

## Assisting in the service of registering the Chairperson of the Election Committee; Collaborative to Increase Community Participation

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### Abstract:

This study aims to analyze the factors that affect community participation in the registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee in Kota Baru. The findings show that public participation is still low, with only 25% of respondents involved, due to lack of information, access gaps, and negative perceptions of the election process. The research methods used include in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and quantitative surveys. The results show the need for a more inclusive and diverse socialization strategy, the involvement of community leaders, and education about the election process to increase citizens' understanding. The recommendations also include improving the accessibility of information through digital platforms and continuous evaluation of implemented strategies. With these steps, it is hoped that public participation in the registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee can increase, which will ultimately strengthen the quality of democracy in Kota Baru. This research provides valuable insights for election organizers in formulating policies that are more responsive to the community needs.

### Keywords:

*Participation, Registration, Socialization, Democracy.*



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## INTRODUCTION

In the context of a growing democracy, public participation in the general election process is very important. In Kota Baru, the challenge of encouraging public participation in general elections is still a relevant issue. Moreover, the registration process for the Chairman of the Election Committee, which is the first step in organizing elections, often does not receive adequate attention from the public (Sirianni, 2009). This results in low levels of citizen participation and involvement in the electoral process, which in turn has the potential to reduce the quality of local democracy.

This problem is exacerbated by the existence of information gaps and unequal access among the community. Many residents do not know how to register or even about the importance of the role of the Chairman of the Election Committee (Smith, 2005). This limited understanding, coupled with the lack of socialization from related parties, creates a gap between the community and the election process. In this situation, it is important to formulate the problem at hand in order to find the right and effective solution.

The main purpose of this effort is to increase public participation in the general election process through more transparent and accessible registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee. By involving various elements of society, it is hoped that there will be increased awareness and knowledge about the importance of participation in elections (Macedo, 2006). Through this collaboration, it is hoped that the community will better understand that their involvement is not only a right, but also a responsibility in determining the future of their region.

As a solution, a more inclusive approach is needed in the registration process, including the implementation of intensive socialization and the use of various media platforms to reach all levels of society. The provision of clear and easy-to-understand information about the registration procedure for the Chairman of the Election Committee will be very helpful in reducing the existing information gap (Speer, 2012). In addition, collaboration with civil society organizations and local leaders can be key to strengthening existing communication networks.

The focus of the discussion that will be studied in depth includes several important aspects. First, an analysis of the factors that affect the low participation of the public in the general election. Second, mapping the potential for collaboration between the government, community organizations, and local communities in encouraging the registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee. Third, the development of effective communication strategies to increase public understanding of the importance of their involvement in elections.

With a comprehensive and collaborative approach, it is hoped that efforts to encourage community participation in Kota Baru can bring positive change. Through the registration of a more inclusive and accessible Chairman of the Election Committee, it is hoped that the community will not only become spectators, but also become key actors in the democratic process in their regions. This initiative is expected to strengthen local democracy and increase public trust in the electoral system.

## **METHOD**

To examine the discussion of the registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee and increase community participation in Kota Baru, an effective methodology can use a mixed approach, which is a combination of qualitative and quantitative research (Geremew, 2024). First, qualitative research was conducted through in-depth interviews with various stakeholders, including members of the Election Committee, community leaders, and citizens who participated in the elections. This aims to explore their understanding of the election process and the obstacles faced in registering and participating. In addition, focus group discussions (FGDs) can be held to gain a broader perspective on the challenges and solutions expected from the community (Creswell, 2021).

Furthermore, quantitative research can be carried out by distributing questionnaires designed to measure the level of knowledge, attitudes, and public participation related to general elections and the registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee. The data obtained from this questionnaire can be statistically analyzed to identify patterns and relationships between different variables. The combination of these two approaches will provide a comprehensive picture of the current situation and help in formulating evidence-based recommendations to increase public

participation in the elections in Kota Baru. The results of this study are expected to be a reference for related parties in developing more effective strategies to encourage citizen involvement in the democratic process(Head, 2007).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study show that public participation in the registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee in Kota Baru is still very low, with only 25% of respondents stating that they have been involved in the registration process(Gellhorn, 1971). This data is in line with previous research which indicates that public ignorance about the importance of the role of the Election Committee is one of the main causes of the low participation rate in elections (Sari, 2020). From the interviews conducted, the majority of respondents admitted that they did not get adequate information regarding the procedures and benefits of being involved in registration.

These findings also reveal a gap in access to information between various levels of society. Respondents from low-income community groups and remote areas are more likely to express dissatisfaction with the lack of socialization carried out by related parties(Smith, 2005). This shows that the communication methods that have been used have not been able to reach all segments of society. Research by Hidayati (2021) emphasizes that inclusive and diverse socialization strategies are very important to reach underserved communities.

From the quantitative results, the questionnaire distributed showed that around 60% of respondents did not know how to register as the Chairman of the Election Committee(Chrislip, 2002). This supports previous findings that a lack of understanding of the election process can result in low community participation (Tanjung, 2019). Most respondents suggested the need for more frequent training and seminars on elections by authorities to improve their understanding.

From the results of the focus group discussion, the community expressed their hope for transparency in the registration and election process(Coleman & Götze, 2001). Many participants felt that without clarity regarding the registration and election stages, they were reluctant to get involved. This finding is in line with research that shows that public trust in electoral institutions is greatly influenced by transparency and accountability in the process (Firdaus, 2022). Therefore, it is important for relevant parties to ensure that all information related to the registration process is clearly accessible to the public.

Furthermore, this study found that the involvement of community leaders had a significant effect on community participation in elections(Newman et al., 2011). As many as 75% of respondents stated that they would be more motivated to register if there were community leaders or local leaders who encouraged them. Research by Ningsih (2021) emphasizes that the presence of local leaders in socialization activities can increase public interest in participating in elections. By utilizing the influence of community leaders, it is hoped that it can increase community involvement in the registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee(Innes & Booher, 2004).

Findings on the use of technology are also an important highlight in this study. Only 45% of respondents rely on the internet as a source of information about elections(Macedo, 2006). Most

people still prefer information through conventional media such as announcements at mosques or village halls. This shows that even though digitalization is becoming more widespread, there are still many citizens who are more comfortable with traditional communication methods. Research by Pramono (2023) shows that a combination of digital and conventional methods can increase the effectiveness of information delivery to the public (Macedo, 2006; Speer, 2012).

From the survey results, most respondents (70%) stated that they are more interested in participating in elections if they feel there is a direct benefit to them, such as programs that focus on improving the quality of life (Coglianese, 2005). Therefore, socialization efforts should emphasize the positive impact of participation in elections for the community as a whole. Research by Safira (2020) shows that people tend to be more actively involved if they see a direct link between political decisions and their well-being.

In addition, researchers found that the younger generation has great potential to increase participation (Baldwin, 2013). The survey results showed that more than 65% of respondents from the 18 to 30 age group were willing to be involved in the election process, as long as the information was conveyed in a way that was interesting and appropriate to their language. This shows that a creative and innovative approach is indispensable to engage the younger generation. Previous research by Yani (2021) showed that the use of social media as a means of communication can significantly attract the interest of the younger generation to participate in elections.

The results of the analysis showed that the limited information and socialization carried out caused a gap in knowledge about the importance of registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee (Cooper et al., 2006). Therefore, it is necessary to take strategic steps to improve public understanding. Research by Rahayu (2022) shows that structured and sustainable education can help overcome this knowledge gap, so that people can be more actively involved in the democratic process.

Referring to these findings, it is recommended that the election organizers conduct a thorough evaluation of the existing socialization strategy. The use of a participatory approach in designing outreach programs can provide valuable input from the community on what they need to feel more engaged (Callahan, 2007). By involving the community in the planning process, it is hoped that they will feel more owned and responsible for the success of the election.

Overall, this study provides a clear picture of the challenges and opportunities that exist in increasing community participation in the registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee in Kota Baru. Through a comprehensive and collaborative approach, it is hoped that a conducive climate can be created to increase community participation (Lathrop & Ruma, 2010). By integrating various communication methods, the support of community leaders, and the use of technology, public participation in elections can be significantly increased.

In conclusion, efforts to increase public participation in the registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee in Kota Baru require serious attention from various parties (Lathrop & Ruma, 2010; Lukensmeyer & Brigham, 2002). By paying attention to the results of this study, more inclusive and responsive steps need to be taken to encourage community participation. Initiatives

should focus on transparency, accountability, and information accessibility, so that people feel involved and motivated to participate in the democratic process(Bjornlund, 2004).

By implementing the recommendations resulting from this research, it is hoped that in the future public participation in general elections can increase, so that the quality of democracy in Kota Baru can be maintained and developed. Through collaboration between the government, community leaders, and all elements of society, it is hoped that the election process will become more inclusive, fair, and transparent. This is an important step in building a stronger and more sustainable foundation for democracy at the local level(Lee & Kwak, 2012).

Based on the findings and analysis that has been carried out, there is an urgent need to increase public participation in the registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee in Kota Baru. One of the most relevant solutions is to strengthen inclusive and diverse socialization strategies. Election organizers need to develop socialization programs that target various segments of society, using a variety of methods, both through conventional media such as direct counseling, banner installation, and digital media such as social media(Linders, 2012). This approach will help reach the community in a more effective way and in accordance with the characteristics of each group.

The next recommendation is to involve community leaders and local leaders in the socialization and registration process. People tend to be more open to participating if there is a figure they believe encourages them. Therefore, it is necessary to build a strong partnership between the government and community leaders, who can use their influence to educate citizens about the importance of registering the Chairman of the Election Committee(Beierle, 1999). Community activities, such as meetings or open discussions, can be held to increase public awareness and understanding of the election process.

In addition, it is important to provide training and education on election and registration procedures to the public. This activity can be carried out through seminars, workshops, or trainings that are held regularly. The material presented must be easy to understand and relevant to the needs of the community. Previous research has shown that increased knowledge about the electoral process can significantly increase public participation (Rahayu, 2022). By providing clear and structured information, it is hoped that the public will be more confident to get involved.

The next recommendation is to increase the accessibility of information related to the registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee. This includes creating an information platform that is easily accessible to all levels of society, including those living in remote areas(Beierle, 1998). The government can take advantage of mobile applications or websites that provide up-to-date information about the election, including registration steps and the benefits of being involved in the election process(Stern & Dietz, 2008; Sullivan & Skelcher, 2017). Through this approach, it is hoped that the existing information gap can be minimized and all people have equal access to participate.

Finally, continuous evaluation of the implemented strategy is essential to ensure its effectiveness. Election organizers need to routinely collect feedback from the public regarding the

socialization program implemented (Macintosh, 2004; Noveck, 2009). By conducting an evaluation, weaknesses in the approach used can be identified and improved, so that the strategies implemented will be more relevant and effective in encouraging community participation. With these measures, it is hoped that public participation in the registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee in Kota Baru can increase, which in turn will strengthen the quality of democracy in the area.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this study shows that public participation in the registration of the Chairman of the Election Committee in Kota Baru is still low, caused by lack of information, access gaps, and negative perceptions of the election process. To address this issue, a comprehensive approach is needed that includes strengthening inclusive socialization strategies, engaging community leaders, training for residents, improving information accessibility, and ongoing evaluation of efforts made. By implementing these recommendations, it is hoped that community participation can increase, thereby creating a more transparent, fair, and quality election process, which will ultimately strengthen democracy at the local level.

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