Covid-19 Pandemic and Voter Participation in The 2020 Elections in West Jawa

Arlan Siddha1*, Iing Nurdin2
1Departement of Government Science, Faculty of Social and Political Science, Universitas Jendral Ahmad Yani
2Departement of International Relation, Faculty of Social and Political Science, Universitas Jendral Ahmad Yani
*Correspondence Email: arlan.siddha@lecture.unjani.ac.id

Abstract
This study objectively looks at the implementation of the 2020 PILKADA during the Covid-19 pandemic, which has an impact on voter participation. Doubts about the level of voter participation were denied with the participation rate which tends to increase with a percentage increase of 76.09%. Voter participation in PILKADA is a concept of public interest in policies to participate in a political policy. This research was conducted in West Java because it saw West Java participants with high DPT by comparing voter participation in 8 regencies/cities that held simultaneous elections in 2015 and 2020.

Keywords: Voter Participation, Covid-19, PILKADA Jawa Barat

Introduction
The year 2020 is a testing momentum for democracy in Indonesia, because during the COVID-19 pandemic, Indonesia must continue to carry out Regional Head Elections (Supriyadi, 2020). The 2020 PILKADA was attended by 270 regions, where the Governor Election was 9 Provinces, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elections were held in 37 Cities and the Regent and Deputy Regent Elections were held in 224 Regencies (Dewi, 2021). Of course, in the implementation of the 2020 PILKADA during the Covid-19 pandemic, it has its own challenges, especially in the concept of Voter Participation which will be the focus of this research. Since it was first held on 9 December 2015, it has emerged as a new tradition of democracy in Indonesia, the Simultaneous PILKADA which has a function as a means of strengthening the consolidation of democracy at the local level (Adam 2020).

There are at least three important things that are the objectives of the simultaneous regional elections as substantiated in the PILKADA Law. The three objectives are, among others, to produce effective and efficient regional leadership to support the presidential government system, to realize efficient and effective regional head elections and finally to build and strengthen the degree of representation
between the community and their regional heads (Sidel 2005). The level of voter participation in Indonesia is still very low although it cannot be generalized in general (Arif 2020). This argument refers to the data released by the KPU in the 2015 PILKADA which is targeted at 77.5% participation and the post-election evaluation results only reach 64.2% (kpu.go.id, 2015). The description of these figures becomes a reference for the assessment of voter participation in the 2020 PILKADA. As one of the largest democracies, Indonesia has held for the first time regional head elections simultaneously in one wave (Marlina; et al. 2020). Indonesia must be recorded in the history of world democracy because in 2015 there were 269 regions consisting of 9 provinces, 36 cities and 224 districts simultaneously electing regional heads even though the results of the expected voter participation were still not as targeted (Hertanto; and Dkk. 2021).

This is related to the phenomenon of the declining percentage of voter participation in Indonesia, especially in the Direct PILKADA. Based on the survey results of several institutions such as the Indonesian Political Indicators survey institute, it was stated that the low voter participation in the PILKADA such as in East Java, for example, where voter participation was only at 62.23%, as well as in West Java at 67.83% and Sumatra. North of 68.54%, caused by several factors, including the reluctance of voters to exercise their right to vote and socialization which is considered not optimal (JawaPos 2018).

The adjustment regulation then becomes a special challenge for the 2020 PILKADA considering that it is still during the Covid-19 pandemic, namely the number of voters in one polling station (TPS) according to PKPU 6/2020 is a maximum of 500 voters (Persada and Wisnaeni 2020). The previous year, under normal conditions, in one TPS the number of voters was at most 800 voters. Because of limiting the number of voters at TPS, election organizers in densely populated areas must add several new TPS locations. It can be in the same urban village area or based on the Neighbourhood/hamlet/smallest area (Panji 2020).

This research was conducted in West Java, precisely in 8 districts/cities that carried out the PILKADA. The number of permanent voters in West Java in the 2015 simultaneous elections was 11.8 million voters (Antaranews.com 2020). The number of voters for the 2020 West Java simultaneous elections is 11.6 million voters. The two data shown by the KPU show that the number of voters is quite large compared to the number of voters in other regions (Jatim.bawaslu.go.id 2020). However, the rejection of the implementation of the PILKADA is quite massive in the West Java area, referring to the results of a survey released by Litbang Kompas on June 8, 2020, which stated that 64.8% of voters came to TPS if the election was during a pandemic and 28% were unwilling, as many as 28%. 7% answered they did not know the KPU was optimistic that the participation of the 2020 PILKADA would remain high as the 2020 PILKADA began, which began the next stage after the postponement due to the Covid-19 pandemic on June 15, 2020, while referring to the results of the latest Polmatrix Indonesia survey in September 2020, it showed as many as 72.4 percent more choosing the option of the 2020 Simultaneous Regional Head Elections postponed in all regions (Arif 2020).

Simultaneous PILKADA 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic affected the level of voter participation. For this reason, the KPU has set PKPU No. 13 of 2020 using strict health protocols to prevent developing infectious diseases, especially in West Java, which since the Pandemic appeared in Indonesia in March 2020, West Java
continues to enter the Red Zone with a high transmission rate. Referring to the
description above, the author arranges the main problematics in the discussion of this
research, namely (1) What is the level of voter participation in the 2020 PILKADA
during the COVID-19 pandemic in West Java? and (2) Will the implementation of the
2020 PILKADA in West Java have an impact on increasing COVID-19 cases? The
purpose of this study is to provide an overview of the implementation of the 2020
PILKADA in West Java on voter turnout.

**Method**

In this study using the Qualitative Research method, using primary data and
secondary data (Disemadi & Salih, 2020). Primary data comes from the release of the
KPU’s calculation of voter participation in the 2020 PILKADA in West Java. The
secondary data is obtained through the KPU website, books that explain the concept
of voter participation and journals that are relevant to the phenomenon of voter
participation in elections and the Covid-19 pandemic. Secondary data is used to
strengthen the theory, analysis and data that have been found. Voter Participation
data analysis in the 2020 PILKADA in West Java was carried out through several
stages, including: data classification, data description and data interpretation
(Creswell 2015)

The qualitative method is used by researchers because it is relevant to voter
participation research in West Java because it can describe phenomena whose data is
obtained from various subjectivity of resource person; information obtained after
going through the data processing process will be presented with a descriptive
approach so that readers can easily understand the increase in voter participation in
PILKADA 2020 in West Java.

**Result and Discussion**

Electoral democracy which is implemented in direct PILKADA makes the
political participation of voters as the main determinant. Political participation in the
context of direct elections can be interpreted as an activity of a person or group of
people to actively participate in determining the election of regional leaders (Rizki and
Hilman 2020). Political participation is the active involvement of individuals and
groups in government processes that have an impact on their lives. This includes
involvement in decision-making as well as opposition action, the important thing is
that participation is an active process. The term participation is more popular in
meaning the participation of a person or entity in a job or a big plan (Dewi, 2021)

In general, the election of regional heads and deputy regional heads is a form of the
democratic system in Indonesia. Since 2005, the implementation of the PILKADA has
been trying to be perfected in terms of implementation so that the implementation
process is better and in terms of efforts to increase voter participation to create
accurate legitimacy in this contestation.

The 2020 PILKADA in West Java conducts elections for candidates for Regional
Heads and Deputy Regional Heads spread across 8 city districts in West Java. On the
other hand, 2020 is the year in which a new history was recorded that did not only
occur in Indonesia but also throughout the world. There are events that have never
happened before and changed the habits of life in the society. And this also changes
the order and system of democracy in Indonesia. The issuance of Perppu No. 2 of 2020
concerning changes in the stipulation of regulations in the implementation of the
election of Governors, Regents and Mayors is an effort from the government to balance the stability of the State during the covid 19 pandemic. The implementation of the PILKADA must be carried out and involves the participation of the community. Community participation is used as an important parameter to measure the success of the elections. On this basis, there is a long debate regarding the implementation of the PILKADA in 2020 (Rizki and Hilman 2020).

During the pandemic and seeing the average number of covid cases that continues to rise every day, many experts speculate regarding the implementation of the 2020 elections which are considered insufficient because they are considered to have the potential to eliminate the constitutional rights of citizens to vote and be elected. It is also considered to have the potential to threaten the lives of the organizers, participants, and voters. The stages in the PILKADA election process began in September 2020. However, the implementation of this election was postponed for approximately three months, namely from March 2020 to June 2020. This had an impact on the implementation of voting and vote counting at TPS which should have been on 23 September 2020 but postponed to 9 December 2020.

**Implementation PILKADA in Bandung Regency**

The elections in Bandung Regency in 2020 were followed by 3 pairs of candidates namely Kurnia - Usman with serial number 01, Yena-Atep with serial number 02 and Dadang-Sahrul with serial number 03. With a total of 6,874 TPS. In the implementation of the PILKADA in Bandung Regency, the efforts made by the Bandung Regency KPU were to reduce crowds or community density at polling stations that could potentially spread the Covid-19 virus. Then added the number of TPS as much as 990 TPS. Looking at this figure, during the election of the Governor and Deputy Governor of West Java, there were 5,884 TPS in Bandung Regency. However, in the Pilkda the number of TPS was 6,874 TPS. The addition of this polling station is also an effort to reduce the number of voters at the polling station, which was originally 800 voters, now to 500 voters in each polling station.

The DPT Pilbup in Bandung Regency 2020 was 2,356,412 voters consisting of 1,189,722 male voters and 1,166,640 female voters. This DPT figure has decreased from the previous one. If you look at the decrease in DPT, it can be said that the Bandung Regency KPU's efforts to anticipate a larger crowd. Concerns about the decline in community participation did not occur in the PILKADA in Bandung Regency. The data states that community participation has increased by 9.28%. Community participation in 2020 was 72.18% compared to 2015 which was only 62.90%. This shows that the results of the 2020 PILKADA in Bandung Regency are in accordance with the legitimacy of democracy itself. Where there is still a fair role of the community in choosing regional heads which they believe can have a new impact on their territory.

**Implementation of PILKADA in Cianjur Regency**

The regent election in Cianjur was followed by 4 pairs of candidates namely Toha-Ade Sobari serial number 01, Oting-Wawan serial number 02, Herman-Mulyana serial number 03 and Lepi-Gilar serial number 04. The implementation of regional elections in the midst of this pandemic has made each region have its own policies. For example, Cianjur Regency requires that every PPS officer must have a rapid antigen to ensure that in practice the officers maintain their health and ensure that they do not transmit the Covid-19 virus. As many as 2900 officers who became rapid
tests for COVID-19. PILKADA during a pandemic like this also makes the Cianjur district government increase the cost of the election to implement health protocols.

As well as efforts to add TPS, Cianjur Regency has also made efforts to minimize the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. The addition of 1000 TPS has been added. Initially only 3,968 to 4,968 TPS were provided in the implementation of the Regent election in Cianjur Regency. The DPT in the Cianjur Pilbup has 1,631,564 participants consisting of 829,491 male voters and 802,073 female voters. This DPT experienced an increase of 2,505 additions. This DPT was dominated by novice voters in the area. Speaking of community participation in Cianjur Regency has increased by 10.62%. which was originally in 2015 voter participation was only 56.62% of voters. However, in 2020 voter participation reached 67.24% of voters. This shows that there is high enthusiasm of the people of Cianjur Regency in the implementation of the Regent election. However, a report from the Cianjur Regency KPU stated that there were 1600 people who could not vote because they were exposed to COVID-19.

Implementation of PILKADA in Depok City

The regional head election was participated by 2 candidate contestants, namely Pradi Supriatna - Afifah Alia with serial number 01 and candidate pair Mohammad Idris - Imam Budi Hartono with serial number 02. The implementation of the PILKADA in Depok City has violated compliance with the Covid-19 health protocol standard. With details of the violations, more than fifty participants, participants did not keep their distance, and activities at night. In one of the activities that violated the health protocol, it was also found that children were included in campaign activities.

Depok City Depok City determined that the DPT in the 2020 Depok Regional Head Election was 1,229,362 voters. With details of 605,924 male voters and 623,438 female voters. The voter participation rate in the 2020 Depok Regional Head Election rose 6.64 percent to 62.79 percent compared to 2015. Which in 2015 was only 56.10%.

Implementation of PILKADA in Indramayu Regency

The regional head election in Indramayu Regency was followed by 4 pairs of candidates. They are the Muhamad Sholihin-Ratnawati pair number 01, the pair Toto Sucartono-Deis Handika number 02, the pair Daniel Mutaqien Syafi-Taufik Hidayat number 03 and the pair Nina Agustina-Lucky Hakim number 04.

The number of voters that have been determined is 1,302,788 voters from the previous vote in 2019 as many as 1,353,210 voters. The DPT itself has decreased, this is because there are still many people who do not have an E-KTP and to overcome the spread of COVID-19. Indramayu community voter participation has increased by 7.24% from 58.95% in 2015 to 66.19% in 2015. This shows that there is still a high number of people’s participation in the success of the democratic arena.

Implementation of PILKADA in Karawang Regency

Karawang Regency has resumed the implementation of the 2020 PILKADA after delaying the holding of the PILKADA for 3 months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the 2020 Karawang PILKADA, there are three pairs of candidates. Candidate number one is Yesi Karya Lianti-Adly Fayruz, serial number two is Cellica Nurrachadiana-Aep Syaepuloh, and serial number three is Ahmad Zamakhsyari-Yusni Rinzani. The health protocol was implemented from voting at TPS to the use of the electronic recapitulation information system (Sirekap) at the TPS level for the Election of Regents and Deputy Regents. The Karawang Regency KPU has also carried out a simulation to provide an overview to all parties during the implementation, where the Karawang Regency KPU has prepared several series in the form of checking
the body temperature of voters and provided special booths for voters whose temperatures are above the provisions.

In its own calculation, the Karawang Regency KPU also uses the SIREKAP application, where the application replaces the SITUNG method in the previous election. The Karawang Regency KPU has also recruited 40,059 officers from the Voting Organizing Group (KPPS). In order to ensure their health condition, the elected KPPS officers will have a rapid test before voting. This is to ensure that the officers are healthy and negative for Covid-19. In addition, the Karawang Regency KPU held Technical Guidance (Bimtek) for Monitoring Elections in the 2020 Karawang Regent and Deputy Regent Elections.

The Karawang Regency KPU has established a permanent voter list (DPT) in the 2020 Karawang Regent and Deputy Regent Election. The total DPT in Karawang Regency is 309 villages, 4,451 TPS and a total DPT of 1,643,490.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Voters</th>
<th>Voting Rights User</th>
<th>Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,588,371</td>
<td>1,067,077</td>
<td>67.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1,643,490</td>
<td>1,124,464</td>
<td>68.41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Obtained by Researcher

It can be seen in the table above that there was an increase in participation in the 2020 Pilkda, where in the 2020 simultaneous elections it increased by 1.23% compared to 2015. Although this increase is still far from the national target that has been set at 77.55%.

Implementation of PILKADA in Pangandaran Regency

The Pangandaran Regency KPU on June 15 2020, resumed the stages of the Regional Head Elections for the Regent and Deputy Regent of Pangandaran. In the 2020 Pangandaran PILKADA, there are two pairs of candidates. Candidate number one is H Jeje Wiradinata - H Ujang Endin Indrawan, S.H., and serial number two is H Adang Hadari - H Supratman, S.Ap.

Based on KPU Regulation (PKPU) No. 5 of 2020 changes to the PKPU Stages, Programs and Schedule for the 2020 Regional Elections KPU, Pangandaran Regency to reactivate the ad hoc body. The ad hoc organizing body, namely the District Election Committee (PPK), the Voting Committee (PPS), and his party will continue the stages that were delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic for approximately 3 months.

In the implementation of the 2020 PILKADA, the Pangandaran Regency KPU implemented health protocols starting from individual verification, updating voter data at the campaign stage until the day or voting. There are several efforts made by the Pangandaran Regency KPU in preventing the Covid-19 pandemic, including organizers will be equipped with PPE and voters are also required to wear masks. In addition, the Pangandaran Regency KPU also reduced the number of voters at each polling station from 800 voters to 500 voters to prevent crowds and the transmission of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Pangandaran Regency KPU has determined the final voter list (DPT) in the 2020 Pangandaran Regent and Deputy Regent Election. The total DPT set is 320,008 with details for men 158,806 and women 161,202. There are 800 polling stations spread over 93 villages.

1015
Tabel 2
Pangandaran Regency Election Participation 2015-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Voters</th>
<th>Voters Rights User</th>
<th>Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>310.641</td>
<td>242.413</td>
<td>78,03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>320.008</td>
<td>267.677</td>
<td>83,64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Obtained by Researcher

It can be seen in the table above that there was an increase in participation in the 2020 Pilka, where in the 2020 simultaneous elections it increased by 5.61% compared to 2015. This is in line with the national participation target that has been set at 77.55%, even if compared to the target Pangandaran Regency has exceeded the target from the 2015 PILKADA.

Implementation of PILKADA in Sukabumi Regency

Based on Perpu 02/2020 and KPU Regulation number 5/2020 regarding the holding of Simultaneous Regional Head Elections held on December 9, 2020. Based on the Perpu, the Sukabumi Regency KPU on the Sukabumi Regency Government website stated that there would be changes in stages and adaptations of its implementation. This is because the implementation of this election stage is during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the 2020 Sukabumi PILKADA, there are three pairs of candidates. Candidate number one, Drs. H. Adjo Sardjono, Mm - Iman Adinugraha, SE., serial number two Drs. H. Marwan Hamami, MM - Drs. H. Iyos Somantri, M.Si. and serial number three Dr. H. Abu Bakar Sidik, M.Ag. - H. Sirojudin, SE.

The Sukabumi Regency KPU also stated that the 2020 Simultaneous Regional Elections would be held without any additional budget. Where in the implementation there will be changes in stages and adaptation of the implementation so that it is possible to increase the budget to support all activities during the Covid-19 pandemic, such as the implementation of health protocols at each stage of the 2020 Simultaneous Elections and the addition of the number of TPS. However, the Sukabumi Regency KPU will hold the 2020 Simultaneous PILKADA with a budget of Rp. 83 billion. The budget is a grant given by the Sukabumi Regency Government to support the performance of the Sukabumi Regency KPU in the implementation of the 2020 Simultaneous PILKADA.

The addition of TPS was also carried out by the Sukabumi Regency KPU where the number of TPS was recorded at 4,118 to 4,978, this was to prevent crowds of residents and the transmission of Covid-19. The Sukabumi Regency KPU has established a permanent voter list (DPT) in the 2020 Sukabumi Regent and Deputy Regent Election. The total DPT set is 1,816,214 voters consisting of 916,120 male voters and 900,094 female voters spread over 47 sub-districts, 386 villages/kelurahan. and 5,171 TPS.

Tabel 3
Sukabumi Regency Election 2015-2020 Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Voters</th>
<th>Voters Rights User</th>
<th>Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1.772,460</td>
<td>1,044,339</td>
<td>58,92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1,816,214</td>
<td>1,052,431</td>
<td>57,94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Obtained by Researcher

It can be seen in the table above that there was a decrease in participation in the 2020 Pilka, where in the 2020 simultaneous elections it decreased by 0.98% compared
to 2015. This is not in accordance with the national target that has been set as much as 77.55%, even if compared to the target, Sukabumi Regency in 2015 still has higher participation than 2020.

**Implementation of PILKADA in Tasikmalaya Regency**

The status of Tasikmalaya Regency is a red zone which is indirectly an area that is a high risk of spreading Covid-19 in West Java. Nevertheless, the stages of implementing the 2020 Regional Head Elections in Tasikmalaya Regency continue. In the 2020 Tasikmalaya PILKADA, there are four candidate pairs. Candidate number one is H. Azies Rismaya Mahpud, S.E - H. Haris Sanjaya, M.IPoI, serial number two is H. Ade Sugianto - H. Cecep Nurul Yakin, serial number three is Cep Zamzam Dzulfikar Nur, S.Sos - Drs. H Padil Karsoma, M.Si, and serial number four Dr. H. Iwan Saputra, SE, M.Si - Iip Miptahul Paoz. The Tasikmalaya Regency KPU together with the Regional Leadership Coordination (Forkopimda) will continue to carry out the stages of the 2020 simultaneous elections according to schedule. The Tasikmalaya Regency KPU is also coordinating with the Task Force for the Acceleration of Handling Covid-19 in every stage of the PILKADA. The KPU also tries to always implement health protocols in every preparation.

Several socialization agendas for the PILKADA stage, which were carried out by involving many people, had to be changed to face-to-face activities. The Tasikmalaya Regency KPU echoed the implementation of a safe and comfortable election during the Covid-19 pandemic. Tasikmalaya Regency KPU through various media or face to face with urban communities and those who live in remote areas. The Tasikmalaya Regency KPU has determined the final voter list (DPT) in the 2020 Tasikmalaya Regent and Deputy Regent Election. The total DPT set is 1,332,978 voters. Of that number, for the number of female voters as many as 659,652 and 673,326 male voters from 39 sub-districts, 351 villages with 3,740 polling stations (TPS).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Voters</th>
<th>Voters Rights User</th>
<th>Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,346,188</td>
<td>810,317</td>
<td>60,19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1,332,978</td>
<td>959,186</td>
<td>71,95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tabel 4**

Tasikmalaya Regency Election Participation 2015-2020

Sumber: Obtained by Researcher

It can be seen in the table above that there was an increase in participation in the 2020 Pilkda, where in the 2020 simultaneous elections it increased by 11.76% compared to 2015. This is in line with the national participation target that has been set at 77.55%, even though the percentage of participation in the Tasikmalaya Regency PILKADA has not yet reached the national target.

**Conclusion**

This is related to the phenomenon of the declining percentage of voter participation in Indonesia, especially in the Direct PILKADA. Based on the survey results of several institutions such as the Indonesian Political Indicators survey institute, it was stated that the low voter participation in the PILKADA such as in East Java, for example, where voter participation was only at 62.23%, as well as in West Java at 67.83% and Sumatra. North of 68.54%, caused by several factors, including the reluctance of voters to exercise their right to vote and socialization which is considered not optimal. Of course, it will be difficult for every region that carries out the PILKADA during the Covid19 Pandemic.
References