**COMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN GENERAL ELECTIONS: STUDY IN TLOGOMAS, MALANG CITY**

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| **Abstract**    Political participation is the activity of a person or group of people to actively participate in political life, namely by electing state leaders, directly or indirectly influencing government policy. The political participation in question is the participation of voters who vote in the wrong regional head election. The form of political participation is community participation in general elections. This research aims to see the form of community participation in general elections in the city of Malang. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach with Interview techniques The focus of the research is Urban Village society participation based on the theory of society participation The results of this research found that there are 2 types of community participation, indirect and direct The results of this research found that there are 2 types of community participation, indirect and direct. In the theory of community participation, there are two forms of community participation, namely direct and indirect. Directly involved is the role of the community seen from the percentage of participation in the general election program in the city of Malang. In 2019 it was 75.68% and in 2014 the percentage of participation was 72%.  **Keywords: Participation, Community, general election.**   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | **Journal Of transformative Governance and Social Justice (J-TRAGOS)**  [E-ISSN XXXX-XXXX](http://issn.pdii.lipi.go.id/issn.cgi?daftar&1472787722&1&&), [P-ISSN XXXX-XXXX](http://issn.pdii.lipi.go.id/issn.cgi?daftar&1472787722&1&&)  Volume. 1, No.1 2023  DOI: Prefix 10.26905  Received: (filled by admin) Revised: (filled by admin) Accepted: (filled by admin) Published: (filled by admin)  Published by the **Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Merdeka Malang, Indonesia.** | |

**Introduction**

Indonesia is a unitary state based on Pancasila and the 1945 constitution. In its government system, Indonesia uses the Pancasila democratic system. Pancasila democracy is a democratic system adopted by Indonesia which regulates government as principal authority. (Humaira, 2021) Democracy provides an image that strength and power come from the people. All Indonesian people have the right to elect someone to a public government position and accept or reject political propositions through voting. Political participation in a country that adheres to a democratic system is one indicator of implementation in the legitimate exercise of supreme state power by the people (popular sovereignty), which is manifested in their involvement in democratic parties (general elections).

General elections or general elections are a means of holding direct, free, public and secret general elections for leaders by citizens of the Republic of Indonesia, based on the ideals of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. General elections are one of the means for the people to express their opinions. with the event of choosing the country's leader, as well as determining the fate of the government. General election activities (General Election) are one of the political activities that attract the most attention and involvement from the public so that general elections become a very important moment of political education in order to mature citizens. General elections teach the public to be involved in the political decision making process by means of vote for a particular political party of their choice.

According to Law no. 7 of 2017 concerning the holding of General Elections has regulated the holding of general elections held by the Nationalist, permanent and independent General Election Commission institution. The main task and authority of the KPU is the process of holding general elections, including holding general elections for the People's Representative Council, Regional People's Representative Council, Provincial Regional Representative Council and Regency/City Regional People's Representative Council, holding general elections for the President and Vice President, as well as holding general elections for Regional Heads and Deputy Regional Heads. One of the privileges of citizens that must be protected is the right of everyone to express their views, either orally or in written form. The certainty for the people to express their choice to express their point of view is an indication and manifestation of democratic life. Therefore, the role of the community in involving community participation is very important. The role of the community in involvement in general elections is one form of implementing democracy.

Besides that, in the democratic process, the right to vote is a statement of people's sovereignty in the management of public affairs. Those who are elected through general elections receive a mandate from the sovereign people, and therefore the sovereign people have the right to ask those who are elected to be held accountable on a regular basis for every action they do and do not take. Therefore, general elections can also be described as a means used by voters to express the results of their assessment of the government's performance as a whole. The people express their attitude of being happy/agreeing or not happy/disagreeing with the policies made and implemented through general elections.

Community members need to take part or participate in the process of formulating and determining government policies, in other words, every citizen regardless of gender (both male and female) should be involved in the process of holding general elections. In this way, the desires and hopes of every citizen can be accommodated through the developed political system. Community political participation in general elections is a form of activity that aims to influence political decision making

Research on general elections and community political participation (Study on the Election of Legislative Members and the Election of President and Vice Presidential Candidates in Minahasa Regency in 2014) Daud M. Liando found that the characteristic of a democratic country is how much the state involves the community in planning and implementing general elections. Because political participation of the community (voters) is an important aspect in a democratic state structure. In relation to democracy, political participation influences the legitimacy of the community towards the running of a government. In general elections, for example, political participation influences the legitimacy of society towards the elected candidate or pair of candidates. Each community has its own preferences and interests to determine their choices in general elections.

Public participation influences the legitimacy of a government. The higher level of political participation indicates that the people follow, understand and involve themselves in state activities. On the other hand, when people are indifferent to state issues or activities, it indicates a low level of political participation.

General elections are a benchmark for the democratization of a country. So, not only is it the key to creating democracy, but general elections are also a means for the people to declare their sovereignty over the State and Government. General elections are a way for the people to elect their representatives who will sit in the Executive and Legislative institutions. 2019 is the first year for Indonesia to hold Simultaneous Elections. Namely, electing the President and Vice President as well as Legislative Members simultaneously.

This started with a request for judicial review of Law no. 42 of 2008 concerning the Election of President and Vice President. Then, the Constitutional Court issued Decision No. 14/PUU-XI/2013 to approve the implementation of the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections as well as the Legislative Elections to be held simultaneously. The Panel of Judges annulled Article 3 paragraph (5), Article 12 paragraphs (1) and (2), Article 14 paragraph (2), and Article 112 of Law no. 42 of 2008 which regulates the implementation of the Presidential Election three months after the Legislative Election. With this general election, the Indonesian people want to participate actively and directly or indirectly influence government policy because political participation is an important aspect in a democratic state structure and is also a characteristic of political modernization.

The Economist research team ranked the Democracy Index in 2017. From this ranking, Indonesia experienced a decline. Namely, ranking 48th in 2016 became ranking 68th in 2017, lower than Timor Leste which was ranked 43rd. The event that was in the spotlight for the decline in ranking was the General Election process (General Election) for the regional head of DKI Jakarta.

Apart from that, Elkhori's research (2013) shows that community participation in general elections in the city of Malang is not commensurate with the interest of its citizens in participating in political participation. In the 2014 presidential and legislative elections, the number of invalid ballots was 6,407 votes and 103,916 votes. This means that in total, the abstention rate in 2014 was 28.09% and 48.68%. This number is a large number. The low number of public participation in general elections in legislative elections is caused by several factors 1). Leader figure, 2). Voters are starting to get bored with the five-year democratic process which has brought no change to people's lives 3). General elections are no longer seen by voters as something that is prioritized or really needed.

For this reason, it is very necessary to restore public trust in the government in order to increase public participation in general elections. Because the success of this general election rests with the community. From this research it is necessary to analyze the form of community participation in general elections in Malang City.

**Literature Review**

**1. Community Participation**

Zamroni (2011) said that participation is all members of a country's society who have a voice in the formation and making of decisions directly or through organizations that represent the interests of the general public. Community participation is a right that the community has to take part in decision making in the stages of the development process, starting from the beginning of planning, implementation, monitoring and environmental conservation. Here the community is not only the recipient of facilities and benefits but also the subject of sustainable development (Dewi, Fandeli, & Baiquni, 2013). Apart from the opinion above, Mulyadi (2009) said that Community Participation is community participation in the decision-making process and implementing a program, where the community also feels the benefits of the program policy. Apart from that, in carrying out an evaluation the community is of course also involved in order to improve community welfare.

**2. Stages of Community Participation.**

Mulyadi (2009) states that in community participation there are several stages of participation that more clearly occur in society, including: a). Participation in decision making. It is community involvement in forming decisions through development plans. Such as participating in attending village development meetings, providing opinions in village meeting activities, providing information at village development meetings, and also participating in the decision-making process. B). Participation in implementation. It is community involvement in village development implementation activities, not only at the planning stage. At this implementation stage, the community can make more concrete contributions such as contributions with energy, contributions with money, contributions with materials. Based on the opinion above, it can be concluded that the stages of community participation consist of participation in decision making, participation in village development implementation activities, participation in benefits for the village government, and also participation in monitoring and providing assessments from the planning stage to the implementation stage.

**3. Community Participation**

Talizuduhu Ndraha in Febby Fajrurrahman (2007), states that forms of participation include: a. Participation in the form of thought contributions. This type of participation is participation in the form of ideas, suggestions and opinions, both for preparing programs and for the sustainability of an activity by providing experience and knowledge to develop ongoing activities. b. Participation in the form of material This type of participation is a material contribution in the form of money, goods, and provision of facilities or facilities for the benefit of program implementation. c. Participation in the form of skills/expertise This type of participation is participation in the form of providing assistance with skills/skills for the development of a program. d. Participation in the form of physical labor This type of participation is participation in the form of labor in various activities for improvement or to support the success of a program, help for other people, and participation on a voluntary basis without any coercion. Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that community participation is an encouragement of the interests or needs of each individual or group. The public can participate in the policy-making process by conveying problems or aspirations related to the problems being faced. No policy is taken without the approval and participation of the community. This emphasizes how important community participation is in the process of making public policy. The basic aim of community participation is to produce input and perceptions that are useful for the common good of society

**4. General Election**

General Elections (General Elections) are the basis of one of the instruments of democracy. Through general elections, popular sovereignty can be transformed into political power in parliament and the executive. General Elections, hereinafter abbreviated to General Elections according to Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, are a means of implementing people's sovereignty which are held directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly and fairly in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the State Constitution. Republic of Indonesia in 1945. General elections are the main institution of democratic representative government, because in a democratic country, government authority is only obtained with the consent of those who are governed. The main mechanism for implementing this agreement under the authority of the government is through holding free, honest and fair general elections, especially to elect the President/Regional Head. General Election is choosing a ruler, official or other person by writing the chosen name on a piece of paper or by voting in the election. Abu Nashr Muhammad Al-Iman, Exposing the Sins of General Elections, Prisma Media, Jakarta, 2004, p: 29

Ibnu Tricahyo (2009:6), defines General Elections as follows: "Universally General Elections are an instrument to realize people's sovereignty which aims to form a legitimate government and a means of articulating the aspirations and interests of the people". The definition above explains that general elections are an instrument for realizing people's sovereignty, forming a legitimate government and as a means of articulating the aspirations and interests of the people. The Indonesian state includes its people in the administration of the state. People's sovereignty is exercised by the people's representatives who sit in parliament with a representative system or indirect democracy.

**Method**

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach. Descriptive research is research that provides a clear and systematic description of the object under study. This research also provides information and data following the phenomena in the field. The method used in this study uses qualitative research methods According to Creswell, qualitative research is a method to explore and understand the meaning that some individuals or groups of people ascribe to social or humanitarian problems. This qualitative research process involves important efforts, such as asking questions and procedures, collecting specific data from participants, analyzing data inductively from specific themes to general themes, and interpreting the meaning of the data.

The interview technique carried out by the researcher was by asking a number of questions that had been inserted. The focus of the research is(Urban Village society participation based on the theory of society participation

**Result and Discussion**

**Society participation**

Community participation is a right that the community has to take part in decision making in the stages of the development process, starting from the beginning of planning, implementation, monitoring and environmental conservation. Here the community is not only the recipient of facilities and benefits but also the subject of sustainable development (Dewi, Fandeli, & Baiquni, 2013). Apart from the opinion above, Mulyadi (2009:13) said that Community Participation is community participation in the decision-making process and implementing a program, where the community also feels the benefits of the program policy. Apart from that, in carrying out an evaluation the community is of course also involved in order to improve community welfare

There are several types of participation proposed by experts. According to Sundariningrum (Sugiyah, 2010) classifies participation into two based on the method of involvement, namely: a. Direct participation Participation that occurs when individuals perform certain activities in the participation process. This participation occurs when everyone can submit views, discuss the main issues, raise objections to other people's wishes or their words. b. Indirect participation Participation that occurs when individuals delegate their participation rights to other people.

**A). Direct participation**

Direct participation occurs when individuals perform certain activities in the participation process. This participation occurs when everyone can submit views, discuss the main issues, raise objections to other people's wishes or their words (Sugiyah, 2010). The form of participation of the people of Malang City can be seen directly from the people's participation in the general election.

**Malang City community participation**

found several previous studies as supporting data for analyzing community participation in the Malang city general election. The following is data on the 2009 and 2014 presidential elections in Malang City from research

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| **Year** | **Year Number Of Registered Voters Number Of Voting Rights Users Percentage Of Participation** | **Number Of Rights Users Voting** | **Presentase Participation** |
| 2009 | 575.706 | 435.701 | 75.68% |
| 2014 | 630.023 | 459.506 | 72.93% |

Table 1. Forms of Community Participation and the Role of the Malang City Regional General Election Commission in the 2019 General Election (Study of the Malang City General Election Commission).

Source: Elkhoiri, Muluk, Azis (2019)

From the data table for the 2009 and 2014 presidential elections, it can be seen that the percentage of public participation in the 2009 and 2014 presidential elections. Apart from that, research from Hidayansyah, Handayani, Syarhi (2018) found that in 2014 there was a decrease in the percentage of public participation. Apart from that, community votes also influenced the level of community participation in 2019, as many as 453,099 Malang City residents had valid votes or votes recognized by the government, and 6,407 votes were invalid.

Community participation has increased very significantly and the benchmark for community political participation can be seen from the number of voters who took part in yesterday's general election. By looking at community participation in the election of president and vice president, the community is very enthusiastic about participating in the general election. This is because society is a system. which has regulated relationships and society feels have the same identity or rights in participating in general elections, this is as explained by Robert M. Mclver in Budiardjo (2009) society is a system of relationships that are arranged. Meanwhile, Koentjaraningrat said "Society is a unity of human life that interacts according to a certain system of customs that is bound by a sense of shared identity.

b). Indirect participation

Indirect participation is general public participation represented or represented through groups in the form of institutions or individuals in determining policy direction. Talizuduhu Ndraha in Febby Fajrurrahman (2007:42), states that forms of participation include: a. Participation in the form of thought contributions. This type of participation is participation in the form of ideas, suggestions and opinions, both for preparing programs and for the sustainability of an activity by providing experience and knowledge to develop ongoing activities. b. Participation in the form of material This type of participation is a material contribution in the form of money, goods, and provision of facilities or facilities for the benefit of program implementation. c. Participation in the form of skills/expertise This type of participation is participation in the form of providing assistance with skills/skills for the development of a program. d. Participation in the form of physical labor This type of participation is participation in the form of labor in various activities for improvement or to support the success of a program, help for other people, and participation on a voluntary basis without any coercion.

The forms of community participation in Malang City are indirect: 1). Participation: Thoughts/ideas. This type of participation is participation in the form of ideas, suggestions and opinions, both for preparing programs and for the sustainability of an activity by providing experience and knowledge to develop ongoing activities. Indirect community participation in general elections by taking part in socialization held by general elections Political participation is nothing more than individual involvement at various levels, or can also be explained substantively as an organized effort or effort by constituents or good citizens to elect leaders they consider good too. They do this participation with full responsibility for collective life within the scope of a nation and state. Political participation is emphasized on the aspect of supporting the interests or vision and mission of certain political elites

In modern political analysis, political participation is an important issue and has recently been studied a lot, especially in relation to developing countries. As a general definition, it can be said that political participation is the activity of a person or group of people to participate actively in political life, including by directly or indirectly electing state leaders, influencing public policy. Every democratic event or general election held by the Republic of Indonesia has an impact on the development of progress in national and state life. The political elite actually provides intelligent political education to the public so that awareness of democracy increases among various groups. Democratic awareness will be high if community participation in providing their rights is also high. Therefore, public awareness is to participate positively in the existing political system, if a person feels that he or she is in accordance with the atmosphere of the environment in which he or she is located. If the conditions that occur are the opposite, then political attitudes and behavior will emerge that appear odd or negative, for example if someone is used to being in a democratic political environment, but he is placed in a feudal or undemocratic social environment then he will experience difficulties. in the process of adapting.

The increasing involvement of the community in holding General Elections shows the increasingly strong democratic order in a country. Democracy requires people's involvement in every administration carried out by the state. The people are positioned as important actors in a democratic order, because democracy is essentially based on the logic of equality and the idea that the government requires the consent of those governed. Community involvement is a basic element in democracy. For this reason, holding general elections as a means of implementing democracy, of course cannot be separated from community involvement. Political participation will run in harmony when the political process runs stably. Often there are obstacles to political participation when political stability cannot be realized, therefore it is important for those in power to carry out the process.

**CONCLUSION**

The conclusions from this research is

In the theory of community participation, there are two forms of community participation, namely direct and indirect. Directly involved is the role of the community seen from the percentage of participation in the general election program in the city of Malang. In 2019 it was 75.68% and in 2014 the percentage of participation was 72%. From this percentage, the level of community participation decreased in 2014.

Indirect participation by providing participation knowledge contributions in the form of ideas, suggestions and opinions, both for preparing programs and for the sustainability of an activity by providing experience and knowledge to develop ongoing activities. Indirect community participation in general elections by taking part in socialization held by general elections

From the research above, it can be concluded that the key to the success of general elections in the city of Malang lies in the community. The public must be involved in general elections. Because the higher level of political participation indicates that the people follow, understand and involve themselves in state activities. On the other hand, when people are indifferent to state issues or activities, it indicates a low level of political participation.

**SUGGESTION**

The suggestions given by the author are:

1. Increase political participation not only by voting in general elections and establishing relations with government officials but also by attending general meetings and becoming a member of a party or interest group.
2. Provide a good response to input provided by the community. Based on the research results above, it can be seen that the community actually has good input to follow up on
3. There is a need to increase awareness of their rights and obligations as citizens, this concerns interest and attention to the environment and politics

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