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# Youth Political Perception Towards the Indonesian 2024 Election

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## **Abstract**

### **Key words:**

*Political Perception, Knowledge, Orientation, Youth, Indonesian Election 2024.*

*The Indonesian Election, set for February 14, 2024, plays a vital role in fostering citizen engagement within the democratic political system. The perception and assessment of youth regarding elections have important implications. Thus, this study utilised qualitative methods and derived conclusions based on primary data. The findings indicated that (1) a significant majority of young individuals had a positive perception and evaluation of the 2024 election. This was evident through their active engagement in voter registration and expressed intention to participate on the day of voting. (2) A substantial proportion of respondents displayed a favourable political orientation, rejecting negative campaigning and strategies that did not adhere to regulatory guidelines. (3) Additionally, most participants primarily voted for executive and legislative candidates based on their vision and mission. As a result, the perception of young people towards politics was generally positive and aligned with the established political and electoral systems.*

## **Introduction**

According to a survey conducted by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS, 2023), it was found that young voters, specifically individuals aged between 17 and 39, are projected to have a significant presence in the upcoming Indonesian election in 2024. Approximately 190 million people, or 60% of the total voters, were projected to be from the youth demographic. According to data from the KPU, the national permanent voter list in the 2019 election consisted of 40% millennials. The significance of this number highlights the pivotal role played by the millennial generation, emphasising the need for well-informed decision-making and the avoidance of voter abstention (Zhou et al. 2022)

In the past, a significant number of young people were classified as "abstainers" because they lacked adequate information about the available candidates (Carvalho et al., 2023). This was primarily due to the limited accessibility of election information. Hoax issues have led to unrest and have been seen as a sign of political apathy among certain young people (Hui, 2020). Hence, it was anticipated that technologically savvy millennials would be able to evaluate information in a thoughtful manner.

The factors that influence the preference of young individuals for political parties or candidates can be categorised from multiple perspectives, including structural psychology, sociology, ecology, social aspects, and rational choice (Roth, 2008). Nevertheless, a significant portion of eligible voters choose not to participate in the electoral process, resulting in a rise in the number of "golput" (non-voters) in consecutive elections. There are five factors that contribute to this trend, encompassing technical and occupational aspects, both internal and external, including administrative, socialisation, and political elements (Absil et al., 2021).

Indonesia is scheduled to conduct a general election on February 14, 2024. This election will encompass both presidential and legislative races at both the central and regional levels. In addition, starting on November 27, 2024, there will be simultaneous regional head elections in all provinces, regencies, and cities. The upcoming elections in 2024 in Lampung Province will include the selection of a governor and deputy, two mayors and their deputies, as well as 13 regents and their deputies (Burrichter et al., 2022).

According to earlier research by democracy activists, there has been a consistent decline in voter participation in elections (Table 1). Based on a survey conducted by the General Election Commission (KPU) in 2014, a notable factor is the high percentage of voters who chose not to participate in the voting process (29%). Another factor to consider is the declining public satisfaction with the performance of executive institutions (Lestari, 2021).

**Table 1:** Trends in Voter Participation Rates in 1999-2019 Elections.

Election Year	Legislative Election (%)	Presidential Election (%)
1999	92.70 %	The first post-political reform election
2004	84.06 %	77.44 %
2009	70.99 %	72.09 %
2014	75.11 %	69.58 %
2019	81.69 %	81.97 %

In their study, Al Hamdi et al. (2015) investigated how young individuals perceive the quality of election administration during the 2014 elections. Several indicators were utilised to assess integrity: The topics covered in this study include (1) election laws, (2) election procedures, (3) voter registration, (4) registration of political parties and candidates, (5) the role of mass media, and (6) campaign candidates. Based on the findings, it was observed that the younger population generally possessed a satisfactory understanding of electoral integrity. Overall, there was a generally positive perception of political party and candidate registration, as well as election procedures. The other indicators were satisfactory. Young people displayed the highest level of trust in the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), while exhibiting the lowest level of trust in political parties and parliament.

Based on their understanding of political rights within the democratic system, young people perceive elections as a chance to choose leaders freely, according to a study by Safkaur (2022). Nevertheless, a portion of individuals abstained from voting for reasons related to administrative or technical issues, as well as a lack of confidence in candidates for the presidency, vice presidency, or legislature who were seen as incapable of bringing about meaningful change. There was a perception that officials lacked impartiality or autonomy and did not act against individuals or candidate pairs involved in electoral fraud. Common practices like money politics can undermine the political engagement and influence of young people.

[Wilson-Daily & Kemmelmeier \(2021\)](#) evaluated the opinions of 15–16-year-old Catalan high school students in 30 schools. The researchers wanted to know how these young people felt about voting in independence referendums, municipal elections, sub-national elections, national elections, and super-national elections. Additionally, the study examined individuals' plans to vote at 18. People's sense of voting's importance is correlated with their interest in voting. The significance of voting in different elections was linked to how much students perceived social science teachers as encouraging debate and expression of opinions in class. Disparities related to socio-economic status and political dialogue with parents were found in the importance attributed to voting in independence referendums compared to conventional elections.

Engaging and influencing young voters can be a challenge for political parties and election respondents. Young voters' political preferences are mutable and susceptible to a variety of factors and circumstances. Consequently, the following question arises: are Indonesian citizens, particularly youth, prepared to exercise voting rights to determine the fate of Indonesia for the next five years?

Building upon the previous context, the present study seeks to (1) elucidate the perception of young individuals regarding the 2024 election; (2) ascertain their voting orientation; and (3) provide an explanation for their choice of presidential and legislative candidates. The results were anticipated to offer suggestions for enhancing election regulations by the election organiser (KPU) in the future, particularly in guaranteeing the fair rights and responsibilities of youth in elections. It was important to develop and suggest a model for addressing non-voting behaviour (golput) among young and inexperienced voters in elections.

## Literature Review

### 1. Political Perception

[Gibson \(1959\)](#) suggests that perception is a cognitive process wherein individuals interpret and comprehend the world. Various cues influence how individuals perceive objects, signs, and other individuals. To understand how someone perceives an object, it is important to consider the factors that influence perception. These factors include taking in stimuli or objects from the surrounding environment, comprehending them, and then evaluating or assessing them. Decision-making aspects are greatly influenced by individual judgement. This process is centred on understanding the circumstances and how they influence decision-making. The way we perceive others greatly influences our attitude towards communication and shapes our subsequent actions.

Perception, as described by [Plano, Riggs, & Robin \(2005\)](#), is a cognitive process that promotes an individual's awareness of a given situation, facilitated by a sound mental state. This process involves two interconnected steps. The first step is the reception of sensory impressions,

which can be obtained through various senses such as vision and touch. The second step involves interpreting and assigning meaning to these sensory impressions. Various factors play a role in shaping our perception of political phenomena. These include ideology, personality, past activities and experiences, the characteristics of decision-making situations, potential losses and benefits, and our emotional state.

The study of political behaviour places great emphasis on perception, as it serves as the foundation for individual actions rather than objective reality. According to a study by [Prasetijo \(2005\)](#), there are two main factors that affect perception: internal and external. Internal factors encompass a range of elements such as experience, needs, judgement, and expectations. On the other hand, external factors are related to the contextual situation and political dynamics within a country. People who have a strong sense of self-confidence generally make well-informed choices, whereas those who lack confidence may struggle to make effective decisions.

## 2. Election in Indonesia

In his definition of democracy, Abraham Lincoln emphasised the idea that it is a form of government that is founded on the participation and representation of the people ([Faidi, 2018](#)). Put simply, in a democratic state, ultimate sovereignty or power is vested in the people. A democratic state is characterised by a government that has limited powers, ensuring that citizens are protected from arbitrary actions. The idea of limited government powers denotes that the constitution, which outlines specific terms and conditions of office, restricts the government's rights and obligations. The state constitution outlines a process for regular elections and the appointment of state administrators through general elections conducted by the people.

Elections are at the core of democracy. [Schumpeter \(2003\)](#) first introduced the idea of procedural democracy, and [Huntington \(2001\)](#) developed it further. Democracy is commonly understood as a procedural approach to selecting political leaders. This promotes competition among political parties and candidates to persuade people and secure governmental positions, whether at the legislative or executive level, both centrally and regionally. This definition highlights two key components: the presence of healthy competition among parties and candidates and the active involvement of citizens in evaluating and making decisions regarding the competition.

In Indonesia, elections are conducted in accordance with the Indonesian Constitution and Law Number 7 of 2017 regarding the General Election. The regulations require that elections uphold the principles of popular sovereignty, transparency, freedom, confidentiality, integrity, and fairness, in accordance with Pancasila and the Indonesian Constitution. The election process is carried out to choose individuals who will serve as members of the People Representative Council (DPR), Regional Representative Council (DPD), President and Vice President, as well as the Regional People Representative Council (DPRD) (Article 22E, paragraph 1).

Elections play a vital role in a democratic system by serving to prevent government power from becoming absolute or arbitrary. Consistent with the electoral principle, direct elections are also held at the provincial, regency, and city levels to democratically choose governors, regents, and mayors in accordance with the relevant laws, particularly Law Number 6 of 2020.

### **3. Youth as Voters**

The Indonesian Constitution and various laws that uphold equal political rights for all citizens, regardless of gender, guarantee political participation in Indonesia. One of the essential rights in a democratic society is the ability to participate in elections as both a voter and a candidate. According to Article 28D, paragraph 3, it is stated that all Indonesian citizens are provided with an equal chance to engage in the process of governance.

As new voters reach the age of eligibility and begin to represent various groups in the political sphere, they exercise their right to vote for the very first time. Students play a vital role in the functioning and evolution of politics and democracy. As per the provisions of Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Election, individuals who meet the following criteria are considered eligible voters: Indonesian citizens who are at least 17 years old, have been married or are currently married, and possess the right to vote.

### **Methodology**

The study utilised a qualitative approach to gather descriptive data through written or spoken words, as well as observable behaviour, perception, motivation, attitude, and action (Bogdan & Taylor, 2019). The respondents consisted of Indonesian citizens aged at least 17 years who were or had been married and were registered in the election. During the period from April to June 2023, a sample of 170 students was surveyed and interviewed using questionnaires. The main objective was to investigate how young people perceive elections and how these perceptions impact their political references.

Information was collected through questionnaires that were given to participants. The questionnaires focused on voter perception and included relevant inquiries that aligned with the study objectives, providing guidance for the narrative process. The aim was to examine the potential of perception, reference, and future expectations as recommendations for KPU. The collected data were analysed using a coding method. The interviews with youth were organised into distinct themes in accordance with the study objectives. Relevant reports, notes, and official written materials were utilised as supporting data sources for the theme.

Data analysis involves the presentation and explanation of information gathered from questionnaires distributed to a sample of respondents. The process involved organising and tabulating the data in a way that addressed the research problems. A qualitative study was conducted to identify inference and analysis rooted in scientific logic, while also acknowledging the importance of incorporating quantitative data. The

focus was not on hypothesis testing, but rather on addressing research questions using formal and argumentative reasoning.

The sample size consisted of 170 students from different regencies or cities in Lampung Province. There were 68 males (40%) and 102 females (60%) based on gender. The age of respondents ranged from 18 to 22 years old, with the majority being 19 (60%), 18 (24.12%), 20 (10.59%), 21 (3.52%), 22 (0.59%), and a small portion having no response (0.59%).

## Results

### 1. Youth Perception of 2024 Election

The perception and awareness of the 2024 election among young people generally leaned towards the positive side. Most respondents (97%) have successfully registered as voters on the provisional voter list for the upcoming 2024 election. The announcement for the permanent voter list was set for June 22, 2023. Approximately 80% of the participants reported being familiar with the presidential candidates (refer to [Table 2](#)).

Respondents primarily obtained knowledge about presidential candidates from sources such as social media, television, and other media platforms. Respondents mentioned a few declared candidates, including Anies Baswedan, Ganjar Pranowo, and Prabowo Subianto. However, a mere 30% of individuals were acquainted with the identities of candidates vying for the DPR at the central level, leaving the remaining 70% unfamiliar with the names of those competing for the central legislative agency.

**Table 2:** Perception of Presidential Candidates in 2024 Election.

Presidential Candidate Name	Frequency	Percentage
Know	136	80%
Do not know	34	20%
Total	170	100%

Most participants displayed a lack of knowledge regarding the legislative candidates in their respective regions, including those at the provincial, regency, and city levels. Only a few people were familiar with the candidates who were going to represent DPR RI and DPD RI. Approximately 68% of respondents expressed their unfamiliarity with the names of legislative candidates (DPRD) running in their respective electoral regencies for the upcoming 2024 election. A significant majority of individuals at the provincial level, approximately 65.88%, demonstrated a lack of awareness regarding the identities of legislative candidates (provincial DPRD) within their respective constituencies ([Table 3](#)).

A significant majority of respondents in Lampung Province were unable to identify the names of legislative candidates representing regional political party organisations at the national level. In the case of national-level legislative candidates from Lampung Province, a significant 70% of voters were not familiar with their names. One of the main reasons for this

knowledge gap was the absence of information from print media, online sources, or direct engagement through socialisation and campaign efforts.

**Table 3:** Perception of Provincial Legislative Candidate Names.

Name of Provincial Legislative Candidate	Frequency	Percentage
Know	58	34.12%
Do not know	112	65.88%
Total	170	100%

Respondents demonstrated a greater understanding of the 2024 national-level election compared to their knowledge of regional elections. Specifically, they were more adept at differentiating between executive leaders at the national level and political figures at the regional level. There was a noticeable discrepancy in the level of knowledge between the presidential candidates and the candidates for DPR RI, DPD RI, Provincial, Regency, and City DPRD. Presidential candidates received significantly more media attention through mass and social media than legislative candidates at the provincial, regency, and city levels.

The registration period for legislative candidates for DPR, DPD, Provincial DPRD, and Regency/City DPRD started on May 1, 2023, and ended on May 14, 2023. The interviews took place before the official start of the candidate campaign period. Legislative candidates who have registered with the KPU and undergone extensive socialisation have not yet begun their official campaign activities.

## 2. Political Orientation of Youth Toward 2024 Election

Political orientation encompasses the viewpoints, thought patterns, inclinations, beliefs, and assessments held by individuals and groups within the societal framework.

(1) The political inclinations of young people leaned towards a positive outlook on electoral democracy during the 2024 election. This inclination was apparent in the evaluation of election campaigns by young individuals, who focused on the principles of honesty and justice. Most respondents (88.23%) expressed their disapproval of unethical campaign practices and strategies employed by political parties, candidates, or other entities associated with the election (Table 4).

Political opponents' weaknesses and mistakes were identified in negative campaigns. Furthermore, black campaigns involved spreading false or unverified accusations or irrelevant claims about the leadership capabilities of opponents (Santoso, 2019). All participants expressed strong disapproval of the use of negative campaign tactics, condemning any efforts made by political parties or candidates to disseminate falsehoods and defamatory statements.

**Table 4:** Orientation toward Black Campaign with Primordial Issues.

Primordial Campaign	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	20	11.77%
Disagree	150	88.23%
Total	170	100%



(2) Furthermore, it is worth noting that a significant majority of respondents, specifically 94.71%, expressed their disapproval of political parties or candidates resorting to negative campaign strategies that involve spreading disgrace and disparagement against their opponents. This sentiment was reflected in [Table 5](#). Throughout the campaign period, candidates often employ deceptive tactics, including spreading slander and fake news, to gain sympathy from the voting public ([Hui, 2020](#)).

**Table 5:** Orientation toward Negative Campaign.

Negative Campaign	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	9	5.29%
Disagree	161	94.71%
Total	170	100%

Exploiting sensitive issues such as ethnicity, religion, race, and inter-group relations in Indonesia can have serious consequences for multicultural societies and political stability. These campaigns present several potential risks, including societal division, disruption of tolerance and harmony, weakening of democratisation, instigation of political conflicts, fostering extremism, radicalism, and terrorism, and reduction in political participation.

To address the risks associated with negative political campaigns centred around divisive topics, it was crucial for all parties involved, such as politicians, political organisations, civil society groups, media outlets, and the public, to prioritise fostering comprehension, open dialogue, and educational initiatives that foster national unity and cohesion. In addition, it is imperative to enhance the existing regulations on political campaigns that exploit emotional issues to guarantee a just and harmonious political process. It is crucial for all parties to uphold diversity and promote inclusivity in the political process in order to foster stability and progress in Indonesia as a democratic nation.

### 3. Reasons to Consider Voting 2024 Election Candidates

All participants (100%) indicated their intention to vote at the polling stations during the 2024 election. Voters sought to choose executive (president, governor, mayor, regent) and legislative (DPR, DPD, DPRD) candidates based on a careful evaluation of their vision and mission. Most participants (76.06%) said that a common factor influenced their decision ([Table 6](#)).

A majority (64.12%) of voters chose legislative candidates (DPR RI, DPD RI, Provincial, Regency, and City DPRD) based on the vision and mission outlined by their preferred candidates. In addition, a significant majority of respondents (73.53%) chose specific governor candidates, while an even higher percentage (89.41%) selected regent or mayor candidates for similar reasons.

**Table 6:** Consideration of Political Orientation in the Selection of Presidential Candidates.

Reasons for Consideration	Frequency	Percentage
Candidate Vision & Mission	131	76.06
Integrity	19	11.18
Track Record	8	4.71
Vision, Mission & Integrity	3	1.76
Performance and Achievement	3	1.76
Performances	2	1.18
Gender equality	2	1.18
Ethics	1	0.59
No response	1	0.59
Total	170	100

Respondents' political orientation often aligns with rational choice considerations when selecting a president. This approach involved a thorough analysis of the available information and a deep understanding of the public interest and fundamental values of the nation. Millennial voters, often known as generations Y and Z, are generally considered to be rational and discerning voters. Based on rational choice theory, these individuals can exert control over their decisions. Most voters make their candidate choices through careful consideration rather than impulsive, traditional, or unconscious factors. Understanding individual behaviour across different contexts beyond economics relies on the fundamental assumption of rationality.

Several variables are typically considered when choosing a candidate in an election. Policies and platforms refer to the programmes, vision, and mission of political parties and candidates. When voters evaluate candidates, they typically consider their policies and platforms, examining how well they align with their own beliefs and interests. Additionally, voters weigh the candidate's position on important problems such as the economy, education, environment, health, and social justice. Reputation and track record: When evaluating a candidate, it is essential to consider their reputation, professional background, political accomplishments, integrity, and honesty. Electors favour candidates who possess demonstrated aptitude and self-assurance in effectively carrying out political responsibilities.

Voter's place great importance on a candidate's character, integrity, honesty, responsibility, and devotion to significant principles. Voters' morality and personal ethics play a role in their decision-making. Preference is generally given to those who possess robust leadership skills, exceptional decision-making talents, and have made a good impact on society. Communication Skills: The ability of a candidate to communicate effectively and convey persuasive messages has a significant impact on voter decisions. Voters are generally drawn to candidates who effectively communicate their vision, mission, and work plans. Party or Group Support: Voters frequently consider the endorsement of a certain political

party or group that aligns with their views. The way in which a political party or group presents and represents their interests might influence the decisions made by voters. Candidates who demonstrate responsiveness to public issues and interests are attractive to voters. Voters typically prefer politicians who attentively and effectively respond to the public's concerns; however, preferences may differ based on individual factors, socio-political circumstances, and the specific electoral environment.

## Discussion

80% of the respondents indicated that they were aware of the presidential contenders competing in the 2024 election. This knowledge emerged from several sources, including social media, television, and other mass media platforms. Ly (2023) demonstrated that actively encouraging public participation on social media platforms had a substantial impact on cultivating confidence between the government and its citizens. Social media functions as a platform for individuals to articulate their political perspectives and participate in dialogues concerning matters of society.

Prior to the regional head election, there was an ongoing debate regarding the distinction between intellectual and emotional decision-making. Emotional decisions typically involve choosing candidates based on shared ethnic, religious, racial, and inter-group identities. Regarding the selection of gubernatorial candidates, just a small fraction of respondents (1.76%) indicated that they voted based on religious similarity. In theory, some voters still can choose politicians based on their religion. Within an all-encompassing democratic framework, the process of candidate selection should not be predicated simply upon religious affiliation.

Voters who choose candidates based on religious similarity often provide theoretical justifications for their decisions. Exploration of religious values and interests: There is a belief among certain voters that electing candidates who share the same religion would result in a more accurate representation of their religious values and interests. Candidates must have a thorough understanding of and be able to effectively support the needs and goals of the religious community. Moral and ethical ties: For certain voters, having a shared religion with a candidate is seen as a significant moral and ethical connection. Trust and security: Some voters have a higher level of trust and confidence in candidates who share their religious beliefs. This indicates a strong grasp of religious practices, a commitment to upholding religious freedom, and a dedication to safeguarding the rights of believers within that faith.

It is essential to uphold the principle of inclusive democracy, even though the aforementioned factors may impact the perspectives of certain voters. When making election decisions, it is crucial to prioritise the qualifications, competence, and vision of candidates rather than basing them solely on religious affiliation. The significance of democratic principles lies in respect for religious freedom and the promotion of diversity in candidate selection.

In a study by [Orfan \(2021\)](#), the political engagement of Afghan youth on Facebook was the main topic. The research examined the frequency of usage and evaluated the impact of gender, age, and employment status on political participation and engagement during the 2019 presidential election. Based on the findings, it was observed that young individuals exhibited minimal engagement in political activities on Facebook, despite devoting around 30 minutes per day to the platform. The engagement involved inexpensive and low-risk political activities, mainly focused on monitoring Afghan politicians. In the 2019 presidential election, Facebook engagement seemed to lack depth, with users primarily engaging in minimal activities like following candidates.

Gender, age, or employment status did not have a significant impact on the Afghan youth's use of Facebook, political engagement, or participation in the 2019 presidential election. According to a study by [Fionna \(2016\)](#), Indonesian political parties heavily rely on charisma and public support during elections. Many political parties capitalised on the public's ongoing preference for established elite figures by incorporating these individuals into their campaigns.

According to a study by [Wilson-Daily & Kemmelmeier \(2021\)](#), there is a significant correlation between young people's perceived importance of voting and their level of interest in participating in elections. In a recent study, [Asrinaldi, Rusta, & Azre \(2022\)](#) examined the factors influencing voter perception in West Sumatra. The study identified four key causes that deviated from expected voting behaviour: value pluralism, inadequate political education, the influence of money in politics, and the prevalence of misleading information.

[Clarke & Acock \(1989\)](#) argue that a key factor in elections is the perception of effectiveness, which refers to the belief that individual political actions can influence the political process. Numerous studies have demonstrated a clear link between political effectiveness and electoral participation, yet the underlying causal mechanisms remain insufficiently comprehended. It was commonly believed that there was a one-way relationship, with effectiveness having an impact on participation, especially in terms of behavioural attitudes.

The issue of political disengagement among the youth is a matter of concern. Compared to older generations, young people in different countries show less interest in participating in traditional political activities ([Zhang, 2022](#)). On a global scale, there is a noticeable shift in the level of interest among young people when it comes to traditional politics and their participation in conventional political activities such as voting. This phenomenon is evident in various nations, including both developed and developing countries, as well as established democracies and growing economies ([Yoshioka et al., 2019](#)).

Currently, young people are leading a new movement of collective action that is not commonly linked to traditional institutions. They are also promoting several new types of politics, including individualised activism ([Bosch, 2017](#)), political consumerism ([Stolle, Micheletti, & Berlin, 2010](#)),

and engagement through new media platforms (Setiadi & Kolip, 2013; Vromen, Xenos, & Loader, 2015; Zhang, 2005). Scholars have been encouraged to focus on the contrasting perspectives of activism and passivity due to various observations. They propose that adolescent participatory practices manifest as "informal, individualised, and everyday activities" (Harris, Wyn, & Younes, 2010). It is advisable to monitor these changes over an extended period rather than relying on brief glimpses.

## Conclusion

Ultimately, one's personal perception, political stance, and ability to make informed decisions were evident in their willingness to actively participate in political matters, especially during election periods. This engagement encompassed the conviction, emotion, and evaluation associated with political entities under the election system. Every element of the answer can be classified as either conformist, apathetic, or sceptical. Conformist reactions exhibited a link with the prevailing political and electoral frameworks. Apathy refers to a state of indifference or disinterest towards political and electoral processes, while scepticism suggests a contradiction between an individual's attitude and the political or electoral system in place. The findings indicated that the perception of young individuals towards politics was generally favourable and inclined towards conformity, as their replies aligned with the existing election system.

It was anticipated that the young individuals would actively engage in politics, either by voting in elections, joining social movements, or becoming members of political organisations. Engaging in political engagement has the capacity to influence a more favourable future and cultivate a society that is more inclusive, fair, and receptive to the needs of all individuals.

### A. Youth Perception of 2024 Election

The overall sentiment among young individuals in the 2024 Election was predominantly favourable. Most respondents (97%) verified their enrolment as voters in the Permanent/Provisional Voters List (DPS/T) for the 2024 Election. Moreover, the entire group of respondents (100%) indicated their intention to vote at polling stations, while a significant portion (80%) reported being acquainted with the presidential contenders.

The information regarding candidates is mostly derived from social platforms, television, and other media outlets. The respondents could identify possible rival candidates, specifically Anies Baswedan, Ganjar Pranowo, and Prabowo Subianto, as well as others like Puan Maharani and Erlangga Hartarto. Nevertheless, most young people still lacked a solid foundation of political literacy. Political narratives frequently derived from 'secondary' sources, such as social media, exerted a significant impact and influence.

## **B. The Voting Orientation of Youth toward 2024 Election**

The youth exhibited a favourable disposition towards the implementation of electoral democracy during the 2024 election. This predisposition was evident in the approach to election campaigns, which were characterised by integrity and fairness. Election campaigns are efforts made by candidates or their representatives to convince voters by showcasing their vision, mission, programmes, or personal image.

The Indonesian electoral environment has repeatedly witnessed the emergence of negative and black campaign trends. A negative campaign involves the identification of the faults and mistakes of opponents, whereas a black campaign consists of making false or unjustified allegations that are unrelated to the candidates' abilities as leaders.

Regarding the campaigns, 88% of the participants expressed their disagreement with the utilisation of black campaign methods that involved primitive undertones and the manipulation of ethnic, religious, racial, and inter-group feelings. Furthermore, 95% of respondents voiced their disapproval of political parties or candidates employing negative campaigning tactics to tarnish their reputations and defame their political adversaries. Employing negative and dark campaigns has the potential to result in disagreements, disputes, and legal infractions. There may be concerns over possible conflicts between grassroots supporters, especially if the preferred candidate does not win.

## **C. The Reasons for Selecting Specific Candidates**

Most participants opted for executive (president, governor, mayor, regent) and legislative (DPR, DPD, DPRD) candidates for the 2024 election after carefully evaluating the vision and mission statements put out by their chosen candidates. The reasoned choice technique involved conducting an objective examination by utilising the information that is currently accessible while also having a thorough comprehension of the public interest or fundamental values of the nation and state.

Young people's perception, understanding, and evaluation of the 2024 election may affect their voting behavior, which is political engagement. Young people represent a nation's future, so they must be involved in politics. These reasons cause it: First and foremost, inclusive representation requires young people to understand personal issues like education, jobs, the environment, and mental health. Participating in politics often ensured that young people's ideas and needs were considered in policymaking. Secondly, change and innovation: The involvement of young people in politics brings fresh perspectives, energy, and creative ideas that can challenge existing norms and drive positive change to tackle societal issues. Thirdly, learning and growth: youth engagement in political activities has facilitated their comprehension of the political system, decision-making procedures, and democratic principles. This also aided in developing important skills like

leadership, negotiation, critical thinking, and problem-solving, which were vital for personal and professional development. Fourthly, the importance of issues like climate change, sustainable development, and social equality is growing among the younger generation as they strive to build a sustainable future.

Active involvement in politics has the potential to bolster support for sustainable policies, environmental protection, and social justice, ultimately leading to a more promising future. Furthermore, the importance of democratic rights and responsibilities cannot be overstated. A functioning democracy relies on the active involvement of every citizen. Thus, it was anticipated that young individuals would grasp the rights and duties associated with being citizens, particularly the right to vote and hold public office. Participating in the political process allows individuals to exercise their civic responsibilities and have a significant influence on the trajectory of the nation.

### **Future Study Directions**

One potential limitation of this study was the reliance on primary data. Therefore, it is suggested that future studies should integrate secondary data from existing literature in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of youth perception. Furthermore, this study solely examined the impact of youth political perception, orientation, and judgement. Further research should examine the connections between different factors that influence political perception. Although prior research showed wide diversity, this study provided fresh and valuable insights into the existing body of knowledge. Thus, quantitative methodologies are needed to improve the literature and better understand the political views of millennial youth. Following these proposals would assist the academic community and advance literature and science.

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## **Regulations**

R.I The 1945 Constitution of Indonesia.

R.I. Law Number 40 of 2009 concerning Youth

R.I. Law Number 10 of 2016 concerning Election of Regional Heads,  
Governors, Regents and Mayors.

R.I. Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections.