

FACTORS CAUSING THE HIGH NUMBER OF GOLPUT IN NORTH JAKARTA IN THE 2024 JAKARTA REGIONAL ELECTION

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Abstract. This study analyses the factors contributing to the high abstention rate in the 2024 Jakarta Regional Election, particularly in North Jakarta. Which recorded a non-voter rate of 47.07%. This research employs a qualitative descriptive approach through in-depth interviews with election organizers (KPU and Bawaslu), academic, and community representatives, supported by literature review. The result indicate that abstention can be classified into active and passive forms. Active abstention is associated with political distrust, dissatisfaction with candidates, and low voting efficacy, while passive abstention is influenced by administrative constraints, inaccuracies in voter registration, and environmental factors such as flooding that limit access to polling stations. These findings demonstrate that low voter participation is shaped not only by individual choice but also by structural and technical barriers. Therefore, strengthening political trust and improving electoral administration are essential to increase voter participation in urban local elections.

Keywords: abstention voter, political participation, 2024 regional election.

I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a democratic country that places the people as the highest sovereign holders in determining the direction of the government. One form of democratic implementation is through elections as a means of distributing people's political rights which are held based on the principles of direct, public, free, secret, honest, and results. The implementation of elections is the responsibility of the General Election Commission (KPU) as an independent institution tasked with ensuring that the democratic process runs in a transparent, participatory, and accountable manner [1].

In the context of democracy, the level of public participation in elections is an important indicator in assessing the quality of democratic organizers. Political participation reflects the involvement of citizens in determining leaders, expressing political preferences, and contributing to the public policy-making process [2]. Therefore, the involvement of the community in elections is an important requirement in realizing a democratic government with strong legitimacy.

The year 2024 is an important momentum for democracy because elections and regional elections are held simultaneously in various regions. However, the classic problem that keeps coming up is the phenomenon of abstention. Terminologically, abstention refers to the behavior of individuals who do not exercise their voting rights or are not present in the electoral process [3]. The term was first popularized in 1971 by democracy activists. In its development, abstention is understood as the attitude of not voting at the

polling station and has several forms, such as technical golput, fictitious voters, ideological, pragmatic, and political.

The 2024 Jakarta Regional Election is one of the important moments in local political dynamics, but it recorded worrying results. The level of voter participation in the Regional Elections has decreased significantly compared to the previous Regional Elections. Based on data quoted from Tempo.co (2024) [4], the number of people who did not attend the polling station reached 3,489,614 people or around 42.48% of the total Permanent Voter List (DPT) who did not use their voting rights. These findings are in line with the results of the Charta Politika survey published through the LeetMedia website (2024) [5]. Of the total DPT of 8,252,897 people, only around 58.14% exercised their voting rights in the 2024 Regional Elections.

If you look at the data from the Jakarta General Election Commission (KPU) in the 2021 Jakarta Provincial Political Statistics report, the number of golputs in the 2024 Regional Elections is the highest from the previous year. This can be seen from the data below.

DKI Jakarta is one of the provinces with a relatively large number of Permanent Voter Lists (DPT), with a population of more than 8 million people. According to the Chairman of the Jakarta KPU, Wahyu Dinata, quoted from the Jakarta KPU website, the total DPT consisted of 8,252,897 voters, consisting of 4,080,601 males and 4,172,296 females [6]. This number is spread across 30,766 polling stations, 267 sub-districts, and 44 sub-districts in 6 districts/cities of DKI Jakarta. Below are the details of the 2024 Election DPT in each region in DKI Jakarta.

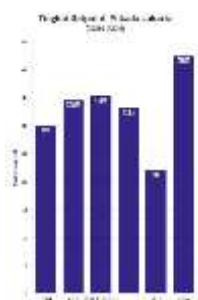


Figure 1. Jakarta Regional Election Golput Level

TABLE 2

Number of Golput Sub-districts

| Districts | Number of Golput |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Penjaringan | 52,14% |
| Tanjung Priok | 45,64% |
| Koja | 45,51% |
| Cilincing | 45,44% |
| Pademangan | 48,57% |
| Kelapa Gading | 46,16% |
| Quantity | 47,07% |

Source; North Jakarta KPU

TABLE 1

Number of voters in each region

| Region Name | Number of Voters |
|------------------|------------------|
| Central Jakarta | 830.352 |
| South Jakarta | 1.766.049 |
| East Jakarta | 2.383.972 |
| North Jakarta | 1.345.136 |
| West Jakarta | 1.905.352 |
| Thousand Islands | 22.036 |

Source: CNN Indonesia

One of the interesting phenomena of the existence of abstain in Indonesia is the phenomenon of abstain in DKI Jakarta, especially the North Jakarta area. Based on Government Regulation (PP) Number 25 of 1978, North Jakarta is administratively designated as one of the regions in DKI Jakarta. In the 2024 election, the number of Permanent Voter Lists (DPT) in North Jakarta was recorded at 1,345,136 people. Of these, as many as 633,448 people did not exercise their voting rights, which means that the golput rate in the North Jakarta area reached 47.07%.

| No | Wilayah | Presentase Golput | | |
|----|------------------|-------------------|----------|--------|
| | | 2017 (1) | 2017 (2) | 2024 |
| 1 | Jakarta Utara | 21,8% | 23% | 47,07% |
| 2 | Jakarta Barat | 25,4% | 23,4% | 44,02% |
| 3 | Jakarta Pusat | 23,5% | 24% | 44,02% |
| 4 | Jakarta Selatan | 24,4% | 25% | 40,17% |
| 5 | Jakarta Timur | 20,7% | 22% | 39,96% |
| 6 | Kepulauan Seribu | 18,0% | 13% | 27,49% |

Figure 2. Percentage of Golput in the DKI Jakarta Region

Based on this data and reviewed from the table of abstention percentages in all areas of DKI Jakarta, North Jakarta ranks first as the region with the highest abstention rate of voting. This figure increased dramatically compared to previous years, namely 21.8% in the first round of 2017 and 23% in the second round of 2017. When compared to other regions, such as West Jakarta and Central Jakarta have a abstention rate of 44.02%, South Jakarta 40.17% and Thousand Islands 27.49%, North Jakarta shows a significant surge.

North Jakarta itself consists of six sub-districts, namely, Cilincing, Koja, Tanjung Priok, Pademangan, Penjaringan, and Kelapa Gading. Based on data from the North Jakarta KPU, the rate of abstention voting in each sub-district is quite varied, which can be seen in the table below.

The results of the recapitulation of the 2024 Jakarta Regional Election in North Jakarta show that candidate number 3 Pramono Anung-Rano Karno received 328,486 votes, number 1 pair Ridwan Kamil-Suswono received 261,463 votes, and number 2 pair Dharma Pongrekun-Kun Wardana received 77,026 votes. In the same region, the number of DPTs was recorded at 1,345,815, while the number of voters was 712,367 (666,975 valid votes and 45,392 invalid votes [7]. This data shows that although the competition between candidates produces clear winners, the winning base is formed in the context of relatively low voter participation compared to the number of DPTs.

This condition shows that the reading of the results of the Regional Elections in North Jakarta does not stop at the difference in votes between candidates, but it should be seen that high abstention has the potential to narrow the political representation of all registered citizens. When the proportion of voters present is smaller than the total number of registered voters, the winner's mandate remains legally valid, but socio-politically demands further evaluation such as whether low participation is influenced by electoral technical factors, local social characteristics, political confidence levels, or uneven campaign mobilization [8]. Therefore, vote acquisition data in North Jakarta is an important entry point to assess the impact of the high number of abstention voter on the quality of local democracy.

To understand this phenomenon more comprehensively, the analysis of voter participation needs to be associated with the various social characteristics of the people of North Jakarta. North Jakarta City BPS data 2023 [9] shows that at the sub-district level, the Muslim population is indeed the majority, but the composition of non-Muslims is also large in some areas. For example, in Penjaringan District, 62,849 Muslims, 14,137 Protestants, 6,370 Catholics, 27,315 Buddhists, 68 Hindus, 61 Confucians, and 2 others; while in Tanjung Priok District, 107,058 Muslims, 17,264 Protestants, 7,281 Catholics, 6,393 Buddhists, 985 Hindus, and 35 Confucians. This shows that the dynamics of social identity in North Jakarta are plural and spread between sub-districts, so that the political behavior of residents is very likely to be influenced by different local contexts.

This diversity is also reflected in the distribution of interfaith religious facilities in various villages and sub-districts, such as mosques/prayer rooms, Protestant churches, Catholic churches, monasteries, and others. With a diverse social base, political choices in North Jakarta are not only determined by candidate

preferences, but also by the interaction of community factors, local social networks, political mobilization, and perceptions of representation [10]. Therefore, the discussion of abstention voter in North Jakarta needs to be placed within the framework of plural and dynamic socio-cultural conditions, namely the more heterogeneous the structure of society, the more likely there will be variations in participation between regions, including the tendency of abstention in several segments of voters [11].

North Jakarta has a DPT of around 1.34 million with voting rights users of around 712 thousand, with a voting abstention rate of 47%. This figure shows that there is a fairly wide gap between the number of registered voters and the citizens who are actually present at the polling station. These findings show that the problem of political participation in North Jakarta is not sufficiently explained by administrative aspects alone, but is related to a combination of urban socio-economic factors, political apathy, level of satisfaction with candidates, effectiveness of organizer socialization, and the quality of updating voter data.

The theory of political participation explains that the involvement of the community in elections is influenced by socio-economic factors and the level of trust in political institutions. According to Surbakti (1992:144), the high or low level of political participation of citizens is caused by the factor of a person's political awareness of his rights and obligations to the state and his trust in the government. In addition, Milbrath and Goel classify political participation into several categories, ranging from apathy to active participation, in which abstinence reflects low levels of political involvement.

A number of previous studies have shown that abstention voting is influenced by low trust in candidates, dissatisfaction with the political system, and administrative obstacles in the electoral process. However, most of the research still focuses on the national or general level and has not specifically studied the phenomenon of abstain voting in urban areas such as North Jakarta which have complex social, economic, and environmental characteristics.

Therefore, there is a research gap in understanding more deeply the factors that cause the high number of golput at the local level, especially in urban areas with unique characteristics. This study has a novelty by combining behavioral factors, such as political apathy and trust in candidates, with structural factors, such as weaknesses in election administration and environmental conditions, in analyzing the phenomenon of abstain voting. Based on this background, this study aims to analyze what factors cause the high number of abstention in North Jakarta in the 2024 Jakarta Regional Election by categorizing between active golput and passive golput.

II. RESEACRH METHOD

The type of research used in this study is qualitative descriptive research. This method was chosen because it is able to explain and understand social phenomena in depth, comprehensively, and based on empirical facts. The qualitative approach emphasizes the importance of the research process rather than focusing only on the final outcome. In addition, the research design is flexible so that it can develop according to

field conditions. In qualitative research, direct interaction between researchers and subjects is the main element to obtain natural data, so that the results of the study have strong validity. Therefore, this method is considered appropriate to examine the factors that cause the high number of golput in the 2024 Regional Elections in North Jakarta.

Through this approach, the researcher seeks to explore various causes of low community participation in the election of regional heads. The research location was chosen purposively, namely in North Jakarta because this area was recorded to have the lowest participation rate in the 2024 Regional Elections. The informants in this study were four who were selected based on their relevance and involvement in the electoral process. The information consisted of the Chairman of the North Jakarta KPU, the Chairman of the North Jakarta Bawaslu, representatives of Perludem, and academics from UPN Veteran Jakarta. The presence of informants from various backgrounds is expected to be able to provide a diverse and objective view of the phenomenon of low participation.

The data collection technique was carried out through in-depth interviews and literature studies. Interviews are conducted semi-structured to allow flexibility in digging up information. Each interview lasts approximately 30-60 minutes. To ensure the validity of the data, this study uses a source triangulation technique by comparing information from various informants. In addition, member checking is carried out to ensure the suitability between the data obtained and the researcher's interpretation. This research also pays attention to the ethical aspects of research by ensuring the consent of each informant and maintaining the confidentiality of the informant's identity.

The data analysis technique refers to a qualitative analysis model that is carried out systematically through four stages. First, data collection through interviews, documentation, and literature studies. Second, data reduction by selecting, summarizing, and focusing important information that is in accordance with the research objectives. Third, the presentation of data in the form of descriptive narratives, tables, or charts so that the patterns of relationships between findings are easier to understand. Fourth, draw conclusions based on the results of the analysis that have been verified continuously. Through these stages, data that was originally raw is processed into meaningful findings that are able to answer the formulation of research problems clearly and deeply.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the research, the high number of golputs in the 2024 Regional Elections in North Jakarta is influenced by a number of factors that can be classified into two categories, namely active golput and passive (technical) golput. This grouping is important to explain that the low number of public political participation is not only due to voters' conscious choice not to exercise their voting rights, but also to structural and administrative barriers that limit people's opportunities to participate. From the perspective of political participation theory, political participation in elections is a form of conventional political participation that shows the involvement of citizens in the democratic process. Therefore, the high

number of abstention voter reflects the weakening of public political participation, both due to psychological, socio-economic, and technical constraints of election organizers.

Active Golput

Active golput is a form of voter non-participation in elections that is carried out consciously. In this context, people have the opportunity to vote, but decide not to come to the polling station. This phenomenon shows that golput is not always synonymous with indifference, but can also be a form of political expression of the community against a system that is considered incapable of answering its needs.

The first factor is the low trust of the people of North Jakarta in the government system which gives rise to political apathy. This condition is related to the weakening of political trust and political efficacy, where people feel that participation in elections will not have a real impact on their lives. When this belief decreases, voting is no longer seen as a meaningful action, so the decision not to come to the polling station becomes a choice that is considered rational.

The findings are in line with the results of an interview with the Chairman of the North Jakarta Bawaslu who said "in urban areas such as North Jakarta, the tendency to apathy is higher than in other areas that are more homogeneous. This is influenced by distrust of the political elite, the perception that their voices will not be heard and a lack of emotional closeness to the candidates." The statement emphasized that political apathy does not appear suddenly, but is influenced by people's social experiences. This apathy cannot be understood solely as a low level of individual political consciousness. On the contrary, this phenomenon reflects the accumulation of disappointment and collective distrust of the public towards a political system that is considered incapable of accommodating the public interest optimally. In the context of the 2024 election in North Jakarta, the decision not to participate in the election not only presents indifference, but can also be interpreted as a form of expression of rejection or critical attitude of the community towards political conditions that are considered unresponsive to their needs and aspirations [12].

The second factor, Political exhaustion. The low voter participation rate in the 2024 Regional Elections in North Jakarta which only reached around 52%, compared to the participation in the 2024 Presidential Election which exceeded 74%, shows a decrease in participation motivation in a relatively short time. This difference does not just reflect politics due to the high intensity of contestation in one period. The density of national and regional political agendas encourages political fatigue, which is a condition when individuals experience saturation of the political process that takes place repeatedly.

This phenomenon was strengthened by an interview with the Chairman of the North Jakarta Bawaslu, he said "*Residents feel bored with the long and strict series of election processes, so their interest in coming to the polling station decreases*". This condition shows that the high frequency of elections in close proximity not only causes saturation, but also reduces the quality of political participation. In this context, political fatigue can be understood as a form of political burnout, where individuals experience psychological fatigue due to continuous exposure to political issues. As a result, participation is no

longer based on rational considerations, but rather on a tendency to avoid the political process itself.

In addition, the proximity of time between elections limits the space for public reflection on previous political dynamics. The people have not had time to evaluate their political choices, but they have been faced with new issues and candidates at the local level. This leads to limited information and confusion in making choices, so the decision not to choose is the simplest alternative. Thus, political fatigue not only reduces participation rates, but also has an impact on the quality of people's political decision-making.

The third factor is the socio-economic conditions of the community which has direct implications for the low level of political education and citizen involvement in the democratic process. Political education is basically not only concerned with knowledge of the system of government and elections, but also concerns the formation of citizens' consciousness to be able to understand their political interests, assess their choices rationally, and use their voting rights responsibly. When the socio-economic conditions of the community are under pressure, the process of consciousness formation tends not to develop optimally.

In the perspective of the theory of political participation put forward by Huntington and Nelson, a person's involvement in political activities is greatly influenced by their social and economic capacity. Individuals who face economic pressure generally focus more energy, time, and attention on trying to influence the needs of life, so the space to follow political issues and follow elections is limited. This condition can be seen in some people in North Jakarta, especially the lower middle economic group who depend on the fisheries, ports, trade, industry, and informal workers sectors for their income. For this group, working is often seen as more urgent than coming to the polling station because it is directly related to their survival [13].

The socio-economic characteristics of North Jakarta also strengthen this condition. The long, irregular, and dependent daily income work pattern has led some citizens to have limited opportunities to participate in political socialization and exercise their right to vote on polling day. This is in line with the results of an interview with the Chairman of the North Jakarta Bawaslu who said that "industrial areas, ports, or areas with daily workers tend to make voters busy and have less time to come to the polling station, especially people in Penjaringan District whose golput rate reaches 52% because most of the population works as fishermen".

In addition to time and work issues, economic pressure also gives birth to a pragmatic view that elections have not had a real impact on improving people's welfare. As a result, political participation is considered to have no immediate benefit, so interest in voting decreases. In this context, the low voter participation in North Jakarta cannot be understood solely as an apathy, but as a consequence of socio-economic realities that limit citizens' access, opportunities, and political awareness. Thus, the high number of golputs shows that local democracy problems are also closely related to socio-economic inequality and the lack of optimal public political education.

Passive Golput (Technical)

In addition to political awareness factors, the high number of golput in North Jakarta is also influenced by passive golput,

namely the absence of voter participation due to technical or administrative constraints. In this category, people basically have the desire to vote, but fail to exercise their voting rights due to obstacles on the ground.

The first factor is the non-optimal distribution of Form C notifications as an official invitation letter for voters to attend the polling station. Based on the results of interviews with the Chairman of the North Jakarta KPU, out of a total of 1,345,815 registered voters, there were 190,915 voters who did not receive notification. This difference not only shows administrative problems, but also indicates a gap in access to information that has the potential to directly reduce the level of voter participation.

When voters do not receive basic information regarding the time and location of voting, their ability to participate becomes limited, even if they are formally registered as voters. Factors such as changes in domicile, data mismatches, and limited data collection show that administrative problems have a broader structural dimension. This limited distribution of information creates inequality in access to political rights, where some people do not have the same opportunity to participate in elections. As a result, some voters lost the opportunity to exercise their voting rights, thus increasing the number of technical golput.

The second factor is the condition of polling stations affected by floods. On voting day, a number of areas in North Jakarta experienced floods that hampered people's mobility to polling stations. This shows that geographical and environmental factors also affect the level of political participation, especially in areas with high disaster vulnerability.

This was strengthened by the results of an interview with the Chairman of the North Jakarta Bawaslu who said "There are 248 polling stations established in flood-prone areas. Where heavy rains and floods that occurred on voting day resulted in many polling stations in North Jakarta having to be moved, logistics submerged, and voting delayed." This condition occurs in areas such as Penjaringan and Cilincing Regencies which are known to have a fairly high level of flood prone.

The impact of this situation is not only limited to the technical aspects of the organization, but also affects the individual's decision to attend the polling station. Uncertainty Location and unconducive environmental conditions tend to increase the burden of participation, especially for vulnerable groups such as the elderly. As a result, some people choose not to attend, not because of apathy, but because of limited access caused by environmental conditions. In this context, voter abstention reflects structural barriers that come from external factors, not solely individual choices.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study, the high voter abstention in the 2024 Regional Elections in North Jakarta is not only caused by rational individual choice factors, but also influenced by structural and technical factors. This phenomenon can be classified into two main forms, namely active golput and passive (technical) golput. Active Golput emerged as a form of apathy, distrust of candidates, and low belief that political

participation can bring change. Meanwhile, passive golput is more caused by administrative constraints and external conditions, such as voter list problems and geographical obstacles in the form of floods that interfere with access to polling stations.

These findings show that the low political participation of the community cannot be understood solely as a form of indifference, but also as a consequence of the lack of an inclusive and adaptive election implementation system to the conditions on the ground. Therefore, increasing voter participation in the future requires a comprehensive approach, both through strengthening public trust in the political process and improving technical and administrative aspects in the implementation of elections.

There are several strategic recommendations to increase voter participation in the North Jakarta Regional Election in the future that is comprehensive and sustainable. Political education needs to be placed as a long-term agenda that is not limited to electoral momentum alone, but is carried out consistently through the involvement of social actors such as community leaders, so as to be able to build collective awareness that political decisions are included in the aspects of spatial planning and welfare, having a direct relationship with the level of citizen participation. On the other hand, the administrative aspect also requires serious attention, especially through updating the voter list that is carried out periodically, accurately, and inclusively, accompanied by an improvement of matching and research mechanisms (coklit) to be able to reach all levels of society, including residents in densely populated areas and coastal areas.

In addition, election organizers need to ensure the availability of polling stations that are strategically placed, easily accessible, and take into account environmental vulnerability factors such as potential flooding, to minimize technical obstacles for voters. In addition, strengthening the dissemination of information related to voting procedures, implementation schedules, and the urgency of political participation needs to be carried out more systematically and massively in order to reach various segments of society. Thus, the combination of educational approaches, improving administrative governance, and optimizing technical aspects is expected to be able to encourage a more significant improvement in the quality of voter participation in the upcoming elections.

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