



## **ISLAMIC PARTIES AND THE VOTING BEHAVIOR OF CITY MUSLIMS IN WEST SUMATRA**

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### ***Abstract***

*The research is motivated by the absence of political parties rooted in Islamic principles that have achieved significant success in the legislative elections in West Sumatra, particularly in the three cities selected as the study's focal points. The cities under consideration are Padang City, Bukittinggi City, and Pariaman City. The aforementioned cities exhibit a significant concentration of Muslim voters. However, it is noteworthy that no political party founded on Islamic principles achieved overwhelming success in the legislative elections. The Muslim community in this city exhibits a strong association with the policies implemented by the local government, which are rooted in sharia law. However, their voting patterns during general legislative elections do not align with a consistent preference for political parties that uphold Islamic principles. This study employs the theory of voting behavior within a psychological framework to examine how the attributes of voters within the Muslim community in this city utilize a voting behavior approach grounded in psychological factors. The independent variables considered are Issues in the Campaign (X.1), Identification of parties (X.2), and Orientation towards candidates (X.3), while the dependent variable is the voting behavior exhibited by urban Muslim communities during general elections. This study employs a quantitative methodology, utilizing a survey research design. The nature of this research is explanatory in nature. The data collection process involved the distribution of questionnaires to respondents who were selected using the probability sampling method. Specifically, a combination of stratified random sampling and simple random sampling techniques was employed. The selection of respondents was determined by utilizing random numbers. The analytical framework employed in this study consists of a frequency table and hypothesis testing utilizing the Chi Square method. The analysis of the data collected in the field indicates that there exists a correlation between party identification (X) and voting behavior (Y) within urban Muslim communities. Specifically, this study reveals that the identification of Muslim voters with particular political parties significantly impacts the voting behavior of urban Muslim communities during general elections.*

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**Keywords:** *Islamic Party; The City's Muslim Electorate; Elections.*

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### **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini dilatarbelakangi oleh tidak ada partai yang berazaskan nilai-nilai islam mendominasi kemenangan dalam pemilihan umum legislatif di Sumatera barat, Khususnya di tiga kota yang akan dijadikan lokasi penelitian ini. Dimana kota tersebut ialah Kota Padang, Kota Bukittinggi, dan Kota Pariaman. Ketiga kota ini memiliki jumlah populasi pemilih muslim yang sangat dominan, namun dalam pelaksanaan pemilihan legislatif, tidak ada satupun partai yang berazaskan nilai islam mampu mendominasi kemenangan dalam pemilihan umum legislatif. Kalangan muslim di kota ini sangat identik dengan dengan kebijakan pemerintahannya yang bernuasa syariah, namun perilaku memilih mereka dalam pemilihan umum legislatif tidak menggambarkan perilaku yang mendukung partai – partai yang menjunjung tinggi ajaran islam. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori perilaku memilih dengan mazhab psikologis, untuk melihat bagaimana karakteristik pemilih masyarakat muslim kota ini menggunakan pendekatan perilaku memilih berdasarkan aspek psikologis, dengan variabel bebas Isu dalam Kampanye (X.1) Identifikasi kepartaian (X.2) dan Orientasi terhadap kandidat (X.3) dengan variabel terikat yakni perilaku memilih masyarakat muslim kota dalam Pemilihan Umum. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif dengan desain penelitian survey, tipe penelitian ini adalah explanatory research (penelitian penjelasan). Data dikumpulkan dengan pembagian kuesioner, responden dipilih menggunakan metode probability sampling yaitu, stratified random sampling dan simple random sampling serta menggunakan angka acak dalam menentukan responden. Model analisis penelitian ini berupa tabel frekuensi dan pengujian hipotesis menggunakan Chi Square. Temuan data di lapangan memperlihatkan dalam mengukur pengaruh antara perilaku memilih masyarakat muslim kota terhadap identifikasi kepartaian (X) dengan Perilaku memilih (Y), dalam hasil penelitian ini didapat ada hubungan antara identifikasi kepartaian pemilih muslim terhadap perilaku memilih masyarakat muslim kota dalam Pemilihan Umum.

**Kata Kunci:** Partai islam; Pemilih Muslim Kota; Pemilihan Umum.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Elections represent a manifestation of popular sovereignty within a democratic nation. The inaugural elections in Indonesia took place in 1955, marking the commencement of the electoral process to select representatives for the People's Consultative Assembly (DPR) and the Constituent Assembly. The aspiration to actualize the collective sovereignty of individuals as a decisive factor in shaping policy direction has persisted and expanded up until the present time. The advancement of electoral processes necessitates the ongoing enhancement of various electoral reforms, such as the implementation of direct elections (Romli, 2018).

The political reform that took place in

1998 emerged as a precursor to the implementation of direct elections. The emergence of 48 new political parties in 1999, in contrast to the previous dominance of three parties (PDI, Golkar, and PPP), can be attributed to the criticisms surrounding past elections. B.J. Habibie, during his presidency as the head of the Republic of Indonesia, played a significant role in fostering a climate that is deemed more democratic. He advocated for the establishment of political parties, emphasizing that adherence to the principles of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution should serve as the foundation for such parties (Suparno, 2012).

The emergence of Islamic parties can

be regarded as a logical outcome resulting from the reformation of political parties in post-reform Indonesia (Romli, 2004). According to Sudarno Shobron, the establishment of an Islamic party necessitates the fulfillment of a minimum of six conditions. Firstly, it can be argued that politics holds a significant role akin to worship, with political parties serving as primary platforms for disseminating da'wah. Furthermore, it can be argued that politics serves as a viable platform for propagating ideological beliefs. Furthermore, there has been a shift in the collective ideological perspective of Muslims regarding political matters. Furthermore, it is important to consider the capacity of the party masses to formulate policies that are characterized by openness. Furthermore, it is imperative to adopt an open interpretation of the Islamic ideology. Furthermore, it is imperative that party leaders adhere to a set of prophetic criteria (Mikail, 2015; Shobron, 2013).

The Islamic party movement in Indonesia has consistently exhibited fluctuations over time. Nevertheless, despite being a nation boasting the highest number of Muslims globally, Indonesia's political landscape does not wield substantial sway over the decision-making processes of its Muslim community, commonly referred to as the ummah (Mahardika & Fatayati, 2019; Romli, 2004; Yumitro, 2014). Moreover, upon examining the outcomes of the elections during the preceding two periods, it becomes evident that the electoral support garnered by Islamic political parties has exhibited a consistent downward trend since the inception of the 1955 elections. Despite experiencing a decline since the 1999 election, the vote share of Islamic political parties has witnessed a notable

decrease, dropping from 36.98% to 31.3% (Fanani, 2014; Mahardika & Fatayati, 2019; Romli, 2004)

The observed decrease in the proportion of votes garnered by Islamic parties in successive elections indicates a relatively limited alignment between the political preferences of Indonesian Muslim communities and their adherence to Islamic lifestyles (Fanani, 2014; Mahardika & Fatayati, 2019; Mikail, 2015). According to Abdil Mughis Mudhoffir, the manifestation of piety among Muslims in Indonesia is evident through their adherence to sharia-compliant products, including clothing, medicines, food, and education, as observed in their behavioral patterns and consumption choices (Mudhoffir, 2016, 2020; Yasih, Mudhoffir, 2017). However, in the present-day context, it is evident that a considerable number of urban dwellers opt to affiliate themselves with conservative Islamic organizations by means of participating in recitations and remembrance gatherings. Nevertheless, the utilization of religious devotion as a political tool by Muslims in Indonesia is not viable (Mudhoffir, 2016, 2020; Yasih, Mudhoffir, 2017).

Challenges associated with augmenting the electoral support for Islamic political parties are evident across diverse regions and localities. The province of West Sumatra, which adheres to the philosophy of "adat basandi syarak, syarak basandi Kitabullah," acquires comparable data pertaining to the aggregation of party vote outcomes in every election, particularly in the Legislative Election. The subsequent table presents data pertaining to the victorious candidates in the elections held in Padang City, Pariaman City, and Bukittinggi City during the period spanning from 1999 to 2019:

**Table 1**  
**The Winner Parties of Legislative Election in Padang, Bukittinggi, and Pariaman Cities**

No	Name of City	Year	Winner Party
1	Padang	1999	PAN
		2004	PKS
		2009	Demokrat
		2014	Gerindra
		2019	Gerindra
2	Bukittinggi	1999	Golkar
		2004	Golkar
		2009	Demokrat
		2014	Gerindra
		2019	Gerindra
3	Pariaman	1999	Golkar
		2004	Golkar
		2009	PAN
		2014	Golkar
		2019	Gerindra

From the table above, it can be concluded that West Sumatran residents whose life values are similar to Islamic values are more likely to vote for nationalist parties such as the Golkar Party and Gerindra Party than they are for Islamic-leaning parties. Thus, the study of the voting patterns or behavior of the people of West Sumatra and Islamic parties in West Sumatra becomes extremely intriguing. This study attempts to explain, on the basis of the aforementioned hypotheses, how the voting behavior of the people of West Sumatra who are classified as adherents of Islam is religious but secular in their choice of political parties. This study will analyze the voting behavior of urban Muslim communities in West Sumatra using the concept of a psychological approach to

voting behavior of Muslim communities in Padang City, Pariaman City, and Bukittinggi City in order to explain the phenomenon under investigation.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Relations between religion and the country have given rise to fundamentalism, nationalism, traditionalism, modernism, Islamic secularism, etc., which are the actual manifestations of the interaction between religion and the state, particularly the interaction between Islamic ideology and politics (Mayrudin, 2017). In Indonesia, the relationship between religion and the country is characterized by accommodating, confrontational, and reciprocal forms of conflict. However, recent political developments in Indonesia have accommodated many Muslim interests, so that the relationship between religion and the country appears to be mutually beneficial.

The concept and ideology surrounding the struggle of Muslims, which is an inherent component of the political framework of Islam, becomes readily comprehensible. Aligned with the aforementioned notion of power, it is undeniable that the primary objective of Muslim fundamentalist factions within the realm of politics is the attainment of an Islamic state. In contrast, the reformist faction's primary objective revolves around securing the triumph of formal Islamic parties through the means of general elections. In light of this, there exists a significant opportunity to establish a society guided by Islamic principles, rather than exclusively focusing on the establishment of an Islamic state (Effendy, 2011).

Upon examination of the political and religious conduct exhibited by individuals

within the nation, it is possible to classify such behavior into three primary categories. These categories pertain to the processes through which political attitudes and behaviors of the populace are shaped. There are three primary forms of authority: authority based on dogma or absolute truth, authority characterized by comprehensive regulation, and authority institutionalized through the integration of absolute truth into the formulation of rules that reinforce religious institutions.

Extensive scholarly investigations have been conducted in the realm of political science pertaining to voting behavior. Notably, Affan Gafar has contributed to this body of research by examining the voting behavior of the Javanese population through the collection and analysis of representative samples. Gafar observes the voting patterns exhibited by the Javanese population, wherein they consistently cast their votes in favor of the Golongan Karya Party during every electoral event in Indonesia. In this research, Afan Gafar employed three variables, which are *santri*, *abangan*, and *priyai*, as measurement instruments to examine the three political currents that emerged in Java. Furthermore, Gafar incorporates variables within the realm of voting behavior by examining party identification, leadership, and social class. The community groups that were examined and classified as the *santri* group exhibited a tendency to support a political party that espoused Islamic principles, specifically the United Development Party (PPP). Conversely, individuals identified as *priyai* tended to align themselves with the Golongan Karya party (Golkar), while those belonging to the *abangan* group displayed a greater inclination towards voting for the Indonesian Democratic Party

(Gaffar, 1988).

The dissertation conducted by Josef Kristiadi examined the voting patterns within Yogyakarta Municipality and Banjarnegara Regency, located in Central Java, during the General Elections spanning from 1971 to 1987. The study focused on the influence of role model variables, party identification, social structure, and mass media on the voting behavior observed during this period (Kristiadi, 1994). The theoretical framework employed in this study is the socio-cultural theory of voting behavior, which integrates perspectives from both social and psychological schools of thought. The sociological perspective can be employed to analyze the overall divisions, specifically between leaders and community members, as well as the dynamics of their relationship. The psychological approach offers insights into the internalization and socialization processes through which cultural values and customs shape the political culture of a society, subsequently influencing political behavior. The influence exerted by leaders and the concept of obedience within the social system significantly shape the attitudes and behaviors of the community. The present study employs a quantitative research design utilizing a survey methodology. The findings of Kristiadi's dissertation suggest that voting behavior and preferences are influenced by various factors, including role models, party identification, social structure, and the mass media.

This paper employs a psychological framework to elucidate the determinants of an individual's decision-making process, which can be comprehensively explicated through a psychological lens (Ayu, 2016). There are three rationales underlying an individual's decision-making process from

a psychological perspective. The first rationale pertains to the role of personal interests, whereby each choice made by an individual is driven by the desire to satisfy their own unique set of preferences and objectives. The second factor is adaptation, wherein each decision made serves as a means of fostering adjustment to the immediate milieu. For instance, an individual may find themselves compelled to select a particular candidate due to coercion from criminal elements or other external influences, thereby necessitating their choice. One aspect pertains to the means of self-defense, while the other concerns self-externalization, wherein an individual anticipates the potential impact on their personality before making a choice (Ayu, 2016).

Dieter Roth succinctly summarizes the interplay of party identification, candidate orientation, and issue orientation as a triad of determinants (Safitri, 2019). Individuals will take into consideration these three factors when making their decision. The concept of identification, as applied in this context, pertains to the phenomenon wherein the electorate, during general elections, is swayed by the act of aligning itself with a particular political party (Ayu, 2016). The individual's inclination to align oneself with a particular political party can be understood through the lens of psychoanalytic theory in psychology. According to this theory, there are three processes through which individuals exhibit specific behaviors: imitation, suggestion, and identification. In the context of identification, individuals demonstrate a tendency to align themselves with others, adopting similar characteristics or beliefs (Ayu, 2016).

## **METHOD**

This study employs a quantitative methodology and utilizing survey research techniques. The questionnaire serves as a data collection instrument in this study. Moreover, this study can be classified as an explanatory research. In the context of this survey methodology, it is imperative for researchers to formulate research hypotheses and subsequently examine them in the field. The primary objective of this study is to ascertain the existence of causal relationships among the variables under investigation (Sugiyono, 2013). This study aims to elucidate and examine the various factors that exert influence on the voting behavior of urban Muslim constituents residing in the region of West Sumatra. The sampling technique employed in this study is stage sampling, which is utilized when the sample is obtained in multiple stages as required. The initial approach employed in this study is Stratified Random Sampling, which is a method of sampling. Stratified random sampling refers to the process of sampling in a systematic manner, wherein the population is divided into distinct stages or layers (Singarimbun & Effendi, 2006). Due to the heterogeneous nature of the population under investigation, it is imperative to stratify the population into distinct layers. This study employed a sampling technique wherein each layer was sampled using either a simple random or systematic approach (Singarimbun & Effendi, 2006).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **a. Characteristics of Respondents**

During the process of data analysis, author will classify the data into multiple categories. The category refers to the demographic characteristics of the respondent, including age category, educational strata, occupation, gender,

religion, and marital status. The data will be presented in the following format.

### 1. Composition of Respondents Based on Gender

The gender characteristics of the respondents are presented in the table below.

**Table 2**  
**Composition of Respondents Based on Gender**

Gender	Percentage
Male	50 %
Female	50 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>

*Source: Primary Data in 2022*

According to the data presented in Table 5.1, it is evident that among the total number of respondents, 50% were male and 50% were female. This implies that the sample population in this study was representative of both males and females, ensuring a balanced distribution of respondents across genders.

### 2. Composition of Respondents Based on Age

The age characteristics of the respondents are presented in the table below.

**Table 3**  
**Composition of Respondents Based on Age**

Age	Frequency
>53 tahun	5
17-22	16
23-27	31
28-37	31
38-47	11
48-52	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The study primarily attracted participants from the younger demographic, commonly referred to as the millennial generation, specifically individuals aged 23-27 and 28-37. This age

group accounted for a combined proportion of 31% of the total respondents. This implies that the participants can be classified as individuals belonging to the younger demographic, characterized by their modern and relatively moderate perspectives.

**Table 4**  
**Composition of Respondents Based on Occupation**

Occupation	Frequency
Unemployed	12
Teacher/Lecturer	13
Others	18
Businessman	7
Civil Servant	12
Private Employees	12
Student/Undergraduate Student	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Based on the attributes of the participant's occupation. The vast majority of participants in the study reported full employment, with all respondents indicating that they were currently employed. According to statistical data, the majority of respondents in this study are students who possess a high level of education. As millennials, these students exhibit a strong connection to the political landscape and hold objective perspectives.

**Table 5**  
**Composition of Respondents Based on Regional Origin**

Location	Frequency
Bukittinggi City	42
Padang City	42
Pariaman City	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Regarding the geographical distribution of participants, it can be observed that the distribution was relatively balanced in the Bukittinggi and Padang

regions. However, it is worth noting that a notable proportion of respondents were derived from the urban center of Pariaman.

### 3. Composition of Respondents Based on Educational Level

The educational characteristics of the respondents are presented in the table below.

**Table 6**  
**Composition of Respondents Based on Educational Level**

Education Level	Percentage
Associate/Applied Science Degree	4%
Bachelor Degree	21%
Elementary School/Equivalent	2%
Junior High School/Equivalent	8%
Senior High School/Equivalent	63%
Did not Graduate from Elementary School	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>

*Source: Primary Data in 2022*

The table presented above illustrates that out of the total number of respondents, 2% of them did not complete their elementary education. The distribution of educational attainment among the population is as follows: 4% have completed D3/D4 education, 21% have obtained undergraduate degrees, 2% have completed elementary school, and 8% have completed junior high school or its equivalent. In terms of educational attainment, a significant proportion, specifically 63%, of individuals possess a high school diploma or an equivalent qualification. Based on the available data, it can be inferred that the educational

attainment of the majority of respondents is at the level of high school graduation or its equivalent.

### 4. Composition of Respondents Based on Occupation

The table below displays the characteristics of the respondent's work.

**Table 7**  
**Composition of Respondents Based on Occupation**

Occupation	Percentage
Unemployed	11%
Laborer	3%
Teacher/Lecturer	2%
Businessman	13%
Civil Servant	7%
Private Employees	10%
Student/Undergraduate Student	27%
Retiree	1%
Farmer	1%
Driver	2%
Others	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>

*Source: Primary Data in 2022*

Based on the provided table, it is evident that among the total respondents, 11% reported being unemployed or not engaged in any form of work. Additionally, 3% of the respondents identified themselves as laborers, while 2% were involved in teaching or lecturing occupations. Furthermore, 13% of the respondents reported being engaged in trader jobs, 7% were civil servants, and 10% were employed in the private sector. The percentage of students accounts for approximately 27%, while retirees, farmers, and drivers/ojek each constitute 1% of the total. The remaining 23% represents individuals whose specific occupations were not specified in the inquiry.



Based on the data presented in the table, it can be inferred that the predominant occupation among the respondents is that of students, encompassing both high school students and individuals pursuing higher education at the university level.

**a. The Relationship between Party Identification and Voting Behavior in Muslim Communities in General Elections.**

Party identification refers to an individual's psychological attachment to a particular political party, which is not contingent upon any legal acknowledgment or formal documentation. Typically, this phenomenon is predicated upon emotional

inclinations towards individuals, such as family members, authority figures, and even specific institutions. This characteristic enables an individual to align themselves with a political party and exhibit a propensity to have faith in the party's achievements. An individual's affiliation with a specific political party will inevitably shape their perspective and stance on emerging candidates and issues. Does the political party affiliation significantly impact individuals' voting behavior? In order to examine the impact of party affiliation on the voting patterns of Muslim communities in Padang, Bukittinggi City, and Pariaman City during the 2019 election, the ensuing tables provide a comprehensive elucidation.

**Table 8**  
**Possible Parties in the Regency/City Provincial Legislatives Council for the 2019 Election**

Chosen Parties	Frequency	Chosen Parties	Frequency
Gerakan Indonesia Raya Party (Gerindra)	28	Bulan Bintang Party (PBB)	3
Keadilan Sejahtera Party (PKS)	25	Keadilan dan Persatuan Indonesia Party (PKPI)	1
Golongan Karya Party (Golkar)	10	Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan Party (PDIP)	1
Persatuan Pembangunan Party (PPP)	9	Nasdem Party	1
Demokrat Party	8	Persatuan Indonesia Party (Perindo)	1
Kebangkitan Bangsa Party (PKB)	7	Gerakan Perubahan Indonesia Party (Garuda)	1
Amanat Nasional Party (PAN)	5	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

In the context of political party preferences in the 2019 elections, the populace of West Sumatra, specifically in the cities of Bukittinggi, Padang, and Pariaman, demonstrated a consistent

inclination towards the Gerindra Party, which garnered the highest level of voter support. Following Gerindra, the Justice Party emerged as another prominent choice among the electorate. The party Sejahtera

secured the second position, while the Golkar Party attained the third position. This observation indicates that the nationalist party remains the predominant preference among the populace of West Sumatra, particularly in urban regions.

**Table 9**  
**Provincial Elections in 2019: Selection of Political Parties**

Chosen Parties	Frequency	Chosen Parties	Frequency
Gerakan Indonesia Raya Party (Gerindra)	29	Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan Party (PDIP)	2
Keadilan Sejahtera Party (PKS)	26	Bulan Bintang Party (PBB)	2
Golongan Karya Party (Golkar)	14	Hati Nurani Rakyat Party (Hanura)	2
Amanat Nasional Party (PAN)	9	Gerakan Perubahan Indonesia Party (Garuda)	1
Persatuan Pembangunan Party (PPP)	5	Berkarya Party	1
Nasdem Party	5	Persatuan Indonesia Party (Perindo)	1
Kebangkitan Bangsa Party (PKB)	3	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The outcome of the provincial DPRD level election witnessed a similar pattern in terms of the people's choice. The Gerindra Party emerged victorious, securing the first position, followed by the PKS party in second place, and the Golkar Party in third place. This electoral outcome highlights the continued dominance of nationalist parties

among urban communities in West Sumatra.

**Table 10**  
**List of Parties at the Central/Legislative Assembly Level in the 2019 Election**

Chosen Parties	Frequency	Chosen Parties	Frequency
Gerakan Indonesia Raya Party (Gerindra)	29	Hati Nurani Rakyat Party (Hanura)	3
Keadilan Sejahtera Party (PKS)	27	Bulan Bintang Party (PBB)	2
Demokrat Party	12	Kebangkitan Bangsa Party (PKB)	2
Golongan Karya Party (Golkar)	9	Persatuan Pembangunan Party (PPP)	2
Amanat Nasional Party (PAN)	8	Nasdem Party	1
Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan Party (PDIP)	4	Gerakan Perubahan Indonesia Party (Garuda)	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	

The data presented in the aforementioned table reveals that a significant proportion of urban Muslim communities tend to cast their votes in favor of political parties that possess a nationalist faction during legislative elections.

**Table 11**  
**Understanding the vision and mission of parties competing in the 2019 general election**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly Agree	4%
Agree	65%
Disagree	26%
Strongly Disagree	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The data presented above indicates that a significant proportion, specifically 65%, of voters possess awareness regarding the vision and mission of the political parties involved in the 2019 election. This finding indicates that voters possess a strong belief in the vision and mission espoused by political parties during the 2019 election. The intended outcome of this vision and mission is for political parties to effectively implement the shared vision and mission that was established during their parliamentary sessions. The articulation of a political party's vision and mission serves as a persuasive tool to demonstrate to voters the feasibility of implementing the party's programs once it assumes governance.

**Table 12**  
**Participation in Voting**  
**[vote because of the vision and mission of the political party]**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly Agree	15%
Agree	81%
Disagree	4%
Strongly Disagree	-%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The degree of rationality exhibited by individuals in the three cities with regards to their voting behavior is notably high, particularly in their attentiveness towards

the vision and mission of the political parties they intend to support. The data presented in the table above indicates that a significant proportion of voters exhibit a keen interest in the vision and mission of the political party they intend to support. It is imperative for political parties to comprehend the interplay between the objectivity and subjectivity of individuals' voting behavior when evaluating political parties, particularly in relation to the alignment of their vision and mission with the forthcoming campaign, as well as their effective implementation within the electoral constituency (Dapil). The level of trust bestowed by voters upon political parties, as reflected in their vision and mission, serves as a determinant for the continued support and electoral choices in upcoming legislative elections.

**Table 13**  
**Participation in Voting**  
**[vote because of the closeness of the party figure/candidate]**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly Agree	11%
Agree	50%
Disagree	38%
Strongly Disagree	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The significance of emotional factors in the decision-making process of individuals residing in the three cities with regard to legislative elections remains substantial. This assertion is supported by the fact that 50% of respondents acknowledged the importance of emotional proximity in their selection process. The degree of emotional proximity between political figures and the community or their constituents can be observed through their level of closeness. The proximity between

a political figure and their constituents positively correlates with the likelihood of the figure or candidate being elected by the general public.

**Table 14**  
**Participation in Voting**  
**[Giving money is one of my motivations**  
**in voting in the 2019 election]**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly Agree	3%
Agree	11%
Disagree	64%
Strongly Disagree	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

A significant proportion, specifically 64%, of the general population holds the belief that monetary considerations do not serve as the primary determinant influencing voters' choices at the ballot box. Based on the aforementioned data, it is evident that the influence of money politics on individuals' decision-making processes in the 2019 legislative elections is relatively insignificant. The aforementioned data indicates that a considerable number of individuals express a rejection or disagreement towards the notion that their political decisions are not influenced by the provision of material resources, such as money or similar forms of compensation.

**b. The Relationship between Candidate Orientation and Voting Behavior of Urban Muslim Communities in the 2019 Legislative Elections.**

Candidate orientation refers to the level of voter familiarity with the pool of existing candidates or potential candidates. The understanding of this individual is associated with their level of popularity, reputation, and competence in assuming a significant position in governmental or

public service. The level of awareness among individual voters regarding the candidate's location is likely to exert influence on the candidate's standing in the electoral contest.

As previously indicated, the orientation of the candidate encompasses both internal and external factors, encompassing physical attributes as well as charisma or presence. Several voter evaluations emerged as a result of the two factors that were presented. The general populace possesses the inherent entitlement to evaluate individuals who demonstrate the qualifications necessary for assuming leadership positions within the government and fostering prosperity in the forthcoming era. The residents of Padang City, Bukittinggi City, and Pariaman City are not exempted from exercising their democratic right to select a candidate whom they deem suitable, taking into consideration various internal and external factors.

To ascertain the correlation between candidate orientation and voting behavior among the residents of Padang City, Bukittinggi City, and Pariaman City during the 2019 legislative elections, please refer to the tables provided below for a comprehensive analysis.

**Table 15**  
**Reasons for Choosing a Political Party**  
**[Party figures are the reason I chose a party in the 2019 election]**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Agree	78%
Uncertain	-%
Disagree	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Political party figures play a crucial role in facilitating voter choice during general elections. A majority of respondents, specifically 78%, expressed

their agreement in responding to this inquiry. This implies that the prominent figures in the Minang 3T region, which are *tokoh*, *takah*, and *tageh*, hold significant importance as strategic tools during the electoral process. The presented table illustrates the prioritization of reasons for voters' choices in the 2019 legislative elections, with a particular emphasis on the strong profiles of the party candidates participating in said elections.

**Tabel 16**  
**Reasons for Choosing a Political Party**  
**(The party has fought for the interests**  
**of the people both before and after the**  
**2019 elections)**

Option	Percentage
Strongly Agree	12%
Agree	80%
Disagree	8%
Strongly Disagree	-%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

A significant proportion of the respondents, up to 80%, hold the belief that political parties actively advocate for the welfare and requirements of the broader society. The aforementioned development provides a favorable opportunity for political parties to persist in making substantial contributions towards addressing societal requirements, thereby fostering an enhanced public perception of political parties.

**Table 17**  
**Choose a candidate based on their**  
**origin**

Option	Percentage
Strongly Agree	3%
Agree	45%
Disagree	28%
Strongly Disagree	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Regarding the aspect of origin, the

responses provided by the participants exhibited a relatively balanced distribution. Specifically, a significant proportion of the answers, amounting to 45%, expressed agreement with the notion of considering the candidate's regional origins as a relevant factor. Moreover, it also assesses whether an individual's background of origin serves as the decisive factor in their election during the electoral process.

**Table 18**  
**Choose candidates because they know**  
**the vision and mission of the political**  
**party concerned**

Option	Percentage
Strongly Agree	11%
Agree	66%
Disagree	20%
Strongly Disagree	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

A significant proportion, up to 66%, of voters possess knowledge and comprehension regarding the vision and mission of political parties, which candidates consider to be of growing significance within society. The vision and mission statements serve as crucial indicators for voters in the process of determining and making their choices during elections.

### **Data Interpretation**

The general election serves as a platform for the expression of public aspirations and their subsequent alignment with the governing body. During general elections, individuals are provided with the opportunity to exercise their democratic right in selecting representatives for the legislature and determining the leader of the executive branch, who will serve a term of five years. Candidates employed a range of tactics in their pursuit of public support,

aiming to cultivate empathy and secure positions of regional leadership.

The process of socialization underwent multiple stages in order to effectively inform the public about political parties, candidates, and their respective agendas that would be implemented upon election. Undoubtedly, the aforementioned factors hold significant importance in shaping individuals' voting preferences, particularly within the context of this study conducted in Padang City, Pariaman City, and Bukittinggi City. Psychological factors play a significant role in elucidating the influence of party identification and candidate orientation on voters (Febriani, 2018). Psychological factors encompass the influence of character, vision, and mission on an individual's political decision-making.

Based on available empirical evidence, it can be observed that the aforementioned trio of cities exhibit the most notable proportion of voters belonging to the Muslim community when compared to other urban centers in the West Sumatra region. The researchers are intrigued by the examination of the population's belief system as a means of understanding their background. Wahidin et al., 2020; Yoserizal & Asrinaldi, 2009 stated that it is indeed intriguing to ascertain the underlying causes of this phenomenon.

Based on extant research, it has been established that three party identification variables, candidate orientation, and campaign issues exhibit the most robust correlation among the aforementioned variables, specifically measuring 0.104. This suggests that the campaign issue garnered significant empathy from the residents in the three cities and emerged as the primary determinant of their voting patterns.

Typically, concerns pertaining to this campaign encompass the initiatives that the candidate intends to implement if elected, which are commonly disseminated during the campaign period via various channels such as electronic media, mass media (e.g., newspapers), as well as physical materials like leaflets and pamphlets that are distributed within the local vicinity. The majority of these programs primarily focus on enhancing infrastructure and promoting regional development, encompassing both physical and non-physical aspects. Examples include the construction of highways, school facilities, and the establishment of various public amenities (Ayu, 2016; Safitri, 2019). The voting behavior of the residents of Padang City, Bukittinggi City, and Pariaman City is influenced by campaign issues of this nature.

Party identification is a significant factor that exerts influence on the voting behavior of individuals residing in Padang City, Bukittinggi City, and Pariaman City. The correlation coefficient of 0.040 suggests a statistically significant and positive correlation, indicating a strong and unidirectional relationship between the variables. This study provides evidence of the impact of political parties on the voting behavior of residents in Padang City, Bukittinggi City, and Pariaman City.

Among the three variables that exert an influence on the voting behavior of the residents of Padang City, Bukittinggi City, and Pariaman City, the variable pertaining to candidate orientation exhibits a significantly weak correlation value of 0.007 when compared to the remaining two variables. Nonetheless, it still maintains a discernible relationship. In other words, the variable of candidate orientation exerts an influence on the voting behavior of the

residents of Padang City, Bukittinggi City, and Pariaman City. The success of the nationalist parties was influenced by their personal attributes, including their character and physique, as well as the campaign issues advocated by the political parties.

The theory of voting behavior encompasses various madhhabs, including the sociological madhhabs. This particular madhhab posits that voters tend to cast their votes based on shared characteristics such as race, religion, and familial connections (Ayu, 2016; Febriani, 2018). The second madhhab is psychological, with a propensity for voters to vote based on their orientation toward parties, orientation toward candidates, and orientation toward the development of political campaign issues. The third madhhab is economic, with a tendency to calculate the voter's profit and loss. These three madhhabs become the standard by which voters cast their ballots. In this study, author attempted to examine the voting behavior of the residents of the Bungus Teluk Kabung District from a psychological standpoint, utilizing the variables of party identification, candidate orientation, and campaign issue development (Yusuf, 2015).

The three variables that most influence or dominate the voting behavior of the citizens of Padang City, Bukittinggi City, and Pariaman City in general elections, as determined by research, are campaign issues. This demonstrates that the people here pay greater attention to the developing issues that accompany each existing candidate. Indeed, campaign issues involve the dissemination of messages and the wish to alter people's attitudes, opinions, and behavior in accordance with the desired outcomes (Hutomo, 2015; Jaya

et al., 2019; Putra, 2022). The community is more captivated by the candidate's campaign issues, which will ultimately determine the community's choice of the candidate.

After the campaign issue variable, the party identification variable influenced the voting behavior of the people, according to the research. According to the theory of voting behavior, a person may identify with a political party and incline to believe in that party's success. Ultimately, a person's identification with a particular party will affect his or her opinion of the candidates (Taqwa & Usinan, 2004). For instance, individuals who have identified with PKS are more likely to vote for PKS candidates.

Candidate orientation is the variable with a very low correlation or limited effect on the voting behavior of the residents of Padang City, Bukittinggi City, and Pariaman City. This candidate's notoriety is proportional to his or her popularity, repute, and competence. In actuality, people tend to give less attention to the popularity and reputation of existing candidates, so they have little influence on the orientation of these candidates, as they are more interested in campaign issues and party identification.

## CONCLUSION

In West Sumatra, there are studies discussing the dominance of Islamic politics in a region with a culture that is consistent with Islamic law. Nonetheless, this demonstrates that the dominance of Islamic political parties is beginning to grow due to a number of factors, one of which is the prominence of the political party itself. This is where we can examine in greater detail the fact that, in addition to the existence of non-dominant Islamic political parties in Indonesia, several

regions have become targets for Islamic political parties seeking to expand their presence by capitalizing on various advantageous momentums.

Voters in West Sumatra were interested in the promised labor program, which led to the victory of nationalist parties. Nationalist parties are very active in conducting campaigns and reaching out to the public in an appealing manner so that the public is more aware of their popularity. In order for people to prioritize aid (money) over campaigns that prioritize religious symbols carried out by parties based on religious values, nationalist parties provide more aid funds.

In selecting leaders, parties with an Islamic ideology are always guided by religious law. Therefore, the public sees candidates advancing in legislative election contests based solely on the recommendations of party officials, without regard for the personalities who exist within the community itself. Voters believe the Islamic Party is capable of constructing a modern society, but the party continues to prioritize religious symbols. In reality, Islamic party cadres are also entangled in the problem of corruption and abuse of authority in government, despite their desire to create a morally and intellectually sound young generation.

On the basis of this study's findings, the author first recommends for people to conduct research on Islamic political parties and the voting behavior of the first Muslim community. Secondly, the author also suggests recommending an increase in the number of research subjects and the incorporation of sociological and rational choice indicators to diversify the data. Therefore, future research may determine the religiosity of the Muslim community in West Sumatra and its influences in the

election of the President and Vice President, based on the candidate pair's prominent heritage or supporting party.

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