

Inclusive Elections: Regulations and Implementation in the 2024 Regional Head Elections

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<p>Article history Received: 22 October 2024 Revised: 10 November 2024 Accepted: 29 November 2024</p> <p>Keywords General Election, Regional Head Election, Inclusive Elections</p>	<p>Abstract <i>Implementation of The implementation of the previous election period still seemed to ignore priority voters (disabled, pregnant women, sick, and elderly), so that in the simultaneous regional elections in 2024, the KPU applies more inclusive regulations and infrastructure. 2024, the KPU applies regulations and infrastructure that are more inclusive. This research aims to reveal the implementation of these regulations with qualitative research method that is presented descriptively. The findings The findings of this study prove that the regulations that have been set by the KPU and the socialization material. In the technical stage, it has been implemented by KPPS in the observed polling stations. polling stations that were observed. Evidenced by the existence of special voting booths for disabilities, blind aids in the form of braille letters, easy access to polling stations, services to priority voters to use their rights. polling stations, services to priority voters to exercise their right to vote at polling stations, and visits to DPT houses. DPT home visits. These implementations have proven that the organization of regional elections this time has been more inclusive with justice. Even though they have implemented inclusive services inclusive services, the participation rate of voters with disabilities only reached 24,78%. This is because most of the voters have mental disabilities, so that families feel embarrassed to take their family members with disabilities to in public spaces, including families find it difficult to explain to the DPT with disabilities when visited by KPT. DPT with disabilities when visited by KPPS to their homes. This is a limitation of This is a limitation of this research so that further studies are needed.</i></p>
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1. Introduction

One of the important parts of implementing a democratic General Election or Regional Head Election is by providing equal access for citizens who already have the right to vote (regardless of ethnicity, religion, race, inter-group, or physical condition) to cast their votes at the TPS (Polling Station). In Indonesia, the political rights of people with disabilities are guaranteed by the constitution through the 1945 Constitution and a number of other laws and regulations. Article 28D paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution guarantees that everyone has the right to recognition, guarantees, protection, and certainty of fair law and equal treatment before the law. In addition, Article 28I paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution emphasizes that everyone has the right to be free from discriminatory treatment on any basis and has the right to receive protection against discriminatory treatment. In the context of political rights, this means that every citizen, including people with disabilities, has the same right to participate in elections.¹

¹ Sirman, M. Y., & Rifai, A. T. F. (Impelementasi dan Perwujudan Hak Penyandang Disabilitas dalam Pemilihan Umum), Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Hasanuddin., Vol 4 No.1, 10–15.

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This is the reference for the KPU (General Election Commission) to commit to making elections more inclusive and disability-friendly.² This effort is realized by providing services that make it easier for disabled voters to exercise their voting rights in a LUBER (Direct, General, Free, and Secret) manner at TPS. Especially for the Pilkada in Indonesia which will be held simultaneously on November 27, 2024, it is an important moment in the democratic process, especially in efforts to create elections that are inclusive and friendly to all levels of society, including people with disabilities.³ Following up on this, the KPU collaborated with Bawaslu (Election Supervisory Body) to provide socialization and Bimtek (Technical Guidance) to the PPS (Voting Committee) and KPPS (Voting Organizing Group). During the Bimtek, the KPPS conducted a simulation to prepare themselves to accompany and provide services to disabled voters.

The KPU and various related institutions are committed to creating inclusive and disability-friendly elections. This includes increasing accessibility at polling stations (TPS) and providing easily accessible information for people with disabilities. The KPU also strives to ensure that all TPS are accessible to voters with disabilities, so that no one loses their right to vote. The KPU has issued KPU Regulation Number 12 of 2024 concerning Voting Equipment, Other Equipment Support, and Other Voting Equipment in the Election of Governor and Deputy Governor, Regent and Deputy Regent, and Mayor and Deputy Mayor.⁴ The regulation regulates voting equipment and other supporting equipment, including those intended for disabled voters. This regulation aims to ensure that all voters, including people with disabilities, have equal access to the election process. Even Article 13 paragraph (2) explicitly states that TPS must provide easy access for people with disabilities. Based on this, this article will review inclusive elections that review accessibility at TPS for priority voters (disabled, pregnant women, mothers carrying babies, elderly) and the fulfillment of voting rights for voters who receive special services (sick), as an effort to prove that regulations related to this are implemented by KPPS at TPS. This is to ensure that regulations are in accordance with their implementation during the voting process.

2. Method

This paper is a quantitative research with findings presented descriptively. This research was conducted in November 2024. The research data came from documentation, interviews with KPPS members and observations at TPS 02 and TPS 03 in Temon Kulon Village, Temon District, Kulon Progo Regency. Narrative data analysis with stages of research data collection, data grouping, data analysis, and drawing conclusions presented narratively with strengthened images of observation results at the research site. Ensuring the validity of data with triangulation techniques between three sources of research data that are compared to each other to ensure the data is valid.

² Ansori, A. N. A. KPU Optimistis Pemilu 2024 Bisa Berjalan Inklusif dan Ramah Disabilitas. diakses pada 10 September 2024 <https://www.liputan6.com/disabilitas/read/5417077/kpu-optimistis-pemilu-2024-bisa-berjalan-inklusif-dan-ramah-disabilitas?page=2>

³ Subarkah, L. Mendorong Pilkada yang Inklusif dan Ramah Difabel. Diakses pada 2 September 2024 <https://jogjapolitan.harianjogja.com/read/2024/11/22/510/1195691/mendorong-pilkada-yang-inklusif-dan-ramah-difabel>

⁴ Komisi Pemilihan Umum. *Peraturan Komisi Pemilihan Umum Nomor 12 Tahun 2024*. https://jdih.kpu.go.id/data/data_pkpu/2024pkpu012.pdf

3. Result and Discussion

Data from the General Election Commission (KPU) noted that there were 1,101,178 disabled voters registered in the Permanent Voters List (DPT) out of a total of 204,807,222 voters nationally. This shows the KPU's commitment to ensuring that people with disabilities have adequate access to participate in elections. The KPU provides special services for voters with disabilities during voting, ensuring that voters with disabilities are placed in accessible polling stations. Services provided for voters with disabilities include easy access, close and comfortable locations with flat locations, no stairs, no rocks, no thick grass and no ditches. The KPU also provides an entrance door width of 90 cm for wheelchair access, a maximum table height of 75 cm and hollow, and a ballot template for the blind.

As previous research recommends TPS that are accessible to voters with disabilities with various types of disabilities including the TPS environment, the shape of the voting booth, the position of the ballot box that is not too high, and so on. The Kolon Progo KPU also conducted socialization through flyers/pamphlets which in the picture contained illustrations of voters from various conditions, including illustrations of voters using wheelchairs, as in the picture below..



Picture 1. Inclusive Election Socialization

The socialization material has been disseminated to the public through KPU social media and disseminated by PPS and KPPS explaining the election day. However, it should be noted that prospective voters with disabilities have not been able to access the socialization material. Therefore, it is important to improve the media for socialization that can be accessed by all groups, including people with disabilities, to increase participation in the democratic process.⁵ Socialization is a determining factor in increasing the participation of disabled voters.⁶

The implementation of inclusive regional elections at the village level begins with: first is the inauguration of the KPPS, there is an oath-taking session to hold honest and fair elections. Fair here can be interpreted as an inclusive guideline for violations that are evenly distributed to all.



Picture 2. Inauguration and Oath-taking of KKPS in Temon Kulon Village

Second, there is a socialization event and KPPS Technical Guidance which provides basic legal information on election organizers and a simulation of the implementation of voting at the TPS. The third is the delivery of the Voting Notification Letter to Voters according to the data in the DPT. KPPS members submit to the DPT without looking at SARA and physical, KPPS members will convey information in detail. If there is a DPT who has physical limitations, then KPPS members will ask family members to accompany them. Even KPPS members will still submit this notification letter even though the DPT is in another village because they live and have a goods/services business in another village, this is still considered reasonable because it is still affordable to convey.

⁵ Dewi, S. S., & Furqan, R. (Pemilu Inklusif: Analisis Aksesibilitas Website Komisi Pemilihan Umum (KPU) Berdasarkan Wcag 2.1). *Jurnal MediaTIK*, 2023, 1–9.

⁶ Noviani, et al, (Analisis Faktor Determinan Tingkat Partisipasi Pemilih Penyandang Disabilitas Pada Pemilihan Umum 2019). *PERSPEKTIF*, Vol 10, No.1, 2021,88–99.



Picture 3. Submission of Voting Notification Letter to DPT

Fourth, preparation of TPS by providing access for the disabled, at this stage the KPPS will be with the PPS (Voting Committee) at the Village level and Panwaslu (Election Supervisory Committee) at each TPS.



Picture 4. KPPS, PPS, and Panwaslu Ensure Inclusive TPS 02 Makers



Picture 5. Installation of Boards for Wheelchair Access at TPS 02



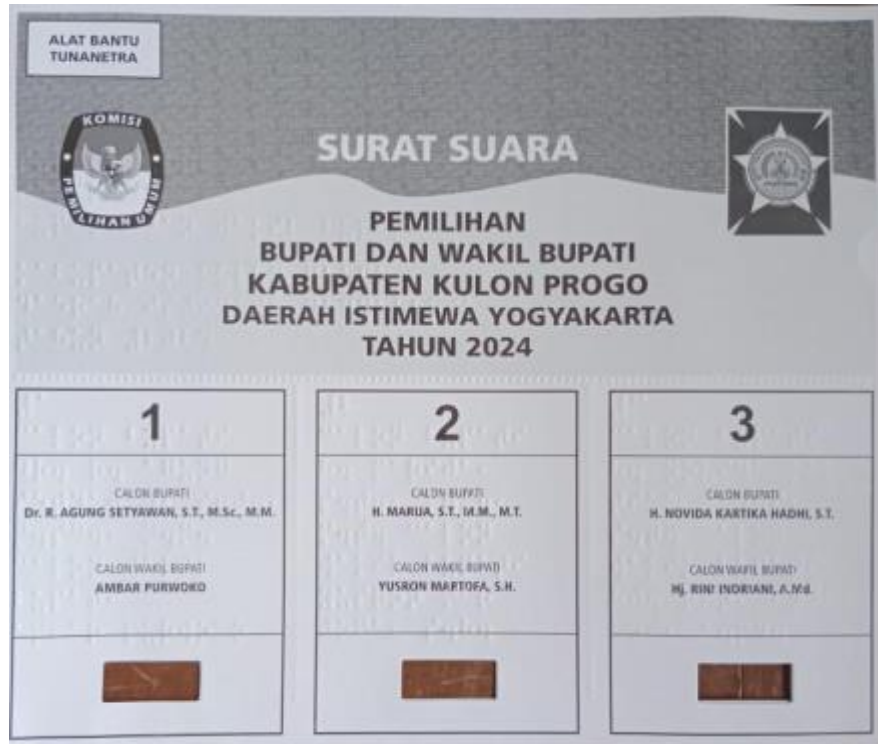
Picture 6. Access to Voting Booth 4 for the Disabled at TPS 03



Picture 7. Instructions for Priority Voter Rooms/Seats at TPS 03

In the fifth stage, the implementation of voting. Given the accessibility at the TPS is adequate and the service of KPPS members with good character is another factor in increasing voter participation.⁷ The KPPS members on duty already have adequate character because they have gone through a selection process by the PPS. Before the election process, the KPPS reads an oath/promise to hold the election seriously, honestly, fairly, and carefully for the success of the election. The implementation of an inclusive election is that priority voters are asked to wait in chairs with special signs right in front of the KPPS members in the registration section. If there are voters who require special treatment, the KPPS members will approach the prospective voters to sign. KPPS members use voting booth 4 for disabled voters, one of which is blind by providing braille writing aids that can help explain the candidates for regent and vice regent as a guideline for voting. In addition, the KPPS will visit the homes of DPT to exercise their voting rights (according to family requests) at 12.00 to 13.00 for DPT who are sick and/or do not have accommodation to go to the TPS. During the visit, KPPS members will be accompanied by the PPS, Panwaslu, and witnesses from the candidate pairs for regent and vice regent. KPPS members will bring ballot papers according to the number of DPT visited, tools for exercising voting rights, namely nails and bases, ink, and sealed cardboard for ballot paper containers after use.

⁷ Noviani, et al, (Analisis Faktor Determinan Tingkat Partisipasi Pemilih Penyandang Disabilitas Pada Pemilihan Umum 2019). PERSPEKTIF, Vol 10, No.1, 2021,88–99



Picture 8. Blind Assistance Devices to Identify Candidates for Regent and Deputy Regent



Picture 9. KPPS Visit to DPT Houses to Exercise Voting Rights



Picture 10. KPPS Visit to DPT Houses to Exercise Voting Rights

Based on the DPT in Kulon Progo Regency, there were 345,540 voters, of whom 274,048 used their voting rights (255,142 valid votes equivalent to 93.1% and 18,906 invalid votes equivalent to 6.9%). Based on the participation rate, it was equivalent to 79.26%, a slight increase compared to the 2017 Pilkada which was equivalent to 79.16%. Voters consisted of 273,140 DPT voters, 698 transferred voters, and 210 additional voters. Then, if it was reduced based on data from the Kulon Progo Regency KPU, the participation rate of disabled voters in the 2024 Pilkada was 24.78%. This means that out of 5,166 registered as DPT, only 1,280 used their voting rights, the low participation was due to family factors that did not allow the person concerned to come to the TPS to use their voting rights. This actually decreased compared to the 2017 Pilkada which reached 40%. Mostly occurs in voters with mental disabilities.⁸ Families feel embarrassed when inviting DPT disabled people to public spaces, this is the main reason for the declining participation. This is the importance of a comprehensive approach for disabled voters.

In addition, social stigma against people with disabilities remains a significant challenge in ensuring inclusive political participation. Based on interviews with families of people with disabilities, many of them felt that their disabled family members did not need to participate in the election because they were considered "incapable" of understanding the election process. As a result, many people with disabilities were not accompanied by their families to the polling stations or were not encouraged to exercise their right to vote.⁹

Considering that the Constitutional Court Decision 135/2015 presents a more comprehensive perspective in protecting the voting rights of people with mental disabilities in Indonesia. However, election/regional election organizers have not yet made maximum efforts and have carried out their duties merely through formal procedures in fulfilling the

⁸ Sutarmi. KPU Kulon Progo: Partisipasi Pemilih Disabilitas capai 24,78 persen. Diakses pada 1 November 2024, <https://jogja.antaranews.com/berita/727978/kpu-kulon-progo--partisipasi-pemilih-disabilitas-capai-2478-persen?>

⁹ Putri, A. C. P., & Kristanto, B. (Hak Konstitusional Penyandang Disabilitas dalam Pemilu di Kabupaten Katingan Kalimantan Tengah). *Jurnal Noken: Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial*, 10(2), 2024, 200-201

voting rights of people with mental disabilities.¹⁰ Election organizers must prioritize democracy that is responsive to voters with disabilities, as a characteristic of inclusive substantive democracy,¹¹ so that it can strengthen democracy and realize equality for all Indonesian people.¹²

However, based on research observations, this election was better than the previous election, there was even a study that not all TPS were easily accessible to people with disabilities, such as the existence of stairs that made it difficult for people with disabilities to enter the TPS. In the accommodation dimension, there were still TPS officer services that were not friendly to people with disabilities.¹³ There are also research findings that many people with disabilities still experience difficulties in the infrastructure of election venues during the regional head election process in Bantul district.¹⁴

4. Conclusion

Inclusive regional head elections have been the KPU's slogan, even since the preparation of the 2024 legislative and presidential and vice presidential elections. The hope is to increase voter participation to realize a fair election. This is implemented through regulations, namely KPU Regulation Number 12 of 2024 accompanied by equipment for voting at TPS, including socialization through social media. In the technical implementation at TPS by KPPS by providing easy access to enter TPS and easy use of voting in the voting booth, by providing aids in the form of ballot sheets with Braille as a guide to voting in a special booth. Maximum service by KPPS at TPS and visits to the homes of DPT who want to exercise their voting rights (at the request of the DPT family) at the end of the time before the TPS closes. Although various efforts have been made, including researchers who feel that the implementation of inclusive elections has been better, the participation of disabled voters is still low, namely 24.78%, actually decreasing compared to the 2019 Pilkada. Although this does not necessarily happen in other areas. This still requires further research to review this matter, due to the limitations of this research which only reveals regulations and implementation at the village level.

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¹⁰ Pratama, A. B., & Yusron, M. (Advokasi Hak Pilih Penyandang Disabilitas Mental di Kabupaten Batang). *AKM: Aksi Kepada Masyarakat*, Vol 5 No.1, 2024, 263–276

¹¹ Taupiqqurrahman, et al. *Inklusi Politik untuk Semua: Menuju Pemilihan Umum yang Lebih Responsif terhadap Penyandang Disabilitas*. (PT Idemedia Pustaka Utama), 2023.

¹² Putri, A. C. P., & Kristanto, B. (Hak Konstitusional Penyandang Disabilitas dalam Pemilu di Kabupaten Katingan Kalimantan Tengah). *Jurnal Noken: Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial*, 10(2), 2024, 200-201.

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