024 simultaneous elections. Enlightening Generation Z about Participatory Supervision for Novice Voters in the 2024 Concurrent Elections, Being Smart Voters, Rules in Holding the 2024 Concurrent Elections, and the Significance of Novice Voters' Votes in the 2024 Concurrent Elections.

After participating in this Community Service activity, it is hoped that class XI students will become smart voters. Where they have ensured that they are registered as permanent voters in the DPT (Permanent Voter List), there is a desire to obtain information and track records of candidates, find out the requirements of voters, actively follow developments about elections, and most importantly, not be absent. This activity is also carried out to conduct Voting Rights Guard Patrols by socializing Online DPT Checks to novice voters to be aware of their voting rights, namely ensuring they are included in the voter list in the 2024 Concurrent Elections. If they have not been registered in the voter list, they

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can make a public complaint at the Bawaslu Voting Rights Guard Post in their respective districts/cities. Especially first-time voters who are not currently 17 years old but when polling day already 17 years old who are very vulnerable and have yet to be registered in the list of potential voters.

The characteristics of first-time voters are very close to technology and internet, more tolerant and open-minded, critical and analytical, rational-minded and high enthusiasm, and thirsty for change. The significant of Novice Voter Voice is a category of young voters who are independent, critical, and rational. A significant number almost reached 50% of the total number of voters (DP4 Election 2019 data) nationally, so it could affect the election results. Novice voters also have a wide network, so issues brought to the millennial group easily reach the community. In addition, they have the power as a pressure group, so they are also called agents of change. Elections are a means to elect the people who will manage the State, formulate public policies, and protect and serve their people in an effort to achieve the democratic ideals of a just and prosperous and prosperous society. (Selvia, n.d.).

In this webinar, it was explained that Indonesia currently gets a demographic bonus where the productive age population (working age) is more than the unproductive. The productive age here is the working age, which is 15 to 64 years old. So the number of novice voters is quite a lot. Novice voters have been exposed to technology since the beginning of their birth, so the Political Party for Regent / Vice Regent Candidate will more effectively approach them using technology. Exposure to technology has a negative and positive impact on the voting behavior of Novice voters. The positive impact, as a means of campaigning, is quite effective because of technology; social media is part of their lives. The negative impact of using technology, in this case, for example, social media uncontrollably, will cause apathy/apolitical for novice voters. So that makes first-time voters in the future reluctant to vote. Even though one vote from Novice Voters will determine the journey of a country/region in the next five years. So that the votes of Novice Voters will be significant in their existence to participate in the election, the role of novice voters in elections can be through participation or participation in the implementation of elections.

It was also explained that the socialization of participatory supervision aims to create novice voters who are anti-logout and how to become rational voters who are anti-money politics, anti-hoaxes, and disinformation about elections. They must also understand how to be rational voters. It was also conveyed that to be a rational voter in this approach is assumed to have reasonable motivation, principles, education, knowledge, and information. Some indicators commonly used by voters to assess a candidate on members of the legislature, especially for officials who want to run, include the

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quality, competence, and cohesiveness of candidates in the legislature (Blais, Andr E and Robert You, 1999). Rational voters must also be able to distinguish between black campaigns and negative campaigns. Black campaigning is to accuse the opposing party of false or unproven accusations or through irrelevant matters related to his capacity as a leader. At the same time, negative campaigns are by showing the weaknesses and mistakes of political opponents (Sobari, 2017).

In this activity, it was also conveyed how to avoid black campaigns in the media, namely examining the reputation of the news delivery media, looking at the author of the article and its background, investigating the opponent's version of the story (competitors) this step was carried out to weigh the real story, so that a neutral middle version appeared, then the last one was prohibited from spreading rumors that were not yet clear the truth. The community service team also socialized sanctions for black campaigners, namely Article 280 paragraph 1 letter (c) of Law No. 7 of 2017, which states that Election Campaign Implementers, Participants, and Teams are prohibited from insulting a person, religion, ethnicity, race, group, candidate, and/or other Election Participants. And in Article 521 in Law No. 7 of 2017 that every implementer, participant, and/or election campaign team who deliberately violates the prohibition on the implementation of the Election Campaign as referred to in Article 280 paragraph 1 letter (c) shall be punished with a maximum imprisonment of 2 (two) years and a maximum fine of Rp. 24,000,000.00 (twenty-four million rupiahs).

This webinar also conveyed how novice voters can become participatory supervision cadres carried out by Bawaslu at the main and provincial district/city levels through recruitment as participatory supervision cadres in every region in Indonesia. Participatory supervision cadres are also required to socialize to prevent money politics in their respective regions by taking a dialogical approach to webinar participants on what is meant by money politics. The impact of money politics is to imply that in every election and regional election there is a transactional vote so as to create a patronage relationship (candidate or incumbent) with clients (people) or what is usually called a patron-client relationship (McMillan, in McLean and MacMillan (eds), 2003). This could result in corrupt government management and the resulting public officials' policies that are less representative and accountable, leaders who are pragmatic and lack integrity.

In addition, the team socialized the criminal impact that will be faced by money political actors. Based on Article 515 of Law No. 7 of 2017, any person who intentionally promises or gives money or other materials to voters so as not to exercise their voting rights in a certain way so that their ballots are invalid shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a maximum of 3 (three) years and a maximum fine of Rp.36,000,000.00 (thirty-six million rupiahs). The team also invited novice voters in the webinar

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to become reporters of alleged election violations they encountered in their neighborhoods by reporting to the Community Complaint Post (PAM) at the Bawaslu Office in their respective regions. Every public report that enters Bawaslu will be processed based on applicable laws and regulations.

CONCLUSION

The success of holding simultaneous elections in 2024 must be connected to the participation of novice voters because novice voters have a fairly significant number. The demographic orientation that occurs in Indonesia today, resulting in the composition of the young population, is large. This large number is an opportunity for all eligible participants who are running in the 2024 simultaneous elections to explore it, making it a target for vote gainers. There needs to be more than just making them a target to get them to vote in the local elections according to their intelligent minds. It takes political education and socialization to them about elections. And so far, these activities have been touched little by election participants. In fact, first-time voters are the future of our nation, our region. Mishandling them will result in apathy, ignorance, and ignorance of themselves so which can reduce their political participation and increase the number of absentees in elections.

With the delivery of material on participatory supervision, it is hoped to increase the participatory role of youth, especially novice voters, not to be apathetic to politics and absentee in elections. It even invites them to become the subject of whistleblowers if they encounter alleged election violations in their environment and are able to understand what an election organizing agency called Bawaslu is tasked with upholding electoral justice. There needs to be continuous action in an effort to provide political education for first-time voters. It is not enough to approach the election; in some activities, efforts can be inserted to equip them to become smart voters. As in the teaching and learning process in the classroom, in youth activities, social activities, and others.

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