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# **PUBLIC POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS IN BANDAR LAMPUNG**

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## ***Abstract***

*One indicator of electoral success is the high level of unapologetic participation of the public. High participation guarantees the legitimacy of government and protection of citizens' suffrage. In the 2019 concurrent elections, the low level of political participation in Bandar Lampung, Lampung Province, was low. Participation is important to be researched considering the success of an election can be seen from the level of community participation. Participation is closely related to legitimacy, the higher the level of voter participation in elections, the more legitimate the government it produces. Government supported by the majority of society naturally will be easier to get support for programs and policies to be implemented. The involvement of the public in the selection of his deputy allows for a process of check and balance between the political officials of the election results and their constituents so that the mandate rope between the two is not immediately severed. One indicator of electoral success then is the high level of public participation in voting. Therefore, this research in terms of political participation is an important aspect in the country involving the public in the implementation and implementation of elections. Because the political participation of the community is an important aspect in the order of the State of democracy.*

***Keywords: Participation, Elections, Country***

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **Overview of Public Political Participation in Elections**

Democracy is a system of government that places the people as the sole shareholder through the electoral process. General Elections (Elections) is a mechanism of filling political positions that are held periodically as an ideal means of channeling democratic people's sovereignty. Democracy is closely related to politics, because to realize a democratic country requires active political participation of citizens. As the main requirement of the creation of a universal democratic order, elections are institutions as well as political practices that enable the formation of a representative government. With elections, individuals have the

right to be elected as leaders or representatives of the people as well as the right to choose their leaders and representatives in the legislature.<sup>1</sup>

In a government that adheres to a representative democratic system, the level of voter participation plays an important role in determining the stability of government formed from the election results. Participation is closely related to legitimacy, the higher the level of voter participation in elections, the more legitimate the government it produces. Government supported by the majority of society naturally will be easier to get support for programs and policies to be implemented.

The involvement of the public in the selection of his deputy allows for a process of check and balance between the political officials of the election results and their constituents so that the mandate rope between the two is not immediately severed. One indicator of electoral success then is the high level of public participation in voting. The distribution of suffrage is a symbol of concern for the future of the nation and is an important moment where the people have the power to determine the future of the nation. Therefore, KPU as the organizer of the election has a big agenda to encourage public participation in every election.

Political participation is an important aspect of a Democratic state order. At the same time it is a characteristic of political modernization. In general, in traditional communities whose political leadership is more determined by a group of ruling elites, the involvement of citizens in participating in influencing decision-making, and affecting the life of the nation is relatively very small. Citizens who are only made up of simple people tend to be less accounted for in political processes.<sup>2</sup>

In relation to democracy, political participation affects the legitimacy of society towards the course of a government. In an election, for example, political participation affects the legitimacy of society to the spouses of elected candidates. Every society has its own preferences and interests to make their choice in elections. It can be said that the future of public officials elected in an Election depends on the preferences of the public as voters. Not only that, public political participation in elections can be seen as public control over a government. The controls given vary depending on the level of political participation of each. In addition to being the core of democracy, political participation is also closely

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<sup>1</sup> Erni Lestari. 2020. *The Role of KPU Kota Metro in Increasing Participation of People with Disabilities in the 2019 Simultaneous Elections*, Accessed 25-October 2020 At 11:55 pm

<sup>2</sup> Tia Subekti. 2020. *Participation of Poitik Masyarakat In General Election 2014*, accessed 24 October 2020 at 11:54 pm

related to the fulfillment of the political rights of citizens. A manifestation of the fulfillment of political rights is the freedom for every citizen to express their opinions and gather. As stated in the 1945 Constitution article 28: "the freedom of association and assembly to issue thoughts with oral and written and so on is stipulated by law".

The phenomenon that occurred today is still quite low political participation of the community itself in terms of the implementation of elections and many factors that cause the low political participation of the community itself, one of the main unsolved problems in the process of becoming a nation-state Indonesia after more than half a century is the establishment of a democratic political system that is sufficient and able to adapt to the process of change. In addition, the emergence of the problem of public relations gaps and candidate candidates for elections in the region and the center further weakens the political participation of the community itself. The threats to political stability prompted the majority of the public not to participate in the elections to participate in electing leaders because of the loss of public confidence in the people's representatives today.<sup>3</sup>

Elections are a political policy to and define the aspirations and interests of citizens related to political elections with political legitimacy, the creation of political representation, the circulation of political elites, and political education. Through the election the legitimacy of the government / businessman was confirmed because both are based entirely on the aspirations of the people and not because of coercion from above. Furthermore, through leadership and representative elections can be done more fairly because of the participation of citizens. The practice of modern democracy, i.e. through representation can be done entirely here directly. Thus, elections will also occur a more just change of power elite in accordance with the understanding of democracy that was anut by Indonesia in the Constitution of 1945.

Because it is the citizens who participate in determining directly who and who does not still meet the requirements. State control to official officials. Then finally elections are a mechanism or tool to conduct political education for their citizens so that they can exercise their rights and obligations. By being involved in the process of conducting elections, it is expected that citizens will get firsthand experience of how a citizen should participate in a democratic system. He will understand and decide his position as the sovereignty holder that determines the movement and travel of his nation and country.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Muhammad Hikam A.S. 1999. *Citizenship Politics Redemocratization Foundation In Indonesia*, PT Gelora Aksara Pratama, Jakarta, p. 1

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p.16-17

Therefore, this research in terms of political participation is an important aspect in the country involving the public in the implementation and implementation of elections. Because the political participation of the community is an important aspect in the order of the State of democracy. In relations with democracy, political participation affects the legitimacy of society towards the course of a government. In elections such as political participation affects the legitimacy of the community to the candidate or spouse of the elected candidate. Each community has their own references and interests to determine their choice in the election.

In an election, for example, political participation affects the legitimacy of the community or the spouse of the elected candidate. Every society has its own priorities and interests to choose their choice in elections. Not only that, public political participation in elections can be seen as public control over the government. The controls given vary depending on the stage of political participation. Political participation also meets in terms of fulfilling the political rights of citizens in the concept of a Democratic State. As stated in the 1945 Constitution passage 28: "freedom of association and assembly issue thoughts with oral and written and so on determined by law".<sup>5</sup>

Then, coupled with the current image of political parties in a teritis and normative ideal, the main tasks of political parties are to conduct political socialization, political recruitment cadreization, articulation of interests, and aggregation of interests. Articulation of interests is the duty of political parties and politicians absorb and accommodate the aspirations of the people which is then processed formulated so that it can be passed on to the executive (government). In addition, political parties are also an important element in the democratic political system, which serves as a "political machine" that is obliged to conduct political communication with the people, in the form of political public relations and political marketing, as well as to build a positive image on the people. It turns out that it also does not work as it should so that there is a gap between the people and their representatives. Therefore, public distrust of politicians as a result of the poor image of politicians and the lack of understanding of public politics is a concern.<sup>6</sup>

Interestingly for the author about Public Political Participation in Elections In Bandar Lampung city in increasing public political participation here judging from

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<sup>5</sup> Anwar Arifin Andipate. 2017. *Democracy Under Threat And Danger*, Nufa Citra Mandiri, Jakarta, p.1

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 95

the 2014 presidential election, pilwakot 2015, the 2018 elections did not meet the KPU target, but in the 2019 presidential election yesterday the level of public participation exceeded the target of the KPU itself. Here researchers will try to explore the phenomenon that occurred in the 2019 presidential election itself can reach and exceed the target of the KPU itself. Here are the previous research data that has been done related to the research that is now being authored by researchers:

**Table 1. Percentage and number of community participation in Bandar Lampung**

No	Election	Participation	Target KPU	Information
1	Pilpres 2014	74,55%	75%	Not Meet
2	Pilpres 2019	88,61%	77%	Past Target

(Sumber: Source KPU of Bandar Lampung City)

Udging from the data above the percentage of voter participation rate of the people of Bandar Lampung city has increased even though it has not reached the target of the KPU itself, which is interesting here in the 2019 presidential election has succeeded in increasing the political participation of the public bahkan exceed the target of the KPU itself. Based on the background explanation above, researchers want to further know the efforts and strategies of the KPU bandar lampung in increasing public political participation in the 2019 presidential election in general.

## II. DISCUSSION

Bandar Lampung City Election Commission is located on Jl. Sebesi Island No.90, Sukarame, Bandar Lampung City. The Electoral Commission (KPU) is a national, permanent, and independent electoral institution tasked with carrying out elections. KPU Province and KPU 45 Regencies / Cities are Election Organizers in provinces and districts / cities. The working area of the KPU covers the entire territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. KPU carries out its duties continuously and in organizing elections, KPU is free from the influence of any party related to the implementation of its duties and authorities.

### a. Vision :

The realization of KPU Bandar Lampung as an Election Organizer that has integrity, professional, independent, transparan and accountable to realize elections that are jurdil and dignified.

### b. Mission :



- 1) Build an election organizing institution that has competence, credibility and capability in organizing elections;
- 2) Organizing elections to elect Members of the House of Representatives, The House of Regional Representatives, the House of Regional Representatives, the President and Vice President as well as the Regional Heads and Deputy Heads of Regions directly, Publicly, Freely, Confidentially, Honestly, Fairly.
- 3) Serve and treat each election participant fairly to enforce election rules consistently in accordance with applicable laws and regulations;
- 4) Increase people's political awareness to actively participate in elections for the realization of the ideals of the democratic Indonesian people.

Mahan democracies or houses of democracy is a smart home and education center for voters ahead of the 2020 regional head elections. This election house is an idea of KPU RI who wants to have a program that focuses on providing literacy and learning to voters, "said chairman of kpu Bandar Lampung Dedy Triyadi, in Bandar Lampung. This house of democracy is a routine activity carried out by the KPU Bnadar Lampung city targeted the general public and especially students / students.

In smart homes elections / houses of democracy have a general and special purpose, the general objectives are:

1. Increase voter participation both in quality and quantity in the entire election process.
2. Become a center of information ownership

The Special Purpose of the house of democracy is: Educating the public on the importance of elections and democracy by:

- a) Introducing the basic values of elections and democracy (Pre-Voters);
- b) Improving understanding of the importance of democracy (All Segments);
- c) Instill awareness of democratic values (Entire Segment);
- d) To be a forum for community relations care about Elections and Democracy (Election Activists);
- e) The target of the house of democracy is the general public and all segmentation contained in the community.
- f) Target Frequency of Visits: Every House of Democracy in KPU, KPU Provinsi and KPU Kabupaten/Kota must receive a visit (audience) at least 2 times a month. The activities of the house of democracy is a routine activity of the KPU whose output will be reported to the central KPU in carrying out voter education activities.

Political participation is one of the hallmarks of political modernization and improving the socioeconomic status of the community resulting in clearer participation. Political participation literally means participation in a political context, Generally experts define, political participation is the activity of a person or a group of people to actively engage in politics The importance of political participation of this community in elections as one of the successes of the election itself. Therefore, there needs to be an evaluation in every election held once every 5 years to create success in holding elections in every region of Indonesia. <sup>7</sup>

Generally, experts define, political participation is the activity of a person or group of people to actively engage in politics that is to choose the leadership of the country together directly or indirectly. These activities include making choices during elections, attending political party campaigns, and becoming a member of politics or society. In this case the public should be involved in the success of each election judging by the political participation of the community itself to increase success in a democratic country in the form of direct elections held every 5 years to elect representatives of the people and the President of the Vice President both in the region and the center. <sup>8</sup>

**Table 2. Recapitulation of the number of participation in the 2014 presidential election**

No	Kecamatan	DPT	Prticipation	%
1	Kedaton	35.196	25.531	72,54%
2	Sukarame	38.529	38.529	77,63%
3	Tanjung Karang Barat	36.659	27.294	74,45%
4	Panjang	45.270	35.028	77,38%
5	Tanjung Karang Timur	24.672	18.299	74,17%
6	Tanjung Karang Pusat	33.416	24.785	74,17%
7	Teluk Betung Selatan	27.727	20.046	72,30%
8	Teluk Betung Barat	20.635	15.393	74,60%
9	Teluk Betung Utara	32.525	25.497	78,39%
10	Raja Basah	30.135	21.531	71,45%
11	Tanjung Senang	32.129	23.833	73,97%
12	Sukabumi	37.088	28.682	77,33%
13	Kemiling	43.012	34.281	79,70%
14	Labuhan Ratu	32.784	21.800	66,50%
15	Way Halim	44.091	31.683	71,86%

<sup>7</sup> Yalvema Miaz. 2012. *Political Participation, Pattern of Voter Behavior during New Order and Reform*, UNP Press, Padang p,20

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*,

16	Langkapura	21.898	17.222	78,65%
17	Enggal	18.567	13.239	71,30%
18	Kedamaian	33.050	24.498	74,12%
19	Teluk Betung Timur	27.811	20.950	75,33%
20	Bumi Waras	38.446	27.876	72,51%
<b>Amount</b>		<b>653.730</b>	<b>487.379</b>	<b>74,55%</b>

(Source : KPU of Bandar Lampung City)

**Table 3. Recapitulation of the number of election participation in 2019**

No	Kecamatan	DPT	Prticipation	%
1	Kedaton	31.039	28.075	90,45%
2	Sukarame	37.653	33.622	89,29%
3	Tanjung Karang Barat	34.864	31.864	91,40%
4	Panjang	43.208	38.435	88,95%
5	Tanjung Karang Timur	21.738	20.313	93,44%
6	Tanjung Karang Pusat	34.659	27.949	80,64%
7	Teluk Betung Selatan	27.668	22.729	82,15%
8	Teluk Betung Barat	22.042	19.189	87,06%
9	Teluk Betung Utara	20.499	27.907	91,50%
10	Raja Basah	28.283	25.688	90,82%
11	Tanjung Senang	33.922	29.558	87,14%
12	Sukabumi	38.099	35.178	92,33%
13	Kemiling	47.052	42.560	90,45%
14	Labuhan Ratu	29.593	25.051	84,65%
15	Way Halim	39.494	36.172	91,59%
16	Langkapura	24.143	21.728	90,00%
17	Enggal	16.523	13.915	84,22%
18	Kedamaian	33.877	28.818	85,07%
19	Teluk Betung Timur	21.738	20.313	93,44%
20	Bumi Waras	35.096	31.383	89,42%
<b>Amount</b>		<b>638.174</b>	<b>565.463</b>	<b>88,61%</b>

(Source : KPU of Bandar Lampung City)

Dedy Triyadi interview that the increasing political participation of the public in the last election in 2019 because Mahkamah Konsitei granted as a request for a material test of Law No. 7 Year 2017 on the general election article 210 paragraph 1 related to the maximum limit rules allowed voters to move TPS. The Constitutional Court ruled the deadline for voters to take care of the move was seven days before the vote on April 17, which in the previous rule was a 30-day management deadline. In doing the move to vote that was done by taking care of

the A5 voters han ya bsa and got 2 ballots from 5 ballots available in the last election 2019, namely gray ballots for the President and Vice President, Yellow to choose DPD RI.

Dedy Triyadi said the chairman of KPU Kota Balam socialized the community to conduct literacy and education related to intelligent voters of rational voters who chose because it is not something or *pracmatis* but in its implementation this political party also gave the promise of political promises by providing food, money etc. that made the implementation in the field that the public chose with political awareness but chose because there is something that affects the participation of the community itself.

In view of the behavior of voters there are 4 components of voter behavior in the research of KPU Kota itself in the last Election 2018 as follows:

1. Voters who are Anpolitical White Class who do not believe in Politics is about (10 %);
2. Contingency Voters (10%);
3. Ideologically who voted because of tribal family organizations etc. around (15 %);
4. Pre-observed Voters (35%)

But there are still many rational voters in Bandar Lampung who see the vision of the mission to see the concept and work program of each mayoral candidate (30%). This is the *tanatangan* KPU Bandar Lampung rational voter numbers or intelligent voters called by the KPU that must continue to be done *leterasi* education and socialization to choose it is not because of something but indeed our own political rights.

The formation of democratic volunteers in each district / city is limited to only 55 people with the aim of increasing voter participation and lowering the number of unauthorized votes. The way they are tasked to go down to the distribution area to socialize to the community about what has been run by the KPU, as well as that has been run by the KPU, as well as explain the importance of community participation in democratic parties.

Democratic volunteer program formed by KPU Bandar Lampung city and recruited in general consisting of 9 *seksmentasi* as follows:

1. Representing novice voters of students and students;
2. The family base consists of religious and community leaders;
3. Religious leaders;
4. Community leaders;
5. Voters with disabilities;

6. Marginal groups;
7. Women's groups;
8. Netizen celebgrams;
9. Community groups of cultural sports etc.,

Democratic volunteers' job is to help socialize to increase public political participation in the 2019 elections.

KPU Bandar Lampung launched the 2020 election information system application. The application, named Democracy Gate, contains information-related content and stages of the Bandar Lampung regional elections. Chairman of KPU Bandar Lampung Dedy Triyadi said the application that can be downloaded in this playstore is a breakthrough kepeMiluan services carried out by his party.<sup>9</sup>

This is one of the flagship programs in KPU Bandar Lampung in addition to the House of Democracy and Volunteer Democracy which is also a program of the KPU itself. This democratic gate application also makes it easier for the people of Bandar Lampung city to access the activities of KPU Bandar Lampung city and can see directly the propil of each of the Candidates for Mayor and Their Vision & Mission. The people of Bandar Lampung can also directly download this Democracy Gate application on the Play Store and App Store to be able to directly check if it has been registered in the DPT (Permanent Voter List).

Electal behavior or political behavior is the act or activity of a person or group in political activities. Suggesting that political behavior is an activity related to the process of making and political decisions. Political behavior is one element or aspect of behavior in general. In addition to political behavior, there are still other behaviors such as organizational behavior, cultural behavior, economic consumer behavior, religious behavior, and so on.<sup>10</sup>

### **III. CONCLUSION**

Based on the explanation above, the conclusion that can be taken is the political participation of the public in the Presidential election from 2014 to 2019 in Bandar Lampung city has increased judging from the table of political participation of the community processed by researchers from the KPU Bandar Lampung. Second, that there is an increase in public political participation in the 2019 Presidential elections under the influence of the ruling of the Supreme Council of Law No. 7 of

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<sup>9</sup><https://www.lampost.co/berita-kpu-bandar-lampung-luncurkan-aplikasi-gerbang-demokrasi.html> on Saturday, November 4, 2020 3:50 PM

<sup>10</sup> Yalvema Miaz. 2012, *Op.Cit.* p,41

2017 on the general election of article 210 paragraph 1 related to the maximum limit rules allowed voters to move TPS. Through taking care of a letter whose name is A5. So that people who are not domicile of Bandar Lampung can vote and have the right ballot of the President and DPD RI. The three KPU Bandar Lampung city is hampered in implementing 4 components of the voter group such as Golput, conservative, prakmatis, rational that is still high even though the KPU had anticipated the existence of the Volunteer Democracy program but it was less than maximum that should be optimized in helping the KPU run the program or socialist about the importance of public political participation at the time of the general election.

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