



## POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH IN THE WEST JAVA REGIONAL ELECTION (PILKADA) IN 2018

Yusa Djuyandi\*, Ari Ganjar Herdiansah

Department of Political Science

Universitas Padjadjaran

Jl. Raya Bandung - Sumedang, Jatinangor, Sumedang, Indonesia

Received: 26 August 2018; Accepted: 24 September 2018; Published online: 13 November 2018

DOI: [10.21787/jbp.10.2018.195-207](https://doi.org/10.21787/jbp.10.2018.195-207)

### Abstract

The implementation of the regional elections (Pilkada) in West Java is one of the means of democratic regional leadership succession. One indicator of the success of the elections is the political participation of the community, and one of the most important segments of society that is interesting to study is youth. Based on data from the West Java Election Commission, out of 31.7 million registered voters, there were 30% of young voters who could participate. But there are problems faced in efforts to increase youth political participation, namely the tendency of apathy towards politics. This study aims to find out how youth political participation in the West Java Provincial Election in 2018. In identifying and analyzing youth political participation in West Java in the 2018 elections, this research takes and analyzes a number of data using qualitative research methods, where the data were taken consists of primary data derived from interviews, group discussions, and observations. Meanwhile, secondary data was obtained from various literature studies, media, and official documents of the West Java Election Commission. The data obtained was then validated by using data triangulation techniques to obtain accurate data. The results of this study indicate that in the implementation of the 2018 West Java Pilkada, there is an increase in the political participation of Youth in voting to elect candidates for governor and deputy governor. There are several factors that encourage an increase in youth political participation in the West Java Pilkada in 2018, namely the figure and track records of the candidate pairs, socialization and campaign factors, regional factors, ulama influence factors, and community political awareness factors. The five factors are able to negate concerns about the low political participation of youth in the Pilkada event in West Java in 2018. This condition can be a record, both for election organizers or other regional head candidates and the bearer party, for how to suppress the potential Golput (White Party/Abstentions) numbers among beginner voters.

**Keywords:** Political Participation, Youth, Democracy, Regional Election, West Java

### I. INTRODUCTION

The implementation of direct regional elections by the people is one form of the realization of the democratic political system at the regional level, this political process is carried out in hopes of bringing the region towards a better political life due to the election of a regional head who is more responsible, qualified, and able to fulfill high public expectations. The rolling of the reform era brought a political change that did not only occur at the central level but also extended to the regional level. The birth of a law on regional government within the framework of regional autonomy, which is then regulated that the regional head is elected

by the community, shows that there has also been a political decentralization. The desire to hold elections in the region is the community wants prospective leaders who are reliable, able to bring change, progress, and development for the region and the community itself.

The implementation of regional head elections requires the participation and active role of the community in voting. Political participation in society is needed in the political life of a democratic country. In general, political participation is the activity of a person or group of people to participate actively in political life, among others by choosing a leader of the State and directly or indirectly

\* Corresponding Author

Phone : +62 817 9242 566

Email : yusa.djuyandi@unpad.ac.id



influencing government policy (public policy). This activity includes actions such as voting in general elections and so on.

Since the enactment of the simultaneous Regional Head Election, in 2018 there were 171 regions holding simultaneous regional elections on 27 June 2018. One of the provinces that implemented it was West Java. Based on KPU data, West Java Province in the implementation of the 2018 Regional Election was recorded to have 31,974,728 Million registered voters (General Election Commission, n.d.). As a province with the largest population in Indonesia, West Java can be used as a parameter in measuring people's political participation in Indonesia.

Of the 31.7 million registered voters in West Java, according to the West Java Election Commission, there were 30% of young voters who participated (KPU of West Java Province, 2018). With this significant amount, research related to youth political participation in the 2018 West Java Pilkada becomes important to be chosen. On the other hand, there are several problems faced in increasing youth political participation, such as apathy tendencies towards politics, the small number of young people who identify with political parties, to the potential of increased abstentions (Muhtadi, 2013, p. 5). Before the West Java Pilkada in 2018 was held, the Commissioner of the Socialization Division of the West Java Provincial KPU, Nina Yuningsih, once expressed her pessimism towards the participation target of the new voters (Rihanto, 2018). On the basis of these issues, this study focuses on discussing the political participation of the West Java youth in the 2018 West Java Regional Election.

Research related to political participation is not a new thing. Therefore, this research is considered necessary to show the state of the art which can then distinguish from previous studies. Based on studies of similar studies, the first can be mapped the existence of several studies that raise the theme of women's political participation in General elections and Regional elections (Gama & Widarwati, 2008, p. 63; Syamsudin, 2017, p. 108; Warjiyati, 2016, p. 1) the three studies considered that women's political participation was important and therefore building political awareness from women's groups was deemed necessary. Encouragement of women's political participation is not only limited to certain sub-segments but also for the entire segmentation of women, such as housewives.

The second category of previous research is the research that looks at the difficulty of improving the quality and quantity of the broad political participation of society in the democratic process, both in general elections and regional elections (Brown, 2016, p. 1; Sholihin, Fitriyah, & Sutadji,

2014, p. 504; Sinen, Lamadirisi, & Gugule, 2013, p. 70). These three studies see that public political participation, which tends to be low, threatens democratic values, and this happens not only in countries whose democratic processes have just developed but also in countries with liberal democratic systems. The fall in the level of political participation can also be an indication of the failure of political agents in implementing democracy in the real sense, in which the current implementation of democracy is more likely to be procedural.

The third is research related to the political participation of first-time voters (Herlina, 2017, p. 106) (Rossi, 2009, p. 467). Both of these studies discuss the perspective of political youth political participation. However, there are relatively different conditions between the two, Herlina (2017) discovers how youth leaders play an important role as legislative candidates in the 2014 Election, while Rossi (2009) precisely sees the emergence of youth political apathy that arises in several countries such as Argentina and Papua New Guinea.

The three previous research categories above have differences with this study. First, there are differences in the location of the study or the scope of the study, where researchers made the West Java region as the scope of this study. Second, the time of this research was different where researchers used the West Java Regional Election, which was held in 2018 while the previous three studies were carried out in the previous period so that this would show the novelty of the existing political participation. Third, the subject of this research was the youth in West Java Province.

## A. Political Participation

Political participation has a strategic position in the context of democracy in society. This can be seen from the activities and sustainability of a political activity. Community activities in this political activity can be demonstrated through their participation in various electoral activities (legislative, president, regional heads, and village heads) in Indonesia. One of the activities carried out by youth to come to the election location or polling station (TPS) to vote is an act of political participation. Before analyzing the phenomenon under study, in this section, various concepts and theories about political participation will be explained.

In the view of Almond & Powell, JR. (1978, p. 4) political participation is not only limited to taking part or role in the context of political activities, but political participation is always preceded by an articulation of interests in which an individual is able to control political resources, as well as a political party leader. This opinion can imply the

meaning that a political party leader must be able to gather or unite support to achieve a goal. It has an important meaning in political participation.

Furthermore, Verba & Nie (1972, p. 9) explained that under political participation is a private activity of a legal citizen and aims to select State officials.

The view of the same thing states that participation means the participation of ordinary citizens (who do not have authority) in influencing the process of making and implementing political decisions in the form of public policy. The activities of citizens are basically divided into two parts, namely: (1) influencing the contents of general policy and (2) participating in determining the makers and executors of political decisions. In other words, political participation is political behavior; but a political behavior is not always in the form of political participation (Agustino, 2014, p. 59). While Efriza stated that participation was also understood as playing a role or participating, which had been understood by the Indonesian people. Many public activities, both those with political and non-political dimensions, can be held well because of the role or participation of citizens (Efriza, 2012, p. 151).

In democratic activities, political participation shows the participation of the community in elections and plays an important role in determining the candidates for leadership in government both at the national level and at the regional level.

## **B. Factors that Influence Political Participation**

Political participation can be influenced by several factors. The factors that influence political participation, one of which is explained by Damsar (2010, p. 180) is influenced by the socioeconomic status variable. In the socioeconomic status variable, there are several indicators used to conduct an analysis of a relationship or influence, namely education, employment, income, or wealth.

The above points out that political participation tends to be higher in groups of people who are highly educated, have better jobs, have higher income, and have more wealth compared to groups of people who are less educated, have fewer good jobs, have low income, and of little possessions.

In the same perspective, Damsar (2010, p. 180) also explained that in addition to socioeconomic status, there are also other variables that influence political participation. such as gender aspects, political culture, informal leadership, and the degree of disappointment towards existing realities, including the reality of government and politics.

In another part, (Basrowi, Sukidin, & Susilo, 2012, p. 65) states that there are people who are apathetic about politics. They do not want to

participate because in addition to being apathetic, also cynical or because of anomie. In almost the same context, Surbakti (1992, p. 140) mentions two important variables that influence the level of one's political participation, namely one's political awareness and political confidence in the government.

The aspect of a person's political awareness includes awareness of his rights and obligations as a citizen, political, economic, and social and legal guarantees. In addition, his obligations as a citizen in the political system and social life also influence the high and low level of political participation. This factor also concerns some of the knowledge a person has about the community and political environment around him. The second factor concerns how the assessment and appreciation of the government, both against policies and the implementation of government. The assessment is a series of beliefs, both those on whether the government can be trusted or not, or whether the government can be influenced or not (Surbakti, 1992, p. 140). That is if they see the government cannot be influenced in the political decision-making process, then for them, actively participating is useless.

Another opinion was expressed by Arbi Sanit (in Soeharno, 2004, p. 110) that there were five factors that encouraged political participation at that time. First, there was a freedom to compete in all fields, including politics. Second, there was a broad and open political reality. Third, there was a freedom to organize themselves so that community and party organizations can thrive. Fourth, the spread of political resources in society. The fifth was the distribution of power in society so that a balance of power was created.

When referring to current conditions, namely where democracy requires a wider space for the community to participate in political activities, the five factors proposed by Sanit are considered more appropriate. This is different from Milbrath (1972, p. 45) who mentions 4 main factors that encourage someone to participate in politics. First, the political stimulus factor. Because of the stimuli, then someone is interested in participating in political life. In this case, the interest to participate is influenced in political activities because it often follows political discussions through mass media or through formal discussions.

Second, a person's personal characteristics. Social-minded people who have high social concern for the social, political, economic, socio-cultural, and defense and security issues of the community are usually eager to engage in political activities.

Third, the factor of a person's social characteristics. Social characteristics related to socioeconomic status, racial, ethnic and religious

groups of a person. However, the social environment influences the perception, attitude, behavior of a person in the political field. People who come from a more rational social environment and respect values such as openness, honesty, and justice will certainly want to also fight for the establishment of these values in the political field. That is why they are encouraged to participate in political activities.

Fourth, a factor in the state of the political environment. A conducive political environment makes people pleased to participate in political life. In a democratic political environment, people feel freer and more comfortable to engage in political activities than in a totalitarian political environment. A totalitarian political environment often filled with radical activities and full of violence will automatically alienate people from the political environment.

Based on the descriptions above the researcher can record important matters related to factors that influence a person to participate in political activities. The main influence of a person to be able to participate in political activities in society can be seen from four factors, namely political stimulation, one's personal character, social character, and political environment factors.

## II. METHOD

This study uses a qualitative method, the use of qualitative methods is considered appropriate because this study wants to look deeply at the political participation of youth in the West Java Regional Election in 2018. In addition, this research also does not want to test something. Data sources in this study were obtained from primary and secondary data. Primary data is the result of observations and interviews on youth political participation in the implementation of the elections in West Java in 2018, which are known from regional socialization activities in several regions in West Java, such as Bandung City, Bandung Regency, Ciamis Regency, and Sumedang Regency. Interviews were conducted to several informants, including the Chairperson of the Youth Organization, the Chairperson of the OSIS from several high schools, the Chairperson or representatives of the youth organizations that participated in the socialization activities. The secondary data from this study was obtained from the media and literature studies, namely by collecting several relevant documents.

The results of the research data collected were then assembled in the adjusted data analysis process from Moleong (2007, p. 247) , which examined all data available from various sources, carried out data reduction, compiled them in units, and reviewed the validity of the data. The descriptive analysis is in

accordance with the title of the research that was raised. Testing the validity of the data in this study is based on certain criteria, namely the degree of trust and correctness of the data obtained, the truth of a description, conclusions, and explanations that can be known from compliance with laws and other important documents.

In this study, the authors analyze the data according to the data that the authors have found in the field. This data was then organized and then adjusted to the focus of the research carried out. The data obtained is then validated through data source triangulation techniques. Wiersma (in Sugiyono, 2008, p. 125) states that "Triangulation is qualitative cross-validation. It assesses sufficient data according to the convergence of multiple data sources or multiple data collection procedures."

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

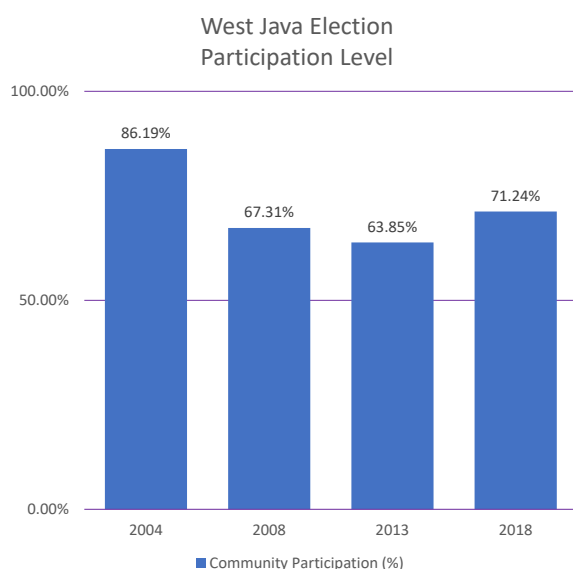
### A. Political Participation of Youth in the West Java Pilkada in 2018

Regional elections held in West Java in 2018 was carried out by listening to various aspirations of the people of West Java. In general, the people of West Java directly had exercised their right to vote in the determination of candidates for Governor and Deputy Governor of West Java for the next 5 years.

In its implementation, there was an increase in the general political participation of the people of West Java when compared to the implementation of the previous elections. In the implementation of the Election of the Governor and Deputy Governor of West Java in 2013, recorded the level of participation of the people who voted was 63.85% while in the 2018 Regional Election was 71.24% (KPU West Java Province, 2018; KPU, 2018) . Both figures of political participation are also still lower than the implementation of the West Java Governor election in 2004 of 86.19% (detikNews, 2017).

It can be seen in Figure 1 that the implementation of the 2018 elections was able to increase the participation of the people of West Java in general and stop the negative trend of decreasing the level of political participation in society from time to time.

This increase in the political participation of the people of West Java, in general, shows that there is an increase in the political participation of youth in West Java in the 2018 elections. With the proportion of 30% of the total voters, it shows that Youth in West Java have an important role in supporting increased political participation in the community and determining who is the governor and deputy governor of West Java. This was similar to what was conveyed by Chusnur Mariyah, President Director



**Figure 1.** Level of Community Political Participation in West Java Election

Source: processed from various data sources, 2018

of the Center for Election and Political Party (CEPP) of the Social and Political Science Faculty (FISIP) of University of Indonesia which explained that the existence of young voters would determine who won the West Java election (Iman, 2018).

## B. Factors Influencing Youth Political Participation in the West Java Regional Elections 2018

### 1) Figure Factor of Prospective Governor and Deputy Governor

One factor that drives the creation of political participation in the implementation of post-conflict local elections is the prospective figure factor. This is as explained by Lisma & A.L.W (2017, p. 90) that the candidate figure is one factor that influences the level of public participation in the implementation of regional elections. This shows that the figure of the governor and deputy governor candidates in the West Java regional election can influence the level of youth political participation in West Java.

A very important part in the activity of the regional general election is to give voting rights. The people of West Java who participated in the 2013 West Java Regional Elections activities made choices with several considerations. Based on an analysis of the results of the observation, it was found that West Javanese youth were motivated to participate in coming to the polling station (TPS) because they saw the figure of candidates for Governor and Deputy Governor. The people of West Java see that there

are several Candidates for Governor and Deputy Governor of West Java who have sufficient capacity or are experienced enough to lead the region. This is based on the track record of candidates who have experienced sitting in government.

In addition, because of the closeness between the people of West Java and the value of Islamic religiosity, young people in West Java also saw the background of the personal lives of candidates who were considered to have close ties with Muslims. This is very understandable because the environment of West Java society which is quite religious will consider aspects of the personal lives of candidates. They assume that the personal background of these candidates will influence future policies if they are elected as leaders. The important thing that drives the West Javanese youth to give their voting rights is to look at a candidate figure.

This can be seen from the results of the pre-regional elections survey conducted by the Indonesian Institute of Poltracking, which showed that 21.7% of respondents said that the candidate's experience and track record were the reason for them to choose the candidate pair. Still in the same survey, showed that 30% of respondents said that the religious background adopted by candidates was a factor that influenced their choice (Poltracking Indonesia, 2018).

The result of the West Java Regional Election in 2018 then placed Ridwan Kamil and Uu Ruzhanul Ulum (Missing Couples) as the most voted with 32.88% of the votes, followed by the rise of votes for Sudrajat and Ahmad Syaikhu with the votes of 28.74% (West Java Provincial KPU, 2018), becomes a proof of how religious factors are still a reference for voters. The figure of Ridwan Kamil is not only regarded as a young mayor with achievements but is also religious, coupled with the figure of his deputy candidates from the Nahdlatul Ulama and the Islamic party (PPP). While from the Asyik candidates, it is known that the prospective deputy of Sudrajat is Ahmad Syaikhu who is the Deputy Mayor of Bekasi and also a cleric, a graduate of one of the oldest Islamic boarding schools in Indonesia, namely Buntet - Cirebon, as well as politicians from the PKS.

Based on the results of the above explanation, it is very illustrating that the people of West Java, including among them the youth, are more interested in considering the candidates that they will choose in the West Java Pilkada in 2018 by reason of seeing an Islamic candidate or behaving according to Islamic law. In several occasions, discussions with several informants from youth groups in several regions in West Java, such as the Head of Youth Organization, Chair of Youth Organizations such as KNPI, Chairperson of Student Organizations, and

OSIS Chair from several high schools, beginners or youth voters in West Java still made Religiosity or religious elements as determinants of choice, even though there are also other factors that follow, such as candidates for regional heads must have achievements or experience and fall into the category of young.

With the aforementioned considerations, it can be seen how the participation given by the youth has considered various benefits which according to them can benefit the region. Therefore, although the elements of religiosity are still considered by young voters, there are other important things that should not be missed and become the basis for voting in the election of the Governor and Deputy Governor.

The West Java Regional Election in 2018 shows that almost all governor and deputy governor candidates are "old faces" who are familiar figures in the eyes of the people of West Java. The four governor/deputy governor candidates are quite popular faces. Ridwan Kamil, Uu Ruzhanul Ulum, Dedi Mulyadi, and Ahmad Syaikhul are heads of regencies/cities in West Java. While Deddy Mizwar was the previous Deputy Governor of West Java. Tubagus Hasanuddin is a member of the Indonesian Parliament from West Java who is also the Chair of the West Java PDIP. Anton Charliyan was previously the West Java Regional Police Chief. From this, it can be seen that all candidate pairs are well known among the public in general and youth in West Java in particular.

Based on the analysis of the researchers, these findings indicate that the candidate pairs of governor/deputy governor are figures who are familiar or well-known to the people in West Java and become one of the factors that increase the level of participation of Youth in Regional Election in West Java in 2018. Thus, the figure of the candidates for Governor/Deputy Governor with a good track record, not related to various legal cases and the candidates for governor/deputy governor with a religious background have good enough opportunities to attract the community and encourage the community to participate in Regional Elections activities. Even candidates with incumbent backgrounds have a greater chance than other candidates in increasing the number of community participation in the elections in West Java in 2018.

## 2) *Socialization and Campaigning Factor*

Umboh (2013, p. 12) explained that one of the problems in improving the problem of youth politics was the still low political awareness of novice voters. Based on this, an effort is needed to educate young people regarding their role in participating in general elections.

The factor that helped boost the number of West Java community participation, especially the youth in the West Java 2018 Regional Election was the existence of socialization and campaigns. The need for political socialization among youth was also stated by Lee (2016, p. 107), that "... the process of political socialization is important if we are to explain the rise of youth activism comprehensively."

The socialization of the election was carried out by government officials, the supporters of the Regional Election Commission (KPUD), and the District Election Committee (PPK), while the campaign was carried out by candidates for governor/deputy governor, the Success Team for candidates, Volunteers, and Non-Governmental Organizations.

The parties related to their duties and functions as election organizers have special targets so that the implementation of the Regional Election activities runs successfully. This success was pioneered or started with the right socialization technique towards the target in order to achieve high participation rates. In all regions of West Java, it seems that socialization is being carried out so young voters are interested in using their right to vote.

There are many efforts carried out by various parties to encourage youth participation in the West Java Regional Election in 2018. One of them is by promoting the socialization of the West Java Election program in various youth organizations. One of the programs initiated was "Ngariung Lingkar Pemilihan Muda Jabar" which presented 100 young voters from all regencies/cities in West Java who could later become agents to invite other young voters to participate in the 2018 West Java Election (Husodo, 2018).

Another effort taken was a collaboration between the West Java Regional Election Commission and 30 campuses to encourage youth political participation. In its implementation, the West Java Election Commission created an Electainment on Campus program to maximize young voters and beginners. Another effort is to provide opportunities for students from the region to return to their home areas to vote (Kurnianto, et al., 2018).

In addition to socialization activities, another thing that became a factor in increasing the rate of youth participation was the existence of a campaign. Campaigns are part of political communication. Political communication is communication that involves political messages and political actors or relating to power, government, and government policies. In practice, political communication is very strong in everyday life. Because in everyday activities, not one human being that does not communicate, and sometimes is trapped in the

analysis and study of political communication.

In the political context, the campaign is one form of active participation by candidates, the success team of the candidate's bearer party, volunteers, and institutions or community organizations and youth organizations. The form of the campaign is carried out in the form of delivering vision, mission, or programs that are oriented about things that are visionary in realizing a government that is in line with people's expectations.

The vision and mission conveyed through this form of the campaign will be scrutinized by the community as participants. The community will see how far the commitment of candidates for governor/ deputy governor in fighting for the interests of society in general. Thus, in this campaign form, the public will be interested in the candidates' vision and mission and moved to participate in the form of voting. In essence, the campaign forms carried out by these candidates are a series of processes or activities carried out by the candidates to the citizens to get support.

The community as participants in this Regional Election not only participated in open campaign activities involving the community, but they were also aware of their right to vote in the voting time at the TPS.

The candidate pair number one, RINDU (Ridwan Kamil and UU Ruzhanul Ulum) uses communication in a style that is easily conveyed to young groups in order to blend and build their sympathy. Often, this is conveyed through the social media of both. In their programs, they are also willing to try to recognize the problems of youth such as getting a job and encouraging young people to have a good understanding of politics (Julian, 2018).

Candidate pair number two, Sudrajat and Ahmad Syaikh (Cool Couple) try to gain youth support in West Java by encouraging the improvement of the quality of young people in West Java to become more productive. In their program and campaign promises, the pair encourages the creation of creative spaces for Youth in self-creation. Specifically, in the field of business, Ashikpreneur is used as a weapon to win the voice of the millennials (Julian, 2018).

Candidate pair number 3, Deddy Mizwar and Dedi Mulyadi, encouraged to create productive spirit among youth. Specifically, the Deddy-Dedi pair leads to the development of agricultural technology and creates a productive curriculum compatibility.

Candidate pair number 4, Tubagus Hasanudin and Anton Charliyan campaigned for their ideas by involving Banten Muda which is the organ of the youth wing of the PDI Perjuangan. Through this Banten Muda, they hope to win votes from young voters in West Java (Perdana, 2018).

Some forms of campaigns carried out by candidates, success teams, and volunteers for candidate pairs contain the following objectives:

1. Get political support from the community
2. Communicate in the form of direct speech with the community so that the vision and mission they design become an attraction for the community
3. Mobilize the masses to be effective in reaching the campaign so that they get a lot of sympathy from the citizens in one event.
4. Build the image of candidates for Governor/ Deputy Governor so that the candidates are seen by the community as being able to carry out the mandate of being the regional leaders.

This kind of socialization or campaign form is an affirmation of the existence of the role of the Civil Society. In Pangandaran District, the community is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), and a Cultural Arts Organization. The social institution basically has the same way of increasing the political participation of the community, namely conducting socialization or campaigning and providing political education to the community. By involving many social institutions, it is expected that people from various elements are encouraged to participate.

The socialization and political education provided by social institutions in increasing political participation turned out to not be able to encourage the community to participate politically to the fullest. So that in this case, we see from the other side about the influence of voter rationality in political participation.

Based on the above, the findings are found, namely that the success team and community institutions have a strategic role in efforts to increase political participation. This increase in the number of community political participation proves that the level of political participation of the community is also influenced by the socialization carried out both by the organizers of all levels.

The above findings can provide an illustration that although the motivation to carry out socialization delivered by the electoral organizers such as office implementers, KPUDs, PPKs and parties involved in campaign activities such as the Success Team, Party Leaders, Volunteers, and NGOs is different, but it created efforts in order to materialize a high-level community political participation. Citizens are expected to be interested and motivated to come to the polling station (TPS)

### 3) *Primordial Factor*

Another factor that encourages youth participation in West Java in the West Java Regional



Election in 2018 is the primordial issue. The peculiarities of the West Javanese people who have Sundanese culture is the issue that plays a role in the elections. The closeness of the candidate pairs with a region in West Java raises public interest in the candidate pairs.

The issue of identity is something that does not appear naturally, it turns out that identity issues, such as regionalism, are political sources as well as instruments of political articulation for the benefit of individuals and groups. In its development in various general elections, the issue of identity has become a reason in various political actions carried out by citizens Salim (2015, p. 1674).

The bearer political party, the success team, and the volunteers play an important and strategic role in disseminating information about the candidates they carry. Through campaign dissemination, they have given significant influence on the general public and West Java 2018 youth to determine their choices with consideration of primordial issues. This primordial issue has the potential to provide opportunities for the bearer political parties to win votes in the elections.

In relation to the Regional Election in West Java, this regional issue was mainly carried out by the success team of the nominating parties from the regions where the electoral community came from. This is done by efforts to how this primordial issue still has a significant effect on the community and is expected by the success team to be able to make a vote in the implementation of the elections. The community is moved and interested in choosing candidates with a tendency to regional sentiments.

The sentient sentiment referred to above in the West Java Pilkada can be seen in 6 regional regions, namely: Central Priangan area (including: Bandung Regency, Bandung City, West Bandung Regency, and Sumedang District), East Priangan Region (including: Garut Regency, Tasikmalaya, Ciamis, Pangandaran and Banjar), West Priangan or Bogor Raya (including: Cianjur Regency, Sukabumi Regency, Sukabumi City, Bogor Regency and Bogor City), Pantura (includes: Subang Regency, Purwakarta Regency, Karawang Regency, and Bekasi Regency), Cirebon Raya (Cirebon City, Cirebon District, Majalengka, Kuningan and Indramayu) and the last is DKI Suburban Area (covering Depok City and Bekasi City) (CNN Indonesia, 2018).

The division of regions in West Java into 6 areas is undeniably also ultimately led to the existence of primordial issues that lead to public opinion, especially youth, to vote in accordance with the expectations of the success team that carries candidates from the origin of the community in West Java. Motivated youths come to vote at the polling stations (TPS) because the candidates who will be

elected are of the local descendant. They feel they have a psychological attachment. This can at least be seen from the activities of the candidate during the campaign period, such as Ridwan Kamil who tried to show the origin of his ancestors in Garut by uploading a post on Facebook, Ahmad Syaikh who tried to show his origin from the Cirebon area by showing the Cirebon language and dialect at the time of candidates' debate.

The findings above emphasize that the issue of local descendants is still effectively used to attract the masses to win votes and encourage the public to carry out their political activities by voting in polling stations during Regional Election activities in West Java.

#### 4) *Ulama Influence Factor*

Ulama or kyai is considered to have charismatic leadership with all its advantages. The position and utterance of the ulama or kyai do have great power, through spoken language or messages delivered to the people they lead, the community can be moved to follow it. The role of clericalism which, although more placed in a social position, can in fact also influence political position. The strength of the position of the ulama is because of its centralistic leadership pattern.

This is in line with the research conducted by Inanda (2009, p. 3) and Aya (2013, p. 1) that the role of ulama in inviting the community to increase their political participation is a dominant factor compared to other factors. This certainly proves that the regions with strong religiosity cultures such as West Java will be influenced by clerical factors.

Regional Election is a political competition to get broad support from the community. Getting support from the community is done with various strategies and techniques or ways. One strategy that can be done to get that community support, especially the youth, is built through religious activities that involve the role of the ulamas in the area.

The existence of ulama in the regions has a very important and strategic role. The ulamas have an important role because of their position as a da'wah interpreter in Talim assemblies that develop aqidah and tawhid in the community. The role of ulama is said to be strategic because the da'wah activities they do are considered effective to influence public awareness which is packaged in the form of a spiritual splash that touches the sense of community faith.

Likewise, the same thing happened in West Java. The regional characteristics in West Java are very religious so that the presence of ulama cannot be ignored. Especially if connected with the interests



of Pilkada activities. In the Pilkada activities in West Java, the ulama became one of the factors driving the increasing number of political participations in the community. One of the scholars who is quite loved by the Youth in West Java is Hanan Attaki, through the voice recording of Ustadz who has a majority of youth followers, invites young people to come to the polling stations to support one candidate pair on the grounds that the pair gives benefit to da'wah in the way of God (Fakhrullah, n.d.).

In addition to Hanan Attaki, there is also Kyai Haji Abdullah Gymnastiar or called AA Gym which also invites all people in West Java to use their voting rights and elect candidates who have alignments to Islam, supported by support parties close to Islam, choose a loyal candidate and don't choose ambitious candidates to become governor (Media Indonesia Raya, 2018).

The occurrence of the above phenomenon shows the role of the ulamas who can function as government partners in disseminating information relating to Regional activities so that the community has the awareness that the right to vote is part of religious worship because by participating in Regional Election activities by giving voting rights, the community has taken a step that will be able to determine the fate of the future government.

At another level, there are some ulama who carry out their da'wah activities by inserting special messages from one of the teams supporting governor/deputy governor candidate pair. Smoothly convey opinions to citizens through these messages. Findings like this are common because of the interests of certain parties. Nonetheless, the presence of the ulamas through their da'wah activities in the community has been able to influence its citizens to make political participation in Regional Election activities in West Java.

People, especially young people who are still unfamiliar in political matters, will feel enlightened by their missionary activities. Their awareness of the issue of the elections made them as objects only, so the presence of the ulama was very significant in influencing its citizens. The approaches and strategies built by the missionaries will be able to build awareness through moral messages in religion that invite citizens to use their voice rights as a form of worship with sincerity.

The political communication system built in religious activities is considered an effective enough strategy to build awareness of its citizens, especially young people who have high religiosity, so this finding shows that this participation rate is also influenced by the presence of ulamas as missionaries in their activities to influence the community in political awareness to Regional Election activities.

The findings above emphasize that the political behavior of youth in West Java is influenced by religion and belief through the touch of the da'wah activities of the ulamas who are followed in Taklim assemblies which routinely schedule spiritual activities as a form of fostering devotion to Allah SWT. Religion has given ethical values and political morals that influence society in their political behavior. Belief in this is a reference that is full of norms and rules that can encourage and direct political behavior according to religion and belief so that the political process and community participation can be influenced by the high level of understanding of one's religion. With a religious approach, the moral message and political message that will be conveyed will be easily digested because it is related to an understanding of beliefs, aqidah, and tawhid of people then all that is done becomes part of the people or community members to serve Allah SWT. Thus, the urge to influence young people to be able to participate in Regional Election activities is increasingly wide open through the role of ulamas in the regions.

This analysis is supported by the role and position in the area of ulamas who are considered very important and strategic, as a missionary who develops aqidah and tawhid to the community, the ulamas are very strategic and have opportunities that are effective enough to influence public awareness to participate in Regional Election activities through spiritual feed that touches the sense of community faith.

##### 5) *Community Political Awareness Factors*

Another important factor that greatly contributes to increasing the political participation of youth in the West Java Pilkada activities in 2018 is the factor of political awareness of the youth. This factor shows the level of concern of youth towards the sustainability of the future governance order. With the youth's political awareness in the form of participation in voting at the polling stations (TPS) is a form of concern from a community in determining its future. Although participation in the form of voting like this is a part that is considered simple in political activities, voting is a form of responsibility for every citizen. This form of political awareness is what drives West Javanese youth to be interested and motivated to vote in the 2018 West Java Regional Election activities.

The correlation between the influence of political awareness on one's political participation has been proven by Nurfatwa (2016, pp. 1623-1624) which explains quantitatively the significant influence of political awareness on the level of community political participation. The linear

correlation shows that political awareness has a positive and significant effect on political participation.

These findings indicate that in other words, the direct participation of young people like this is the embodiment and implementation of legitimate political power from and by the people, because in fact in the context of democracy the highest power is in the hands of the people or society. Community participation is very important because the theory of democracy states that people know what they want. The political rights of citizens and their freedom are respected and upheld.

In the context of democracy today, community participation is a very important part. There is no democracy without citizen political participation because participation is the essence of democracy. The political awareness of the community, especially the youth to participate in the West Java Pilkada activities, is also influenced by the factors of education, economy, and other facilities that enable the political participation of the community. The majority of West Javanese youth who have a sufficient educational background make the level of community political participation increase. In this context, education functions to build political intelligence of members of society, so that automatic political awareness will be built in real terms in the context of democracy being implemented.

Another thing that correlates with educational factors in building political awareness of youth is the factor of political socialization, both organized by Election Committee organizations, universities, community organizations, and political parties. From the information of several informants who are groups of young voters, who were participants in political socialization, there was information about the importance of political socialization for their age groups. With the socialization, the awareness was developed and understanding emerged on the regional election and general election as a process in realizing a democratic state, and how to make the regional election and general election as the quality democratic process.

The next factor that can influence youth political awareness in regional activities in West Java in 2018 is an economic factor. What is meant by economic status here is the status of people's wealth in terms of income. The higher the economic status of a person, the higher the level of participation. Similarly, on the contrary, the lower the economic status of a person, the lower the level of political participation.

### C. Research Findings

Research on the political participation of the West Java Youth in the West Java Regional Election in 2018 has provided a comprehensive understanding of the implementation of the democratic party in West Java. The results of vote counting conducted by the West Java Regional Election Commission obtained an illustration that the level of political participation in West Java was quite high. This is indicated by the participation rate of 71.24% of the total DPT of 31,974,728 people spread in 18 districts and 9 cities in the West Java Province where 30% of the total voters are youth (KPU West Java Province, 2018) . When compared to the level of political participation of West Java youth in the previous period, there was a good increase.

The high level of political participation is caused by several factors. This needs to be explained to provide a comprehensive picture of motivation and a driving force for the high political participation of West Java youth in the West Java Election in 2018. The factors driving the increase in youth political participation are important findings of the research results which will be explained as follows.

Based on the factors that influence the political participation of West Javanese youth in the West Java Pilkada in 2018, it can be explained that the political participation was realized due to the encouragement of internal and external factors.

Encouragement of internal factors is shown through political participation which is influenced by the presence of primordial factors that bind the sense of community brotherhood due to regional attachments. Other internal factors are due to public awareness of politics. While external factors are shown through political participation which is influenced by the factors of gubernatorial candidates and vice governor candidates, the socialization factor carried out by the organizers and the campaign of the candidate pairs is carried out with the winning team and also due to the factors of the ulama in the area.

The results of the analysis of the researchers above also reinforce the theory developed by Milbrath that the political participation of society is influenced by the presence of political stimuli, one's personal character, one's social character and the state of the political environment. In this study, this was reflected in the factors that influence the political participation of West Java youth in the 2018 West Java Regional Election, which are strongly influenced by the figures of governors and deputy governors, socialization and campaigns, primordial issues of sovereignty, the influence of the ulamas, and the presence of political awareness from the youth in West Java.

## IV. CONCLUSION

The implementation of the West Java Election in 2018 shows an increase in political participation in West Java in voting to elect candidates for governor and deputy governor. The significant number of youth voters of 30% of the total voters in West Java makes young voters a segmentation that is important to be won by the candidates who are competing. When compared with the implementation of the West Java Regional Election in 2013, there was an increase in the number of West Java's political participation in the West Java regional Election in 2018, from the previous 63.85% to 71.24%. This increase in numbers is believed to come from young voters.

There are several factors that encourage the increase of these candidates, namely the figure and track record of the candidate pairs, socialization and campaign factors, regional factors, ulama influence factors, and community political awareness factors. Therefore, for the implementation of the general election in the future, this research is expected to be able to be used to encourage increased political participation of the community, especially youth, to create more quality democracy in Indonesia.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank Padjadjaran University for providing research funding from the Unpad Internal Grant program in 2017 so that this research can be conducted properly. We also express our deepest gratitude to the Ciamis District Government for facilitating FGDs with government officials and youth in Ciamis District, as well as the Sumedang District Government and the Jatimukti Village Government officials in Sumedang District. Thanks are also expressed to the KPU of West Java Province who gave confidence to the Unpad Center for Political and Democratic Studies to be the organizer of the beginner voter socialization process, both held in Jatinangor, Sumedang, and Dago, Bandung.

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