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Youth Participation in the Prevention of Regional Head Election Violations in the Contestation Dimension in Baubau City

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Abstrak

Youth participation is crucial in emerging democracies in Baubau City, where political knowledge and understanding are limited. Identity politics, including ethnicity and culture, often dominate conflicts, leading to collective frustration and dissatisfaction. The challenge of involving youth in political participation is not only mobilizing contestants but also assisting organizers in monitoring the course of the upcoming regional head elections. This research aims to direct the role of youth through participatory movements towards efforts to prevent violations in the dimension of contestation, specifically in the right to be elected, which may result in potential social insecurity in the community. This research uses normative legal research. Methodologically, this research is descriptive qualitative. The author uses data collection techniques with library research. The author's data analysis technique in this research uses logical and systematic analysis. The conclusion of this research is that youth voter participation is decreasing due to the disconnect between the political process and pressing issues. To empower the next generation, understanding the determinants and implementing outreach initiatives can empower them. Youth participation in regional elections, education, socialization programs, and the formation of cross-identity communities can prevent violations of identity politics and increase solidarity between different groups.

1. Introduction

The 1998 reformation has opened the democracy faucet as wide as possible, which was tightly closed during the New Order (Rokiyah & Setiawan, 2022). Indonesia is a heterogeneous country that requires an inclusive and tolerant attitude in order to live in harmony . However, with the implementation of direct elections in Indonesia, many hoaxes and black campaigns have emerged through open campaigns and mass media, this issue also tests the national insight and political

attitudes of youth in future regional head election campaigns (Hertanto et al., 2021). The overview of regional head elections in baubau city is still always coloured by agitation against candidates with certain ethnic, tribal and religious backgrounds, the sad thing is that politicians still also build their messages through careful branding because the power of symbols and cultural signs conveyed through brands is a powerful heuristic device (Susila et al., 2020). Baubau City is a city characterized by diverse and complex social life, but kinship politics in Baubau City still occurs in the political process (Dahlan et al., 2023).

This is particularly essential in developing democracies, where political knowledge and comprehension is still limited. Scientific analysis often overrules normative by using the term identity politics todescribe any mobilization related to politics, ethnicity, culture, and identity. Identity politics occupies a central position in most conflicts.Although, identity politics including (ethnicity and culture)should have been lost for a long time because, with all of them, development has nothingto do with social characteristics. The social aspects in question, such as political status andinfluence, are visible and explicitly monopolized by one group, resulting in collectivefrustration and dissatisfaction (Misran et al., 2021). Elections as one of the important instruments in democracy by emphasising the need for competition and participation that must be maintained properly, fairly, and accountably.

The participation that this research concentrates on is youth participation (Bawaslu RI, 2023), where as the millennial generation and Z generation they must be selective in looking at their electability and achievements in order to set a benchmark for success in leading the country (Hendrawati, 2024).In general, young people's knowledge of the political parties participating in the 2024 election is not even known in depth. The involvement of youth in political arenas and narrative building has become a debated topic among academicians, scholars and policymakers (Mashud et al., 2023). Youth voter have a fairly large amount, making it great potential for those who want to reap the vote in the election, the huge potential of youth in elections always goes hand in hand with apathy (Santoso, 2021). The apathy that afflicts young people is a significant problem that must be solved. This is considering they have intellectual capital that may trigger social change for the better. This transformation can occur if youth are engaged in every stage of the contestation (Marsuki et al., 2022). Youth participation in the political year is certainly not in doubt by mobilising and enlivening the Regional Head General Election (Pemilukada) (Satria et al., 2023). This youth participation can be classified as political participation. Political participation is an important aspect in a democratic state order as well as a hallmark of political modernization, the terminology of youth, if classified by generation, is within the scope of the millennial generation and generation z.. Millennials and Gen Z are said to consider politics to be unethical and dirty, notes that millennials are reluctant voters, widely perceived as apolitical and non-ideological. In addition, millennials have been labelled as the "Generation Me", with low empathy and lack of concern for others and little civic engagement, such as on social issues, government and politics (Dewi & Fuady, 2024).

Young voters' low level of political knowledge, which impacts political participation, is still a phenomenon today. The influence of political knowledge on young voters' behavior is still being debated, and there is little empirical evidence, especially regarding political knowledge and voting behavior enhanced through specific educational programs (Shadiqi et al., 2022). The challenge of involving youth

in political participation is certainly an instrument of great contribution, not only mobilised as a vote base for contestants but also assisting the performance of the organizers in monitoring the course of the upcoming regional head elections (Hamdani et al., 2021). regional head elections are often coloured by identity politics, which in situations like this, our style of democracy should be reflected as Pancasila democracy that respects differences . basically, elections should accommodate our opportunities for the community to choose with the value of quality and capability, not having to be influenced by identity politics, especially when it is done openly, be it directly in the Rejection of candidates with certain ethnic, tribal, and religious backgrounds in elections / elections (Candra et al., 2023).

The process of running this election is not solely seen from the technical and management aspects, there are also unavoidable political aspects that require negotiation of the implementation process of the stages that run with legal consequences that should also be considered by the actors involved, such as the involvement of youth described earlier such as their participation in stages concerning how civic education and electoral information is conveyed to the community. This research will focus on directing the role of youth through participatory movements towards efforts to prevent violations in the dimension of contestation, which will then be more specified in the sub-dimension of the right to be elected: phenomena or events or events that show rejection of candidates / election participants on the basis of gender, ethnicity, tribe, religion or race which results in potential social insecurity in the community, using indicators of rejection of candidates with certain ethnic, tribal and religious backgrounds in regional head elections.

2. Methods

This study uses normative legal research. Methodologically, this study is descriptive qualitative. The secondary legal materials used are journals and identification of related laws and regulations, namely Law Number 10 of 2016 concerning Regional Head Elections and Law Number 40 of 2009 concerning Youth. In this normative research, the author uses data collection techniques with library research. This study also involves critical analysis of various legal literature and related documents that are relevant to the topic being studied. In addition, the author applies a comparative approach to compare existing regulations with practices that take place in the field. With this approach, it is hoped that the gap between legal theory and its implementation can be identified, as well as providing constructive recommendations for improving future policies and practices.

Data collection techniques carried out by reading, studying, and recording books and writings related to the subject of the research are very important methods in understanding the context and background of the topic being studied. In relation to the title "Youth Participation in Preventing Election Violations: Dimensions of Contestation in Baubau City," this technique allows researchers to explore relevant literature on the role of youth in the political process and preventing election violations. By studying previous theories and findings, researchers can gain deeper insight into the dynamics of political contestation in Baubau City and how youth participation can affect integrity and compliance in the implementation of the Election.

This study uses data analysis techniques used by the author is logical and systematic analysis, which is designed to evaluate in depth the participation of youth in preventing Pilkada violations in Baubau City. This approach involves a critical and structured review of data to identify relevant patterns and relationships in the context of election contestation. By using logical analysis, the author can connect data findings with existing theories and concepts, while systematic analysis allows the author to organize data regularly, organize information based on relevant categories, and draw comprehensive conclusions. This approach helps understand how youth participation affects Pilkada violation prevention efforts, as well as providing insight into the dimensions of political contestation at the local level.

3. Findings and Discussions

3.1 The Concerning Trend of Rejecting Candidates Based on Identity in Regional Elections

In Baubau City, there is a worrying trend in which voters reject political candidates based solely on their ethnic, tribal or religious background, rather than evaluating their policy platforms and qualifications. This practice undermines the democratic process and can lead to the exclusion of entire communities from political representation. The excitement about this phenomenon based on researchers' observations is still being discussed by certain groups. What is most surprising is that the issue of identity has spread to discussions via social media platforms such as the Facebook media "*Ruang Diskusi Mencari Walikota Baubau*".

One of the main drivers of this phenomenon is the rise in identity-based politics, where Baubau city voters prioritize a candidate's group affiliation over the actual government agenda. There is a long history of tension and distrust between different ethnic groups or tribes during the regional head election process in Baubau city, which can manifest in voters reflexively opposing candidates from other backgrounds. The consequences of this tendency can be very severe. When voters systematically exclude certain candidates based on their identity, this can lead to the marginalization of entire communities and a lack of diversity in elected bodies. This, in turn, can exacerbate social and political tensions, as underrepresented groups feel that their interests are not being adequately accommodated.

Additionally, rejection of candidates based on identity rather than merit may result in the election of less qualified or capable leaders, who may focus more on identity-based politics than on effectively organizing and addressing the pressing issues facing their constituents. To counter this trend, it is critical that voters and political leaders prioritize evaluating candidates based on their policy platforms, qualifications, and vision for the region, rather than on their ethnic, tribal, or religious identities. This may require educational efforts to help voters understand the importance of considering the full scope of a candidate's background and experience, rather than relying on simple identity-based heuristics.

Additionally, political parties and civil society organizations can play an important role in promoting the inclusion of diverse candidates and challenging the narrative that certain identities are inherently incompatible with effective leadership. By encouraging a more inclusive and merit-based political landscape, we can work to ensure that all members of society have a fair and equal opportunity to participate in the democratic process. In condition, the rejection of candidates based on ethnic, tribal or religious background is an alarming trend that undermines the foundations

of democracy and can lead to the marginalization of entire communities. By prioritizing the evaluation of candidates based on their qualifications and policy platforms, and by encouraging the inclusion of diverse voices in the political realm, we can work to create a more just, equitable, and representative system of government.

Youth participation in the political year is certainly not in doubt by mobilising and enlivening the Regional Head General Election (Pemilukada). This youth participation can be classified as political participation. Political participation is an important aspect in a democratic state order as well as a hallmark of political modernisation. Political participation is the activity of citizens acting as individuals, which is intended to influence decision-making by the Government. Participation can be individual or collective, organised or spontaneous, steady or sporadic, peaceful or violent, legal or illegal, effective or ineffective.
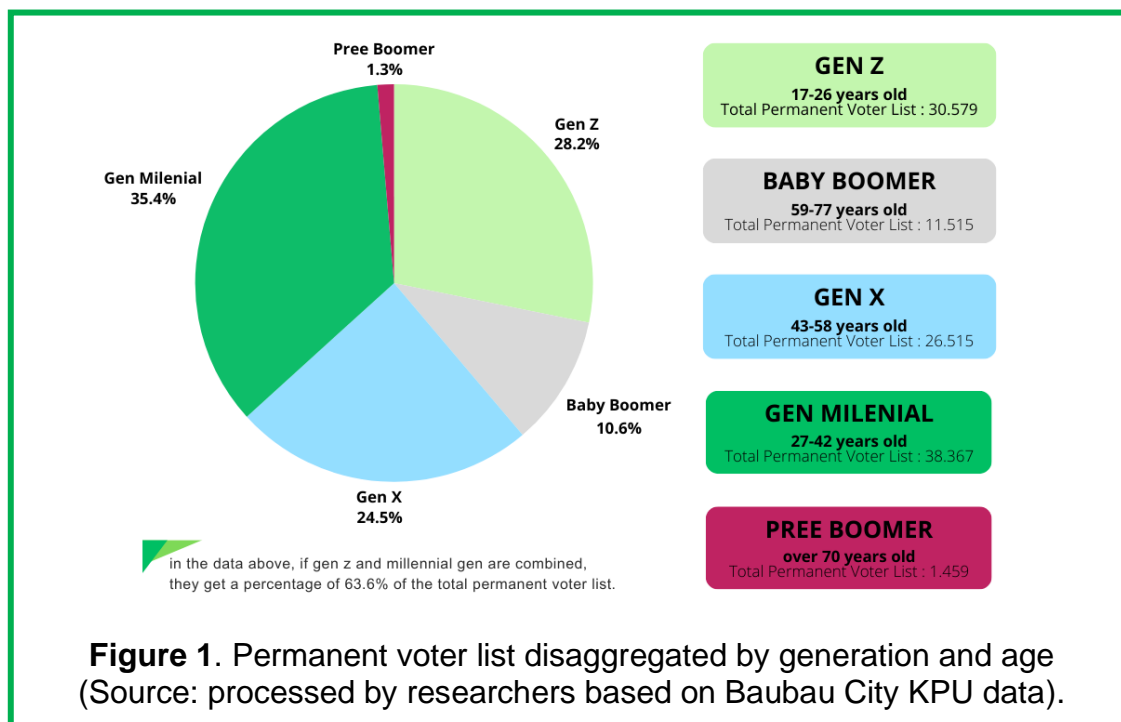
The urgency in this research considers the implementation of the 2024 Regional Head Election (Pemilukada) in November this year, the threat of contestation will harm the implementation of the Pilkada. Considering that in every Pilkada in Baubau City, conflicts also still often occur mainly due to the fanaticism of one party against the other which has the potential to lead to racial conflicts, not to mention if the conflict packaging leads to conflicts in the midst of the Baubau City community, therefore through this research emphasises the election organizers, both KPU and Bawaslu Baubau City, to work together optimally against security threats to the implementation of Pilkada. Through this research, it will urge a new policy strategy towards the full involvement of the youth to help supervise so that it can suppress what will become a threat in the dimension of contestation in Baubau City.

3.2 Form Of Youth Involvement In Preventing Violations Of Regional Head Elections In The Contestation Dimension In Baubau City

A multitude of factors contribute to the decline in adolescent voter participation. A perceived disconnect between the political process and the issues that are most significant to young people is a crucial determinant. A considerable number of young individuals hold the opinion that the political system and politicians fail to sufficiently confront the issues that are most pressing to them, including but not limited to the financial implications of education, employment prospects, and climate change. This may result in an individual developing a sense of disillusionment and the conviction that their vote lacks consequence. The relative inexperience of youthful electors is an additional factor. Many 18-year-olds who are exercising their right to vote for the first time may be apprehensive about the procedure or how to acquire information about the candidates and issues. For busy students and young professionals, the logistical challenges of voter registration and finding time to get to the polls may also present obstacles.

Increasing adolescent voter participation is ultimately necessary to ensure that their perspectives and interests are reflected in our democracy. Through comprehension of the determinants that impact youth engagement and the execution of methodical outreach initiatives, it is possible to empower the succeeding cohort of electors. Election violations during regional chief elections are a growing concern, and adolescent participation in preventing them is crucial. The contestation dimension, which includes voting, campaign activities, candidate nomination, and

vote tallying, is particularly susceptible to violations due to political actors exploiting unjust advantages. Youth, as a significant demographic, can play a significant role in election dispute oversight and prevention. Their active participation can increase community awareness of the importance of equitable elections, encouraging citizen participation and a robust system of checks and balances against election violations.

Figure 1. Permanent voter list disaggregated by generation and age
(Source: processed by researchers based on Baubau City KPU data).

Based on the infographic above, the classification of youth referred to in law number 40 of 2009 concerning youth in Chapter I General Provisions Article 1 states that youth are citizens aged 16 years to 30 years falls into the category of millennial generation and generation z. the percentage obtained if the two generation classifications mentioned then youth is a very influential instrument in the regional head election agenda. this great potential must be able to be mobilised in a participatory form against the threat of violations in the intended contestation dimension.

Youth participatory packaging must be directed as well as possible in order to create a more useful participatory performance in the process of regional elections in the future. The following are some forms of youth involvement in preventing violations of identity politics: Education and Socialisation: this activity may seem very common, but it is also part of increasing synergy between the organizers (KPU and Bawaslu) and youth groups in Baubau city so that they can play an active role in organising education and socialisation programs on the values of tolerance, pluralism, and the dangers of identity politics. This activity can be carried out in schools, colleges, and the wider community.

Advocacy and Campaigning: Youth can be involved in advocacy movements and campaigns to oppose all forms of discrimination, intolerance, and violations of the rights of minority groups. They can utilise social media and digital tools to disseminate messages of peace. These activities should not only be carried out independently by the youth, but the organisers should also open up as much space as possible in every activity carried out.

Monitoring and Reporting: Youth can act as active supervisors and monitors of various forms of identity politics violations in their respective neighbourhoods, in this opportunity they can be involved as election monitoring agencies. They can report any incidents to the authorities or relevant institutions.

Formation of Cross-Identity Communities: Youth can encourage the formation of communities that embrace diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, and identities. These activities can build solidarity and better understanding among different groups. The activities in question must of course go beyond formalities, in the sense that they must involve local organisations (organda) and youth organisations (okp). Overall, the role of youth is crucial in preventing offences against identity politics through various forms of involvement and constructive contributions.

4. Conclusion

Adolescent voter participation is declining due to a perceived disconnect between the political process and pressing issues, such as education, employment, and climate change. Young voters may feel disillusioned and believe their vote lacks consequence. Inexperience and logistical challenges also contribute to this decline. To ensure adolescent perspectives are reflected in democracy, understanding determinants and implementing outreach initiatives can empower the next generation of electors. Youth participation in regional elections is crucial for preventing violations of identity politics. They can participate in education and socialization programs, advocating against discrimination and intolerance, and monitoring and reporting violations. They can also form cross-identity communities, embracing diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, and identities. These activities should involve local organizations and youth organizations, and should be directed to create a more useful participatory performance. By involving youth in these activities, they can contribute constructively to the prevention of offenses against identity politics and promote solidarity among different groups.

5. Acknowledgement

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