

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION IN NANGGROE ACEH DARUSSALAM PROVINCE REVIEW OF PROCEDURAL DEMOCRACY

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**ABSTRACT.** The 2024 elections in Aceh reflect unique dynamics in the context of procedural democracy and special autonomy. The characteristics of elections in Aceh are influenced by the recognition of local political parties regulated through Law Number 11 of 2006 concerning the Government of Aceh, as a result of the 2005 Helsinki MoU. Local parties such as the Aceh Party (PA) and the Nanggroe Aceh Party (PNA) compete with national parties in reflecting the aspirations of the Acehnese people. This study uses a qualitative approach with document studies to analyze the implementation of elections in Aceh, including voter participation, local political dynamics, and the effectiveness of election administration. The results showed an increase in voter participation compared to the previous election, with the highest participation recorded in the presidential election (87.01%). However, challenges such as money politics, campaign abuses, and security stability remain significant issues. In addition, the role of the young generation and women in elections has begun to be strengthened through political party strategies. In the context of procedural democracy, these elections reflect efforts to meet Robert Dahl's criteria, including equal voting, effective participation, and agenda oversight. In conclusion, the 2024 election in Aceh is not only a democratic mechanism but also an instrument to strengthen peace and special autonomy. These findings provide insight into the challenges and opportunities of local democracy in Aceh.

**Key words:** 2024 Election, Aceh, procedural democracy, special autonomy, local party.

### IMPLEMENTASI PEMILU 2024 DI PROVINSI NANGGROE ACEH DARUSSALAM TINJAUAN DARI SUDUT PANDANG DEMOKRASI PROSEDURAL

**ABSTRAK.** Pemilu 2024 di Aceh mencerminkan dinamika unik dalam konteks demokrasi prosedural dan otonomi khusus. Karakteristik pemilu di Aceh dipengaruhi oleh pengakuan terhadap partai politik lokal yang diatur melalui Undang-Undang Nomor 11 Tahun 2006 tentang Pemerintahan Aceh, sebagai hasil MoU Helsinki 2005. Partai lokal seperti Partai Aceh (PA) dan Partai Nanggroe Aceh (PNA) bersaing dengan partai nasional dalam mencerminkan aspirasi masyarakat Aceh. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan studi dokumen untuk menganalisis pelaksanaan pemilu di Aceh, termasuk partisipasi pemilih, dinamika politik lokal, dan efektivitas penyelenggaraan pemilu. Hasil menunjukkan adanya peningkatan partisipasi pemilih dibandingkan pemilu sebelumnya, dengan partisipasi tertinggi tercatat pada pemilihan presiden (87,01%). Namun, tantangan seperti politik uang, pelanggaran kampanye, dan stabilitas keamanan tetap menjadi isu signifikan. Selain itu, peran generasi muda dan perempuan dalam pemilu mulai diperkuat melalui strategi partai politik. Dalam konteks demokrasi prosedural, pemilu ini mencerminkan upaya untuk memenuhi kriteria Robert Dahl, termasuk persamaan suara, partisipasi efektif, dan pengawasan agenda. Kesimpulannya, Pemilu 2024 di Aceh tidak hanya sebagai mekanisme demokrasi tetapi juga sebagai instrumen penguatan perdamaian dan otonomi khusus. Temuan ini memberikan wawasan tentang tantangan dan peluang demokrasi lokal di Aceh..

**Kata kunci:** Pemilu 2024, Aceh, demokrasi prosedural, otonomi khusus, partai lokal.

## INTRODUCTION

The 2024 election in Aceh has special characteristics compared to other provinces in Indonesia due to the existence of local political parties that are exclusively recognized in the Aceh political system

(Rahmany & Fatimah, 2023). This recognition is regulated in Law Number 11 of 2006 concerning the Government of Aceh, which was born from the Helsinki MoU between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) in 2005. In the context of this special autonomy, local parties have the right to compete in legislative and regional head elections, thus providing space for more diverse and representative political aspirations for the people of Aceh. The implementation of the 2024 election is an important momentum to assess the extent to which integration between national and local parties can support a stable democratic system in Aceh.

The participation of national and local parties in elections in Aceh reflects a unique political hybridization. National parties such as Partai Gerakan Indonesia Raya (Gerindra), Partai Demokrat and Partai Golongan Karya (Golkar) remains the dominant political actor at the central level, but local parties such as Partai Aceh (PA) and Partai Nanggroe Aceh (PNA) has a strong support base in Aceh. The existence of these local parties aims to maintain political balance and encourage the active participation of the Acehnese people in the democratic process. The 2024 election is a test for these two types of parties to collaborate or compete in determining the direction of regional development in accordance with the local interests and needs of Aceh (Ulfa, 2024).

Based on data from the Aceh Independent Election Commission (KIP), there is a significant increase in the number of voters in Aceh in the 2024 election compared to previous elections. The number of permanent voters in the 2019 election was 3,523,774 people consisting of 1,734,675 men and 1,789,099 women. Meanwhile, the number of permanent voters in the 2024 election in Aceh Province is 3,742,037 people, consisting of 1,839,412 men and 1,902,625 women. The voters are spread across 23 city districts in Aceh Province. This shows the enthusiasm of the Acehnese people in participating in politics and shows confidence in the ongoing democratic process. On the other hand, KIP Aceh faces technical challenges to accommodate the two types of parties that have different characteristics and political interests, so it requires stricter regulations and good coordination with the General Election Commission (KPU) at the national level.

The Aceh Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) recorded a number of cases of violations that reflected political tensions between national and local parties, such as black campaigns and resource mobilization by village officials who supported certain parties. The Aceh Transparency Society (MaTA) found a number of alleged violations of the 2024 election in Aceh Tamiang, East Aceh, North Aceh, Pidie Jaya, Pidie, Nagan Raya, and South Aceh Regencies. Violations are not closed to the possibility of occurring in all districts/cities in Aceh, indicating that something must be completely dismantled by bringing an Election Crime case (Warsidi, 2024). This indicates that although political participation is increasing, there are still major challenges in creating honest and fair elections. Competition between national and local parties that are strong in Aceh requires extra scrutiny, especially regarding efforts to prevent money politics and the use of state facilities for campaign purposes.

The shift in political dynamics in Aceh in the 2024 election is also interesting because of the increasingly strong influence of young groups and women in the election. National and local parties are beginning to realize the importance of accommodating the aspirations of these groups, considering that they are an important pillar in the sustainable development of local democracy. KIP Aceh and Bawaslu are expected to be able to encourage an increase in the representation of this group in the party structure and in the list of legislative candidates that are carried, as an effort to create a more inclusive democracy (Tarisyah, 2024).

From the perspective of asymmetrical decentralization, the 2024 election also tests the extent to which the central and regional governments can work together in supervising the implementation of elections in Aceh (Fahmi, 2023). The central government still has an important role to play in ensuring

national integration, but the effective implementation of elections in Aceh depends on understanding and respecting the province's special autonomy. Therefore, the synergy between the central KPU and KIP Aceh in managing elections in Aceh is a key factor in ensuring smooth and peaceful elections.

The election in Aceh is also a moment for national parties to adapt their political strategies to a more complex local context. They must compete with local parties that have a deeper understanding of Aceh's socio-political dynamics. In this situation, national parties tend to seek strategic alliances with local parties to increase electability in Aceh (Bastian, 2022). This phenomenon shows an interesting adaptation in the multi-party system in Indonesia, especially in the context of regions that have special autonomy.

In addition, various security challenges are still a concern in the implementation of the 2024 election in Aceh. Although the security situation has improved considerably since the signing of the Helsinki MoU, threats related to political competition still often appear in the form of intimidation and threats against candidates or supporters of certain parties (Rozi et al., 2021). The duties of security forces and election supervisors in Aceh are important to ensure that all parties can compete fairly without pressure and threats of violence.

In the end, the success of the implementation of the 2024 election in Aceh is not only assessed from a technical and administrative perspective, but also from how well this election is able to reflect the will of the Acehnese people and strengthen local democracy. With a special autonomy system that allows the existence of local parties, the 2024 election is an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of asymmetrical decentralization in responding to regional political demands, while maintaining integration within the framework of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI). Against this background, this study will further analyze the implementation of the 2024 General Election in Aceh. This study is expected to provide in-depth insights into the challenges and opportunities in the implementation of asymmetric decentralization in Indonesia and how this practice can support a more inclusive and representative democracy (Munandar et al., 2024).

The 2024 elections in Aceh have characteristics that are in line with the principles of procedural democracy, especially in the context of special autonomy regulated by Law Number 11 of 2006 concerning the Government of Aceh. In the perspective of Robert Dahl (2001), procedural democracy emphasizes the importance of procedures, legality, and institutions in the implementation of elections. The procedure in procedural democracy is reflected in the implementation of elections in Aceh involving local and national political parties, providing space for the diverse political aspirations of the Acehnese people.

Local parties such as the Aceh Party (PA) and the Nanggroe Aceh Party (PNA) compete exclusively in the legislative and regional head election mechanisms. This supports Dahl's effective participation criteria, where Acehnese can more actively voice political preferences through parties that understand their local needs. The existence of local parties is also a form of legality, namely a guarantee of formal rules in the implementation of legally recognized elections.

However, within the framework of procedural democracy, institutional challenges are an important issue. Institutions include the involvement of institutions such as political parties, election organizers, and supervisory agencies. In the context of Aceh, the Aceh Independent Election Commission (KIP) faces challenges in accommodating differences in the characteristics of national and local parties. In the implementation of the 2024 Election in Aceh, the criteria for monitoring the agenda submitted by Dahl also received a test. The synergy between KIP Aceh and Bawaslu Aceh is an important factor to ensure that the election process runs in accordance with the principles of inclusive and fair democracy. This collaboration is also relevant to overcome tensions between national and local parties.

National parties competing in Aceh, such as Gerindra and Golkar, face challenges to adapt their strategies to local political dynamics. This phenomenon reflects the bright aspect of understanding outlined

by Dahl, where political parties must deeply understand the needs of the people of Aceh in order to increase their political legitimacy. On the other hand, local parties are tasked with maintaining the balance of political power and creating adult inclusion by encouraging the representation of young groups and women in the list of legislative candidates.

The success of the 2024 elections in Aceh can be a parameter to assess the extent to which the principles of procedural democracy, as stated by Dahl, can be applied in the context of special autonomy. With increased voter participation and the involvement of local and national parties, this election is expected to be able to realize better post-election governance, create synergy between the central and regional governments, and strengthen representative and inclusive local democracy. Based on the above problems, research on the implementation of elections in Aceh in 2024 is important to be carried out.

## RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

Procedural democracy is a concept that results from reflection in formulating the *common good* (Pratama, 2022). *Common good* refers to the general will that is the basis for explanation in the administration of power. Procedural democracy begins from the formal process of power that is present through the mandate of the electoral mechanism. Robert Dahl, a prominent figure in this concept, is widely known for his ideas that emphasize the mechanistic aspects of democracy, such as procedures, legality, and institutions.

According to Firman (Firmansyah, 2015), procedural democracy has three main elements. The procedure refers to the election process that takes place in accordance with the constitutional rights of citizens. Legality is the fulfillment of formal rules that are the basis for the implementation of elections. Institutions include the active participation of various institutions, such as political parties, executives, legislatures, judiciary, and other institutions, which are important elements in democracy.

Definition of Schumpeter (1976) in Satria and Kurniawan (2022), procedural democracy is a process that involves elections through an electoral mechanism to occupy political office. Elections are the main prerequisite for a country that claims to be a democratic country. This concept emphasizes that legitimate power comes from the legitimacy of the people. Therefore, elections are an important vehicle in democracy to realize changes in power contestation.

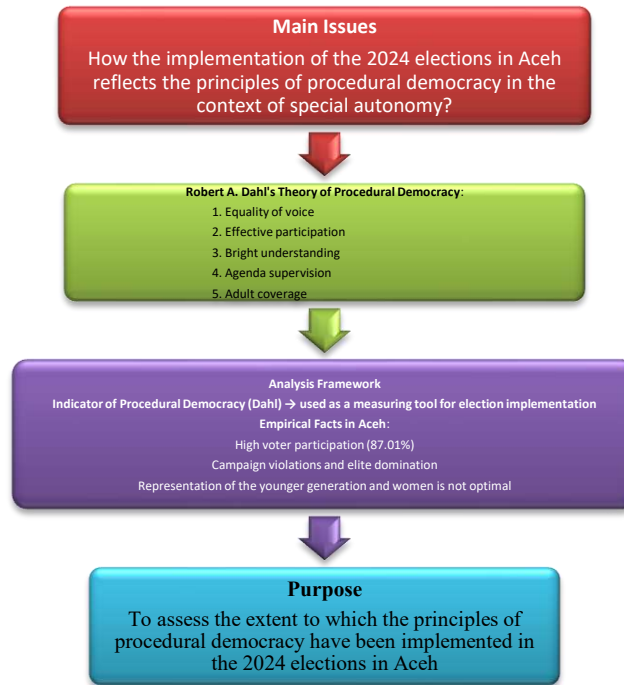
Procedural democracy also includes institutional aspects. Political parties, as the main actors, play a crucial role in political recruitment. According to Fitriyah (2020), political recruitment involves the process of selecting, selecting, and appointing citizens as potential leaders in the political and government system. This process, if well institutionalized, becomes a key feature of the democratic political system (Ethridge & Handelman, 2016).

Robert A. Dahl (2001) developed five criteria for procedural democracy, namely:

1. Equality of voice, namely political equality for all citizens.
2. Effective participation, ensuring that every citizen has equal opportunities in the policy-making process.
3. Bright understanding, highlighting the importance of citizens' understanding of their political needs and preferences.
4. Agenda supervision, giving the public exclusive right to decide on agendas/policies.
5. Adult coverage, which means all citizens with political rights get access to the previous criteria.

Dahl emphasized that these five criteria are mechanistic and interrelated. Elections are not only a tool to choose leaders, but also a means of creating political awareness among citizens. Optimal procedural

democracy is not only realized during elections, but also in the sustainability of post-election governance. Leaders resulting from ideal elections will support the development of a healthy and stable democracy. To make it easier to understand the flow of this research, the following is a chart of the framework of thought:



Source: Processed by researchers, 2024

**Figure 1. Research Framework**

## METHOD

Basically, the method is the provision of knowledge or guidelines to scientists regarding procedures for studying, analyzing and understanding life in the surrounding environment. In the qualitative research methodology, there are at least several data collection methods or sources that can be used. According to James Mc. Milan and Sally Schumacer in *Research in Education: A Conceptual Introduction* (2001) states that there are at least four strategies in data collection with multiple methods in qualitative research. The four strategies are participatory observation, in-depth interviews, study of documents and artifacts as well as complementary techniques. However, this research will focus on document studies.

The word document comes from the Latin word *docere*, which means to teach. The definition of documents according to Louis Gottschalk (1986 in Nasution, 2023) is often applied by experts in two senses, namely first, it is interpreted as a written source for historical information as opposed to oral testimony, written relics, artifacts. The second is intended for official letters and state letters such as laws, agreements, grants, concessions and others. In simple terms, document study is defined as analyzing documents made by the subject himself or by others (Nasution, 2023).

Document study is a study that focuses on the analysis or interpretation of written materials based on the context. These materials can be obtained from published records, newspapers, magazines, textbooks, diaries, articles, manuscripts and the like. In obtaining qualified credibility, document researchers must be confident that the manuscript is authentic (Abdussamad, 2021). In general, documents are also interpreted

as the collection of information both verbally, visually and in writing. The collection of information and data can be done through written relics such as archives, books, postulative opinions or laws and others related to research problems. The document here is intended to be in the form of writings, pictures or monumental works of someone (Fiantika et al., 2022).

In this study, the validity of the data depends on the accuracy and reliability of the analyzed documents. If the documents used are not critically examined or verified with other sources, it is possible that the data presented is less valid or less representative. For this study, the documents used came from the official institution of election organizers in Aceh, namely KIP Aceh, so the validity of the data is very strong. In addition, infographic statistical data was analyzed through bibliometrix using data from Elsevier Scopus. The validity of the data from the document is very accurate because it has been published and recognized as evidenced by international publications.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 2024 Elections in Indonesia

The election to elect members of the Legislative Council as well as the President and Vice President in 2024 is the result of the process of formulating general election rules. This process began with the preparation of the Election Bill which was finally passed into law through a plenary session of the House of Representatives (DPR) on July 21, 2017 (Hadji, et.al., 2024). The law officially took effect after being signed by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Ir. H. Joko Widodo, on August 15, 2017, under the name Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections.

Law Number 7 of 2017 is the legal basis for the implementation of simultaneous elections in 2024, which includes the election of members of the DPR, DPD, DPRD, as well as the President and Vice President. These elections are carried out with the principles of direct, public, free, secret, honest, and fair (Lestari et al., 2024). In its implementation, the General Election Commission (KPU) of the Republic of Indonesia is required to maintain competition in accordance with the standards of freedom, authenticity, fairness, as well as the principles of legal certainty, openness, expertise, accountability, effectiveness, and productivity. By prioritizing these principles, it is hoped that the legislative elections as well as the president and vice president can be carried out properly and meet public expectations (Taufiqurrahman & Amal, 2022).

On February 14, 2024, simultaneous elections have been held throughout Indonesia, where people cast their votes to elect legislative members (DPR, DPRD, DPD) as well as the President and Vice President for the 2024-2029 period (Sabarudin, 2024). The campaign period was marked by a number of problems and polemics that became the concern of various parties, including the public and political observers. This situation needs more attention, especially from election supervisory agencies.

### Holding Elections in Aceh

Discussing elections in Aceh province is an interesting thing to discuss and discuss in learning media and written media. This concerns the implementation of the democratic party that occurred in Aceh. In this regard, the author conducted data analysis using data sources from *Scopus Elsevier* with the theme "Elections in Aceh". Based on the search results, 57 documents were found. After restricting the publication year, which is from 2014 to 2024, the number of documents left is 35 documents. From this data, it can be processed and analyzed until we know several things, including countries that discuss elections in Aceh, abstract substance regarding the dominance of election discussions in Aceh and universities that research related to elections in Aceh. Below is a picture of the country that discusses the election in Aceh:

## Country Scientific Production

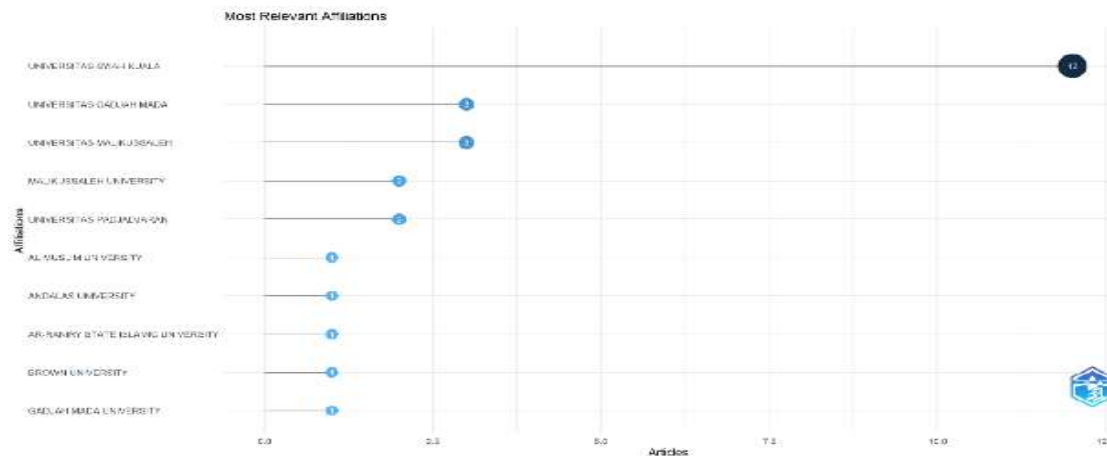


Source: Processed by researchers, 2024

**Figure 2. The Country that Discusses the Election in Aceh**

Based on the infographic data above, it is known that in 2024 the highest *Country Scientific Production* is Indonesia with a frequency of 48 articles, followed by the USA with a frequency of 7 articles, the UK with a frequency of 4 articles, China and Norway with a frequency of 1 article each.

After knowing which countries discuss elections in Aceh, then we analyze universities that discuss elections in Aceh starting from 2014 to 2024. Here is an overview below:



Source: Processed by researchers, 2024

**Figure 3. The Universities that Discuss Elections in Aceh Starting From 2014 to 2024**

Based on the data above, we know that the most campuses that discuss elections in Aceh are Syiah Kuala University, followed by Malikussaleh University, Gadjah Mada University, and Padjadjaran University. Syiah Kuala University discusses the elections in Aceh in 2024 as many as 12 articles, while



Malikussaleh University has 5 articles, Gadjah Mada University has 4 articles, and Padjadjaran University has 2 articles.

After knowing the universities that discuss elections in Aceh, they will then analyze data from Scopus in the *Wordcloud* scheme (a visual representation of text data that displays words in different sizes and colors) by focusing on the abstract of each Scopus document by applying the *Bigrams* system with a limit of 50 words. Here is an overview below:



Source: Processed by researchers, 2024

**Figure 4. Data from Scopus in the *Wordcloud* Scheme**

Based on the data above, we know that when discussing elections in Aceh, the most prominent ones are political parties, local politics and political parties. According to the data processed, the word *Political Parties* has a frequency of 22, *Local Political* has a frequency of 19, *Local Parties* has a frequency of 15, *Human Rights* has a frequency of 11, *Regional Election* has a frequency of 10, *Constitutional Court* and *Islamic Law* have a frequency of 9, *Legislative Candidates* have a frequency of 8, *the Party System* has a frequency of 7 and *the Aceh Government* has a frequency of 6.

The 2024 election in Aceh will be held in order to elect legislative members, both regional and central, and executive members at the national level, namely the president and vice president. Based on the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2006 concerning the Government of Aceh CHAPTER I General Provisions Article 1 paragraph 10. The Aceh Regional People's Representative Council, hereinafter referred to as the Aceh People's Representative Council (DPRA), is an element of the Aceh Regional Government whose members are elected through general elections. 11. The Regency/City Regional People's Representative Council, hereinafter referred to as the Regency/City People's Representative Council (DPRK), is an element of the district/city regional government whose members are elected through general elections.

Referring to the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2006 concerning the Government of Aceh CHAPTER I General Provisions Article 1 paragraph 12 states that the Independent Election Commission hereinafter abbreviated as KIP is KIP Aceh and KIP regency/city which is part of the General Election Commission (KPU) which is authorized by this Law to hold general elections for the President/Vice President, members of the House of Representatives, members of the Regional Representative Council, members of the DPRA/DPRK, election of Governor/Deputy Governor, regent/deputy regent, and mayor/deputy mayor.



In Chapter IX of the Election Organizer of the First Part of the Independent Election Commission Article 56 (1) KIP Aceh holds general elections for the President/Vice President, members of the House of Representatives, members of the Regional Representative Council, members of the House of Representatives, and elections for governors/deputy governors. (2) KIP districts/cities hold general elections for President/Vice President, members of the House of Representatives, members of the House of Representatives, members of the DPRK, and elections for Governors/Deputy Governors, Regents/Deputy Regents, and Mayors/Deputy Mayors. (3) In the event of the election of the Governor/Deputy Governor as intended in paragraph (1), the district/city KIP is part of the organizer of the Governor/Deputy Governor election. (4) Members of KIP Aceh are proposed by the DPRA and determined by the KPU and inaugurated by the Governor. (5) Members of the KIP of the district/city proposed by the DPRK are determined by the KPU and inaugurated by the regent/mayor. (6) In implementing the provisions as intended in paragraph (4) and paragraph (5), the DPRA/DPRK shall form an independent team of an ad hoc nature to conduct the screening and screening of prospective KIP members. (7) Further provisions regarding the procedures for the formation, working mechanism, and working period of the independent team as intended in paragraph (6) are regulated by qanun. Article 57 (1) Members of KIP Aceh amounted to 7 (seven) people and members of KIP regency/city amounted to 5 (five) people from elements of the community. (2) The working period of KIP members is 5 (five) years from the date of inauguration.

In the Second Part of the Duties, Authorities, and Obligations of Article 58 (1) The duties and authorities of KIP: a. planning and organizing the election of Governor/Deputy Governor, regent/deputy regent, and mayor/deputy mayor; b. determine the procedures for the implementation of the election of Governor/Deputy Governor, regent/deputy regent, and mayor/deputy mayor; c. coordinating, organizing, and controlling all stages of the implementation of the election of Governor/Deputy Governor, regent/deputy regent, and mayor/deputy mayor; d. determine the date and procedure for the implementation of the campaign and voting for the election of the Governor/Deputy Governor, regent/deputy regent, and mayor/deputy mayor; e. accept the registration of candidate pairs as election participants; f. examine the requirements for candidates for Governor/Deputy Governor, regent/deputy regent, and mayor/deputy mayor proposed; g. determine candidate pairs who have met the requirements; H. Accept registrations and announce the campaign team; i. conducting audits and announcing campaign fund donation reports; j. determine the results of the vote count recapitulation and announce the results of the election of the Governor/Deputy Governor, regent/deputy regent, and mayor/deputy mayor through a plenary meeting; k. evaluate and provide reports to the DPRA/DPRK on the implementation of the election of Governor/Deputy Governor, Regent/Deputy Regent, and Mayor/Deputy Mayor; and l. carry out other duties and authorities regulated in laws and regulations. (2) To assist KIP in carrying out its duties and authorities as intended in paragraph (1), the KIP Secretariat is established in accordance with laws and regulations.

In addition to election organizers, Aceh also has an election supervisory agency, namely the Election Supervisory Committee. In Law No. 11 of 2006 concerning the Government of Aceh, Part Three of the Election Supervisory Committee, Article 60 (1) The Aceh Election Supervisory Committee and districts/cities are formed by the supervisory committee at the national level and are ad hoc. (2) The establishment of the Election Supervisory Committee as intended in paragraph (1) shall be carried out after this Law is promulgated. (3) Members of the Election Supervisory Committee as intended in paragraph (1) and paragraph (2), each as many as 5 (five) people proposed by the DPRA/DPRK. (4) The working period of the Election Supervisory Committee ends 3 (three) months after the inauguration of the Governor/Deputy Governor, Regent/Deputy Regent, and Mayor/Deputy Mayor. Part Four Duties and Authorities of the Election Supervisory Committee Article 61 (1) The duties and authorities of the Election Supervisory

Committee: a. supervise the implementation of the election of Governor/Deputy Governor, regent/deputy regent, and mayor/deputy mayor; and b. carry out other duties and authorities regulated in laws and regulations. (2) The implementation of duties as intended in paragraph (1) in accordance with laws and regulations. Article 62 The duties and authorities of the Election Supervisory Committee as intended in Article 61 shall be carried out through: a. supervision of all stages of the election of Governor/Deputy Governor, Regent/Deputy Regent, and Mayor/Deputy Mayor; b. settlement of disputes arising in the election of Governor/Deputy Governor, regent/deputy regent, and mayor/deputy mayor; c. forwarding findings and reports that cannot be completed to the authorized agencies; and d. the arrangement of coordination relationships between supervisory committees at all levels. Article 63 Matters that have not been regulated in this Law regarding the supervision of the election of Governors/Deputy Governors, Regents/Deputy Regents, and Mayors/Deputy Mayors shall be guided by the provisions of laws and regulations. Part Fifth Monitoring Article 64 (1) Monitoring the implementation of the election of Governor/Deputy Governor, regent/deputy regent, and mayor/deputy mayor can be carried out by local monitors, national monitors and foreign monitors. (2) The monitoring of the election of the Governor/Deputy Governor, regent/deputy regent, and mayor/deputy mayor as intended in paragraph (1) shall: a. be independent; and b. have a clear source of funds. (3) The foreign monitor as intended in paragraph (1) must comply with the procedures stipulated in the laws and regulations. (4) Monitors for the election of Governor/Deputy Governor, regent/deputy regent, and mayor/deputy mayor as intended in paragraph (2) and paragraph (3), must be registered in the KIP in accordance with the laws and regulations.

#### **Elections in Aceh in 2024**

The implementation of the elections in Aceh has been carried out well and is running as it should (Rizeki, 2024). The election organizers have carried out their duties and functions in accordance with applicable regulations. The 2024 General Election (Election) in Aceh is an important moment in the journey of democracy in Indonesia, especially in this region that has a special status (Marwazi & Fatimah, 2023). As an area that implements Islamic sharia and has a unique local political system, Aceh presents its own dynamics in the election process. This election not only serves as a means to elect leaders at the legislative and executive levels, but also as a place to consolidate local politics in the midst of the challenges of community plurality. With the existence of local political parties regulated by the Aceh Government Law (UUPA), political competition in Aceh offers different colors that reflect the peculiarities of the aspirations of the local community.

The 2024 election in Aceh is also a test for the implementation of democratic principles in the framework of peace after the Helsinki MoU (Ulfa, 2024). Issues such as political participation, inclusion of vulnerable groups, and strengthening transparency and accountability of elections are the main concerns. Challenges such as local political dynamics, the potential for horizontal conflicts, and the effectiveness of holding elections in geographically challenging areas are homework that must be overcome. Therefore, the 2024 election is not only about electing people's representatives, but also an instrument to strengthen public trust in democracy and ensure the sustainability of peace that has been pioneered for almost two decades (Irfan & Arrafi, 2023). Before discussing further, as a start, we need to look at the list of permanent voters for the 2024 election in Aceh as follows:



Source: kipaceh.kpu.go.id, 2024

**Figure 5. The List of Permanent Voters for the 2024 Election in Aceh**

Based on the data above, we know that the DPT in the 2024 Aceh election is a total of 3,742,037 people spread across 23 districts and cities and 290 sub-districts in Aceh. The number of DPT in male voters is 1,839,412 people and 1,902,625 female voters. The largest number of DPTs is found in North Aceh Regency which is 426,471 people and the smallest is Sabang City which is 28,762 people. In addition, we need to know about the parties participating in the election contest in Aceh in 2024. The following is an explanation:



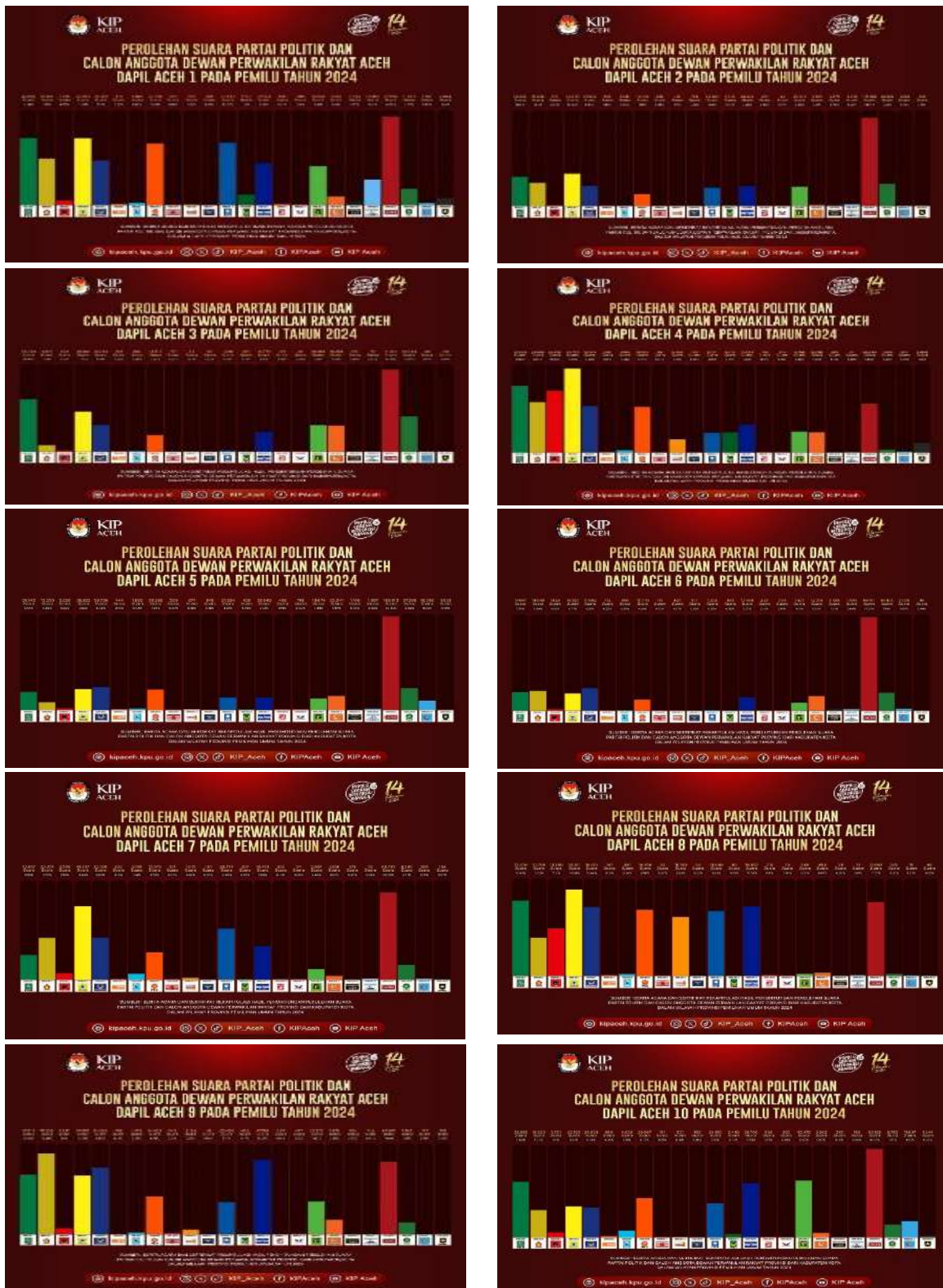
Source: kipaceh.kpu.go.id, 2024

**Figure 6. The Parties Participating in The Election Contest in Aceh in 2024**

Based on the above data, the implementation of elections in Aceh in 2024 will be followed by 6 national political parties and local political parties in Aceh. The sequence number for the Aceh local party starts from sequence number 28 to sequence number 23. Next, we will see how the results of the recapitulation of the implementation of the Aceh House of Representatives election in the 2024 election are here, here is an overview below:

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REVIEW OF PROCEDURAL DEMOCRACY

*M. Nur Akhyar, Samugyo Ibnu Redjo, Dede Sri Kartini, Ismail Nurdin, Hawary Annisa*



Source: kipaceh.kpu.go.id, 2024

**Figure 7. The Recapitulation of the Implementation of the Aceh House of Representatives Election in the 2024 Election**

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Based on the image above, we can know that Aceh has 10 constituencies (*dapil*) in the 2024 election contest in Aceh. In addition, we must also look at the votes obtained in the 2024 election in Aceh from the side of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. Here is an overview below:



Source: kipaceh.kpu.go.id, 2024

**Figure 8. The Votes Obtained in the 2024 Election in Aceh**

From the above description, we know that in the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia in Aceh there are two constituencies and the ones that get the most votes are the PKB party and the Golkar party followed by Nasdem and Gerindra as well as PAN, PKS and Democrats. Next, we will see the votes of the President and Vice President in Aceh in 2024. Here is an overview below:



Source: kipaceh.kpu.go.id, 2024

**Figure 9. The Votes of the President and Vice President in Aceh in 2024**

From the image above, we know that the winner of the most votes in Aceh 2024 is the number one pair, which received 2,369,534 votes, followed by the number 2 candidate who got 787,024 votes. The last is the number 3 candidate, which received 64,677 votes. Next, we will see the level of participation of the Acehnese people in participating in the 2024 election from the side of the DPR, DPRA, DPD, and the President. Here is an overview below:



Source: kipaceh.kpu.go.id, 2024

**Figure 10. The Level of Participation of the Acehnese People in Participating in the 2024 Election**

From the picture above, we can see that the highest participation of the Acehnese people in participating in the 2024 election is in the election of the President and Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, which is 87.01% or around 3,285,272 people. The lowest public participation was the DPRA election, which was 86.80% or about 3,277,419 people.

### Aceh Regional Elections in 2024

The 2024 Aceh Regional Election is an important moment in the dynamics of regional politics that is rich in history and cultural diversity (Asrina et al., 2024). This election presents two pairs of main candidates in the gubernatorial election: Muzakir Manaf-Fadhlullah who is supported by a coalition of major parties such as the Aceh Party, Gerindra, PKS, Democrats, and several other parties; and Bustami Hamzah-Muhammad Yusuf A. Wahab who are supported by the Golkar Party, NasDem, PAN, and a number of other parties (Fallahnda, 2024). Muzakir Manaf, a figure with a historical background in the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), competed with Bustami Hamzah who previously served as Acting Governor of Aceh, reflecting the competition between candidates with different political backgrounds. Here's an overview:



Source: kipaceh.kpu.go.id, 2024

**Figure 11. The Competition between Candidates with Different Political Backgrounds**

The Regional Election process has also attracted public attention because it took place in the midst of various challenges, including efforts to maintain political stability after Aceh's peace and maintain high public participation. In the city of Banda Aceh, for example, the Regional Elections are also enlivened by the competition of four pairs of mayoral candidates who have drawn serial numbers as part of the official campaign process (Ende, 2024). All of this shows that the 2024 Aceh Regional Election is not just a political contest, but also a test for the development of a stronger and more inclusive local democracy. Before further discussion, we must know the map of the 2024 Aceh Regional Election DPT as follows:



Source: kipaceh.kpu.go.id, 2024

**Figure 12. The Map of the 2024 Aceh Regional Election DPT**



Based on the image above, it is known that the 2024 Aceh Regional Election shows a DPT of 3,764,944 voters spread across 23 city districts. In addition, the data above shows that the voters who dominate in the 2024 Aceh Regional Election are Gen Y (Age 27-42 years) and the lowest are from the Pre-Boomers Generation (78 years and above).

### **Relevance of Procedural Democracy**

The relationship between the theory of the five criteria of procedural democracy by Robert A. Dahl (2001) and the implementation of the 2024 Aceh Election can be described as follows:

#### **1. Sound Equation**

Dahl emphasized the importance of political equality for all citizens (Caprioli et al., 2024). In the 2024 Aceh Election, this principle is reflected in the preparation of the Permanent Voter List (DPT) involving all eligible citizens, both men and women, with a total of 1,839,412 male and 1,902,625 female voters. The implementation of elections by the districts/cities of KIP Aceh and KIP, as stipulated in Law No. 11 of 2006, aims to ensure that all citizens have the same right to vote. Data shows that voter participation in elections, especially presidential elections, reached 87.01%, which indicates that there is a strong trust in the electoral system. However, in practice, equality of votes is still threatened by the practice of money politics, political pressure, and the use of state resources for specific interests. Dahl emphasized that procedural democracy can only work optimally if every individual has an equal opportunity to vote without unfair external pressure or influence (Chambers & Warren, 2023). Therefore, reform of the election supervision system, including strengthening the role of Bawaslu and independent monitors, is a key aspect to ensure real equality of votes.

#### **2. Effective Participation**

Democracy, according to Dahl, demands that all citizens have an equal opportunity to participate in political decision-making (Nissen, 2021; Christensen et al., 2023). The 2024 Aceh Election showed a high participation rate, especially in the Presidential Election with a participation of 87.01%. This shows the efforts of election organizers to ensure citizen participation through socialization and election supervision carried out by the Election Supervisory Committee. Although the participation rate is high, the effectiveness of participation still needs to be studied more deeply. The findings show that young people and women are starting to gain space in politics, but are not yet fully accommodated in political party structures. In Dahl's perspective, effective participation means that every citizen not only has a voice, but also has access to political decision-making (Butzlaff, 2023). Political parties in Aceh need to develop concrete strategies to increase the involvement of young voters and women in political leadership, both through cadre regeneration programs and strengthening representation in the DPRK and DPRA.

#### **3. Bright Understanding**

Dahl underscored the importance of citizens' understanding of their political needs and preferences (Gandur et al., 2025; Dinesen et al., 2021). In the context of Aceh, the existence of local parties such as the Aceh Party and high community participation suggest that citizens understand their distinctive political preferences, including the influence of Islamic sharia and the unique local political history. The transparency process in nominations, campaigns, and campaign fund audits by KIP also supports this increased understanding. Procedural democracy theory emphasizes that voters must have sufficient access to credible information in order to make rational political decisions (Cavaliere & Romeo, 2022). This has implications for the need for reforms in political education and digital literacy for the public, so that voters can distinguish between valid information and misleading propaganda.

#### 4. Agenda Supervision

This criterion emphasizes the right of the community to decide on the policy agenda. In the 2024 Aceh Election, the existence of local political parties regulated in the Aceh Government Law provides space for the people of Aceh to determine a political agenda that suits the needs of their region. In addition, the monitoring mechanism by the Election Supervisory Committee also serves to maintain the election process in accordance with the aspirations of the community. In the context of Aceh, agenda supervision means the extent to which the community has control over the policies resulting from elections. The existence of local parties such as the Aceh Party (PA) and the Nanggroe Aceh Party (PNA) should provide greater space for the representation of the interests of the Acehnese people. However, political reality shows that often the interests of local elites are more dominant than the aspirations of the wider community (Usman et al., 2024). Therefore, transparency and accountability in the legislative process and community involvement in policy formulation are important aspects that need to be strengthened (Androniceanu, 2021).

#### 5. Adult Coverage

One of the successes of the 2024 election in Aceh is the increased involvement of various social groups in the democratic process (Mansyur & Hajad, 2024). However, challenges remain, especially related to voter access in remote areas, minority engagement, and other vulnerable groups. Policy reform is needed to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their geographical location or social status, have equal access to elections and the overall political process (Purnama & Manitra, 2023). All citizens who meet the criteria as voters have access to exercise their political rights (Sellers & Weinstein-Tull, 2021). This can be seen from the establishment of the DPT which includes all age groups of voters, including generation Y who dominate voters in the 2024 Aceh Regional Elections, as well as efforts to include vulnerable groups in the electoral process, even though Aceh's geographical challenges are quite significant.

The 2024 elections in Aceh provide many valuable lessons on how procedural democracy works in the context of special autonomy. Although the voter participation rate is quite high, a number of challenges still hinder the creation of a truly inclusive and fair democracy. To improve the existing system, several concrete steps need to be taken immediately. One of the fundamental problems that must be fixed is the election supervision system. Money politics and campaign violations are still rampant, which ultimately undermines the essence of democracy itself. If this practice continues to be allowed, public trust in elections can be eroded. Therefore, strengthening the role of supervisory institutions such as Bawaslu is an important step. Not only that, the involvement of independent monitors must also be expanded so that the election process is truly transparent. In addition, campaign funds used by political parties, especially local parties, need to be audited more strictly so that there is no misuse that leads to transactional politics.

On the other hand, political education is an important factor that must receive more attention. There are still many voters who are easily influenced by black campaigns and misleading information. Without an adequate understanding of politics, it is difficult for people to make rational decisions when choosing leaders. Therefore, a more massive political literacy program is needed, both through schools, communities, and social media. The younger generation also needs to be more actively involved in political discussions so that they not only become passive voters, but also have awareness of their role in building democracy.

Another challenge that is also important is the lack of representation of women and young people in politics. Although voter participation from this group is increasing, their representation in the leadership structure is still limited. This is homework for political parties to be more open in providing space for candidates from this group. It is not enough to just meet quotas, but also to ensure that they are actually given the opportunity to contribute to policy-making.

Finally, post-election government transparency and accountability must also be strengthened. Elections are not only about choosing leaders, but also how they carry out their mandates after being elected.

The public must have wider access to supervise the policies and performance of public officials. Discussion forums, investigative journalism, and information disclosure mechanisms must be strengthened so that the people truly feel that their voices are influential. With these efforts, democracy in Aceh can develop in a better direction. Reforms in election supervision, political education, representation of vulnerable groups, and government transparency are not just discourses, but concrete steps that must be realized immediately. If all elements of society are willing to contribute, then Aceh can be an example of how procedural democracy can run more inclusive and meaningful for its people.

Thus, the implementation of the 2024 Aceh Election can be associated with the application of Dahl's procedural democratic principles. This election is not only a means of choosing leaders, but also serves as a mechanism to strengthen democracy and maintain post-conflict peace in Aceh.

## CONCLUSIONS

The 2024 Aceh Regional Elections and Regional Elections reflect the complexity of local political dynamics influenced by the characteristics of special autonomy and a long history of post-conflict peace. The legislative election will be a forum for national and local parties to fight for the voice of the Acehnese people, including the Aceh Party which is the main political representative in this region. Meanwhile, the Aceh Regional Election features significant competition between candidates with different political and social backgrounds, such as Muzakir Manaf, a former figure of the Free Aceh Movement, and Bustami Hamzah, an experienced bureaucrat supported by the national party coalition. The high participation of the Acehnese people is expected to reflect the legitimacy of this democratic process and provide a foundation for the realization of an inclusive and responsive government.

However, the challenges faced by Aceh in the 2024 elections and regional elections include issues of political stability, accountability in the management of special autonomy funds, and improving community welfare. Simultaneous election regulations also require technical readiness from the Aceh Independent Election Commission (KIP) to maintain the credibility of the election process. In addition, fierce political competition requires candidates to focus on real solutions to regional development problems, such as economic inequality and public services. Overall, the 2024 Regional Elections and Regional Elections in Aceh are an important test for the sustainability of local democracy and efforts to strengthen socio-political consensus within the framework of special autonomy.

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