



Article

Village Democracy: Voters Perceptions in Simultaneous Village Head Elections Polewali Mandar Regency In 2021

Citra N Fariaty¹, Muhammad Tanzil Aziz R^{2*}, Aco Nata Saputra³, Andi Nur Fiqhi Utami⁴

¹²³⁴ Program Studi Ilmu Politik Universitas Sulawesi Barat

* Korespondensi tanzar88@gmail.com

Abstrak

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk melihat proses demokrasi desa dengan cara pemetaan berdasarkan persepsi pemilih pada saat pemilihan kepala desa di Kabupaten Polewali Mandar Tahun 2021. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah kuantitatif. Populasi dalam penelitian ini adalah pemilih pada pemilihan kepala desa serentak tahun 2021. Metode pengambilan sampel dilakukan dengan menggunakan metode Stratified Random Sampling. Dari total populasi sebanyak 127.638, diketahui bahwa sampel yang terpilih adalah 490 pemilih. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa masyarakat pemilih menilai pemilihan kepala desa serentak di Kabupaten Polewali Mandar tahun 2021 relatif lancar dan kondusif. Secara umum, masyarakat juga menilai kinerja panitia pemilihan dan Dinas Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Desa (DPMD) sudah menunjukkan kinerja yang baik. Kualitas demokrasi di tingkat akar rumput (tingkat desa) dalam proses pemilihan kepala desa serentak juga dinilai patut dicontoh. Kecenderungan ini terlihat pada respon masyarakat pemilih yang menganggap pelaksanaan serentak itu sesuai dengan prinsip demokratisasi dan motivasi masyarakat dalam menentukan pilihannya. Namun, penelitian ini juga menemukan permasalahan yang cukup berat yaitu adanya politik uang pada masa pemilu. Kecenderungan praktik politik uang pada Pilkada Serentak 2021 dinilai mengancam demokrasi pada Pilkada mendatang. Politik uang dapat menghambat kualitas demokrasi di desa dan mempengaruhi gagasan membangun demokrasi secara menyeluruh.

Kata Kunci: Demokrasi Desa; persepsi pemilih; pemilihan kepala desa; politik uang.

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to see the village democratic process by mapping based on voters' perceptions during the village head election in Polewali Mandar Regency 2021. The research method used is quantitative. The population in this study were voters in the simultaneous village head elections in 2021. The sampling method was carried out using the Stratified Random Sampling method. From a total population of 127,638, it was found that the selected sample was 490 voters. The results of this study indicate that the voting community considers the simultaneous village head elections in Polewali Mandar Regency in 2021 relatively smooth and conducive. In general, the community also considered that the performance of the election committee and the Village and Community Empowerment Service (DPMD) had shown good performance. The quality of democracy at the grassroots level (village level) in the simultaneous village head election process was also considered exemplary. This tendency can be seen in the response of the voting community, which considers the simultaneous implementation to be by the principles of democratization and people's motivation in determining their choice. However, this study also found a severe problem, namely the existence of money politics during the election period. The tendency to practice money politics during the 2021 simultaneous village head elections is considered a threat to democracy during future village head elections. Money politics can hinder the quality of democracy in the village and affect the idea of developing democracy as a whole..

Keywords: Village democracy; voter perception; village head election; money politic.

Village Democracy: Voters Perceptions in Simultaneous Village Head Elections Polewali Mandar Regency In 2021

1. Introduction

Voters in a democratic election do not necessarily exercise their right to vote (Parvin, 2018). Several aspects underlie one of them, namely the public perception of democratization, which is considered less good (Carlin, 2006). Negative perceptions will affect voter attitudes and will have an impact on the level of political participation. Political participation among the voting public is an indicator and proof that democratization is going well or vice versa (Fionna & Hutchinson, 2019). Based on this, a commitment is needed among election administrators, candidates, and other interested organizations to initiate ideas about political campaigns that can touch and influence the attitudes and perceptions of voters during the election stage (Ward & Tavits, 2019). Elections and democratization are not only at the national or regional level but also the village level (Ramadhan et al., 2018). Thus, to ensure political participation runs well, efforts are needed to accommodate the community, including the community in the village.

The village is the smallest autonomous government unit in Indonesia (Kadir et al., 2021). It becomes a symbol that reflects everything about Indonesia, such as socio-culture, law, security, economy, and politics. In politics, especially democratization, one of the most accessible forms for us to observe and understand to assess the quality of democracy in a region is political contestation (Baharuddin & Purwaningsih, 2017). From here, we can rationalize logically that to create a robust national democracy, democracy at the grassroots, like in the village, must also be vital. If in previous times, we only saw that village community were only involved in democratic events to elect political officials whose positions were far from theirs, such as regents, governors, or presidents, as well as representatives of the district, provincial and national legislatures, in recent times the community has The village also directly elects the elite within their government, namely the village head (Rachawati et al., 2022).

The enactment of Law no. 6 of 2014 concerning villages provides recognition that villages are subjects under the umbrella of subsidiarity and recognition principles. This subsidiarity principle gives birth to the right to autonomy in the form of local-scale authority to determine policies for the benefit of the village community (Antlöv et al., 2016). The recognition principle gives the village authority to determine the direction of development and the village economy. The principle of recognition is a way for the village government to utilize, encourage and strengthen village economic enterprises independently. The most significant impact of enacting this Village Law is that villages receive financial assistance from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget transfer (Sululing et al., 2018). In terms of income sources, it can be said that the funds managed by the village are pretty significant every year because it is possible to obtain funds independently based on the village's potential (Nadir, 2013). In addition, there are also funds originating from the Village Fund Allocation sourced from the Regency, tax revenue-sharing funds, and original village income (Zeho, et al, 2020). This can be one of the attractions for village communities to compete to become village heads.

This situation causes political contestation; in this case, the election of village heads is one of the village community's most exciting and awaited agendas. Coupled with the many cases identified as political violations, such as money politics at the village level, the position of the village became a significant case study in the idea of democratic development (Fauzi & Fauzi, 2021). Earnest anticipation is needed from election organizers to carry out supervision (Firdaus, 2020). Minimizing non-democratic actions can be beneficial, especially in maintaining voter perceptions and political participation that promote democratic ideas. The integrity of the general election strongly influences voter perceptions (Birch, 2010). Corruption also affects voter perceptions and impacts voter turnout (Dahlberg & Solevid, 2016). In

Village Democracy: Voters Perceptions in Simultaneous Village Head Elections Polewali Mandar Regency In 2021

political developments in Indonesia, especially after the reform of the village head election, the system has changed and improved, one of which is the simultaneous village head election (Hidayat & Miskan, 2019). Polewali Mandar Regency conducted simultaneous village head elections for the first time in 2018. In 2021 it will be a simultaneous village head election with the highest number of villages, namely 67 villages from 14 sub-districts (sulbar.tribunnews.com., 2021)

Many studies have been done on local contestation with voter perceptions. However, few studies examine the relationship between voter perception and political contestation or village democratic systems, such as at the level of village head elections, especially in the Polewali Mandar Regency. This study aims to fill the gap in previous research by analyzing the village democratic process by assessing voters' perceptions. The research questions are: (1) What are voters' perceptions regarding implementing simultaneous village head elections in Polewali Mandar Regency in 2021? (2) What is the voter's perception of the quality of lower-level democracy (village level) in the simultaneous village head election process in Polewali Mandar Regency in 2021? From these two questions, it is possible to know the quality of the implementation of village head elections and the quality of village democracy by observing voters' perceptions in Polewali Mandar Regency.

2. Method

This research was conducted in Polewali Mandar Regency, West Sulawesi Province. This study uses a quantitative approach. The population in this study is the people who become voters in the implementation of simultaneous village head elections in 2021. The sampling method is carried out by the stratified random sampling method based on a certain level: the sub-districts and villages that carry out simultaneous village head elections. The sample size was determined using the Slovin formula with a 95% confidence level with a margin of error of 4.5%. The number of voters in the simultaneous village head elections in Polewali Mandar Regency is 127,638. Therefore, the sample can be determined as follows:

Figure 1. Determination of the Number of Samples in Research

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Information:

n = Sample

N = Population

e = Margin of error (in decimal form)

$$n = \frac{127.638}{1 + 127.638(0,045)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{127638}{260}$$

$$n = 490$$

Figure 1 shows that from the total voting population (127,638) in Polewali Mandar Regency, the selected sample was 490 voters. Data collection techniques using a questionnaire. The data results are then obtained, visualized with tables, and analyzed in depth according to the trend of the data obtained. Analysis of the data in this study using SPSS as a calculation tool.

Village Democracy: Voters Perceptions in Simultaneous Village Head Elections Polewali Mandar Regency In 2021

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Voter Perception Regarding the Implementation of Simultaneous Village Head Elections in Polewali Mandar Regency 2021

The assessment of the implementation of the village head election is seen from several aspects, including the conduciveness of the implementation of the election and the application of health protocols due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During the village head election period, Indonesia has been identified as one of the countries confirmed to have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic since early 2020 (Baharuddin, et al, 2021). So that a response is needed from the village head election organizers to ensure that during this period, they maintain strict health protocols; assessment of the implementation of village head elections was also observed in other aspects, namely related to the performance of the election committee and the performance of the Village Community Empowerment Service (DPMD). In the aspect of conduciveness to the implementation of the village head election, it can be interpreted as an orderly, smooth, and safe condition starting from the registration period for village head candidates, campaigning, voting, and counting votes to determining the elected village head candidate.

The results of the survey related to the conduciveness of the implementation of the Polewali Mandar Regency simultaneous village head elections in 2021 are as follows:

Table 1. *Conduciveness of the Implementation of Simultaneous Village Head Elections in 2021.*

Conductivity	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Valid (%)	Cumulative Percentage
Very smooth and conducive	106	21.6	21.7	21.7
Smooth and conducive	359	73.3	73.4	95.1
Less smooth and less conducive	11	2.2	2.2	97.3
Not smooth and not conducive	3	0.6	0.6	98.0
Don't know	10	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	489	99.8	100.0	
Not answering	1	0.2		
Total	490	100.0		

Source: Processed by researchers, 2022

Table 1 shows that the majority of respondents, as many as 359 respondents or 73.3%, said that the simultaneous village head elections were smooth and conducive. Furthermore, as many as 106 or (21.6%) of respondents said that the simultaneous village head elections were very smooth and conducive. Meanwhile, 11 respondents, or (2.2%), said that the conditions of the simultaneous local elections were not smooth and not conducive, while 3 respondents, or (0.6%), said it was not smooth and not conducive. The remaining 10 respondents (2%) answered that they did not know, and 1 respondent did not answer. From the survey results related to the conduciveness of implementing the village head elections, we can conclude that the community generally considers that implementing the simultaneous village head elections in 2021 will run smoothly and conducive.

A conducive situation is considered to have influenced voters' attitudes during the simultaneous village head elections in Polewali Mandar Regency in 2021. This conduciveness encourages voters to use their voting rights well. Conducive political conditions give the view that the implementation of the election went quite well, which was marked by voters' perception

Village Democracy: Voters Perceptions in Simultaneous Village Head Elections Polewali Mandar Regency In 2021

during the election period. However, a continuous evaluation is needed to keep improving performance in the upcoming election. Evaluation is helpful to ensure that the following implementation can run well or better than before so that a response from the organizers and other institutions is needed to coordinate with each other to create stable conditions (Rahayu & Dewi, 2018)

In addition to the conducive aspect of the election, there are other essential aspects, namely the problem of handling Covid-19, especially regarding the application of health protocols during the election process (Parani, et.al, 2021) Simultaneous village head elections in Polewali Mandar Regency in 2021 were held during the Covid-19 pandemic. The results of the survey related to efforts to implement health protocols during the village head election are as follows:

Table 2. Implementation of Health Protocol

Implementation of Health Protocol	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Valid %	Cumulative Percentage
Strict health protocol	425	86.7	86.9	86.9
Less strict	54	11.0	11.0	98.0
Don't know	10	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	489	99.8	100.0	
Not answering	1	0.2		
Total	490	100.0		

Source: Processed by researchers, 2022

Table 2 shows that most respondents admit that the simultaneous village head elections have been carried out with strict health protocol standards based on the answers of 425 respondents or equal to (86.7%). A total of 54 respondents (11.0%) admitted that the implementation of the village head election had implemented health protocols but tended to be less strict. A total of 10 people (2.0%) said they did not know, and 1 person (0.2%) did not respond. So it can be concluded that the implementation of health protocols in simultaneous village head elections in Polewali Mandar Regency in 2021 has been done quite well. The democratic process, such as selecting candidates during the Covid-19 pandemic period, requires a severe response from the organizers. This response is in anticipation of increasing the number of cases and ensuring the election goes well (Sulistiyowati et al, 2021).

In addition to the aspect of conduciveness in the election and efforts to handle Covid-19, there are other aspects, namely the issue of the performance of the election committee. The Village Head Election Committee is a person appointed by the Village Consultative Body to hold village head elections. Meanwhile, the TPS (Polling Place) committee is a team formed by the election committee if there is more than one polling place in the village. The results of the survey on the performance of the election committee are described as follows:

Table 3. Performance of the 2021 Simultaneous Village Head Election Committee

Village Democracy: Voters Perceptions in Simultaneous Village Head Elections Polewali Mandar Regency In 2021

Election committee	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Valid %	Cumulative Percentage
Very good	62	12.7	12.7	12.7
Good/well	404	82.4	82.8	95.5
Not good	12	2.4	2.5	98.0
Don't know	10	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	488	99.6	100.0	
Not answering	2	0.4		
Total	490	100.0		

Source: Processed by researchers, 2022

Table 3 shows that 82.4% of respondents, or as many as 404 respondents admitted that the performance of the Election Committee or TPS Committee was good, then 12.7%, or 62 respondents, said very good, 2.4%, or 12 respondents, admitted that they were not good and there were no respondents. That said no good. The remaining 10 respondents, or 2%, said they did not know, and 2 respondents, or 0.4%, did not answer or did not respond. The data trend shows that the performance of the village head election implementation committee in Polewali Mandar Regency in 2021 is relatively excellent. This indicates that there is maximum performance during the village head election.

In addition to aspects of the conduciveness of implementation and performance of the election committee, there are other essential aspects, namely the performance of the Village Community Empowerment Service (DPMD). The DPMD serves as the district-level election committee. The DMPD coordinates all matters to carry out simultaneous village head elections. One of the efforts made by the DPMD is to conduct examinations and tests for prospective village head candidates through written exams and interview tests as the basis for determining village head candidates. Polewali Mandar Regency DPMD has a very central role and function in carrying out guidance to the election committee or TPS (Polling Place) committee to realize the success of holding village head elections so that there are no clashes and conflicts between communities, maintaining security, peace, and order (BPK, 2016)

This study mapped some of the public's perceptions of the performance of DPMD in implementing simultaneous village head elections in the Polewali Mandar Regency. The results can be seen as follows:

Table 4. Performance of the Community and Village Empowerment Service (DPMD) in 2021

Performance	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Valid %	Cumulative Percentage
Very good	49	10.0	10.1	10.1
Good/well	412	84.1	84.6	94.7
Kurang baik	15	3.1	3.1	97.7
Not good	1	0.2	0.2	97.9
Don't know	10	2.0	2.1	100.0
Total	487	99.4	100.0	
Not answering	3	0.6		
Total	490	100.0		

Source: Processed by researchers, 2022

Table 4 shows that most respondents assessed that the DPMD performance was good, namely as many as 412 respondents or 84.1%, as many as 49 respondents (10%) said very well, 15 respondents (3.1%) said it was not good, and 1 respondent (0.2%) said not good. The remaining 10 respondents (2%) said they did not know, and 3 respondents (0.6%) did not

Village Democracy: Voters Perceptions in Simultaneous Village Head Elections Polewali Mandar Regency In 2021

respond. Based on this, it can be said that the performance of the DPMD, according to the community's assessment, is categorized as good. From the data obtained, it is known that the general perception of voters regarding the implementation of the simultaneous village head elections in Polewali Mandar Regency 2021 is considered relatively good. Voter perception is an essential aspect of democracy, and this is closely related to the level of voter participation and the quality of democracy (Mochtak, 2021)

So in the implementation of the village head election, it must also pay attention to aspects of the conduciveness of the implementation of the election, health protocols, committee performance, and the performance of the Village Community Empowerment Service (DPMD). This can be a solid basis for shaping village democracy for the better, regardless of other aspects, such as the socio-economic problems of the community or other factors, such as social capital (Ferragina, 2013). Good conditions during the village head election process, shown in Polewali Mandar Regency 2021, will impact voters' attitudes toward getting involved in the common interest in village head elections. If implementing the village head election is considered not good, it will impact public acceptance to be involved in political contestation.

3.2 Voter's Perception Regarding the Quality of Downstream Democracy (Village Level)

The quality of undercurrent democracy focuses on people's understanding of the dynamics of power that can be obtained and distributed. Good quality democracy can only happen when people get an understanding that in a democracy, the process of filling power that comes from the sovereignty of the people must be done honestly and ethically and follow the norms and rules that have been set so that the wishes of the community will obtain quality leaders (Bachtiar, 2014) Understanding the quality of democracy at the grassroots level within the village community through simultaneous village head elections will provide an understanding of the democratic process.

The purity of democratization in Indonesia can be seen at the grassroots level or the grassroots community through village head elections. This is because the quality of intimacy is very high in rural communities, so their understanding of assessing the character and abilities of the prospective leaders they choose is undoubtedly more vital than in urban communities, whose social relationships tend to be far from one another. There is a small distance from the village community to the existing candidates, so in this situation, it is possible for a more objective assessment of the voters to consider candidates who are considered sufficiently representative.

An assessment of the quality of democratization at the grassroots level can be seen through several essential points, including the public's perception of the principles of democratization at the time of the village head election, the community's motivation in making choices, and the voters' perception of money politics issues during the election. The principles of democratization in the implementation of village head elections are described as follows:

Table 5. Principles of Democratization in Village Head Elections

Principles of democratization	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Valid %	Cumulative Percentage
Very up to expectations	50	10.2	10.2	10.2
According to expectations	366	74.7	75.0	85.2
Not as expected	52	10.6	10.7	95.9
Not as expected (fraud and manipulation occurred)	13	2.7	2.7	98.6
Don't know	7	1.4	1.4	100.0
Total	488	99.6	100.0	
Not answering	2	0.4		
Total	490	100.0		

Village Democracy: Voters Perceptions in Simultaneous Village Head Elections Polewali Mandar Regency In 2021

Source: Processed by researchers, 2022

Table 5 shows that 366 respondents or 74.7% said implementing village head elections that met the principles of democratization was in line with community expectations. Furthermore, as many as 52 respondents (10.6%) said it was not as expected, and 50 respondents (10.2%) said it was very in line with expectations. As many as 13 respondents (2.7%) said it was not as expected (fraud and manipulation occurred). The rest of the respondents, as many as 7 people (1.4%), said they did not know, and 2 respondents (0.4%) did not provide an answer. Based on this, it can be seen that the implementation of simultaneous village head elections in 2021 in the Polewali Mandar Regency will run democratically and by community expectations.

Democratization in the election of village heads can be interpreted as the process of running the values of freedom in distributing voting rights, the absence of intimidation and coercion in making choices, and the creation of an open and fair election process so that people can rationally accept the results of the elections that have been carried out. The creation of democratization is the primary value to be obtained in implementing direct village head elections (Kurnianto & Kusumo, 2020). The value of freedom, not being intimidated and forced to make choices, is also the same as the reason for voters' perception in evaluating the process of implementing village head elections. Voters' perceptions determine the future direction and quality of village democracy.

The assessment of the quality of democratization at the grassroots level is also explored in other aspects, such as the motivation of the voting community in determining their political choices. The political motivation of the community in making choices is the reason that makes the community choose one of the village head candidates. The general things that usually determine motivation include rational motivation based on the candidate's vision, mission, or work plan. The work plan prepared through a vision mission with an excellent political communication approach also has the potential to influence political attitudes and be considered by the voting community (Susila, et al., 2020) In addition, other influential aspects are self-characteristics, such as the candidate's character or behavior (Caprara et al., 2006). Other motivations, such as having a family relationship or following advice from family, are also reasons voters make their political choices (Rompas, 2019). The reason for choosing is also seen from the economic benefits in the form of giving money and goods from the candidates (Berenschot & Aspinall, 2020) Voter preferences become very important in elections (Rahimallah, et al., 2019).

It is interesting to know what factors influence and motivate voters in determining their political choices for candidates in the village head election in Polewali Mandar Regency. The results of the survey can be seen as follows:

Table 6. *Motivation in Choosing Village Head Candidates*

Motivation to choose	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Valid %	Cumulative Percentage
Vision-mission and work program	234	47.8	48.1	48.1
Kinship	46	9.4	9.5	57.6
Candidate traits and characteristics	179	36.5	36.8	94.4
There is a gift (money/goods)	6	1.2	1.2	95.7
Following directions from family	10	2.0	2.1	97.7
Other	11	2.2	2.3	100.0
Total	486	99.2	100.0	
Not answering	4	0.8		
Total	490	100.0		

Village Democracy: Voters Perceptions in Simultaneous Village Head Elections Polewali Mandar Regency In 2021

Table 6 shows that the majority of the community chose based on the vision, mission, and programs offered by the candidate for village head during the campaign, with as many as 234 respondents or equal to (47.8%). Furthermore, 179 respondents (36.5%) admitted to seeing the nature and character of the candidate for village head in their daily lives as a reason for making their choice. There are 46 respondents (9.4%) who chose because they have a kinship with the candidate, 10 respondents (2%), those who chose for other reasons, as many as 11 respondents or 2.2%, and the remaining 4 respondents (0.8%) did not provide answers. Based on these results, it can be concluded that respondents tend to be rational in forming their political motivation. This can be seen from the majority of respondents who assess the vision, mission, and character of the candidate for village head as the basis for making choices. This condition becomes a positive value in implementing direct simultaneous village head elections.

The assessment of the quality of democratization at the grassroots level is also explored in other aspects, such as the perceptions and attitudes of voters in assessing issues related to money politics. Money politics is considered one of the negative phenomena that reduce the value of democracy in the general election process (Herman, 2022). The existence of money politics that occurs in the election of village heads can be an indicator of fraud that ignores the values of honesty and justice, including violating laws and regulations. The Minister of Home Affairs Regulation number 112 of 2014 concerning the election of village heads in article 30 states that it is prohibited to promise or give money or other materials to campaign participants (Kemdagri, 2014).

Issues related to money politics also exist in the implementation of simultaneous village head elections in Polewali Mandar Regency in 2021. This situation is a particular concern for the organizers, village head candidates, and the general public. The existence of the issue of money politics has become a concern amid efforts to create a safe, honest, and democratic simultaneous village head election. This study identifies problems related to issues of money politics, starting from several aspects, such as whether or not there is money politics if there is a nominal amount of money offered or given by money politics actors, and how the public responds to the existence of money politics.

Events related to money politics are respondents' understanding of whether they have seen, heard of, or been involved in money politics activities during the village head elections, both during the campaign period and before the voting was held. This section asks whether the respondent, during the village head election, had heard or seen any distribution of money, goods, or gifts from the candidate for the village head. The results of the survey are described as follows:

Table 7. Money Politics in Simultaneous Village Head Elections

The existence of money politics	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Valid %	Cumulative Percentage
Yes	104	21.2	21.7	21.7
Never	332	67.8	69.2	90.8
Don't Know	44	9.0	9.2	100.0
Total	480	98.0	100.0	
Not Answering	10	2.0		
Total	490	100.0		

Source: Processed by researchers, 2022

Village Democracy: Voters Perceptions in Simultaneous Village Head Elections Polewali Mandar Regency In 2021

Table 7 shows that as many as 104 respondents (21.2%) admitted that there was an incident related to money politics during simultaneous village head elections. In comparison, 332 respondents (67.8%) admitted that there was none, and 44 respondents (9%) did not know. The remaining 10 respondents (2%) did not give a response. Furthermore, out of 104 respondents who admitted that there was an incident of money politics that occurred during the village head election, they were asked further about the amount of money or goods that was given at the time of the simultaneous village head election. The results are as follows:

Table 8. *Nominal of Money Politic*

Nominal amount (Based on 104 respondents)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Valid %	Cumulative Percentage
Rp. 50.000 - Rp. 100.000	57	11.6	54.8	54.8
Rp. 100.000 – Rp. 200.000	29	5.9	27.9	27.9
Rp. 200.000 – Rp. 300.000	5	1.0	4.8	4.8
Don't know/don't answer	13	2.6	12.5	12.5
Total Base	104	20.8	100.0	
Total	490	100.0		

Source: Processed by researchers, 2022

Table 8 shows that out of 104 respondents who admitted that there was money politics, 57 or (11.6%) of respondents said that the nominal amount of money politics was around Rp. 50,000 to Rp. 100,000, while 29 respondents (5.9%) said the nominal amount of money politics was around Rp. 100,000 – Rp. 200,000. A total of 5 (1.0%) respondents said that the nominal amount of money politics is Rp. 200,000 – Rp. 300,000. The remaining 13 respondents did not know or did not provide an answer. From the trend of the data obtained, it is known that there are still money politics practices in the electoral area. This situation may hinder the idea of developing democracy in the village. This study continues to determine whether the existence of money politics during the election period will have an impact on voters' perceptions in assessing these dirty practices. The results of the survey are known as follows:

Table 9. *Voter's Perception Regarding Money Politic*

Perception	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Valid %	Cumulative Percentage
Reasonable	44	9.0	9.1	9.1
Something that is not good and tarnishes democracy	417	85.1	86.2	95.2
Other	23	4.7	4.8	100.0
Total	484	98.8	100.0	
Not answering	6	1.2		
Total	490	100.0		

Source: Processed by researchers, 2022

Table 9 shows that most of the respondents, namely 85.1% or 417 respondents, agreed that money politics is something that is not good and tarnishes democracy, 44 respondents (9%)

Village Democracy: Voters Perceptions in Simultaneous Village Head Elections Polewali Mandar Regency In 2021

said that money politics is a natural and legal thing only, and 23 respondents (4.7%) gave various other opinions. The remaining 6 respondents did not provide answers. Based on this, we can conclude that respondents understand that money politics is terrible and destroys democratic values in implementing village head elections in the Polewali Mandar Regency in 2021.

A tendency to practice money politics in Polewali Mandar Regency during the 2021 simultaneous village head elections is considered a threat to democracy during future village head elections. This condition requires collective awareness and commitment from implementers, candidates, and the public in general to combat the practice of money politics (Hadiz, 2012). The community's perspective and all parties involved are an absolute requirement in combating this condition. Shared awareness and new perspectives can minimize the possibility of future non-democratic practices such as exchanging votes for money. Village democracy is once again an essential aspect of starting the idea of national democratic development (Berenschot, et al, 2021).

5. Conclusion

The voting community considers that the simultaneous election of village heads in Polewali Mandar Regency in 2021 is running smoothly and conducive. In general, the community also considered that the performance of the election committee and the Village and Community Empowerment Service (DPMD) had shown good performance in holding village head elections. The quality of democracy at the grassroots level (village level) in the simultaneous village head election process was considered good. This tendency is seen in the response of the voting community, who assess the simultaneous implementation of the principles of democratization and people's motivation in determining their choice. This study also found a severe problem, namely the existence of money politics during the election period. A tendency to practice money politics in Polewali Mandar Regency during the 2021 simultaneous village head elections is considered a threat to democracy during future village head elections. Money politics can hinder the quality of democracy in the village and affect the idea of developing democracy as a whole.

Referensi

1. Antlöv, Hans, Anna Wetterberg, and Leni Dharmawan. "Village Governance, Community Life, and the 2014 Village Law in Indonesia." *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies* 52, no. 2 (2016): 161–183.
2. Apriani, Tini, Moh. Ilham A. Hamudy, M. S. Rifki, and Anung S. Hadi. "E-Voting in the Village Head Election in Batanghari and Kabupaten Bogor Regencies." *Jurnal Bina Praja* 10, no. 2 (2018): 317–326.
3. Bachtiar, Farahdiba Rahma. "Pemilu Indonesia: Kiblat Negara Demokrasi Dari Berbagai Representasi." *Jurnal Politik Profetik* 2, no. 1 (2014): 1–17.
4. Baharuddin, Tawakkal, and Titin Purwaningsih. "Modalitas Calon Bupati Dalam Pemilihan Umum Kepala Daerah Tahun 2015." *Journal of Governance and Public Policy* 4, no. 1 (2017): 205–237.
5. Baharuddin, Tawakkal, Sjafriz Sairin, Hasse Jubba, Zuly Qodir, Achmad Nurmandi, and Mega Hidayati. "Social Capital and Social Trust : The State ' s Response in Facing the Spread of COVID-19 in Indonesia." *Sociology and Technoscience* 11, no. 2 (2021): 23–47.
6. Berenschot, Ward, and Edward Aspinall. "How Clientelism Varies: Comparing Patronage Democracies." *Democratization* 27, no. 1 (2020): 1–19.

Village Democracy: Voters Perceptions in Simultaneous Village Head Elections Polewali Mandar Regency In 2021

7. Berenschot, Ward, Wigke Capri, and Devy Dhian. "A Quiet Revolution? Village Head Elections and the Democratization of Rural Indonesia." *Critical Asian Studies* 53, no. 1 (2021): 126–146.
8. Birch, Sarah. "Perceptions of Electoral Fairness and Voter Turnout." *Comparative Political Studies* 43, no. 12 (2010): 1601–1622.
9. BPK. Kedudukan, Susunan Organisasi, Tugas Pokok Dan Fungsi Serta Tata Kerja Dinas Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Dan Desa Kabupaten Polewali Mandar. Indonesia: BPK.go.id, 2016.
10. Caprara, Gian Vittorio, Shalom Schwartz, Cristina Capanna, Michele Vecchione, and Claudio Barbaranelli. "Personality and Politics: Values, Traits, and Political Choice." *Political Psychology* 27, no. 1 (2006): 1–28.
11. Carlin, Ryan E. "The Decline of Citizen Participation in Electoral Politics in Post-Authoritarian Chile." *Democratization* 13, no. 4 (2006): 632–651.
12. Dahlberg, Stefan, and Maria Solevid. "Does Corruption Suppress Voter Turnout?*" *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* 26, no. 4 (2016): 489–510.
13. Fauzi, Salsabila Athaya, and Agus Machfud Fauzi. "Fenomena Money Politik Pada Pemilihan Kepala Desa Petiken Tahun 2018." *Dinamika Sosial Budaya* 23, no. 1 (2021): 171–179. <http://journals.usm.ac.id/index.php/jdsb>.
14. Ferragina, Emanuele. "The Socio-Economic Determinants of Social Capital and the Mediating Effect of History: Making Democracy Work Revisited." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 54, no. 1 (2013): 48–73.
15. Fionna, Ulla, and Francis E. Hutchinson. "Indonesia'S 2019 Elections: A Fractured Democracy?" *Asian Affairs* 50, no. 4 (2019): 502–519.
16. Firdaus, Aras. "Money Politics Dalam Pemilihan Umum Oleh Badan Pengawasan Pemilihan Umum: Pengawasan Tindak Pidana Pemilu." *Justiqa* 2, no. 1 (2020): 61–69.
17. Hadiz, Vedi R. "Democracy and Money Politics: The Case of Indonesia." In *Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Politics*, 71–82. 1st ed. Routledge, 2012.
18. Herman. "Money Politic as the Bribery in the Election for Regional Head in Indonesia." *Technium Social Sciences Journal* 35 (2022): 312–320. <https://techniumscience.com/index.php/socialsciences/article/view/332/124>.
19. Hidayat, Endik, and Miskan. "Village Democracy and Winning Strategies Based on Power in Javanese Culture in Village Head Election in Tanjung Village, Pagu District, Kediri Regency." In *International Conference of Democratisation in Southeast Asia*, 367:66–69, 2019.
20. Kadir, Abdul, La Husen Zuada, and Idris. "Village Autonomy and Participatory Democracy in Indonesia: The Problem of Community Participation In Post-Village Autonomy In The Southeast Sulawesi Province." *Public Policy and Administration* 20, no. 4 (2021): 514–529.
21. Kementerian Dalam Negeri. Peraturan Menteri Dalam Negeri Republik Indonesia Nomor 112 Tahun 2014 Tentang Pemilihan Kepala Desa. Jaringan Dokumentasi Dan Informasi Hukum (JDIH), 2014. <https://peraturan.bpk.go.id/Home/Details/163277/permendagri-no-112-tahun-2014>.
22. Kurnianto, Anang Wahyu, and Ridwanto Ardi Kusumo. "Recall on Village Heads Election: An Election Law Reform." *Journal of Law and Legal Reform* 1, no. 2 (2020): 201–214.
23. Mochtak, Michal, Christophe Lesschaeve, and Josip Glaurdić. "Voting and Winning: Perceptions of Electoral Integrity in Consolidating Democracies." *Democratization* 28, no. 8 (2021): 1423–1441.
24. Nadir, Sakinah. "Otonomi Daerah Dan Desentralisasi Desa: Menuju Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Desa." *Jurnal Politik Profetik* 1, no. 1 (2013): 1–21.
25. Parani, Rizaldi, Samuel Aditya, Liza Diniazrizky Putri, and Abdul Malik. "Compliance to Health Protocols in the Implementation of the 2020 Regional Elections." *Journal of Governance* 6, no. 1 (2021): 104–116.

Village Democracy: Voters Perceptions in Simultaneous Village Head Elections Polewali Mandar Regency In 2021

26. Parvin, Phil. "Democracy Without Participation: A New Politics for a Disengaged Era." *Res Publica* 24, no. 1 (2018): 31–52. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11158-017-9382-1>.
27. Rahayu, Sri, and Dian Suluh Kusuma Dewi. "Evaluasi Pemilihan Kepala Desa Antar Waktu Di Desa Winong Kecamatan Jetis Kabupaten Ponorogo." *FisiPublik : Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Politik* 3, no. 2 (2018): 56–65.
28. Rahimallah, Muhammad Tanzil Aziz, Aenal Fuad Adam, and Faturachman Alputra Sudirman. "Orientasi Politik Kelas Milenial Dalam Pemilihan Gubernur : Sebuah Catatan Survey." *Jurnal Ilmu Ekonomi & Sosial* 10, no. 2 (2019): 71–83.
29. Ramadhan, Adityo Pratikno, Anita Pebri Fitriani, Sugeng Suharto, and Titiek Kartika Hendrastiti. "Electronic Voting in Indonesia: Head of Village Election." *Jurnal Sosial Politik* 4, no. 2 (2018): 73–83.
30. Rompas, Indra Richard. "Perilaku Pemilih Pemula Pada Pemilihan Umum Tahun 2019 Di Desa Bongkudai Selatan Kecamatan Mooat Kabupaten Bolaang Mongodow Timur." *Politico: Jurnal Ilmu Politik* 8, no. 4 (2019): 1–22. <https://ejournal.unsrat.ac.id/index.php/politico/article/view/30466/29347>.
31. Sulistyowati, Dyahwanti, Muhammad, Sukri, and Ariana. "Kinerja Komisi Pemilihan Umum Kota Makassar Dalam Melindungi Hak Pilih Warga Di Tengah Pandemi Covid-19." *Jurnal Politik Profetik* 9, no. 2 (2021): 298–310.
32. Sululing, Siswadi, Haruni Ode, and Mohammad Gifari Sono. "Financial Management Model Village." *International Journal of Applied Business and International Management* 3, no. 2 (2018): 105–116.
33. Susila, Ihwan, Dianne Dean, Raja Nerina Raja Yusof, Anton Agus Setyawan, and Farid Wajdi. "Symbolic Political Communication, and Trust: A Young Voters' Perspective of the Indonesian Presidential Election." *Journal of Political Marketing* 19, no. 1–2 (2020): 153–175.
34. Tribun. "67 Desa Di Polewali Mandar Gelar Pilkades Tahun 2021." *Sulbar.Tribunnews.Com*, 2021. <https://sulbar.tribunnews.com/2021/11/18/pilkades-serentak-67-desa-di-polman-perketat-penerapan-protokol-kesehatan>.
35. Ward, Dalston G., and Margit Tavits. "How Partisan Affect Shapes Citizens' Perception of the Political World." *Electoral Studies* 60 (2019): 102045. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2019.04.009>.
36. Zeho, Fannidya Hamdani, Ardian Prabowo, Roro Ayu Estiningtyas, Mahadiansar Mahadiansar, and I Gede Eko Putra Sri Sentanu. "Stakeholder Collaboration to Support Accountability in Village Fund Management and Rural Development." *Journal of Socioeconomics and Development* 3, no. 2 (2020): 89.