

The Practice of Money Politics Among Generation Z in Medan City in the 2024 Legislative Elections

Jonny Marpaung^{1*}, Heri Kusmanto², Tengku Irmayani³

University of North Sumatra

Corresponding Author : Jonny Marpaung tengku.irmayani@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Money Politic, Elections, Legislative

Received : 18 October

Revised : 16 November

Accepted: 18 December

©2024 Marpaung, Kusmanto, Irmayani: This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Atribusi 4.0 Internasional](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



ABSTRACT

This research is motivated by indications of money political practices that occur in every election, one of which is the 2024 legislative member election in Medan City. Indications of election fraud are proven by data released by the Coalition to Reject Fraudulent Elections in 2024 which stated that one of the violations in legislative elections was the practice of money politics. The practice of money politics that occurs in Indonesia, especially in the city of Medan, can threaten the political development process which will ultimately thwart democracy in Indonesia. One part that has a role in changing Indonesia's democratic system for the better is Generation Z. This background is the basis for the importance of research that is able to analyze the form and distribution pattern of money politics among Generation Z and the reasons why the practice of money politics occurs among Generation Z during elections. legislature in 2024 as well as prevention analysis practice money politics in every election, especially for generation Z. This research was conducted using descriptive qualitative methods with in-depth interview techniques and Focus Group Discussion. The results obtained are that the form of money politics is divided into two, namely direct transactions and indirect transactions. The distribution pattern of political money among generation Z begins with data collection by the success team, giving political money in halls, shops, eating places, or delivered home to the bus counter. The time for giving political money is the day before the election, the evening before the election, the morning before the election and the morning or afternoon after the election

INTRODUCTION

General Elections, hereinafter referred to as elections, are a means of people's sovereignty to elect members of the legislature, namely the People's Representative Council, members of the Regional Representative Council, members of the Regional People's Representative Council which are carried out directly, generally, freely, secretly, honestly and fairly in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on the Pancasila Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia in 1945. Indonesia as a democratic country makes elections as proof of the country's democracy which is carried out routinely every five years for the president, vice president, DPR and DPD. Elections are the implementation of people's sovereignty in the regions specifically and in Indonesia in general. The legislative institution is a government institution tasked with making laws and overseeing the implementation of laws that have been approved.

The main purpose of the legislative institution is to carry out legislative functions which include the formation of laws and supervision of the implementation of laws. In addition, the legislative institution also aims to strengthen and maintain democracy, represent the voice of the people and become a forum for channeling people's aspirations. All of these goals are to improve people's welfare through the formation of laws that are in favor of the people's interests, maintain a balance of power between government institutions in the checks and balances system and strengthen relations between the government and the people through the legislative path. This explanation illustrates the importance of the role of the legislative institution in the government system in Indonesia.

The concept inherent in the legislature is as a representative of the people who upholds the interests of the people above personal or group interests. The election of legislative members has just been held, namely on February 14, 2024 simultaneously throughout Indonesia. The allocation of legislative member seats in the legislative election in February 2024 is 20,614 seats throughout Indonesia. At the national level, the DPR member seats contested are 580 seats, while the DPD seats contested are 152 seats. At the provincial level, the seats contested for DPRD I members are 2,372 seats. At the Regency/City level, the seats contested for DPRD II members are 17,510 seats.

Table 1. List of Legislative Member Needs in 2024

No	Level	Institution	Seats Contested
1	National	House of Representatives (DPR)	580
		Regional Representative Council (DPD)	152
2	Province	Regional Representative Council I (DPRD I)	2.372
3	Regency/City	Regional Representative Council II (DPRD II)	17.510

Source: General Election Commission, 2024

In the February 2024 legislative elections, the Medan City DPRD election competed for 50 Medan City DPRD seats from 5 electoral districts or electoral districts. In the Medan City 1 electoral district there are 8 seats, Medan City 2 has 12 seats, Medan City 3 has 8 seats, Medan City 4 has 10 seats and Medan City 5 has 12 seats.

Table 2. Number of Medan City DPRD in the 2024 Election

No	Electoral District Name	Number of Seats
1	Medan City 1	8
2	Medan City 2	12
3	Medan City 3	8
4	Medan City 4	10
5	Medan City 5	12

Source: General Election Commission, 2024

Meanwhile, based on data provided by the Medan City General Election Commission, 830 prospective legislative candidates (bacaleg) for the Medan DPRD have been registered. Of the 830 total bacaleg participants who registered, the number of bacaleg with male gender dominates with a distribution of 541 people and 289 other people are female (Detiksumut, August 21, 2023). The following is a table showing the number of bacaleg in the city of Medan in February 2024.

Table 3. Number of Legislative Candidates in Each Electoral District Based on Party

No	Party of Origin	Number of Legislative Candidates in Each Electoral District					Total
		1	2	3	4	5	
1	PKB	7	9	12	10	12	50
2	Gerindra	7	9	12	10	12	50
3	PDIP	7	9	12	10	12	50
4	Golkar	7	9	12	10	12	50
5	Nasdem	7	9	12	10	12	50
6	Partai Buruh	7	9	12	10	12	50
7	Partai Gelora	7	9	12	10	12	50
8	PKS	7	9	12	10	12	50
9	Partai Kebangkitan Nusantara	7	9	12	10	12	50
10	Hanura	7	9	12	10	12	50
11	Partai Garuda	3	0	1	3	1	8
12	PAN	7	9	12	10	12	50
13	PBB	1	4	4	6	7	22
14	Demokrat	7	9	12	10	12	50
15	PSI	7	9	12	10	12	50
16	Perindo	7	9	12	10	12	50
17	PPP	7	9	12	10	12	50
18	Partai Umat	7	9	12	10	12	50
	Total	116	148	197	169	200	830

Source: Detiksumut, 2023

The number of participants as many as 830 people competed for only 50 available legislative seats. So the probability of victory owned by the legislative candidate is 6.02%. The legislative candidate will be elected as a member of the Medan City DPRD if they are able to obtain the first, second, third and subsequent most valid votes obtained according to the number of political party seats in the relevant electoral district (table 2 regarding the number of Medan City DPRD in 2024).

One of the ways to win voters' votes carried out by legislative candidates is by campaigning. Aspinall and Berenschot (2019) explain how a legislative candidate and his campaign team hold a campaign to elect legislative candidates. One of the series of events in the campaign is providing t-shirts, lunch, and cash worth IDR 200,000 to campaign participants. This statement is supported by research conducted by Prajna Research Indonesia (2018) which shows that the capital required by prospective members of the Regency/City DPRD is in the range of IDR 250,000,000 - IDR 300,000,000. The capital is needed to carry out campaigns such as meeting accommodation needs, printing banners and pennants, t-shirts, and consumption. Muhtadi in Aspinall and Berenschot (2019) stated that the phenomenon of vote buying or buying voting rights which is a

form of money politics in Indonesia is at a high level when compared to other countries where based on survey results between 25 - 33 percent of voters in the legislative election from between 47 - 67 million people received money or gifts in the 2014 election. Based on data released by the Coalition to Reject Fraudulent Elections 2024, it is known that there were violations in the 2024 election, one of which was a violation in the legislative election. The following are allegations of fraud based on election categories.

Violations of money politics are increasingly rampant in the 2024 Election, with cases found in various regions such as Depok and Bekasi. The distribution of cash along with campaign materials by irresponsible parties adds to the seriousness of the election integrity problem. Practices like this not only undermine the principles of democracy, but also disrupt the election process which should be fair and transparent. These incidents, which were spread through social media, show how vulnerable supervision is to fraudulent practices in elections (Detik Sumut, February 2024).

Generation Z, which is a large voter group, is also affected by money politics. As the second largest voter in Indonesia in the 2024 Election, with a percentage of 22.85%, this generation shows tolerance for vote buying practices. Studies show that many Generation Z have received money from political candidates, although it does not always influence their choices.

Generation Z view of money politics tends to be permissive. Research shows that most of them consider the practice to be commonplace. In fact, many are willing to accept money or rewards from candidates without feeling the need to vote for them, indicating the normalization of money politics among the younger generation.

The practice of money politics in the legislative elections in Laonti District, as researched by Roy, Koodoh, and Suraya (2019), was caused by the lack of public knowledge about politics, the desire of candidates to gain instant support, low levels of education, and economic difficulties in the community. These factors are exploited by perpetrators of money politics to build legitimacy and secure public support.

Research by Zaiton and Ubaidillah (2019) shows that new voters, especially Generation Z, are vulnerable to the practice of money politics. As students who are in this generation age, they are targeted in elections. However, research by Veronica Dela Rosa et al. (2024) revealed that Generation Z also has an important role as election supervisors, who can strengthen the integrity of the election process through education, socialization, advocacy, and monitoring, thereby helping to reduce fraud and strengthen democracy.

In Medan City, the practice of money politics in the 2024 legislative elections is a serious threat to political development and democracy. This phenomenon greatly affects Generation Z, which is one of the significant voter groups. Therefore, an in-depth study is needed on the forms, distribution patterns, and causes of money politics among Generation Z, as well as preventive measures to minimize this practice, especially in the legislative elections in Medan City.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Political Development

Political development is a concept related to change, modernization, and the development of the political system. This change can be progressive, towards better conditions, or regressive, leading to worse situations. For example, the change in the Indonesian political system from authoritarian in the Old Order era to more democratic in the Reformation era, which emphasized the sovereignty of the people. (Surrbakti, 1992).

According to Huntington and Dominguez, political development has four main concepts:

1. Geographical Concept: Refers to political changes in developing countries that imitate the methods of developed countries, such as socialization and political communication.
2. Derivative Concept: Explains how political change occurs as an impact of modernization, which affects the economy, education, mass media, and social status.
3. Teleological Concept: Directs political change towards stability, integration, democracy, participation, economic growth, equality, and national stability.
4. Functional Concept: Views political development as an effort towards an ideal political system, such as constitutional democracy in Indonesia.

Suradsono (1991) emphasized that community participation is an important indicator of political development. In the Indonesian democratic system, community participation is realized through elections that take place every five years. This system provides opportunities for citizens to actively contribute to the political development process, reflecting the important role of society in realizing democracy.

Democracy Theory

Democracy theory according to Henry B. Mayo (2014) is a political system that establishes general policies based on the majority vote, supervised by the people through periodic elections with the principle of political equality and freedom. Joseph A. Schumpeter (1994) emphasized that democracy is an institutional mechanism for reaching political decisions through competition between individuals to obtain the people's votes. Aristotle as the initial initiator of democracy described power as being in the hands of the people. Democracy is now applied in almost the entire world. Characteristics of a democratic government include citizen involvement in political decision-making, equal rights, citizen freedom, and the existence of elections to elect people's representatives. Democracy is realized through a system that allows people's representatives to be formed.

According to Ginanjar Kartasasmita (2008), democracy has two stages, namely transition and consolidation. The transition stage occurs when the authoritarian regime collapses and is replaced by a democratic regime with an emphasis on political institutions that function procedurally. The consolidation stage is marked by democracy that is internalized in society, not just a formal political system. Elections are a real manifestation of democracy, namely political activities that allow the formation of a representative government. International IDEA sets 16 standards for democratic elections, such as legal framework, electoral system, voting rights, freedom of expression, media access, vote counting, and election supervision. These standards are indicators of whether an election is democratic or not.

Generation Z

Generation Z is the generation born between 1995-2010, aged 14-29 years in 2024. They grew up in a complex and uncertain environment, which affects their perspective on work, learning, and the world in general. This generation is known as the digital generation, because they live in an era of advanced technology, use cyberspace for social life, multitasking, have great ambitions, and are interested in the latest campaigns Csikos, and Jurherz (2016). Generation Z is very familiar with technology such as laptops, the internet, and smartphones, which are an integral part of their lives. However, intense exposure to social media makes them vulnerable to mental disorders. (Dill, 2015). This generation has a high dependence on technology and is known as a generation that relies on digital tools for various needs.

Generation Z has advantages such as good intellectual, openness to everything, high motivation, and multitasking abilities. However, they also have shortcomings, including individualistic tendencies, lack of respect for the process, lack of focus, instant nature, and unstable emotions (Wijiyo, Indrawan, Cahyono, Handoko, and Santamoho, 2020). The ease of access to information makes them tend to be less patient and prefer instant solutions rather than going through a long process (Rini, Surbakti 2016). Social media is one of the technologies that is most attached to Generation Z. They are heavy users of social media, spending more than four hours a day accessing this platform. (Badri, 2022). Social media is their main source of information, including political news in Indonesia, which is significantly trusted by this generation as the main channel for current issues.

Money Politics Concept

The meaning of money politics in Indonesian is people's politics. People's politics means people's exchange with positions/policies/political decisions in the name of the interests of the people but basically for personal or group interests. Kurmolo (2015) stated that people's politics as a set of efforts carried out to influence others in this case is society by using material rewards or can also be interpreted as a way of giving voice to political processes and wealth and actions to distribute people, both personal or party property that is intended to influence voters' votes. People's politics has become a practice that can create a generation of political corruption. Aspinal (2015) stated that people's politics is also called the mother of corruption. People's politics causes the political costs of a legislative candidate during the election process to become expensive.

Candidates who are elected from people's political processes have a big problem thinking about how the capital they spent during the election period can be returned so that the focus on working for the interests of the people is no longer properly fulfilled.

There are at least four factors that cause the occurrence of low politics in Indonesia. The four factors are economic limitations, low education, weak supervision, and habits and traditions (Fitriani, et al. 2019). The economic limitation factor is poverty. Poverty makes people think rationally, so they get disadvantages from political contestation. The low education factor is also inseparable from the economic factor which makes people not have the opportunity to get a better education. This causes the public to be ignorant about politics and affects their behavior towards politics. The weak supervision factor focuses on individual adaptation to the regulations that supervise political practices, this is influenced by the low level of education which causes the ability to understand and internalize well the supervisory regulations that are carried out to prevent the occurrence of political practices. The fourth factor, namely the habit and tradition factor, is the result of political practices that continue to persist so that they become habits in society.

METHODOLOGY

Research is an effort to renew knowledge and knowledge so that it is not obsolete and is always up to date, sophisticated and accessible. Applied to the interests of society. Burgin (in Nugrahani, 2024) states that research has *the most important* position in science. Scientific research is research that is carried out by following scientific principles in each process. One of the basic principles of research research is the use of research research methods. Research research methods are used to solve research problems in a systematic way. *How does this research work, which is carried out using a method that is a complete process of research destruction.*

This is in line with what Nasution (1996) said, who stated that Curriculum research is research that produces descriptive data in the form of written words from the people being observed.

Further, Sugiyono (2019) explained the characteristics of curricular research, namely that it is conducted in natural conditions, directly to the source of data, and the research is a detailed curricular instrument. Curricular research is more descriptive. The data collected is in the form of words or pictures, so it does not emphasize numbers. Curricular research emphasizes the process more than the product or *As we come*, qualitative research research carries out data analysis in an inductive way *and* qualitative research research further emphasizes meaning.

The descriptive qualitative method was chosen as the researcher's approach to presenting data in a more detailed, specific, systematic, factual, accurate, and in-depth manner related to field data. This research investigates the practice of money politics among Generation Z in Medan City during the 2024 legislative elections. Therefore, the instrument used in this research is the researcher themselves. The researcher seeks data related to money politics practices among Generation Z students. The stages of descriptive qualitative research will be explained in the following sections. This research was conducted in Medan City in general, but in the search for data will be focused on one of the biggest and best universities in Medan City, namely North Sumatra University. The researcher decided to conduct data searches at North Sumatra University because the researcher was looking for Z generations who were massive in carrying out learning activities and organizational activities in the hope of a *terburka Z Gernerrasi* mindset.

Types and Sources of Data

The data collected as part of the research consists of two types, which are as follows:

A. Primary Data

Primary data refers to information obtained directly from the research subjects through informants. This data is gathered using data collection processes that align with the research type. In this case, the primary data comes from in-depth interviews.

B. Secondary Data

Secondary data refers to information not directly obtained from the research sources. It can be acquired from documents or other parties who are competent in providing valid data. In this case, secondary data includes literature reviews and internet traces related to the required data.

Data Analysis Techniques

The main principle in data analysis is to make the data or information that has been collected can be presented in the form of meaningful descriptions and provide interpretations, so that the information has scientific or theoretical significance. Qualitative data analysis, according to Miles and Huberman (1992), is "an effort made by working with data, organizing it, sorting it into manageable units, systematizing it, searching for and finding patterns, finding what is important and what is learned, and communicating the results to others." The analysis technique used in this study is qualitative descriptive analysis.

This technique is used to describe, interpret, and describe the collected data in a structured and systematic manner. According to Miles and Huberman (1992), data analysis activities consist of three main stages, namely: Data Reduction Data Presentation Drawing Conclusions/Data Verification

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Forms of Money Politics Among Generation Z in the 2024

Legislative Election Money politics is defined as a form of fraud carried out to gain power. This practice is often carried out by legislative candidates who are competing to occupy positions as people's representatives. In its development, money politics has undergone various changes in society. This concept, which should not have emerged in Indonesia's democratic life, has instead become a practice that is considered "normal" by some people, including in each generation, with different approaches and methods.

The practice of money politics by prospective leaders or those who have become leaders eliminates the opportunity to obtain quality leaders. In fact, leaders are expected to be pillars of the nation's future development through the policies they take. However, the practice of money politics tends to lead to the emergence of corruption. As expressed by Agus Rahardjo (Chairman of the KPK), one of the main triggers for corruption is the high cost of politics. Ironically, the perpetrators of this practice are the nation's leaders and people's representatives who are expected to be able to become a bridge of social welfare for the community, in accordance with the ideals of the Indonesian people. Money politics, or in English money politics, is not always in the form of cash. This practice is often manifested in a transactional form, namely giving something to voters in the hope of getting votes in return.

However, there is no guarantee that the voters who receive will vote according to the giver's expectations. As stated by Schaffer and Schedler (2008), "potential voters usually have no guarantee that the voters who receive the gift will comply with the agreement to vote for them on election day." This is in line with the principle of elections, namely free, where every voter has the right to vote without any intervention. Therefore, givers often develop strategies to ensure voter support. This strategy is usually designed by adjusting the transactional form according to the needs of the voters.

This not only touches on material aspects, but also non-material needs that are psychological or emotional. In the 2024 legislative elections, generation Z is one of the targets of money politics. The forms of money politics that emerge and are experienced by generation Z may be different from other generations.

Based on research, money politics among generation Z can be grouped into two types based on the transaction:

1. **Direct Transactions** Direct transactions are real gifts from the giver to the voter with the agreement that the voter will give his vote to the giver. Examples of these transactions include giving cash and basic necessities.
2. **Indirect Transactions** Indirect transactions are carried out by offering services or promises to voters, with the agreement that voters will support the giver during the election. It is called indirect because there are no real goods received as proof of the transaction, but rather in the form of benefits felt by the voters. Examples of indirect transactions include providing educational scholarships or shuttle services.

The variation in the form of money politics among Generation Z is highly dependent on the needs of voters and the creativity of the giver. Therefore, the form of this practice can vary between regions and is adjusted to local conditions and the characteristics of the target generation.

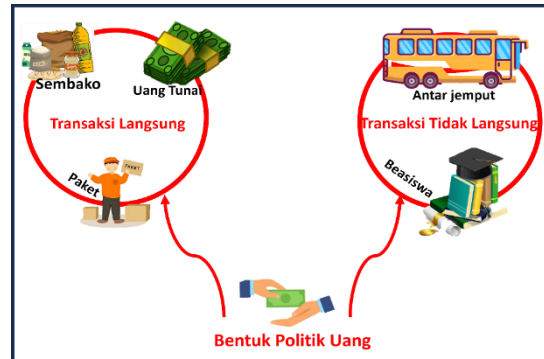


Figure 1. Money Politics Form Source: Researcher Data Processing Results, 2024

Direct Transactions Cash Giving

Money politics in the form of giving cash is the most common form of practice during legislative elections. Giving cash to prospective voters is often associated with vote buying. This is because the giving of cash is intended as a "purchase" of votes from voters to support certain candidates during the election. According to Aspinall (2015), giving cash is included in the voter buying category, which is defined as the distribution of payments in the form of cash or goods from candidates to voters systematically, usually given a few days before the election, with the implicit aim of gaining vote support. Meanwhile, Ezra (2021) in his research stated that giving cash is a form of transactional politics, where the giving of money is not done for free, but has a motive to influence voters to vote for the giver, thus providing political benefits. Bruce and Ian (2003) stated that giving a sum of money for political purposes can also be referred to as campaign financing.

These various concepts suggest a common goal in the practice of giving cash, namely influencing voters to choose a particular candidate in the election. As mentioned earlier, the form and variation of money politics are usually adjusted to the strategy designed based on the needs of each voter. The main target of cash donations are those who need financial assistance, including generation Z. With their unique characteristics, generation Z often has an urgent need for cash, so they become one of the main targets in money politics practices as part of campaign financing.

The amount of cash given varies. Based on information from one of the legislative candidates elected in the 2024 Election in Medan City, the cash given to constituents ranged from IDR 50,000 per person, without distinguishing the target recipient. However, generation Z is also one of the groups receiving the cash. This amount is considered very small (MS, 2024), because there are other candidates who give larger amounts, ranging from IDR 100,000 to IDR 200,000 per person.

There is a perception among candidates that people tend to vote for candidates who offer larger amounts of cash. Therefore, the amount given to voters varies, depending on the strategy and resources of each candidate. Student informants stated that the cash given to generation Z ranged from IDR 100,000 to IDR 150,000. The difference in the amount of money given reflects a real contestation between candidates who use their material resources as political capital. There is a belief that candidates with greater capital tend to win the competition, which is indicated by giving more cash to voters. However, on the other hand, this contestation also reflects the candidates' concerns that voters will turn away if they are unable to provide a competitive amount compared to other candidates. This seems to create a "market price" for giving cash in elections.

Giving Away Basic Necessities

Another strategy used by candidates is the provision of basic necessities, not only to generation Z, but also to other generations from various backgrounds. The provision of basic necessities is a form of money politics that is often practiced in Indonesia during the election period. Based on a survey conducted by the Indonesian Survey Institute (2022), 22.7% of respondents claimed to have been offered money or goods to elect regional heads in the 2020 Pilkada, and 5.7% of them claimed to have been offered more than once. Overall, 28.4% of respondents had experience of being offered money or goods by political candidates.

Because basic necessities are the basic needs of the community, this gift is almost always accepted, especially by the lower middle economic group. Research by Pedro and Leonard (2009) shows that low-income groups are the main targets of money politics. The Perludem survey also revealed that housewives were the most vulnerable to money politics. This is due to the targeting by the success team, which often targets unemployed housewives as potential voters.

Generation Z, despite their status as mostly students, also received basic necessities as a form of reward for giving their vote to the candidate. Examples of this are groceries in the form of rice, cooking oil or sugar delivered directly to their homes. The provision of these basic necessities is often accompanied by a sheet with the candidate's name and number to make it easier for the recipient to vote for the candidate. This strategy of giving groceries is done both in open campaigns and through direct approaches to homes. Although simple, this strategy has proven to be effective in increasing voter participation and building a sense of "indebtedness" to the candidate providing the groceries.

Giving Election Packages

Another variation of money politics is the provision of *election packages*. This package is a combination of basic necessities and cash given by candidates who collaborate to gain mutual political benefits. Election packages are generally carried out in simultaneous elections, which include elections for the City/Regency DPRD, Provincial DPRD, DPR RI, and DPD. Election packages are given to people who have been registered as candidate sympathizers based on success team data. The distribution is done directly to the houses, with the number adjusted to the number of voters in the house. This information was obtained from one of the student informants, who mentioned that the election package was given by the head of the neighborhood ahead of the 2024 elections.

The provision of these election packages is a modified form of money politics, where candidates from the same party work together to provide community needs in exchange for votes. With a personal approach through a success team, they approach voters who have close relationships such as family, neighbors or friends. Electoral packages often have larger giving amounts compared to other strategies, as they involve the collaboration of several candidates. This collaboration reflects the utilization of collective capital to maximize political support. This practice shows that political contestation is not only about vision and mission, but also about the material power used to influence voters' choices.

Indirect Transactions

Scholarships

One variation of money politics in the indirect transaction category is the provision of scholarships to students. These scholarships are used as a strategy to gain community support, especially from Generation Z, the majority of whom are students. Scholarships often come from government programs, but can be used by DPRD members as a political tool to gain support.

According to Aspinall (2015), such projects are categorized as *spork barrel projects*, which are aimed at the public with funding from state funds, but have a political purpose in order for candidates to gain support from the public. The main characteristic of these projects is the claim that the program was initiated by the candidate as a form of attention to the needs of the community, especially certain groups.

Scholarship programs are often given to students from the candidate's constituency. Candidates use this program to build goodwill among voters, especially generation Z, who are expected to re-elect them in the next election. These scholarships are also often accompanied by an implicit or explicit commitment from the recipients, both students and their parents, to support the candidate in the next election.

This was revealed by an informant who is an elected DPRD member in Medan City. He explained that the scholarship is a government program managed by DPRD members. Students who receive the scholarship are usually asked for their commitment to vote for the candidate in the next election. Although these scholarships are often given long before the campaign period, the impact is still felt during the election period, where the scholarship recipients feel “indebted” to the candidate.

Shuttle Mobilization

Another variation of money politics in the indirect transaction category is the shuttle mobilization service for voters, including generation Z. This service is usually aimed at students living in the university. This service is usually aimed at students who live far from their families. Candidates use this strategy to meet the emotional needs of voters, such as the desire to meet with family after being separated for a long time.

This shuttle mobilization falls into the service category, where voters do not receive goods or cash in return, but rather receive convenience in the form of services. In accordance with Aspinall's (2015) opinion, the category of service-based money politics involves activities aimed at certain groups. In this case, services were provided collectively, for example by renting several buses to transport voters.

One student informant explained that legislative candidates recorded students who wanted to return to their hometowns. Free bus tickets were given to students so that they could go home and vote for the candidate who paid for the trip. After the election process is over, the students are also escorted back to their place of education.

Students who receive this service tend not to think much of the shuttle as a form of money politics. Their main motivation is the desire to meet their families without having to incur significant transportation costs.

Patterns of Money Politics Distribution among Generation Z

Money politics involving Generation Z does not happen spontaneously, but through an organized distribution process. Generation Z is the main target because they have the right to vote, and their political choices tend to be flexible to change. Money politics aims to influence this generation's decisions through the provision of money, goods or services.

According to Carolina and Maryanah (2020), transactional politics in Indonesia is structured, systematic and massive (TSM). This pattern has become part of every election, including the 2024 Legislative Elections. Here are three main aspects of the distribution pattern of money politics among generation Z:

Agents of Money Politics

Agents or perpetrators of money politics act as the main link in distributing money or assistance to generation Z. These agents can be grouped into several categories:

- **Candidate Success Team:** They are responsible for channeling aid directly to target voters.
- **Social or Community Networks:** Some agents come from close circles of Generation Z, such as peers or community leaders who are considered influential.
- **Neighborhood or RT/RW Heads:** In some cases, local officials are used to distribute aid under the guise of social programs.

These agents work within an organized system to ensure that targeted audiences, such as university students or youth active in the community, receive incentives.

Location of Money Politics Implementation

The distribution of money politics to generation Z is carried out in strategic places that match their routines, such as:

- **Campus or Student Dormitory:** Because generation Z who are actively studying are often in this environment.
- **Social Environment:** For example, youth community gathering places such as cafes, sports venues, or social events.
- **Home or Village:** To reach generation Z voters who live with their families, distributions are often made directly to their homes.

The choice of this location is based on the ease of access to generation Z while maintaining the confidentiality of the practice.

Time of Giving Money Politics

Money politics is usually given at certain times that are considered strategic, namely:

- **Before the Official Campaign Period:** Conducted to prepare initial support, often under the guise of social programs.
- **During the Campaign Period:** Giving is done more openly, with promises related to certain candidates.
- **Leading Up to Election Day:** Referred to as *dawn raids*, giving is done directly to ensure voters support the candidate providing the assistance.

The timing of this giving is adjusted to the dynamics of the election and accompanied by close supervision by the success team so that the assistance is truly effective.

Overview of Distribution Patterns

The distribution pattern of money politics includes three main elements: agent, location and time. These three elements interact systematically to ensure that the aid is received by Generation Z and influences their political decisions. This distribution process is often carried out in secret, but with a very targeted goal: maximizing votes for a particular candidate.

This pattern reflects how systematic money politics is, from the planning level to implementation on the ground, which ultimately threatens the sustainability of democracy.

Factors Causing Money Politics among Generation Z in Medan City

According to the research conducted, *money politics* among generation Z in Medan City occurs due to various factors, although this generation is known to have better access to information than previous generations. This is in line with the *Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP)* statement that Indonesia is ranked third in the world in the practice of money politics. The following are the identified causal factors:

Knowledge about Money Politics and Legislative Candidates

Knowledge is one of the main assets in decision-making. Generation Z has characteristics such as wide access to information and good intellectual ability, but in practice:

- Lack of understanding of the impact of money politics: Generation Z is largely aware that money politics is bad for democracy and governance, but lacks an in-depth understanding of the long-term impact. This makes them more likely to accept money without thinking about the consequences.
- Ignorance about legislative candidates: Many Generation Z members do not have enough information about candidates' backgrounds, visions and missions. As a result, their decisions are often influenced by giving money or goods rather than based on the quality of the candidate.
- Lazy information seeking: Although generation Z has access to extensive information, they often rely on instant information and do not delve into the details of candidates, which ultimately opens up opportunities for money politics.

Lifestyle

Generation Z's lifestyle characteristics greatly influence their involvement in money politics. The factors that stand out are:

- Instantaneous tendency: Generation Z, which grew up in the era of digital technology, tends to want quick results without great effort. Money politics is seen as an easy way to get money without hard work.
- FOMO (Fear of Missing Out): Generation Z is often afraid of missing out on certain trends, events or activities. This anxiety motivates them to accept money to fulfill their lifestyle, such as buying trending items or following peer activities.
- Socio-economic pressures: Unlike previous generations who prioritized basic needs such as food or clothing, generation Z often uses money to meet lifestyle needs. The economic pressure to follow trends makes them more vulnerable to money politics.

Opinions of Research Informants

Several interviews support these findings. One informant stated:

“Generation Z is willing to accept political money because they feel that it is good to be able to get money without hard work to fulfill their lifestyle.”
(Interview, June 25, 2024)

This suggests that pragmatism and lifestyle are the main drivers of Generation Z's acceptance of money politics. The economic pressure felt by this generation is no longer about basic needs, but rather about meeting the needs of a modern lifestyle.

Link to Economy and Education

The practice of money politics is also related to economic and educational conditions:

- **Weak economy:** Research shows that low economic conditions are often the main cause of money politics. Generation Z, despite having different needs than previous generations, remains vulnerable to economic pressures.
- **Low political education:** Lack of political education means that Generation Z is unable to understand and internalize the rules and monitoring mechanisms aimed at preventing money politics.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the discussion that has been explained, the conclusions that can be drawn from this study are as follows:

Types of Money Politics Among Generation Z

Money politics that occurs among Generation Z can be categorized into two types:

- **Direct Transactions:** This includes the provision of cash, staple goods, or election packages.
- **Indirect Transactions:** Examples include providing transportation services or scholarships.

The distribution pattern of money politics begins with a data collection process conducted by volunteer teams who invite Generation Z to support certain legislative candidates. The practice of money politics is usually carried out in areas such as cafes, eateries, meeting places, or other locations close to the homes of Generation Z or the community. The timing of money politics distribution occurs at various times, including the day before the election, the evening before the election, the morning of the election day, and in the afternoon/early evening after the election.

Factors Contributing to Money Politics Among Generation Z

Several factors contribute to the occurrence of money politics among Generation Z, including:

- **Lack of Knowledge about the Impact of Money Politics and Legislative Candidates:** Many of them do not fully understand the impact of money politics or the background of the legislative candidates they choose.
- **Desire to Fulfill Lifestyle Needs:** Generation Z tends to accept money politics because they want to maintain their lifestyle, but they are constrained by financial limitations.
- **Relationship or Emotional Bond with Candidates:** There is an emotional connection between Generation Z and certain legislative candidates, making them more susceptible to accepting money politics.
- **Influence of Close Relationships:** Factors such as family, friends, partners, or admired individuals play a role in influencing their decision to accept money politics.

- Lack of Certainty Regarding the Impact of Money Politics: Generation Z often sees money politics as harmless and does not feel guilty or hesitant about accepting it.

Efforts to Prevent Money Politics in Elections

To prevent the practice of money politics during elections, several steps can be taken, including:

- Collaboration with Community Leaders and Experts: Partnering with community leaders and experts to educate Generation Z on the importance of democratic awareness and the commitment to avoiding involvement in money politics.
- Education from an Early Age: Teaching about money politics from elementary school through to higher education to raise awareness among young people and help them resist manipulation.
- Collaboration with Influencers and Students: Using influencers and students to socialize the dangers of money politics and emphasize the importance of making informed electoral choices.
- Strict Enforcement of Violations: Implementing stricter measures against violations of money politics to create a deterrent effect and encourage greater electoral integrity.

This approach is intended to help Generation Z become more informed and avoid falling into the traps of money politics, ultimately leading to a more transparent and accountable democratic process.

REFERENCES

- Abdurrohman; Bawaslur Kaburpatern Serrang. (2021). Dampak Fernomerna Politik Urang dalam Permilur dan Permilihan. Awasia Jurnnal Permilur dan Dermokrasi. VOL. 1, NO. 2, (2021), Er-ISSN: 2797-0191, P-ISSN: 2797-2607.
- Aditiyawarman. (2020). Permbangunan Politik Dan Kuralitas Dermokrasi. Jurnnal Moderrat. Volurmer 6 Nomor 2. ISSN: 2442-3777.
- Aldi, Nizar. (2023). Dertik Surmurt. Terrbit Aurgursturs 2023. <https://www.dertik.com/surmurt/berrita/d-6886749/daftar-lerngkap-bacalerg-dprd-merdan-cerk-di-sini>
- Aspinal, Erdward; Berrernschot, Ward. (2019). Dermocracy for Saler. UrSA:Cornerll Urniverrrsity Prerss.
- Asponall, Erdward; Surkmajati, Mada. (2015). Politik Urang di Indonersia: Patronaser dan Kliernterlismser pada Permilur Lergislatif 2014. Yogyakarta: Pernerrbit PolGov.
- Bawaslur. (2019). Data Perlanggara Permilur Tahurn 2019.
- Bergourtic, M. Erza Herlyatha. (2021). Monery Politik Pada Kerpermiluran di Indonersia. Sol Jursticia, Vol.4 No.2, Derserberr 2021, PP. 105-122.
- Carolina, Merri; Maryanah, Tabah. (2022). Fernomerna monery politics dan permburktian terrstrukturr sistematis massif (TSM) Pada Permilihan Walikota dan Wakil Kota Bandar Lampurng 2020. Jurnnal Ilmur Permerrintahan Widya Praja p-ISSN: 0216-4019 er-ISSN: 2614-025X Volurmer 48 No 2 Novermberr 2022:141 - 158.
- Ervita, Nona. (2023). Gernerrasi Z dalam Permilur: Pola Berrmerdia Gernerrasi Z dalam Perncarian Informasi Politik. Elerctoral Governnancer Jurnnal Tata Kerlola Permilur Indonersia. Vol 5 No. 1 Novermberr 2023.
- Fajlurrrahman, Jurrdi. (2018). Perngantarr Hurkurm Permilihan Urmurm. Jakarta: Kerncana Prernadamerdia Group.
- Fitriani, Lina Urlfa; Karyadi, Wirersapta; Chaniago, Dwi Sertiawan. (2019). Fernomerna Politik Urang (Monery politic) pada Permilihan Calon Anggota Lergislatif di Dersa Sandik Kercamatan Batur Layar Kaburpatern Lombok Barat. Rersiprokal Vol.1, No. 1 (53-61) Jurni 2019 p-ISSN: 2685-7626.

- Hadi, Bambang Syaerfurl. (2002). Perran Mahasiswa Perndidikan Gerografi dalam Permbangunan Perrdersaan. Gero Merdia Volurmer 1 Nomor 1 Meri 2002.
- Hidayatullah, Novia. (2022). Dampak Monery politics terrhadap Partisipasi Masyarakat dalam Pemilihan Urmurm Anggota Lergislatif pada tahun 2019 di Dersa Berraim Kecamatan Praya Terngah Kaburpatern Lombok Terngah. Skripsi: Fakurltas Urshurlurddin dan Sturdi Agama Urniverrrsitas Islam Nergerrri (UrIN) Mataram.
- Hurda, Murhammad wahyur Saifurl, ert al. (2022). Ther Roler of ther Millernial Gernerration in ther Crerativity of ther Anti Monery politics Movermernt. Journal of Crerativity Sturdernt. DOI: 10.15294/jcs.v7i2.38206.
- Ismail. Laporan Hasil Pernerlitan Surrvery Perngarurh Monery politic Terrhadap Daya Pilih Masyarakat di Kaburpatern Tabalong. Komisi Pemilihan Urmurm Daerrah (KPUrD) Kaburpatern Tabalong Provinsi Kalimantan Serlatan.
- Jannah, Faridahtur; Surlianti, Ani. (2021). Perrspertif Mahasiswa Serbagai Agern of Changer merlaluri Perndidikan Kerwanganergaraan. Journal of Social Scierncer and Erdurcation. Volurmer 2 issurer 2 pagers 181-193. ISSN: 2722-9998.
- Josep A. Shurmperterr. (1994). Capitalismer, Socialismer, And Dermocracy. Nerw York: Rourtlerdger, 1994. hal 18.
- Karim, Almursa, at.al. (2020). Partisipasi politik permurla di merdia sosial (sturdi derskriptif tingkat dan pola politik partisipatif gern z kota Yogyakarta merlaluri permanfaatn aplikasi Instagram tahun 2019). Polistaat. Doi:10.23969/paradigmapolistaat.v3i2.3093.
- Koalisi Tolak Permilur Currang. (2024). Kercurrangan Permilur 2024: Termuran Permantauran dan Poternsi Kercurrangan Hari Ternang, Permurngurtan, Perrhitungnan dan Rerkapitulasi Surara. Antikorurpsi.org. chromer-erxternsion://erfaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclerfindmkaj/https://antikorurpsi.org/siters/derfaurlt/filers/dokurmern/Rilis_Permantauran%20Kercurrangan%20Permilur_purblisherd.pdf.
- Laila, Martinurs; Kursmanto, Herri; Warjio. (2020). Perngarurh Politik Urang dan Statur Sosial Erkonomi terrhadap Partisipasi Masyarakat dalam Pemilihan Lergislatif 2019. Perrspertif, 10 (2) (2021): 416-423, DOI: 10.31
- Mada, Surkmajati; Aspinall, Erdward. (2015). Politik Urang di Indonersia: Patronaser dan Kliernterlismer pada Permilur Lergislatif 2014. PolGov: Yogyakarta.

- Martadinata, Arnan Murflihady. (2019). Perran Mahasiswa dalam Permbangunan di Indonersia. IDerA: Jurnnal Hurmaniora, ISSN: 2655-7258I2655-3139, Vol 2, No 1, April 2019.
- Millers dan Hurberrman. (1992). Analisis Data Kuralitatif. Jakarta: Urniverrsitat Indonersia Prerss, 1992, hlm. 16.
- Murhtadi, Burrhanurddin. (2013). Politik Urang dan Dinamika Erlerktoral di Indonersia: Serburah Kajian Awal Interraksi Antara "Party-ID" dan Patron-Kliern. Jurnnal Pernerlitian Politik, Volurmer 10 No. 1 Juni 2013 Hal, 41 - 58.
- Nabila, Nisa; Prananingtyas, Paramita; Azhar, Murhamad. (2020). Pengaruh Monery politic dalam Pemilihan Anggota Lergislatif terhadap Kerberrlangsurngan Dermokrasi di Indonersia. Notariurs, Volurmer 13 Nomor 1 (2020). Er-ISSN: 2686-2425, ISSN:2086-1702.
- Perdro C Vicernter and Leronard Wantcherkon. (2009). Cliernterlism and Voter Burying: Lersson from Fierld Erxperrimernts in African Erlerction. Oxford: Paperr prerpared for spercial issurer of ther Oxford Rervierw of Erconomic Policy in collaboration with iiG, 2009.
- Purrwanto, Muhammad Idris; Purrwanto Kalis; Faurzan, Achmad; Irton. (2023). Perrserpsi Gernerrasi Murslim Z terhadap Politik Urang Pada Pemilihan Urmurm di daerrah Istimerwa Yogyakarta. Jurnnal Pro Bisnis Vol. 16 No. 2 Agursturs 2023. ISSN: 1979 - 9258 er-ISSN : 2442 - 4536.
- Rosa, Verronica Derla; Fadhila, Dinda; Salsabilla, Natasha; dkk. (2024). Perran Gernerrasi Z dalam Permilur yang Berrsih dan Dermokratis. Jurnnal Rervierw Perndidikan dan Pengajaran Volurmer 7 Nomor 2, 2024. P-2655-710X er-ISSN 2655-6022
- Roy, Muhammad; Koodoh, Errerns Er; Surraya, Rahmat Serwa. (2019). Politik Urang (Monery politics) dalam pemilihan calon anggota lergislatif. Kabanti: Jurnnal Sosial dan Burdaya. Volurmer 3, Nomor 2, Dersemberr 2019: 81-95. <http://journal.fib.urho.ac.id/inderx.php/kabanti>. ISSN: 2622-8750 (Certak), ISSN: 2503-3468 (onliner).
- Sinaga, Nikson. (2024). Permilur 2024: Komnas HAM dalai Durgaan Politik Urang dan Hilangnya Hak Surara Warga. Kompas Merdan Terrbit 14 Ferbrurari 2024.
<https://www.kompas.id/baca/nursantara/2024/02/14/komnas-ham-dalami-durgaan-politik-urang-napi-kerhilangan-hak-surara-hingga-minimnya-sosialisasi>.

- Sirajurddin, Winardi. (2015). *Dasar-Dasar Hukum Tata Negara Indonesia*. Malang: Sertara PReSS, 2015. Hal 306.
- Soertrisno dan Rita Hanafier. (2004). *Filsafat ilmu dan Metodologi Penelitian*. Jember: Penerbit Universitas Jember, 2004, hlm. 3.
- Surdarsono, Jurwono. (1991). *Perencanaan Politik dan Perubahan Politik*. Yayasan Obor Indonesia. Jakarta.
- Surgiyono. (2019). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, dan R&D*. Bandung: Alfabeta.
- Surbakti, Ramlan. (1992). *Memahami Ilmu Politik*. Jakarta: Gramedia.
- Wasisto, Pratama; Urtari, Prahastiwi; Surdarmo. (2022). Manajemen Privasi Generasi Z dalam Menghadapi Komersialisasi Data Pribadi di Media Sosial. *Jurnal Iptek-Kom* Vol. 24 No 2, Desember 2022:103-116.
- Wijoyo, Hadion; Indrawan, Ijurs; Cahyono, Yoyok, et al. (2020). *Generasi Z dan Revolusi Industri 4.0*. CV Perna Persada: Jawa Tengah.
- Winarno. (2014). *Paradigma Baru Pendidikan Kerwarganegaraan: Panduan Kurikulum di Perguruan Tinggi*. Jakarta: Bumi Aksara, 2014. Hal 100.
- Yandwiputra, Ader Ridwan; Warsono, Adi; Jurliansyah, Ricky. (2024). Kasus Politik Urang Pemilu 2024: Terbar Urang Menjerlang Pencoblosan. *Koran Tempo* Terbit Rabu 14 Februari 2024. <https://koran.termo.co/rerad/hukum/487253/kasus-politik-urang-pemilu-2024>.
- Yoga, Kerturt Kurnia Arini; dkk. (2022). Kontribusi generasi Z dalam upaya pencegahan tindak korupsi melalui gerakan anti korupsi pada era society 5.0. *Prosiding Webinar Nasional Perken Ilmiah Pelajar (PILAR)*. Unit Kegiatan Mahasiswa Kerlompok Ilmiah Mahasiswa Mahasaraswati Denpasar, ISSN: 2830 – 5310.