



## Community Participation in the 2019 Legislative Elections in Kampar with Pekanbaru City

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### ABSTRACT

During the 2019 Legislative Election, the community living on the Kampar Regency-Pekanbaru City border showed low political participation, especially in legislative elections. Normatively, residents of this border area should have been able to vote for representatives in the Kampar Regency DPRD, but many could not due to lacking Kampar Regency ID cards. This study aims to describe community participation during the 2019 Legislative Election in this border area and the efforts made by the KPU to increase participation. Using a qualitative approach, the study found that community participation was generally apathetic. Many residents were not registered in the Permanent Voter List (DPT) as they neglected to update their ID cards. Efforts to enhance participation included free population administration services facilitated by village governments. Key stakeholders—village heads, the Kampar Regency KPU, the District Election Committee, and political actors—played roles in these efforts, with village heads proving the most influential in encouraging participation. Most residents in the border area are migrants living in housing complexes or apartments, with their population administration still linked to their original hometowns. Despite these challenges, the measures taken aimed to ensure greater inclusion in the electoral process, emphasizing the importance of administrative reforms to support democratic participation in the region.

*Keyword:*

Political Participation,  
Political Education, and  
Election Process.

### INTRODUCTION

Elections are one of the means for the community to participate in politics because in this case, community participation is highly demanded so that the implementation of governance can be safe, orderly, and smooth, thereby facilitating the execution of development programs. sustainable or continuous can run effectively and efficiently for the welfare of the entire Indonesian nation (Kadir,

2024; Labolo & Hamka, 2012). The implementation of good elections will result in the enlightenment of politics in Indonesia, making elections a platform for political education for the public, thereby creating a society that lives in a democratic state (Kairupan et al., 2018; Ramadhan & Rafiqi, 2021).

The implementation of the 2004 elections was recorded as a very important

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new experience in Indonesian politics, because the selection of executive candidates and heads of executives was directly chosen by the Indonesian people. This means that most of Indonesia's political elites are currently recruited directly by their constituents. According to Ignas Kleden in Haris (2005), there are conditions that still do not allow the "direct nature" of this political recruitment to be realized, including the provisions of the Election Law that the election of a legislative candidate is primarily determined by the BPP number (which is very rarely achieved), while those who do not reach the BPP number will be selected based on their nomination order rather than the number of votes obtained (while the nomination order is determined by each participating party), clearly reducing the level of continuity of the people's election. The condition of the 2004 Legislative Election is certainly different from the elections during the New Order regime.

The implementation of elections during the New Order era over time proved the decline of democratic practices in Indonesia. Political parties that function as political recruitment, political communication, and political socialization for the benefit of the people are experiencing a process of bankruptcy, marked by the gradual death of political parties by the ruling regime (Kabasakal, 2014; Steiner & Jarren, 2009).

The 2019 election was a historic election in the journey of democracy in Indonesia. The 2019 election combined the Presidential Election, the election of members of the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI), the Regional Representative Council (DPD), the Provincial Regional House of Representatives (DPRD), and the Regency/City Regional House of Representatives (DPRD). The simultaneous implementation of the 2019 elections had

many issues, one of which was the inability of local residents whose ID cards were not registered at their place of residence. This problem often occurs, especially in the border areas between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City. The border area between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City includes the Kampar Regency area, namely, Tambang District, Siak Hulu District, and Tapung District.

Whereas the area bordering the region the city of Pekanbaru includes the Tampan District and the Marpoyan Damai District. The community living in the border area of Kampar Regency generally consists of people residing in housing complexes, who also typically have the residential identity of Pekanbaru City. During the implementation of the 2019 Legislative Election, the community living on the border of Kampar Regency had low political participation, especially in the legislative election political participation. Normatively, those who live in the border areas of Kampar Regency should be able to elect their representatives in the Kampar Regency DPRD, but they cannot vote due to the absence of ID cards from the Kampar Regency area.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Political science was born based on the concept of the theory of the empire. The theory of imperium is a theory about the power and authority of the State where sovereignty and power are considered as a form of delegation of authority to the State's rulers (Blackstock et al., 2017; Mercier, 2016). Political rulers are merely institutions entrusted to hold (not to control and dominate) and use sovereignty for the good of all the people (Lake, 2009).

The study of political science is not much different from the study of other social sciences. However, the focus of political science studies is on power within a state and the process of achieving that power. Political science will henceforth be considered a study of the state, the aims

and objectives of the state, the institutions that carry out these objectives, the relationships between the state and its citizens, as well as the relationships between states, and also what its citizens think (Flinders & Pal, 2020; Napier & Labuschagne, 2018). Furthermore, Political science is certainly a study of strategy, or better said, it is a detailed study of various methods, namely an organized effort to find a prevention of chaotic confusion in a broader sense (Alamdari et al., 2021; Edwards, 2016).

From the perspective on political science above, it can be said that political science is a tactic or method in managing life and nationhood by political actors or elites. The regulation of national life by political rulers is inseparable from the sovereignty held by the people as the grantors of power to the rulers. In addition to that, political science also studies the relationship between the state and society, as well as between states, which is formed based on existing legal rules. With the existence of political science, political thought develops, leading to the emergence of various political systems within a country.

Every democratic country must channel the aspirations of the people and involve the community in political decision-making and public policy (Jurlina Alibegović & Slijepčević, 2018). While the revolution brought significant demands for changes in the system and political life in Indonesia, the society itself still has a relatively low capacity to accommodate all these changes (Hill, 2014; Saputra et al., 2024; Sujatmiko, 2011). These changes should be accompanied by the community's ability to express their political aspirations as citizens with political rights.

One way to channel those aspirations is through the implementation of a democratic party or general election. Elections essentially involve voting for

political parties as contestants in the democratic party. According to Law Number 31 of 2002 Article 1, it is stated that a political party is a political organization formed by a group of citizens of the Republic of Indonesia voluntarily based on shared will and ideals to fight for the interests of its members, society, nation, and state.

Political parties define political parties as follows: "A political party is an articulative organization consisting of political actors who are active in society, namely those who focus their attention on controlling government power and compete to gain public support, along with several other groups that have differing views." Thus, political parties serve as major intermediaries that connect social forces and ideologies with official government institutions and link them to political actions within the broader political society (Hebert & Wagner, 2018). Furthermore, a political party is a group of people who are stably organized with the aim of seizing or maintaining power in government for the party's leadership and, based on that power, will provide material and ideal benefits for its members (Wolinetz, 2014).

Meanwhile, according to Budihardjo (2008), she explains:

1. As a means of political communication. Political parties' channel various opinions and aspirations of the community and organize them in such a way that the confusion of opinions in society is reduced.
2. As a means of political socialization. Political parties also play a role as a means of political socialization for the public. In the effort to seize power through elections, political parties must project an image that they are fighting for the public interest.
3. As a means of political recruitment. Political parties also function to seek and invite talented and active individuals in political activities to

become party members. Thus, the party has expanded political participation.

4. As a means of managing conflict. In a democratic atmosphere, competition and differing opinions in society are normal. If a conflict occurs, political parties strive to resolve it.

## RESEARCH METHODS

The location of this research is in Tambang District, Tapung District, and Siak Hulu District, Kampar Regency, as the research location where these districts directly border the area of Pekanbaru City.

The type of research used in this study is descriptive research. According to Creswell (2014), the descriptive method is the search for facts with proper interpretation. Thus, this research will explain or describe issues related to Community Participation in the 2019 Legislative Election in the border area between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City, and the efforts made by the KPU to maximize Community Participation in the 2019 Legislative Election in the border area between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City, the results of the conducted survey, as well as provide arguments regarding what was found in the field.

## DISCUSSION

### **Community Participation in the Implementation of the 2019 Legislative Election in the Border Area of Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City**

Political participation is the most important part in realizing democracy in the life of a nation and state. Political participation for the community can be channeled through the electoral process, whether it is the presidential and vice-presidential elections, gubernatorial elections, mayoral elections, and the election of legislative members at the central, provincial, and district/city levels.

The political participation of the community can be classified this can be seen from the explanation and opinion of Milbrath and Goel who explain that

political participation can be classified as follows.

1. The Apathetic Group, consists of people who do not participate and withdraw from the political process.
2. Spectator, is someone who has at least once participated in an election.
3. Gladiator, the goal is for the government of a country to become better by involving those who are not actively engaged in the political process.
4. Critics, in the form of unconventional participation. The individual expresses their opinion of the government through criticism.

Political participation of the community needs to be mobilized or activated by policymakers and all government apparatus, to involve the community in exercising their voting rights in the general election process that takes place once every five years. One of the political participations of the public in the electoral process in Indonesia is the election of representatives at the central level (DPR RI), at the provincial level (DPRD Provinsi), and at the district/city level (DPRD Kabupaten/Kota).

Community involvement in the political process, especially in the election of legislative candidates at the district/city level, can serve as a benchmark that life the political situation of the community has improved or, on the contrary, has experienced a decline. The election of legislative members at the district/city level serves as a political channel for the community to express their aspirations to the DPRD members, to oversee the administration of the district/city government, and also as an effort by the community to propose development activities in their respective areas.

One form of political participation by the community is their involvement in exercising their voting rights in the 2019 Legislative General Election to elect their representatives in the legislative body, with

the hope that their choices can advocate for their rights in the development process and other community needs. One of the regions that held the 2019 Legislative Election was Kampar Regency, Riau Province. The implementation of the 2019 Legislative Election certainly had various issues, especially the issue of community participation at the border between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City.

#### **Efforts made to maximize Community Participation in the Implementation of the 2019 Legislative Election in the Border Area of Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City**

The General Election Commission (KPU) of Kampar Regency is the institution authorized to conduct the Legislative Election of 2016. As an authorized institution, the Kampar Regency General Election Commission (KPU) strives to ensure the success of every election held in Kampar Regency, including the 2019 Legislative Election. The efforts made so far by the Kampar Regency KPU are in accordance with the applicable regulations. One of the efforts made is through socialization to the community, including the people in the border area between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City. The socialization carried out by the Kampar Regency General Election Commission (KPU)

1. Socialization in the form of counseling. The outreach conducted by the Kampar KPU was carried out by inviting those figures. The hope of the extension is to serve as an extension agent to community leaders to provide understanding to the people in their respective areas.
2. Socialization Through Print Mass Media. The print media chosen by the Kampar Regency KPU are local print media, namely Riau Pos and Haluan Riau.
3. Socialization Through Electronic Mass Media. Socialization through electronic

mass media conducted by the Kampar Regency is carried out by publishing socialization advertisements, announcements, regulations, and news related to the activities of the Kampar Regency KPU and the implementation of the 2019 Legislative Election, through PT. Radio 97.1 FM. Radio Pratama Bangkinang, Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI) Pro 1, and social media and outreach through Riau Televisi

4. Socialization Through Educational Tools, through brochures distributed to every District in the Kampar Regency area

From the results of the research and discussion explained in the above description, several conclusions can be drawn as follows; Community participation in the implementation of the 2019 Legislative Election in the border area between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City tends to be characterized by apathetic political participation in the 2019 Legislative Election. This is evident from the awareness of the community in the border area between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City, who are not registered in the Permanent Voter List (DPT) because they do not care about processing their ID cards in their place of residence.

The efforts made to maximize community participation in the 2019 Legislative Election in the border area between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City have been implemented, including handling population administration for free facilitated by the village government. This aimed at ensuring that the community living in the border area between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City is involved by the Kampar Regency KPU, the District Election Committee, political actors, and village heads. Among the four stakeholders, the role of the Village Head is more dominant, including encouraging the community living in the border area between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru

City to participate in the political process, especially in the 2019 Legislative Election.

Besides that, the people living in the border area between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City are generally migrants who buy houses in housing complexes or apartments, and their population administration still originates from their home villages.

## CONCLUSION

The recommendations suggested by the researchers from the study on Community Participation in the Implementation of the 2019 Legislative Elections in the Border Area of Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City are as follows. The Kampar Regency KPU needs to coordinate with the village government, so that the community in the border area between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City has the right to vote, thereby giving them political access to realize development in their place of residence. The Sub-district Election Committee (PPK) should be more proactive in addressing population administration issues, so that the border area between Kampar Regency and Pekanbaru City can be part of the upcoming Legislative Election process, especially for the election of Kampar Regency's Regional House of Representatives (DPRD).

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