



***LHOKSEUMAWE CITY PANWASLIH POLICY IN
PREVENTING 2024 ELECTION VIOLATIONS
(Research Study in Lhokseumawe City)***

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ABSTRACT

Preventing violations in regional elections is a strategic effort to ensure that the election process is democratic, fair and free from violations. This phenomenon reflects the political, social and legal dynamics in the implementation of regional elections in Aceh, with various challenges and initiatives that continue to develop. This research method uses a type of empirical research where legal research that uses empirical juridical methods is research that links law with real human behavior. Based on the results of the study, namely the policy of the Lhokseumawe City Election Supervisory Committee in preventing violations of the 2024 Pilkada that was carried out, it can be concluded that the policy of the Lhokseumawe City Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslih) in preventing violations of the 2024 Pilkada is an implementation of their responsibility to ensure the implementation of a democratic, fair, and honest Pilkada in accordance with laws and regulations. In carrying out their duties. It is recommended to all people, especially Aceh, Lhokseumawe City, to always study the vision, mission, and work programs of the regional head candidates. Choose the one who you think is most capable of leading and advancing the region. Avoid just following other people's opinions without understanding the candidate's background. Remember, your voice is valuable and cannot be bought.

Keywords: *Panwaslih, Policy in Preventin, Election, Violations*

1. INTRODUCTION

Regional Head Elections (Pilkada) are one of the main pillars in the democratic process which functions as a means for the people to directly elect leaders. This election is important because through this process the community can determine the direction of leadership that will

influence their daily lives, from economic and social policies to infrastructure development. The 2024 regional elections in Indonesia are an important moment to evaluate the implementation of democracy at the local level. A clean, honest and fair (luber and fair) regional election process is the hope of all parties, including in Lhokseumawe City..¹

As one of the cities located in Aceh Province, Lhokseumawe has complex and distinctive political and social dynamics, especially with the existence of traditional institutions and strong local political influence. However, one of the biggest challenges in implementing regional elections in various regions, including Lhokseumawe, is the potential for election violations. One of the biggest challenges in implementing regional elections in various regions, including Lhokseumawe, is the potential for election violations. These violations can take the form of administrative violations, vote manipulation, money politics, and intimidation of voters and election participants. In previous regional elections, reports of violations of this kind often emerged, indicating that violations in regional elections are still a serious problem that can disrupt the integrity of local democracy. If these violations are not effectively prevented, public confidence in the democratic process could decline, which could ultimately damage the social and political order in the region.²

Social and cultural factors also influence the dynamics of regional election supervision in Lhokseumawe. As a city that is steeped in traditional Acehese values, the democratic process in Lhokseumawe is not only influenced by formal regulations, but also by local values that live in society.³

One form of violation that often occurs is money politics. These actions involve giving money or material rewards to voters with the aim of influencing their vote. This practice not only undermines democratic principles, but also creates injustice among competing candidates.⁴ Violations can also appear in the form of spreading misleading information or hoaxes. In today's digital era, information can be easily spread via social media and other online platforms. The spread of fake news that vilifies certain candidates or misleads voters about voting procedures can disrupt a healthy election process. This uncertainty in information causes confusion among voters and can reduce their participation.⁵

In some cases, kinship relationships and the influence of traditional leaders can influence people's political choices, which in turn can influence the objectivity of Panwaslih supervision. Therefore, Panwaslih policies must be able to adapt to the local context and be able to integrate these values into its monitoring strategy. Furthermore, law enforcement against regional election violations is also one of the main focuses of Panwaslih policy. It is hoped that firm and consistent law enforcement will provide a deterrent effect for violators, both individuals and groups. In some cases, violations that occurred in the previous regional elections

did not receive firm handling, thereby potentially giving rise to repeat violations in the next regional elections. Therefore, one indicator of the success of Panwaslih's policy in preventing violations is how this institution collaborates with law enforcement officials to take action against violations that occur.⁶

The Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslih) has a central role in preventing violations at every stage of the Pilkada. As an independent institution, Panwaslih is tasked with

1 Arifulloh, Pelaksanaan Pilkada Serentak Yang Demokratis, Damai Dan Bermartabat. Jurnal Pembaharuan Hukum, Vol. 3, No. 3, 2016, Hlm. 301.

2 Aziz, N. L. L. Politik Anggaran Dalam Pelaksanaan Pilkada Serentak Di Indonesia, Jurnal Masyarakat Indonesia, Vol. 42, No.1, 2016, Hlm. 51.

3 Janeldri M. Gaffar. Delmokrasi Dan Pelmilul Di Indonelsia. Konprelss, Jakarta, 2013, Hlm. 101.

4 Mulyadi Dedi, Kebijakan Legislasi Tentang Sanksi Pidana Pemilu Legislatif Di Indonesia Dalam Perspektif Indonesia, Gramata Publishing, Jakarta, 2012, Hlm 15.

5 Noer Deliar, Pemikiran Politik Di Negeri Barat, , CV Rajawali, Jakarta, 2010, Hlm. 26.

6 Miftah Toha,. Birokrasi Dan Politik Di Indonelsia. Raja Grafindo, Jakarta, 2012. Hlm. 205.

ensuring that all election processes run in accordance with applicable regulations, as well as ensuring that no party is harmed or benefits illegally. In Lhokseumawe City, the role of Panwaslih is very crucial considering the complexity of local political dynamics which are vulnerable to violations, especially money politics and intimidation. Panwaslih's policy in preventing regional election violations covers various aspects, starting from regulations, educating the public, to preventive measures aimed at minimizing potential violations. This policy must be implemented effectively, so that people can participate in the Pilkada with full confidence that their votes will be respected and counted fairly.

One of the efforts made by Panwaslih to prevent violations is by conducting regular outreach to Pilkada participants and the wider community. Through socialization, it is hoped that the public will be able to better understand their rights and obligations as voters, and be more courageous in reporting if they find indications of violations during the Pilkada process. Apart from outreach, Panwaslih is also expected to be able to build strong coordination with various stakeholders, including the Independent Election Commission (KIP), law enforcement officials and civil society organizations. Good cooperation between these institutions is very important in creating synergy in monitoring regional elections. Without good coordination, it is difficult for Panwaslih to carry out its duties optimally. Weaknesses in coordination can result in slow handling of violations, which ultimately has the potential to cause dissatisfaction among the community.

Even though Panwaslih has a very important role, the challenges it faces in carrying out its duties are not small. Often times, Panwaslih experiences problems in terms of resources, both human resources and budget. In some areas, the limited number of field supervisors can cause supervision at the polling station level to not run optimally. Apart from that, the lack of budget is also an obstacle in implementing outreach and violation prevention activities. Therefore, in the context of the 2024 Pilkada, the Panwaslih policy in Lhokseumawe City needs to be evaluated and improved so that it is more effective in preventing violations.

Apart from that, social and cultural factors also influence the dynamics of regional election supervision in Lhokseumawe. As a city that is steeped in traditional Acehese values, the democratic process in Lhokseumawe is not only influenced by formal regulations, but also by local values that live in society. Panwaslih needs to strengthen the policies and strategies for preventing violations that have been implemented, as well as paying attention to various factors that influence the effectiveness of these policies, including resource support, coordination between institutions, and local socio-cultural influences.

Based on the explanation above, the importance of effective and efficient regional election supervision is an absolute necessity in maintaining the quality of democracy at the local level. The Lhokseumawe City Panwaslih has a vital role in

ensuring that the 2024 Pilkada can take place smoothly without any significant violations. However, to achieve this goal, Panwaslih needs to strengthen the policies and strategies for preventing violations that have been implemented, as well as paying attention to various factors that influence the effectiveness of these policies, including resource support, coordination between institutions, and local socio-cultural influences. Thus, this research will analyze the Lhokseumawe City Panwaslih policy in preventing violations in the 2024 Pilkada and look for ways to increase the effectiveness of supervision in order to realize a clean, honest and fair Pilkada.⁷

Monitoring the election process is also an integral part of this policy. Panwaslih carries out direct supervision over every stage of the election, starting from voter registration, campaigning, to voting. By forming a trained monitoring team, Panwaslih is able to detect potential violations as

⁷ Nisa Nabila, P. P. Pelngarulh Monely Politic Dalam Pelmilihan Anggota Lelgislatif Telrhadao Keberlangsungan Delmokrasi Di Indonelsia, Notariulspress, Jakarta, 2020.

early as possible. Apart from that, Panwaslih also collaborates with various parties, including civil society, to increase the effectiveness of supervision.⁸

As a special region, Aceh is regulated through Law no. 11 of 2006 concerning Aceh Government, which includes regional governance and the implementation of general elections. In this law, Aceh is divided into several administrative levels, namely district/city, sub-district, mukim, and gampong or sub-district. The government also has the authority to designate special areas in Aceh or at the district/city level to carry out certain special government functions. Apart from regional divisions, this Law regulates the authority of the Aceh Government and district/city governments in carrying out autonomy in the region. Based on the background described above, the researcher intends to raise the thesis title "Lhokseumawe City Panwaslih Policy in Preventing 2024 Regional Election Violations (Research Study in Lhokseumawe City).

In this research, research is implementing previous research as a comparison of the ultimate research and also implementing research methods in carrying out research. The difference between previous research and written research as a scientific research:

- a. The first research, research carried out by Ahmad Junaidi sulspin sellian entitled "The Role of the Election Supervisory Committee in Preventing General Election Violations in Indonesia".⁹ This research analyzes the effectiveness of Panwaslih in monitoring elections and preventing violations in several regions. The research results show that even though Panwaslih has an important role, there are still challenges in implementing policies that could hinder the effectiveness of supervision in 2020. Meanwhile, my research examines the policies of Panwaslih of Lhokseumawe City in preventing violations in the Pilkada in Lhoksaumawe City in 2024.
- b. The first research was the research carried out by Budi Santoso who was last: "Public Perception of the Performance of Panwaslih in Supervising General Elections"¹⁰ which means how the public views the performance of Panwaslih in implementing elections. The results show that the public tends to be less satisfied with Panwaslih's performance and suggest increasing transparency and community involvement in the monitoring process. Meanwhile, my research examines the policies of the Lhokseumawe City Panwaslih in preventing violations in the regional elections in the city of Lhoksaumawe in 2024.
- c. The third research, this research was carried out by Mayang Rahaibah Rizal Hadi who was known as: Evaluation of Election Supervision Policies in Indonesia: Case Study of Bawaslu and Panwaslih,¹¹ which means that this research evaluates election supervising policies implemented by Bawaslu and Panwaslih in various regions. . The results show that despite progress, there are still deficiencies in terms of human resources and budget support that affect the effectiveness of

supervision. Meanwhile, my research examines the policies of the Lhokseumawe City Panwaslih in preventing violations during the regional elections in the city of Lhoksaumawe.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research method uses an empirical research type where legal research using the empirical juridical method is research that links law to real human behavior. If the simple formulation can be used as a guideline, the scope of empirical legal research is the effectiveness of

⁸ Sugiono, Peran Panitia Pengawas Pemilu Kota Tanjungpinang Dalam Pelaksanaan Pemilu Legislatif Kota Tanjung Tahun 2014, Jurnal Law Akses, 2015, Hlm. 50.

⁹ Ahmad Junaidi, Peran Panitia Pengawas Pemilu Dalam Mencegah Pelanggaran Pemilihan Umum Di Indonesia, Jurnal, 2020.

¹⁰ Budi Santoso, Persepsi Masyarakat Terhadap Kinerja Panwaslih Dalam Mengawasi Pemilihan Umum, Jurnal, 2024.

¹¹ Mayang Rahaibah Dan Rizal Hadi, Evaluasi Kebijakan Pengawasan Pemilu Di Indonesia, Jurnal, 2024.

the law, meaning to what extent the law really applies in and is affective in people's lives. Data analysis is the most important and developing stage in final writing. Through this research process, analysis and connection are made to the data that has been collected and developed. Data analysis is the activity of focusing, abstracting, organizing data systematically and rationally to provide answers to problems. This research uses qualitative analysis, namely data analysis that does not use numbers, but rather provides descriptions using data. words over findings, and therefore prioritize the multiplicity/quality of the data. In this research, once the data has been collected through the results of interviews, it will be grouped based on the main problems and the results will then be described in the form of sentences that explain the data results.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Lhokseumawe City Panwaslih policy in preventing violations in the 2024 regional elections.

In carrying out its supervisory duties regarding Pilkada violations, the Lhokseumawe City Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslih) refers to a solid legal basis, namely Law Number 10 of 2016 concerning Regional Head Elections (Pilkada) and Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections (Election). These two laws provide the main guidelines for Panwaslih to carry out their supervisory duties and functions effectively and professionally.

The birth of the Lhokseumawe City Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslih) was based on the legal framework regulated in the Aceh Government Law (UUPA), especially in Article 60 and Article 61. In Article 60, it is emphasized that the implementation of supervision over the implementation of elections in Aceh is carried out specifically by an independent institution. This is intended to ensure that the democratic process runs honestly, fairly and transparently in accordance with the values of regional autonomy adopted by Aceh based on specificities recognized by the central government.

Meanwhile, Article 61 provides more detailed directions regarding the establishment of election supervisory institutions at the provincial and district/city levels. Panwaslih, as part of the election supervision system, has the main task of ensuring that every stage of the election, from preparation to implementation and vote counting, runs in accordance with statutory regulations. In the context of Lhokseumawe City, the formation of Panwaslih is a concrete manifestation of the implementation of these articles, with a mandate to maintain the integrity of elections at the city level.

Thus, the Lhokseumawe City Panwaslih was born as an answer to the need for neutral and professional supervision, in line with the mandate of Article 60 and Article 61 of the UUPA, in order to realize democratic and fair elections in Aceh. The Lhokseumawe City Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslih) is taking strategic steps to prevent violations during the 2024 Pilkada. In an effort to

maintain the integrity of this democratic process, Panwaslih is focusing on several main policies aimed at creating elections that are fair, transparent and free from fraud.

As part of Aceh's uniqueness in the electoral system, Panwaslih members are recruited directly by the Regency/City People's Representative Council (DPRK) through a transparent and accountable selection process. After going through the selection stages, the names of the selected Panwaslih member candidates are submitted to be determined by the Supervisory Body Election of the Republic of Indonesia (Bawaslu RI).

In carrying out its supervisory duties regarding Pilkada violations, the Lhokseumawe City Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslih) refers to a solid legal basis, namely Law Number 10 of 2016 concerning Regional Head Elections (Pilkada) and Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections (Election). These two laws provide the main guidelines for Panwaslih to carry out their supervisory duties and functions effectively and professionally.

Based on Law no. 10 of 2016, Panwaslih has the authority to supervise all stages of the Pilkada, starting from determining candidates, campaigning, to the process of voting and counting votes. In an effort to prevent and deal with violations, Panwaslih prioritizes preventive measures such as socializing the rules to Pilkada participants, voters and related parties. If suspected violations are found, Panwaslih acts decisively by conducting investigations, receiving public reports, and processing the violations according to the applicable mechanisms.

Meanwhile, Law no. 7 of 2017 provides additional guidance, especially in terms of supervision procedures, handling administrative violations, and resolving election disputes. In the context of regional election supervision, Panwaslih also refers to implementing regulations such as regulations of the General Election Commission (PKPU) and the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu). This regulation is a technical guideline that helps Panwaslih ensure that the entire process runs according to legal provisions and guarantees the integrity of the Pilkada implementation.

As a concrete manifestation of the implementation of its duties, Panwaslih Lhokseumawe carries out various monitoring strategies, including surveillance patrols, establishing community complaints posts, and collaborating with security forces and related stakeholders. With this approach, Panwaslih seeks to maintain fairness and transparency in the regional elections, as well as ensuring that the democratic rights of the people of Lhokseumawe are fully protected applicable mechanisms.¹²

Chairman of the Lhokseumawe City Panwaslih, Mr. Ghani, is of the opinion that preventing regional election violations is done in stages based on the decision of the Lhokseumawe City Bawaslu and BKPU regarding stages and schedules then for Aceh based on the Aceh KIP based on Decision Number 7 of 2004 concerning schedules and stages referring to the schedule and stages, that is the task of the Panwaslih.

3.2 Factors that influence the effectiveness of city supervisory committee policies Lhokseumawe in preventing violations in the 2024 regional elections.

The effectiveness of the Lhokseumawe City Panwaslih policy in preventing violations in the 2024 Pilkada is determined by a number of important factors, both internal and external. These factors influence the extent to which Panwaslih is able to carry out its duties and authority optimally to maintain the integrity and credibility of the Pilkada. The following are the main factors that influence the effectiveness of the Lhoksaumawe City Panwaslih policy according to the opinion of the chairman of the Lhoksaumwe City Panwaslih, Mr. Ghani:¹³

1. Panwaslih Capacity and Competence

Human resources within Panwaslih, including the competence, experience and integrity of its members, are key factors. Panwaslih who have personnel who are

trained, understand the regulations, and are able to act decisively will be more effective in preventing violations.

2. Regulations that support clarity and completeness

Regulations, such as Law no. 10 of 2016, Law no. 7 of 2017, as well as technical regulations from the KPU and Bawaslu, greatly influence the effectiveness of policies. Ambiguous or poorly disseminated regulations can be an obstacle to implementing supervision.

3. Budget Support and Effectiveness Facilities

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Policies also depend on the availability of adequate budgets and supporting facilities to carry out supervision, such as information technology, operational vehicles and adequate communication access.

4. Community Participation

The level of community awareness and involvement in reporting suspected violations and understanding the regional election regulations is an important factor. An active and legally aware community will assist Panwaslih in preventing violations.

5. Coordination with Stakeholders

Synergy with related parties such as the KPU, security forces, community leaders and the media greatly influences the success of Panwaslih. Good cooperation can strengthen efforts to prevent and handle regional election violations.

6. Political Pressure and Independence

Pressure from interested parties, both regional election participants and certain political forces, can be a challenge for Panwaslih. Therefore, the level of Panwaslih's independence in carrying out its duties is an important factor in maintaining policy effectiveness.

7. Use of Technology and Innovation

The use of technology in supervision, such as violation reporting applications or digital monitoring, can increase efficiency and accuracy in detecting and preventing violations.

All of these factors are interrelated and influence the ability of the Lhokseumawe City Panwaslih to implement policies to prevent violations in the 2024 Pilkada. To increase the effectiveness of the policy, it is necessary to strengthen all these aspects, so that the Pilkada process can take place honestly, fairly and democratically.

3.3 Efforts that can be made to increase the effectiveness of Panwaslih policies in preventing regional election violations in the city of Lhokseumawe.

To increase the effectiveness of the Lhokseumawe City Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslih) policy in preventing Pilkada violations, various strategic steps need to be implemented. The following are several efforts that can be carried out by the Lhokseumawe city paswalih according to the chairman of the Lhokseumawe city panswalih, Mr. Ghani:¹⁴

- 1) Increase the Capacity and Competency of Human Resources periodic training for Panwaslih members to increase understanding related to election and Pilkada regulations, as well as investigative and mediation skills. Strengthen the professional ethics and integrity of Panwaslih members to maintain neutrality and independence.
- 2) Strengthening socialization and education to the public. Carrying out active campaigns regarding regional election regulations, voters' rights, and sanctions

for violations through the media social, radio and community forums. Develop educational programs for local communities and young people, such as democracy volunteer training or public discussions, to increase legal awareness.

- 3) Information Technology Optimization Create and manage reporting applications violations that are easily accessible to the public, so that reports can be made received quickly and transparently. Using a monitoring system digitally based to monitor the stages of the Pilkada, especially in terms of election campaign and distribution logistics.
- 4) Strengthening cooperation with stakeholders. Strengthening coordination with the KPU, security forces, media, community figures and other institutions role in the implementation of regional elections. Form a joint team for carry out joint supervision in areas prone to violations.

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- 5) Increasing Community Participation. Establishing a violation complaint post at the sub-district or village level, so that people have easy access to report. Involve religious leaders, traditional leaders and youth in the effort participatory supervision.
- 6) Provision of adequate budget and facilities Encourage local governments to provide adequate budget support enough to the Panwaslih, so that the implementation of supervision runs optimally. Ensure the availability of operational facilities such as vehicles, tools communications, and other supporting technologies.
- 7) Increased Clarity and Enforcement of Rules Develop technical guidance more detailed supervision in accordance with KPU and Bawaslu regulations, for provide clear direction in dealing with violations. Ensure handling of violations is carried out quickly, transparently and fairly, so that can have a deterrent effect on perpetrators.

By integrating these various efforts, the Lhokseumawe City Panwaslih is expected to be able to increase the effectiveness of policies in preventing regional election violations, so that the democratic process at the local level can run well, transparently and with integrity.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the research conducted, it can be concluded that the policy of the Lhokseumawe City Election Supervisory Committee (Panwaslih) in preventing violations of the 2024 Pilkada is an implementation of their responsibility to ensure the implementation of the Pilkada is democratic, fair and in accordance with statutory regulations. In carrying out its duties, Panwaslih Lhokseumawe implements strategic policies which include:

1. Preventive Prevention

Panwaslih actively carries out outreach and education to the public, Pilkada participants, and related parties regarding Pilkada regulations, in order to increase legal awareness and minimize potential violations.

2. Attached Supervision

Panwaslih carries out supervision at every stage of the regional elections, such as campaigns, logistics distribution, up to voting day. This supervision aims to prevent fraudulent practices or violations from an early stage.

3. Strengthening Collaboration

Panwaslih works together with other stakeholders, such as the KPU, security forces, media and the public to create more integrated and effective supervision.

4. Implementation of Strict Sanctions

In handling violations found, Panwaslih acts firmly in accordance with legal procedures regulated in Law no. 10 of 2016 and Law no. 7 of 2017, as well as other implementing regulations from the KPU and Bawaslu.

Through these policies, the Lhokseumawe City Panwaslih is able to play a significant role in preventing regional election violations, while maintaining the integrity of the democratic process at the local level. However, the effectiveness of this policy is also influenced by external factors such as community participation, institutional support, and regional election participants' understanding of applicable regulations. Therefore, increasing synergy and strengthening the role of Panwaslih needs to continue to be pursued to ensure the creation of regional elections that are free from violations in the future.

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C. Legislation

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