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# Streamlining The Bureaucracy for First-Time Voters in Indonesian General Elections

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**Abstract.** In this case, novice voters become a potential vote basis for the elections to be held. Apart from that, it is also a potential election because there are several first-time voters who do not exercise their right to vote. But unfortunately, many things prevent first-time voters from exercising their right to vote because of the difficulty of an ineffective bureaucracy, the technical requirements in general elections for someone who is not in their area of domicile seem to be complicated. Given this, of course, the parties involved must make new breakthroughs to overcome these problems. This paper examines the obstacles in optimizing the role of first-time voters to realize quality and integrity general elections and the formulation of an effective bureaucratic system as a solution to optimizing first-time voters. This paper was compiled using a normative juridical approach, so the data used are library sources collected on secondary data. In this case the solution offered is that the Ministry of Home Affairs must order Dukcapil throughout Indonesia to immediately record and issue e-KTPs to first-time voters. In addition, the KPU must be more intense in carrying out political literacy by conducting voter education for first-time voters so that they become smart voters. Also, the need to increase the number of KPU members so that they can carry out their duties and functions evenly and do not mind the burden that must be carried out.

**Keywords:** Bureaucracy, Constitutional Rights, First-Time Voters, Elections.

## 1 Introduction

“Vox Populi Vox Dei” The voice of the people is the voice of God. In line with the mandate of the Constitution as a democratic country which states that Sovereignty is in the hands of the people and implemented as the people want. We should celebrate the manifestation of these democratic activities through a general election party.

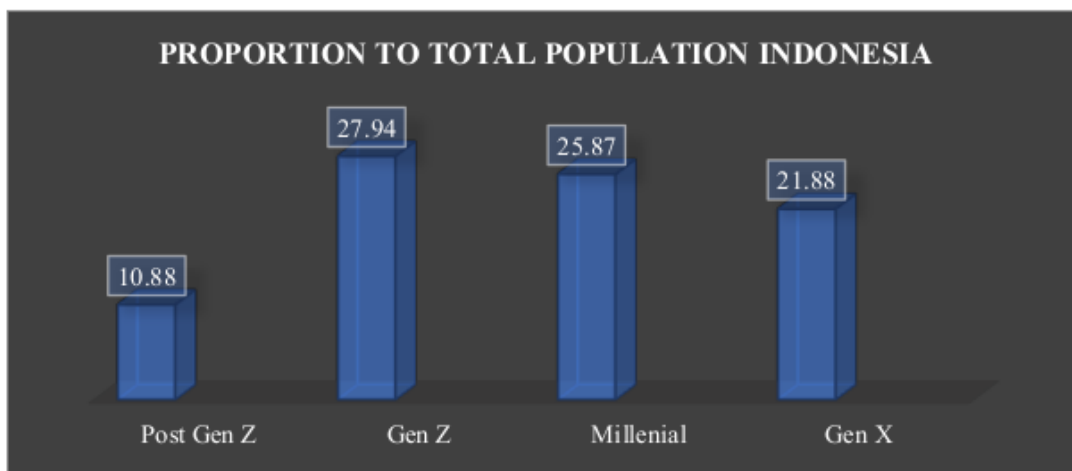
The celebration of Indonesian democracy will be lively in 2024, which will culminate in simultaneous elections for the president and vice-presidential candidates for the 2024-2029 term [1]. Elections are an important instrument in a democratic country that adheres to a representative system. In addition, elections are also interpreted as a real manifestation of procedural democracy because in a democratic country, elections are a tradition to elect public officials in the legislative and executive fields, both at the central and regional levels. This general election is a mandate from the 1945

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Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia which states that sovereignty is in the hands of the people and carried out according to the Constitution. People's sovereignty is implemented through general elections to produce a democratic, aspirational, state government, qualified, and responsible for the welfare of the people [2].

In addition, elections are also an implementation of the implementation of democracy in Indonesia which provides a role for all levels of citizens, including first-time voters, to be able to participate in the election of public officials. The function of elections is to maintain and develop the foundations of democracy and to achieve a just and prosperous society based on Pancasila and ensure the success of the struggle for the New Order, namely the upholding of Pancasila and the maintenance of the 1945 Constitution. The general principles for guaranteeing the legitimacy and credibility of election organizers are: independence, impartiality, integrity, transparency, efficiency, professionalism and service-mindedness, and accountability. So, it becomes important to include first-time voters in the continuation of the Election because the number of first-time voters is quite a lot, as shown in the following chart.



**Fig. 1.** Proportion of Indonesia's Population Source: <https://kumparan.com/fathin-robbani-sukmana/narasi-anak-muda-penentu-arrah-angin-pemilu-2024-1xvM2jKMfFQ>

According to Fathin Robbani Sukmana as a public policy observer, he stated that the first general election in the era of demographic bonuses will certainly affect the holding of simultaneous elections and local elections in 2024.

Based on the results of a survey conducted by Kompas Research and Development, it has been indicated that the data for ages 8-23 years reach a total of 27.94% then at ages 24-39 years it is 25.87% when accumulated it reaches 53.81%. So, it can be concluded that first-time voters will dominate and play an important role in determining the fate of the nation in the upcoming 2024 elections [3]. Henry B. Mayo defines a democratic political system as a general policy determined by the people in periodic elections. Indicators of the implementation of state power are determined by political participation which is implemented by involving participation in democratic parties [4]. Political participation in a country determines people's understanding of state activities. High political participation determines that people can follow and understand and involve themselves in state activities on the other hand, the lower political partic-

ipation will determine that the people are less interested in a state activity. General elections are an essential thing to pay attention to because low political participation is an important signal and indicator of the course of the democratic process and the implementation of people's sovereignty.

According to Article 198 of Law Number 7 of 2017 of General Elections, first-time voters are Indonesian citizens who are 17 years old on even election day or have been married and have the right to vote. Besides that, the General Election Commission in the journal module I of 2013 [5]. It also provides categories for first-time voters, namely citizens who are going to exercise their right to vote for the first time in general election activities, or Indonesian citizens who are even 17 years old or not yet 17 years old but have been married. With the increasing number of novice voters, of course, this will color the general election, both at the regional and national levels.

First-time voters need to be prepared to become intelligent, critical and future-oriented young voters because these first-time voters are the carriers of the next generation of leaders who will lead Indonesia in the coming 2045. Thus, elections are largely determined by the participation of first-time voters because failures in elections in Indonesia are influenced by the low level of voter turnout. In this case, novice voters need to be perceived as objects of political activity who still need guidance in an orientation towards growth in their potential abilities, thereby being expected to be able to play an active role in the political field. Based on data from the Cabinet Secretary of the Republic of Indonesia, the participation rate in general elections has tend to decrease starting from 2004 reaching 84.1%, then in 2009 it was 71% and in 2014 it was 69.6% and in 2019 it increased by 81.9 % [6]. The cause of inactivity in general elections is the low level of public knowledge, views of elections only as routine activities that do not have an impact on society, and are only considered as certain individual interests. Of course, in this case political education in the form of information is needed for citizens, especially by first-time voters.

Beginner voters become a potential vote basis for the elections to be held. Apart from that, it is also a potential election because there are several first-time voters who do not exercise their right to vote. But unfortunately, many things prevent first-time voters from exercising their right to vote because of the difficulty of an ineffective bureaucracy, the technical requirements in general elections for someone who is not in their area of domicile seem to be complicated. For example, students who are outside their domicile area must get a letter of introduction from the local regional KPU who must queue from early in the morning, the limited number of KPU officers also adds to the problem.

Thus, novice voters became lazy and unenthusiastic and made many votes for abstentions. Based on the results of a survey of election organizations conducted by Keune and Raccord [7]. The results for first-time voters who did not exercise their right to vote during the 2019 election were 40%. From this problem, don't let citizens not use their right to vote due to bureaucratic difficulties. The government should also be more responsive to the problems that occur.

## 2 Method

This research uses a normative juridical approach, so the data used are library sources collected on secondary data. The library sources used include books, official documents, laws and regulations, previous research and documents related to this research. Besides that, it also uses primary, secondary and tertiary law. The data findings processed and analyzed in order to be able to provide answers regarding the problems that occur. Thus, the study in this paper does not only use positive law but also uses existing phenomena.

## 3 Result and Discussion

### 3.1 Obstacles in Optimizing the Role of Beginner Voters to Realize Elections with Quality and Integrity

The number of first-time voters is quite large and makes a significant contribution to the victory of the presidential and vice-presidential candidate pairs as well as in the election for members of the House of Representatives (DPR), Regional Representative Board (DPD), and Regional House of Representatives (DPRD) or in the legislative elections. However, problems still occur in actualizing the right to vote which in the end causes first-time voters to lose their right to vote [8]. Of course, this problem can be allowed to drag on and a solution must be found immediately to save millions of voting rights for this potential group in the 2024 election.

Some of the obstacles and problems surrounding young voters today include. The first is an administrative problem, first-time voters who are not in their constituency must require a statement from the General Elections Commission (KPU) to be able to vote, which request for a letter takes quite a long time and is not effective. In addition to administrative problems, the second problem is that young voters are vulnerable to being politicized and used as a political commodity to increase the popularity and electability of candidates in elections, both presidential and legislative elections [9]. The third problem is the attitude of first-time voters who are still indifferent, first-time voters do not have high concern for general elections so that first-time voters are very vulnerable to being approached, persuaded, influenced, mobilized and so on to be willing to take part in the campaign to be carried out. Third, many first-time voters still have a fairly high degree of lability, that is, the decisions made are not unanimous or can be called swing voters and they do not know which legislative candidate they want to vote for. This is influenced by those closest to them, such as family.

In the election context, these first-time voters are in the range between political enthusiasm and political apathy. On the one hand, they are very excited and want to know about the election, however, first-time voters do not know in depth who they want to vote for. In fact, many of the novice voters, including students, chose not to exercise their right to vote because they did not know who they wanted to vote for. In other words, the political enthusiasm of young voters reflects a phenomenon in which first-time voters only vote without knowing clearly and with certainty the legislative

candidates they choose [10]. Thus, candidates must maximize communication aimed at audiences, especially first-time voters, by utilizing the delivery of messages through social media. Because most of this young population (96.2%) are users of social media. Globalwebindex survey results quoted from katadata.co.id internet users in Indonesia in the age range of 16 to 64 years, show that there are social media platforms that are actively used by Indonesian people. However, in this case, voters are also expected to always be vigilant about hoax news and not to be easily provoked, let alone participate in spreading hoax news. First, check the source of the information obtained is valid information that can be accounted for.

Fourth, novice voters are an easy target for money politics. In this case money politics in the context of novice voters can come from political party initiatives, campaign teams or successful teams, and political brokers (political brokers) [11]. However, it can also come from the self-initiative of these first-time voters. It cannot be forgotten that first time voters are familiar with money politics and its sources. Beginner voters tend to only know about money politics in limited numbers, not in large numbers. In fact, in Article 22 CHAPTER VIIB of the 1945 Constitution, elections are held directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly and fairly. Fifth, novice voters do not have experience in general election activities, especially in voting at polling stations (TPS). Another obstacle is the lack of human resources from the KPU, which is obliged to convey all information to first-time voters related to elections.

In this case, the KPU acts as an election organizer which has many tasks that must be completed so that the elections can be carried out smoothly, however, the many tasks that the KPU has are not matched by sufficient human resources so that many KPU tasks cannot be completed properly. This causes low voter turnout. The low participation of first-time voters causes first-time voters not to realize how important their voting rights are, causing first-time voters not to exercise their right to vote.

### **3.2 Formulation of an Effective Bureaucratic System as a Voter Optimization Solution Bigger**

With the various problems described above, all parties and elements that have an important role in optimizing first-time voters in elections should be able to act actively and make a real contribution in finding new solutions and breakthroughs to save first-time voters so they can exercise their right to vote properly, of course with the existence of an effective bureaucratic system in elections.

In this case the solution that can be done is First, the Ministry of Home Affairs must issue a Circular Letter along with Technical Instructions for Dukcapil throughout Indonesia to be able to record and issue e-KTPs to first-time voters who are even 17 years old in June 2024, besides that Dukcapil must also continuously recording e-KTP for first-time voters in order to be able to hold the 2024 general election. In this case, it is necessary to understand that if the recording and issuance of e-KTP for first-time voters has not been resolved, then the Ministry of Home Affairs must also have another option, namely the Ministry of Home Affairs through Dukcapil all Indonesia, through the Head of the Implementing Unit (Kasatpel) in their respective sub-districts, in coordination with and having approval from the KPU, DPR, and Bawaslu,

must issue and make a Certificate (Suket) for first-time voters in exchange for a population document that can be used in voting. The basis for issuing this Statement Letter is Article 39 paragraph 3 PKPU No. 11 of 2018 concerning Compilation of Domestic Voter Lists in the Implementation of Elections [12]. In addition, Dispendukcapil can carry out El KTP Record Ball Pick-up Services for Beginner Voters in Villages. So it is hoped that from this activity, in 2024 first-time voters or Kendal citizens can get their right to vote [13].

Then, the General Election Commission which is an auxiliary state institution in the realm of executive power which is independent in nature which has the function of organizing elections in this case must continuously conduct outreach to institutions down to the lower level, especially at the KPPS which will later be tasked with dealing with the public and novice voters in voting place. In addition, socialization must also be carried out intensely to the wider community through the mass media and social media. In this case, it is also accompanied by the KPU and Dukcapil movements to eliminate and prevent the use of Suket from being counterfeited and/or misused.

Third, politicians, money politics and the lack of understanding related to voting or other matters for first-time voters can be overcome by the KPU intensely carrying out political literacy by conducting election education for first-time voters to make them smart voters [14]. Smart voters are voters who prioritize rationality, not emotionality in determining their political views and attitudes. In this education, understanding and technical skills for voting are legal and in accordance with the provisions so that the presence of novice voters at TPS is not in vain. There are several factors supporting the political participation of novice voters in elections, namely first, with regard to receiving political incentives.

Beginner voters are encouraged to participate in the General Election because there is stimulation from the mass media or electronically. The second relates to a person's social characteristics. Beginner voters have different social personal characteristics, but from these various differences, quite a lot of beginner voters care about and are aware of their political rights as a society. They want to participate in the election by coming to the TPS where they live according to the invitation they get. Third, it concerns the political system and party system in which an individual lives.

Fourth, Bawaslu and political parties must save the fate of millions of novice voters so that Bawaslu needs to encourage and ensure that the KPU and the Ministry of Home Affairs make definite moves, both in terms of rules and implementation. The political parties also have the duty to socialize this to constituents from the beginner voter segment. This must be done immediately so that novice voters have an understanding and know their rights and obligations in the 2024 election.

Fifth, the names of first-time voters who have entered the DP4 have the opportunity to be able to exercise their right to vote, but for those whose names have not been listed on the DP4 and are still recording their e-KTP and only with capital assumptions, their data is already included in the DPT, so by checking their names are already registered in the DPT or not. If not, immediately report to the nearest Voting Committee (PPS) to immediately include it in the DPT by attaching proof of a recording letter or other population data.

Sixth, it is necessary to improve the quality of human resources for KPU members so that they can carry out their duties and functions optimally and in an organized manner. Improving the quality of human resources is also supported by optimizing a new policy for first-time voters who do not have an ID card and are 17 years old on election day. The intended new policy is in the field of technology in the form of optimizing the KPU application by adding a statement issuance service. With the issuance of a certificate issuance service, novice voters can exercise their right to vote at. The KPU application aims to ensure that novice voters who have made or recorded an identity card in the form of an electronic identity card (KTP) but cannot print it can still exercise their right to vote. Apart from that, other services that need to be available in order to optimize beginner voters, namely the need for a certificate service to be able to vote in areas where beginner voters are when elections are held. This is based on first-time voters who have student status and are in an area where they do not have the right to vote because they are studying and need a letter of introduction to be able to vote in an area where they have no right to vote. It should be realized that the application for a cover letter is very ineffective because it requires queuing and takes up energy and time which causes novice voters not to exercise their right to vote. For this reason, it is necessary to have an effective application for the cover letter.

#### 4 Conclusion

The lively Indonesian democratic party will be coming to be precise in 2024, of course there are many things that must be prepared so that the general election this time will run smoothly and there will be no obstacles whatsoever. The problems that occurred in the previous general election must also be resolved as quickly as possible so that later general elections can be held without the same problems that must be faced.

Beginner voters are a potential vote basis for elections to be held, but various problems still occur such as the difficulty of an ineffective bureaucracy, the technical requirements in general elections for someone who is not in their area of domicile seem to be complicated, and the lack of human resources from the KPU. Another problem is that young voters are prone to being politicized and used as a political commodity to boost the popularity and electability of election contestants, both in the presidential and legislative elections. Beginner voters are prone to be approached, persuaded, influenced, mobilized, and so on to be willing to take part in the campaign being carried out. Many novice voters still suffer from lability and emotionality. Beginner voters often become easy targets for transactional politics, or money politics. Another obstacle is the lack of human resources from the KPU, which is obliged to convey all information to first-time voters related to elections, which cannot be fulfilled due to the large number of tasks carried out by the KPU but not accompanied by a sufficient number of human resources.

Of course, the related parties must make new breakthroughs to overcome these problems. The first solution is that the Ministry of Home Affairs must order Dukcapil throughout Indonesia to immediately record and issue e-KTPs to first-time voters who



will turn 17 on April 17 2019 no later than the end of December 2018 accompanied by Technical Instructions or a Circular issued. In addition, the KPU must actively socialize it to all of its staff down to the lower level, especially to the KPU S. KPU must be more intense in carrying out political literacy by conducting voter education for first-time voters so that they become smart voters. Also, the need to increase the number of KPU members so that they can carry out their duties and functions evenly and do not mind the burden that must be carried out.

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