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VOTER POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ACCORDING TO THE GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS OF THE REGION (Study on the 2020 Regional Head Election in Pekalongan Regency) Tri Lestari Hadiati1 , Haryanto Nugroho2 , Darmawan TBU3 (1tri-lestari-hadiati@untagsmg.ac.id, 2hnugroho24@yahoo.co.id, 3tbudarmawan@gmail.com) Abstract Implementation Election Regent and Representative Regent Pekalongan It's the year 2020 (https://pekalongankabppid.kpu.go.id/), which is one of the elections in Indonesia which was held in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic, experience enhancement political participation society. Whereas

the biggest challenge during this on every implementation election common in the district Pekalongan is level participation people who tend low, because because condition geography and topography different in the district Pekalongan. The results of this study conclude that first, with the high political participation of voters in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the opportunity for people to come to the polling station is very important. However, the topography and geography of the region also have an important influence, because each region provides equal opportunities for voters to come to the polling station. Second, the implementation of the 2020 Pekalongan Regent and Deputy Regent Elections, can be carried out properly and safely with high voter political participation. High voter political participation was achieved by 77.75% and exceeded the national target. that is equal to 77.50%. So it is also higher than the previous elections. This shows that the local government of Pekalongan Regency is smarter in increasing the political participation of its people. Keywords : sovereignty people, participation politics, elections, voter, geography & topography different

INTRODUCTION People's political participation in determining the government is an important aspect in a democratic state order, as well as a characteristic that indicates the existence of people's sovereignty (Siavelis, 2009 ; Hadiati, 2021:8). Sovereignty of the people becomes the highest power, as stated by Abraham Lincoln about democracy that democracy is a system of government that is implemented from the people, by the people and for the people (Antlöv et al., 2008), so that the highest holder of government power is the people (Landemore, 2014). In Indonesia, the form and sovereignty of the people are regulated in the 1945 Constitution Amendment IV, which states that Sovereignty is in the hands of the people, and is implemented according to Law No. 17 of 2017 concerning Elections (Article 1 paragraph 2). One form of the implementation of popular sovereignty is by means of general elections which are held in a direct, general, free, secret, honest and fair manner every five years. This proves that the Indonesian state adheres to a democratic system of government. The form of people's sovereignty in the regions as a form of regional autonomy (Law No. 13 of 2014 concerning Regional Government), is the holding of Regional Head Elections (Pilkada). Therefore, it is hoped that there will be community political participation and community participation in government administration activities. The fulfillment of political rights is carried out by providing freedom for every citizen to express opinions and gather, such as voting at the polling station (TPS), group discussions, forming and joining organizations, individual political communication and filing petitions (Hadiati, 2021). The state has guaranteed the freedom of association and assembly to express thoughts verbally and in writing and so are stipulated by law. The 2020 Simultaneous Regional Head Elections were also held in Pekalongan Regency. In terms of leadership periodization, the election of the Regent and Deputy Regent of Pekalongan was actually held in 2021, but because the positions of the Regent and Deputy Regent of Pekalongan ended on 27 June 2021. The election of the Regent and Deputy Regent of Pekalongan was finally held in 2020 (Lipuma et al., 2009), which was one of the regional elections in Indonesia that was held during the Covid-19 pandemic. Various parties are very worried that the participation rate will decrease drastically, due to people's fear of coming to polling stations that have the potential for Covid-19 transmission and violations of health protocols Prokes 5M (Wearing masks, Keeping Distance, Washing hands, Avoiding crowds, Reducing mobilization). Researchers are very interested in holding simultaneous regional elections in 2020, especially in Pekalongan Regency which has a different regional topography (<https://pekalongankabppid.kpu.go.id/info/0/3764/>). In addition to this incident being a concern for various parties that the number of political participation will drop drastically, an election event like this has

RESEARCH METHODS This research is a holistic study, which is a study that does not

only involve political, socio-economic aspects, but also public administration. Considering the peculiarities of the subject, the object of research and the nature of the research, this study uses a qualitative research approach (Cresswell, 2015) and includes a phenomenological type of research. Data collection techniques in research, carried out by obtaining primary data supported by secondary data (Sugiyono, 2019). Primary data is data collected by researchers directly from the first source at the research site (in-dept interview). While secondary data is data never happened in the history of holding elections in Indonesia, which was held in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The researcher also wants to analyze the political participation of the community based on the geographical and topographical conditions of different regions, in the 2020 Regional Head Election in Pekalongan Regency. collected, namely laws and regulations, literature, data documents by organizations (eg participation data, population data) that have been ratified or have been published. In this study, the authors explore more problems with primary data through interviews, namely data collection techniques by digging data directly from the source through a dialogue conducted by interviewers (Matthew et al., 2014) to obtain information from them: primary informant, secondary informant and supporting informant, for the questions that have been prepared in advance. The data of the informants is as follows: Table 1.

Data of Informants	No	Type of Informant	Name	Organization	Origin	Position
Primary Informants	1	Primary	Abi Rizal	Pekalongan Regency KPU	Chairperson of the Pekalongan Regency KPUD	Ahcmad Dzulfahmi Bawaslu of Pekalongan Regency Head of the Pekalongan Regency Bawaslu
Secondary informants	2	Secondary	Herminiastuti Lestari	Pekalongan Regency KPU	Member of KPUD Legal and Supervision Division	Achyar Budi Pranoto Pekalongan Regency KPU Member of KPU Division of Human Resources, Voter Socialization and Education Muhammad Ahsin Pekalongan Regency KPU Member of KPUD Technical division Totok Budi M Pekalongan Regency Government Assistant to the Government and Welfare of the Regional Secretary of Pekalongan Regency, at the same time Deputy head of the Pekalongan Regency Election Work Unit Element Support (DESK) Zainal Abidin National Awakening Party (PKB) Deputy Chairman of the Board of Tanfidz DPC PKB Endang Suwarningsih Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP) Treasurer of the DPC PDIP at once Member of Pekalongan Regency DPRD
Supporting informants	3	Supporting	Siti Maemunah	Residents of Paninggaran Village District	Paningsgaran Voter	M. Rif'an Residents of Kalipancur Village, Bojong District Voter Suprihadi Residents of Wonokerto Wetan Village, Wonokerto District Voter

Source: Processed Data

The informant from the Pekalongan Regency KPU is the Chair of the Pekalongan Regency KPUD, Abi Rizal who is in charge Institutionally, it is also related to the responsibility for the implementation budget for the implementation of the Pilkada. Herminiastuti Lestari, Member of the KPUD Legal and Supervision Division who is responsible for the regulation on the implementation of the regional election, Laelatul Izah, member of the KPUD of the Planning and Data division who is responsible for planning implementation and voter data. Achyar Budi Pranoto, a member of the KPU Division of Human Resources, Voter Socialization and Education who is responsible for the use of media and forms of voter socialization and education in the implementation of the election and M. Ahsin, a member of the KPUD Technical division who is responsible for the implementation of voting. The informant from Bawaslu is the Chairperson of the Bawaslu of Pekalongan Regency, Ahcmad Dzulfahmi who is generally responsible for supervising the implementation of the Pilkada. The informant from the Regional Government organization is Totok Budi M who serves as Assistant for Government and Welfare of the Pekalongan District Secretary as well as the Deputy Chair of the DESK who carries out support activities for the successful implementation of the Pilkada in Pekalongan Regency. running smoothly. Political parties are taken from political parties that have the largest one and two votes according to the results of the 2019 elections

(Carnes et al., 2014) so that in the 2020 elections they can carry candidates for regional heads (Michels, 2001). Informants from the National Awakening Party, Zainal Abidin as deputy chairman of the Tanfidz Council of the THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK a. Political Participation Theory In previous studies, it was stated that the basic principle of community participation in the implementation of PKB DPC and from the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, Endang Suwarningsih as Treasurer of the PDIP DPC as well as a member of the Pekalongan Regency DPRD. Elements of the community or voters were taken according to regional representation, namely: Siti Maemunah from Paninggaran Village, Paninggaran District, mountainous region, M. Rif'an, a resident of Kalipancur Village, Bojong District, Central plains region, Supriyadi from Wonokerto District, coastal plain area, each of whom was a voter residing in the coastal plains. in different geographical and topographical areas in Pekalongan Regency. In addition, the information or data used in this study was obtained from publication reports on the following websites: <https://journals.sagepub.com/> ; <https://www.researchgate.net/> ; <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/> ; <https://link.springer.com/> ; <https://search.proquest.com/> ; <https://journal.unnes.ac.id/> . regional elections must always be based on the principle of openness as the main principle of community participation (Michels, 2001). According to Surbakti (2010 : 140) political participation is the participation of ordinary citizens in determining all decisions concerning or affecting their lives. Budiarjo (2008) generally defines political participation as the activity of a person or group of people to participate actively in political life, namely by choosing state leaders directly or indirectly so that they can influence government policy (public policy). b. Regulation Election Implementation must be based on several principles, as stated in Article 2 of the Election Law No. 17 of 2019 namely direct, public, free, confidential, honest, and fair (luber jujur). Adjusting the regulations for the implementation of the Regional Head Election in the midst of a pandemic, requires specificity compared to when it was carried out in a non-pandemic state. The regulations set by the KPU were then used by the Pekalongan Regency KPU as the basis for formulating a decision as a technical guideline regarding the implementation of the stages of implementation, as SE KPU No 421/PL.02.1-SD/01/KPU/VI/2020 concerning Changes in the number of voters. These technical guidelines serve as a legal umbrella for organizers, political Silvia (in Calise et al., 2010 : 190) defines political participation as "... a series of activities related to political life, at influencing public". decisions in a more or less direct way legal, conventional, pacific, or contentious. According to him, political participation is all activities related to political life, which are intended to influence decision making either directly or indirectly, legally, conventionally, peacefully or force. parties, local governments and all elements of the community and interested parties, in order to provide a lot of information about voting day and all procedures are carried out safely with the implementation of strict health protocols. In the midst of the extraordinary COVID-19 pandemic, more understanding is needed, than just the implementation of democracy which is carried out under normal circumstances. The intensive and deep and continuous understanding given by the parties makes the voters have no doubts when they exercise their political rights while at the TPS, so that there is no anxiety when they are at the TPS to make their political choices, as well as being safe from the threat of transmission. Covid-19. c. Topographical & Geographical Analysis of the Region Topography is defined not only about the shape of the earth's surface, but also vegetation, vertically a height area (from sea level/dpl), human influence on environments social and physical environment, including culture local (Pattinaja et al., 2019). While the study of geography is a relationship man and environment this. In general, geography RESULTS AND DISCUSSION In fact, the concern mentioned above, that public political participation will decrease drastically

during the pandemic, has not been proven. In fact, the political participation of the people in nineteen (19) Sub-districts in Pekalongan Regency has increased by almost 10% when compared to the 2015 Election (Pekalongan Regency KPU Report data, 2021). In the 2015 election, voter turnout reached 68%. (Data from Pekalongan Regency KPU Report, 2016). Pilkada in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic, apparently did not dampen their involvement in forms of community political participation to voice their choices. Explains that community involvement is quite good in various forms of political participation in the involvement varies from voting at polling stations, studies the causal relationship of phenomena on the earth's surface, both physical and those concerning the life of living things and their problems through spatial, environmental, and regional approaches for the benefit of programs, processes, and successful development (Ari Welianto, 2020 ; Priyono et al., 2017). discussions with community leaders and participating in candidate campaign activities. The Regional Government of Pekalongan Regency includes having special policies according to the geography and topography of the region, to overcome the impact of the covid 19 pandemic. As research by Romli (2007 : 7), states that regions can have policies that are tailored to the conditions of their respective regions. The implementation of direct regional head elections is a policy in the reform era which is the starting point for changes to real decentralization policies. The reform of Indonesia's political system has subsequently succeeded in rolling out a policy of decentralization and regional autonomy (Law No. 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government). Regional autonomy is considered to be able to introduce democratic practices at the local level and increase the political participation of people living in areas with diverse geography and topography. himself (Romli, 2007). Likewise, Pekalongan Regency with its unique territory, which is a combination of lowland areas in the north and highlands in the south, consists of 19 sub-districts and 285 villages/ ward. Topographically, there are 66 villages/ ward (23.16%) located in the highlands and 219 villages/ ward (76.84%) in the lowlands. See the following image: Figure 1. Topography and Geography Pekalongan Regency 2021 23.16 Plain area (219 villages/ward) Mountainous region (66 villages/ ward) 76.84 Source: Pekalongan Regency in Figures, 2021

The preparation of the Voter List [in the 2020 Pekalongan Regent and Deputy Regent Election](#) begins with [the submission of the](#) List of Potential Electoral Voters (DP4). This DP4 is submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs to the KPU RI, then synchronized with the last General Election DPT and submitted to the Regency/City KPU, through the Voter Data Information System portal (Sidalih). Updated by the Pekalongan Regency KPU to become the Permanent Voters List (DPT). The number of DPT in the 2020 Pekalongan Regent and Deputy Regent Election, men were 364,052 people, women were 356,602 people, so the total number of voters was 720,654 spread over 2,163 TPS (PPID Pekalongan Regency KPU, 2021). In the face of the extraordinary Covid-19 pandemic situation, the Pekalongan Regency KPU prepared various strategic steps to safely hold the 2020 Pilkada in a pandemic situation. The strategic steps taken are factors that influence the high and low political participation of voters when voting at 2,163 polling stations, in the central plains to the coastal plains and mountainous areas. These factors are: Regulation, Budget, Organize, Voter Data, Voter Political Socialization & Education, Voting Technical and Voter Awareness. 1. Regulation According to information obtained from the Legal and Supervision Division, Herminiastuti Lestari, said that "The first problem faced was change for change at the regulatory level as the legal basis for planning and action as an implication of the national emergency status due to the Covid 19 pandemic".

Implementation of the 2020 Simultaneous Elections in order to carry out the mandate of the Election Law No. 1 of 2015 which was last amended by Law Number 6 of 2020 as the legal basis for the implementation of the Election. The Pekalongan Regency KPU finally issued a decision related to

the Stages, Programs and Schedules as well as other decisions as a technical guideline for the 2. Budget According to information from the Chairperson of the Pekalongan Regency KPU, Abi Rizal, who is also in charge of the Finance, General and Logistics Division, said that "The very crucial stages of course are the stages of Budget planning and Submission of the Election Budget to the Regional Government". This is because in accordance with the mandate of implementation of the Pekalongan Regent and Deputy Regent Election in 2020. This was corroborated by the statement of the Chairperson of the Pekalongan Bawaslu Achmad Zulfahmi, saying that "The making of regulations is aimed at ensuring justice in the implementation of elections in all regions with different topography and geographic areas, as a contestation carried out in accordance with the rule of law, where all citizens must be guaranteed equality of rights, especially the right to vote as a political right." However, regarding regulations, most voters do not know or do not understand, so their political participation is not related to government regulations. [Law No. 10 of 2016 concerning the election of Governors of Deputy Governors, Regents and Deputy Regents](#) as well as [Mayors and Deputy Mayors](#) which states that [the Election Implementation Budget is charged to the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget](#) (APBD). Pekalongan Regency KPU in its stages must also submit a budget to the Regional Government. With the Covid-19 pandemic, Therefore, budgeting is also changed as a form of adjustment to budget needs for the topography and geography of different regions and for the standard health protocol of the population (Yang et al., 2012). Regarding the budget, most voters do not know or do not understand the 3. Organizer The election is carried out by the General Election Commission (KPU) of Pekalongan Regency. KPU as an organization at the district level, is assisted by smaller organizations in the form of ad hoc bodies at the sub-district and village levels (Vergara, 2013 ; Morgan, 2007). Furthermore, they were assisted again by the committee at 2,163 polling stations, in the central plains- coastal plains and mountainous areas as well as officers who carried out updating of voter data. This ad hoc body is the organizer of the election (Howlett et al., 2009). In recruiting ad hoc bodies, the KPU makes a selection in accordance with the laws and regulations. Adhoc bodies that have passed the selection will be subjected to a rapid test. If the results of the rapid test are positive, then polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is performed to ensure the organizers are process of submitting or using it, but the voters are happy to disseminate information to their regions, both in the southern mountains and in the northern coastal areas, in fact their political participation is not affected by the decline in the government budget (Bishin et al., 2006). not in a confirmed state of Covid-19. In the face of public concerns in the implementation of [the 2020 Pekalongan Regent and Deputy Regent Election in the](#) midst of a pandemic, [the](#) organizers prepare their human resources, namely by limiting the age of the organizers between 17-50 years and certainly not being confirmed by COVID-19. This is an effort to make careful preparations related to health protocols so that people do not hesitate to come to the polling stations during voting. Related In the Pilkada organizers, most voters understand the process of submitting and recruiting the Adhoc Agency and understand the technical implementation at TPS. Voters are happy to come to polling stations to their regions, both in the southern mountains and in the northern coastal areas, voters are also comfortable coming to polling stations because they know some of the election organizers so that their political participation can be mobilized or autonomous. 4. Voter Data According to a statement from KPU member of the Planning, Data and Information Division, Laelatul Izah, said that "According to PKPU 19 of 2019 the number of voters per polling station was a maximum of 800 but according to KPU SE No 421/PL.02.1- SD/01/KPU/VI/2020 Regarding changes in the number of voters, for the mapping of the 2020 Simultaneous Election TPS, it was agreed that in the implementation of the

2020 Simultaneous Elections advanced stages, the number of voters per each TPS needs to be rearranged. At the Regional Head Election Previously, there were a maximum of 800 voters per TPS, to a maximum of 500 voters per TPS. The results of the mapping of TPS carried out by PPK assisted by PPS were a total of 2,163 TPS in all regions, which were then uploaded by PPK with the KPU operator into the Voter List application, namely "Sidalih". The List of Potential Electoral Voters (DP4) which has been synchronized with the last Election Voters List, Pekalongan Regency KPU conducts a re-examination by screening voters who do not meet the requirements such as death, double and change of domicile. The results of this examination carried out mapping of TPS by PPK and PPS which was used as "coklit" material (matching and research) in the Election of Regent and Deputy Regent of Pekalongan 2020. This mapping of TPS as many as 2,163 TPS were evenly distributed throughout the sub-district, then per TPS the maximum number of voters was recorded. 300 voters. This is to minimize the number of voters in order to avoid crowds at polling stations. Bawaslu supervision related to updating voter data has hampered the preparation of a comprehensive voter list in the field because voters are the beginning of determining who has fulfilled the requirements as voters to exercise their voting rights (Schumpeter, 2003 ; Bernhagen et al., 2014). In the field, there are those who do not care whether they are registered as voters or not because of a lack of understanding of election regulations related to the voter list, so they do not know if their rights to be registered as voters are violated and tend to be ignored. Here, there are still potential data that do not meet the requirements as voters, such as voters who have died or have moved, are still on the voter list. Through input from the community and Bawaslu, the Pekalongan Regency KPU maintains voter data so as to minimize voter data that does not meet the requirements of not getting a voting notification letter and provides information to voters who have not registered to come to polling stations after 12.00 local time to provide 5. Voter Political Socialization and Education The socialization was carried out by the organizers of the 2020 Pilkada, both the KPU and the ranks below, as well as political education and campaigns carried out by the participants through their campaigners, as well as the use of other campaign media (Seligson et al., 2011). The role of the Regional Government through its apparatus, prioritizing the neutrality of ASN and the role of ASN in the use of voting rights also affects the implementation of clean elections. The public becomes more aware of their responsibilities in the success of the 2020 Simultaneous Regional Head Elections compared to information. the right to vote Related voter data, most voters do not understand the verification process is quite complicated, although there are a few who do not care, but most of the voters are happy if they have registered and get a voter card. The related socialization that voters have to take them to the polling stations on the D day has reached the voters' areas both in the southern mountains and in the northern coastal areas, so they are proactive in coming to the polling stations according to schedule. Voter Socialization and Political Education. the previous regional elections (Nicholson, 2011). According to information from a member of the Pekalongan Regency KPU, Achyar Budi Pranoto's HR Division, Voter Socialization and Education, said that "To achieve high participation, the Pekalongan Regency KPU socializes all stages in the 2020 Pekalongan Regent and Deputy Regent Election to the public, both directly and indirectly to the community". This is done in various ways (Head, 2007), such as face to face, collaboration with community groups, through socialization materials such as banners, billboards, leaflets, through mass media and social media owned by the Pekalongan Regency KPU. According to the administrator of the National Awakening Party, Zainal Abidin, said that "the political education carried out by his party is to carry out party regeneration continuously both in mountainous areas from the mainland to the coast". Cadre is carried out in an effort to provide political education for the community so that they can

use their voting rights and shape the attitudes or behavior of cadres in political behavior wisely (Edward, 2000). Cadreization can also strengthen bases from below to build militant participation. Political Education by political parties is also a mandate of the Political Party Law and is supported by a budget by the Regional Government, because the Government is required to provide financial assistance to political parties whose use is prioritized for political education. According to the administrator of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, Endang, said that "To provide political education to the community by implementing a monitoring, evaluation and agitation pattern, advocacy and 6. Voting Technical According to KPU member of the Technical Division, M Ahsin, said that "In the implementation of voting, the provocation so that the party will easily enter people's lives, both in mountainous areas from the mainland to the coast (Landau et al., 2014). This can increase public political participation. The implementation of the application of this pattern includes conducting a two-way traffic and small group discussion (SGD) dialogue with the community, establishing partnerships or fostered groups in areas needed by the community, according to the topography and geography of the area. For example, the development of traditional herbal medicine in mountainous areas, processed seafood dishes that are mostly on the beach, According to the deputy head of the DESK Pilkada, Totok Budi Mulyanto, "One of the supports given by the government is in an effort to increase public political participation by providing socialization to its officers as well as to voters". This increase in public participation is carried out through political education in the upper class (the have) and the lower class (the have not) in an effort to make the elections successful. provisions of the new norm in the 2020 Pekalongan Regent and Deputy Regent Election during the pandemic period, the rule was applied that the age limit for organizers was 20 years to 50 years for KPPS members. In addition, the organizers must carry out rapid tests and PCR to avoid the transmission of COVID- 19." This is intended so that the organizers are physically ready for their health and are not confirmed by COVID-19, with strict implementation of health protocols. In addition, to avoid crowds, attendance is also scheduled at TPS. The implementation of health protocols is also carried out at polling stations by providing hand washing facilities at the entrance and exit of polling stations, using a body temperature check 7. Voter Awareness According to Rif'an, a resident of Kalipancur Village, Bojong District, in the central mainland region, said that "I came to the TPS because I was interested in the socialization of various parties, including those in the mass media and KPU social media." has passed, regulations, Pilkada organizers, voter data for each family, and voting techniques carried out at polling stations. There is self-awareness as a voter to come according to the schedule and election procedures at the polling station, must use the standard Covid-19 protocol, so that the fear of Covid-19 transmission can be eliminated and there is no need to worry anymore, so it will be safe to be at (thermogun), special booths (for voters whose body temperature is above 37.3°C), Hazmat clothes (worn by KPPS members). to serve voters who are positive for COVID-19), the use of masks, gloves and hand sanitizers for organizers and voters. Then to avoid using the ink together that was previously dipped, it was replaced by dripping it on the finger. Regarding voting techniques, most voters understand the technical process of voting at polling stations, even voters are very happy to come to the nearest polling station in their area, both in the mountains of the south and in the north coast, so that their political participation is very good, TPS locations in all regions. With the scheduling of attendance at TPS not more than 300/TPS, Siti Maemunah from Paningggaran Village, Paningggaran Sub-district in the mountainous region, on July 25, 2021, said that "I received information and socialization from PPS regarding the implementation of the Pilkada, information on Voter Data, implementation of voting, socialization of candidate campaign teams, and limited meetings with

presenting a maximum of 50 people face to face". Siti Maemunah does not know about the regional election regulations and budget. Supriyadi, a voting community from Wonokerto Wetan Village on July 24, 2021 in Wonokerto in the plains region, said that "I know about the Pilkada organizers, my family's voter data, the implementation of the regional elections through campaigns, and voting techniques held at TPS as well as the distribution of attributes as well. campaign with the distribution of basic necessities with a value of around Rp.50,000". Supriyadi admitted that he only knew a little about the regulations and budget for the regional elections that had fallen. Besides that, Supriyadi's house is close to the polling station. He was also interested in coming to the TPS because the TPS display was made by KPPS in a unique, creative and lively manner while also being safe from the spread of the corona virus. The number of factors that influence voter political participation based on topography and regional geography can be seen in the following figure: Figure 2. Many Factors Influence Voter Political Participation

5 factors 7 factors

Mountainous areas 5 factors (organizers, voter data, voter socialization and education, voting techniques, voter awareness Plain area 7 factors (regulation, budget, organizer, socialization and political education of voters, technical voting, voter awareness) Source; Processed data

The political behavior of voters in democracy through the Pilkada is shown by the diverse responses of the people (Landemore, 2014, Hadiati et al., 2020) Insufficient responses, such as inattention in observing the voter list, not understanding regulations and budgets, occurred in mountainous areas, namely Kandangserang, Paninggaran, Lebakbarang, Petungkriyono sub-districts. Even though the voters paid enough attention to the Pilkada organizers, checked voter data, attended socialization and political education, and understood voting techniques, the figure was 70.42%. Meanwhile, in Talun and Doro sub- districts in the plains, voter participation tends to be high at around 79.81%. Most of the livelihoods are farmers, so the people tend to stay at home during the voting. This supports the high number of voters' political participation, in addition to the large number of participants who attend political socialization and education activities. Good/good voter awareness about the activities of Pilkada organizers, voter data, voting techniques are also important factors that influence political participation in this plain area. In the central plains, namely Karanganyar, Kajen, Kesesi, Sragi, Bojong, Wonopringgo, Kedungwuni, Buaran and Karangdadap sub-districts, the livelihoods of many people are engaged in the industrial and trade sectors. Political participation of voters in the central region reached 77.90%. Eight sub-districts in the central region have the highest participation rate in Kedungwuni District reaching 85.72%. There are psychological factors that greatly influence the candidates for Pekalongan Regent in the 2020 Pilkada both from the Kedungwuni area. The coastal areas in Pekalongan Regency are the sub-districts of Tirto, Wiradesa, Siwalan and Wonokerto with a participation rate of 74.88%. The absence of voters to exercise their political rights is influenced by the livelihoods of the residents who are mostly fishermen, causing many residents to not be able to come during the day. voting. Data on the political participation of voters by region can be summarized as follows: Table 2. Political Participation of Voters by Region

No	Region	Subdistrict	Work	%
1	Mountains	Kandangserang, Paninggaran, Lebakbarang, and Petungkriyono	Garden farmer	70.42
2	Central plain	Talun and Doro	Farmer	79.81
3	Central plain	Karanganyar, Kajen, Kesesi, Sragi, Bojong, Wonopringgo, Buaran and Karangdadap	Industry and trade sector	77.90
4	Coast	Tirto, Wiradesa, Siwalan and Wonokerto sub-districts	Fisherman	74.88
			Average	77.75

Source: Processed data

With the high awareness of the public to participate in politics in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the opportunity for the public to come to the polling station is very important (Silvia, 2020). However, the topography and geography of the region also have an important influence, because each region provides equal

opportunities for voters to come to the polling station. Mountain areas with less political participation than other areas, due to the difficult topography and geography conditions and it is not easy to travel in these mountainous areas. The area of the earth's surface is in the form of hills and mountains, there are several road points that often slide when it rains heavily, for the journey to villages/kelurahan and sub-districts, it is through steep uphill roads and steep descents. With a left and right path of high cliffs and steep ravines, While the central plains to the coast, have the topography and geography of the different areas are sloping, the roads

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion above, it can be concluded that first, with the high political participation of voters in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the opportunity for people to come to the polling station is very important. However, the topography and geography of the region also have an important influence, because each region provides equal opportunities for voters to come to the polling station. Mountain areas have less political participation than other areas, due to difficult topography and geography conditions and it is not easy to travel in this mountainous area, such as are wide enough paved and easy to reach, if you travel to all places. The population is more and it is quite close to the location of the village/kelurahan, sub-district and the center of the Pekalongan Regency local government. Soverall, the national target of 77.50% voter political participation could be exceeded in the Pekalongan Regency election in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was an average of 77.75% for the whole. This shows that the local government of Pekalongan Regency is smarter in increasing the political participation of its people (Zavediuk, 2014). traveling to villages and sub-districts, through steep uphill roads and steep descents. Meanwhile, the central plains to the coast, have a very different topography and geographical area, the area is sloping, the roads are wide enough paved and easy to reach, if you travel to all places, it is close enough to quickly get to the location of the village/ward, sub-district and central government Pekalongan Regency. Second, the implementation of the 2020 Pekalongan Regent and Deputy Regent Elections in a non-natural disaster situation, namely COVID-19, can be carried out properly and safely with high voter political participation. High voter political participation was achieved by 77.75% and exceeded the national target. that is equal to 77.50%. So it is also higher

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