



# The Role of the General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar in Increasing Voter Participation in the 2024 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections and Legislative Elections

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**Abstract:** The General Election Commission (KPU) as one of the organizers of the general election, has strategic and tactical duties. This is in accordance with Article 2 of Law number 7 of 2017 concerning general elections. The General Election Commission (KPU) Karanganyar is the election organizer based in Karanganyar Regency. As the election organizer, the General Election Commission (KPU) Karanganyar is tasked with conducting elections and regional head elections based on the provisions regulated by law. This research aims to describe the role of the Karanganyar General Election Commission in increasing voter participation in the 2024 presidential, vice-presidential, and legislative elections. This research method is qualitative. In this research, the technique used for selecting informants is purposive, which falls under the category of non-probability sampling. The researchers considered using this technique because the informants have a capacity for information mastery and careful consideration of the research focus. The collected data will then be analyzed using interactive analysis techniques. The role of the Regulator is carried out through various regulations used by the General Election Commission of Karanganyar Regency to enhance public participation in exercising their voting rights in the 2024 presidential and legislative elections. These regulations are included in the General Election Law, the Decision of the Indonesian General Election Commission (KPU RI), and the Regulations of the Indonesian General Election Commission (KPU RI). The role of the Facilitator is carried out through the Facilitation of the Karanganyar Regency General Election Commission in order to increase voter participation through the Student Council President Election (MILKOI). The General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar Regency facilitated the organization of student council president elections in high schools and equivalent institutions in Karanganyar Regency. The role of the catalyst has been carried out by the General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar Regency. The role of the catalyst includes organizing socialization for community groups about the stages of the general election, recruiting democracy volunteers, intensive communication with stakeholders, and optimizing the recruitment of Ad Hoc bodies based on socialization to the community and social media.

**Keywords:** Role, General Election, Community Participation

## Introduction

The electoral systems used by countries around the world are very diverse. A country with the same demographic and geographic characteristics does not necessarily adopt the same electoral system. Countries that adopt the same form and system of government do not necessarily adopt the same electoral system, and vice versa. General elections in Indonesia are a democratic festivity held to elect representatives and national leaders. Elections in Indonesia have a long history, starting from the time Indonesia gained independence.

Elections are one of the important instruments in a democratic system, where the people have the right to choose their leaders and representatives in the government. (Kirana, D. K., Setiawan, M. O. E., & Priza, S: 2024) Community participation in elections is an important indicator in measuring the quality of a country's democracy (Saleh, A. M: 2016) In Indonesia, the General Election Commission (KPU) is responsible for conducting honest, fair, and transparent elections. The General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar Regency, as part of the national General Election Commission structure, plays a strategic role in increasing voter participation in its region.

Since independence in 1945, Indonesia has gone through various types of general elections. Here are the general elections that have been held in Indonesia. Year 1955, Year 1971, Year 1977 – 1997, Year 1999, Year 2004, Year 2009, Year 2014, Year 2019, and Year 2024. (Tanjung, T.: 2023). In developing countries, political participation tends to be widely mobilized and directed towards development interests. People who demonstrate or vote in such ways seem to be a tangible manifestation of easy political participation that attracts attention from various circles (Simamora, J: 2014).

Indonesia uses an open proportional electoral system, where every citizen has the right to vote based on the possession of a Population Identification Number (NIK), which is subsequently established as the Permanent Voter List (DPT) and the Special Voter List (DPK) (Hoesein, Z. A: 2023). The condition is concluded that all Indonesian citizens (WNI) have the right to vote in the general election. The General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar Regency is a Non-Structural Institution that serves as a national, permanent, and independent election organizer at the regency level, which is under and part of the Central General Election Commission and the Central Java Provincial General Election Commission. The General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar Regency is led by Chairperson who is accountable to the Chairperson of the General Election Commission (KPU) of the Republic of Indonesia and the General Election Commission (KPU) of Central Java Province.

The General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar, in carrying out its main duties and functions, assigns tasks at the sub-district level through the Sub-District Election Committee (PPK), the Voting Committee (PPS) at the village level, and the Voting Organizing Group (KPPS) at the Polling Place (TPS) level. This research focuses on the role of the General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar in increasing voter participation in the 2024 Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections as well as the Legislative Elections. The background of this research is based on the importance of community participation in elections as a form of political participation by citizens. The voter turnout rate in

Karanganyar Regency in the 2024 elections reached 88%, an increase from 79% in the 2019 elections. This increase shows that the efforts of the General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar to enhance voter participation have been successful. The formulation of the problem in this research is how the role of the General Election Commission (KPU) Karanganyar in increasing voter participation in the 2024 elections. The purpose of this research is to describe the role of the General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar in increasing voter participation, as well as to provide recommendations for the future development of the General Election Commission's institution.

## Methodology

The researcher uses a descriptive empirical research model with a qualitative approach. The term empirical research uses field data. Empirical research is research that explores (exploratory), describes (descriptive), and explains (explanatory) (Waruwu, M : 2023). This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method. Data collection techniques were carried out through interviews, observations, and documentation. Informants are selected purposively, meaning individuals or groups deemed to have the capacity and knowledge relevant to the research focus. The collected data were analyzed using interactive analysis techniques (Miles, Huberman, and Saldana: 2017). The research location is the Karanganyar Regency KPU, with the unit of analysis including individuals (KPU commissioners, technical staff, and voter representatives) as well as the organization (Karanganyar KPU). Data collection techniques include in-depth interviews with KPU commissioners, observation of KPU activities, and analysis of documents related to regulations and KPU activity reports.

## Theoretical Framework

The role theory used in this research refers to the concept of the government's role as a regulator, dynamist, facilitator, and catalyst. The government has functions of service, regulation, and empowerment in realizing good governance (Srimranani, C. E : 2022). The dynamic role theory emphasizes that the roles of individuals or institutions can change over time, influenced by social, personal, and social interactions. (Burke and Stets: 1998) Role is a series of behaviors performed by someone based on their character. (Mifta Thoha: 2012) That condition can be influenced by a person's psychology in performing the desired actions, in accordance with their heart's desire. This definition is almost the same as which uses an individual's behavioral approach. However, the difference is that there is an additional approach, namely the character approach (Asrulla, A., Risnita, R., Jailani, M. S., & Jeka, F : 2023).

The role of the government is divided into four roles, namely (Ryaas Rasyid: 2002):

1. The role of the government as a regulator

As a regulator, the government provides basic guidelines that are subsequently interpreted by the community as instruments to regulate every activity of empowerment implementation in society.

## 2. The role of the government as a dynamist.

As a dynamist, the government plays a role by providing intensive and effective guidance and direction to the community. Guidance and direction are essential in maintaining dynamics. The government, through extension teams or certain agencies, provides guidance and training to the community.

## 3. The role of the government as a facilitator.

As a facilitator, the government strives to create or facilitate an orderly, comfortable, and safe atmosphere, including facilitating the availability of development facilities and infrastructure such as mentoring and funding/capital. The theory of elections refers to the concept of elections as a democratic instrument that serves to legitimize the government, create political representation, and educate society politically (Mufidah, A., & Syarofi, A.: 2024). Elections also function to integrate the people and produce a stable majority for the government (Haris, S.: 2014).

The theory of community participation refers to the mental and emotional involvement of individuals in the political process. Political participation can take the form of voluntary activities such as voting in elections or engaging in the decision-making process. (Sastrawati, N.: 2019) Factors that influence community participation are: First, education, literacy skills, needs, position, social position, and lack of courage. (Marhum: 2021) Second, it is a factor in the shallow understanding of the state. (Muslih, M.: 2017) Third, the tendency to misinterpret the inspiration, goals, and interests of people's associations usually leads to misconceptions about the desires and motivations of the population (the government with authority) and the lack of open positions to participate in various improvement programs. (Zein, M. H. M.: 2023). In addition, the growing participation in society is influenced by many other internal factors. The functions of elections, as expressed by Sanit in Pito, classify four functions of general elections, namely political legitimacy, the creation of political representation, the circulation of political elites, and political education. (Pito: 2007).

## Result and Discussion

The General Election Commission (KPU) Karanganyar is the election organizer based in Karanganyar Regency. As the election organizer, the General Election Commission (KPU) Karanganyar is tasked with conducting elections and regional head elections based on the provisions regulated by law. The General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar Regency is a Non-Structural Institution that serves as a national, permanent, and independent election organizer at the regency level, which is under and part of the Central General Election Commission and the Central Java Provincial General Election Commission. The General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar Regency is led by a Chairperson who is accountable to the Chairperson of the General Election Commission (KPU) of the Republic of Indonesia and the General Election Commission (KPU) of Central Java Province.

The organizational structure of the Karanganyar Regency General Election Commission was established based on the General Election Commission Regulation Number 3 of 2020 concerning Amendments to General Election Commission Regulation

Number 8 of 2019 on the Work Procedures of the General Election Commission, Provincial General Election Commission, and Regency/City General Election Commission, as well as the General Election Commission Regulation Number 14 of 2020 concerning the Duties, Functions, Organizational Structure, and Work Procedures of the General Election Commission Secretariat, Provincial General Election Commission Secretariat, and Regency/City General Election Commission Secretariat. The research results show that the General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar acts as a regulator, dynamist, facilitator, and catalyst in increasing voter participation in the 2024 elections. The role of the regulator, the General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar, implements various rules and regulations to increase voter participation, such as the Election Law, KPU Regulations, and KPU Decisions. These regulations aim to ensure that every citizen has equal access to participate in elections, including first-time voters, women, and persons with disabilities.

Based on the results of interviews and documentation conducted by the author, it is known that various regulations have been documented that the Karanganyar Regency General Election Commission uses to enhance public participation in exercising their voting rights in the 2024 presidential and legislative elections. These regulations are included in the General Election Law, the Decision of the Indonesian General Election Commission (KPU RI), and the Regulations of the Indonesian General Election Commission (KPU RI). All of these regulations are implemented up to the level of the General Election Commission present in each region, including Karanganyar Regency.

The use of these regulations is to encourage the public to exercise their voting rights as a form of participation in determining the direction of national policies. Helping voters understand the importance of their vote in creating a representative and democratic government. Then ensure that certain groups, such as women, young voters, people with disabilities, and minority groups, have equal access to participate. The role of the Dynamist, the General Election Commission (KPU) Karanganyar, involves monitoring and coordinating with various parties, including election committees at the sub-district and village levels. The General Election Commission (KPU) is also active in addressing the dynamics that arise during the election process, such as hoax issues and black campaigns, through social media and collaboration with the Election Supervisory Board (Bawaslu).

Based on the author's observations, the posture of legislative candidates from various backgrounds was found. Thus, it creates dynamics in voter preference. The legislative candidates come from the millennial generation, religious leaders, former village heads, artists, former members of the military/police/civil service, and even entrepreneurs. Candidates with the backgrounds mentioned above strive to uncover superior potential so that in gaining public support, they have emotional and cultural closeness.

The General Election Commission of Karanganyar Regency can conduct the presidential and vice-presidential elections and the legislative elections of 2024 smoothly. Then the dynamics that occur can be resolved optimally. So that there are no massive protests from the community. The General Election Commission of Karanganyar Regency listens to input from various groups to ensure that the elections can be conducted in a quality, accountable, and transparent manner. So that public participation in the



presidential and vice-presidential elections and legislative elections in 2024 in Karanganyar Regency reaches 88%. The Role of the Facilitator, the General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar facilitates voter socialization activities to various segments of society, including first-time voters and people with disabilities. The KPU also facilitates the election of student council presidents in schools as a form of political education for first-time voters.

Based on the observations made by the author, it was found that there is facilitation by the General Election Commission of Karanganyar Regency in order to increase voter participation through the Student Council President Election (MILKOI). The General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar Regency facilitates the implementation of student council president elections in high schools and equivalent institutions in Karanganyar Regency. The facilitation provided includes the provision of election logistics such as ballot boxes. Then, facilitation in the activities of the student council president candidate debate. In between these activities, there was also a socialization event for the presidential and vice-presidential elections, as well as the legislative members for the 2024-2029 period. This is expected to increase the awareness of first-time voters to use their voting rights in the general election. Catalyst Role, the General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar formed democracy volunteers tasked with socializing and educating the public about the stages of the election. The General Election Commission (KPU) also conducts intensive communication with stakeholders, such as the health department and the police, to ensure the smoothness of the election process.

Based on research data obtained by the author through interviews and observations, it is known that the catalytic role has been carried out by the General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar Regency. The role of the catalyst includes organizing socialization for community groups about the stages of the general election, recruiting democracy volunteers, intensive communication with stakeholders, and optimizing the recruitment of Ad Hoc bodies based on socialization to the community and social media. The voter turnout rate in Karanganyar Regency for the 2024 Election reached 88%, an increase from 79% in the 2019 Election. This increase shows that the efforts of the Karanganyar KPU to boost voter participation have been successful.

## Conclusion

The General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar has completed the plenary session of the 2024 district-level election vote count results. From the results, it was found that the level of public participation in this year's political contest reached 88 percent. the participation rate is considered high compared to the previous election. Considering the public participation rate in the 2019 elections was around 79 percent.

The organizational structure of the Karanganyar Regency General Election Commission was established based on the General Election Commission Regulation Number 3 of 2020 concerning Amendments to General Election Commission Regulation Number 8 of 2019 on the Work Procedures of the General Election Commission, Provincial General Election Commission, and Regency/City General Election Commission, as well as the General Election Commission Regulation Number 14 of 2020 concerning the Duties, Functions, Organizational Structure, and Work Procedures of the General Election

Commission Secretariat, Provincial General Election Commission Secretariat, and Regency/City General Election Commission Secretariat.

The role of the Regulator is carried out through various regulations used by the General Election Commission of Karanganyar Regency to enhance public participation in exercising their voting rights in the 2024 presidential and legislative elections. These regulations are included in the General Election Law, the Decision of the General Election Commission (KPU) of the Republic of Indonesia, and the Regulations of the General Election Commission (KPU) of the Republic of Indonesia. All of these regulations are implemented up to the level of the General Election Commission (KPU) in each region, including Karanganyar Regency. The facilitation of the General Election Commission (KPU) Karanganyar includes collaboration with the Health Department to ensure readiness before, during, and after the voting process. This is to ensure that election organizers at the polling station level receive guaranteed medical services.

The role of the Facilitator is carried out through the Facilitation of the General Election Commission of Karanganyar Regency in order to increase voter participation through the Student Council President Election (MILKOI). The General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar Regency facilitates the organization of student council president elections in high schools and equivalent institutions in Karanganyar Regency.

The role of the catalyst has been carried out by the General Election Commission (KPU) of Karanganyar Regency. The role of the catalyst includes organizing socialization for community groups about the stages of the general election, recruiting democracy volunteers, intensive communication with stakeholders, and optimizing the recruitment of Ad Hoc bodies based on socialization to the community and social media. The recommendation that can be given is the need to enhance the capacity of the General Election Commission (KPU) in facing future electoral challenges, such as issues of hoaxes and black campaigns, as well as improving cooperation with various stakeholders to ensure higher voter participation. This research is expected to contribute to the institutional development of the KPU and improve the quality of future election administration.

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