

THE INFLUENCE OF THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDONESIA

ASKANA FIKRIANA

IAIN DATUK LAKSEMANA BENGKALIS

afikriana20@gmail.com

HENDRI. K

UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SULTAN SYARIF KASIM RIAU

hendrika@uin-suska.ac.id

Abstract

The Millennial Generation is those born between 1981 and 1996. The high number of millennial voters has increased political movements in Indonesia, especially with the election of a millennial vice president. This is interesting to discuss in the formulation of the problem: 1) What political rights do the Millennial Generation have in Indonesia? 2) How does the Millennial Generation influence political developments in Indonesia? This study aims to determine the political rights of the Millennial Generation and their influence on political developments in Indonesia. The research method used is a descriptive analytical research method.

Based on this study, it is concluded that 11. The constitution is stated in the Law regarding the Political Rights of Citizens based on Article 43: (1) All citizens are entitled to the right to vote and to run for office in elections that are conducted directly, openly, freely, confidentially, honestly, and fairly, in line with the relevant legal regulations. 2) The millennial generation has a significant influence on political developments in Indonesia, as evidenced by the decline in abstention rates and the level of social media access that has made it easier for millennials to access election information and foster political literacy, according to a survey by the Indonesian Association of Indonesian Voters Associations (APIII) and data from the General Elections Commission (KPU).

Keywords: Political Rights, Millennial Generation, Golput.

A. Introduction

In today's era, the term "Millennial Generation" is often heard. Although many still don't understand what the millennial



generation means. The term initially emerged due to the increasingly rapid development of information technology. However, there is no definite time limit for the beginning and end of this group. Generation Y, or Millennials, were born between 1981 and 1996, this is the birth year range used by the Indonesian government, according to data from the Indonesian Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in the 2020 Population Census. Therefore, it can be estimated that the age range referred to as the millennial generation is 28–43 years.

Judging from the age range of the millennial generation, it can be concluded that they already have political rights. However, in Indonesia, there are still minimal opportunities given to millennials to exercise their political rights to the fullest. This undoubtedly impacts the role and desire of millennials to help advance public welfare and help Indonesia become a developed nation. Youth serve as agents of change who must persistently uphold and champion the foundational principles of the Indonesian state. They play a critical role in navigating and guiding the democratic transition toward a more progressive future, particularly by ensuring the realization of a just and fair political process. For a nation to advance, it requires youth of strong character and capability—making political literacy one of their essential responsibilities.¹

2024 is the year of the democratic celebration. Therefore, it is crucial and necessary for the millennial generation to be politically literate. This allows them to actively participate in determining the future of the Indonesian nation and state. However, what will be the impact if millennials are indifferent to politics in Indonesia? It will certainly have a significant impact on political developments in Indonesia. Nearly 69.38 million people are millennials, making up the second-most dominant population, accounting for 25.87%. These results were obtained from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), which released statistical data revealing the composition of the Indonesian population by

¹ Yusrin and Salpina, 'Partisipasi Milenial Mengawasi Pemilu 2024', *Journal on Education*, 5.3 (2023), pp. 9646–53.



age group. This data is the result of the 2020 Population Census. This data provides a more in-depth explanation of the structure of Indonesia's future generations.

Based on the existing data, researchers are interested in conducting further research related to **"The Influence of the Millennial Generation on Political Developments in Indonesia"**.

From this presentation, several issues emerged, namely: What political rights do Millennials in Indonesia have? How does the Millennial Generation influence political developments in Indonesia?

B. Method

The research method used in this study is descriptive analytical research. This legal research approach utilizes a conceptual approach, an analytical approach to secondary data. Secondary data is data obtained indirectly through library research. This secondary data is divided into primary, secondary, and tertiary materials, which are analyzed descriptively and qualitatively.

C. Result and Discussion

A. Political Rights of the Millennial Generation in Indonesia

Political rights are rights that every person has, which are granted by law, to achieve and seize power, position and wealth that are useful for him.² These political rights are granted to all citizens who have fulfilled the requirements to have political rights. The constitutional guarantee of citizens' political rights is explicitly affirmed in the Law on Human Rights, particularly in Article 43, Paragraph (1). This article declares that every citizen has the right to vote and to be elected in general elections,

² Adrianus Bawamenewi, 'Implementasi Hak Politik Warga Negara', *Jurnal Warta Dharmawangsa*, 13.3 (2019), p. 43.



conducted on the basis of equal rights, and carried out in a manner that is direct, general, free, confidential, honest, and fair, in accordance with the provisions of applicable laws and regulations.³ It's undeniable that millennials also possess political rights. These political rights are exercised through general elections (Pemilu). Elections are a means for citizens to exercise their political rights, including being elected, joining political organizations, and directly participating in election campaign activities.⁴

General elections in the Pancasila democracy system are a representation of the basic values of the nation and state by upholding honesty, freedom and confidentiality. These three principles are the standards and principles for implementing elections, where everyone can express their political ideas without coercion or intervention from any party.⁵

Political participation in elections is then regulated through Law No. 10 of 2016, Article 56 paragraph (1) which determines that citizens who have the right to channel their political aspirations are citizens who are 17 years old or have been married. The distribution of citizens' political rights in the election system based on equal standing in the law is directly proportional to the process of conveying the right to express opinions, express themselves, be elected and choose leaders, the freedom of which is guaranteed by the state through the implementation of the principle of holding independent general elections, without any manipulation, the principle of holding these elections is based on Law No. 7 of 2017 concerning general elections, Article 1 paragraph 1 which explains that general elections are a means of expressing the sovereignty of the people, therefore the election system for state administrators is a vehicle for obtaining the mandate of the people's power to regulate the administration of the state.

³ Ibid.,

⁴ Ibid.,

⁵ Chaerul Shaleh, 'Hak Politik Warga Negara Dan Pemilu', *Siyasi: Jurnal Trias Politica*, 1.1 (2023), pp. 17–26.



From the explanation above, general elections are one of the rights that millennials can exercise their voices. Citizens' political rights can be implemented in several ways, as follows:

1. Right to Vote and Run for Office

Every citizen has the right to participate in elections by voting and standing as a candidate.

2. Right to Engage in Government Affairs

Citizens are entitled to take part in the functioning and decision-making processes of government.

3. Right to Freedom of Expression

Individuals have the right to express their opinions freely, including on matters of public and political interest.

4. Right to Hold Public Office

Citizens have the opportunity to be appointed to positions within the government based on fair selection processes.

5. Right to Form or Join Political Parties

Everyone has the right to establish, join, or support political parties and similar organizations in accordance with the law.

6. Right to Peaceful Assembly and Association

Citizens may gather peacefully and form associations or groups to pursue common political or social interests.

7. Right to Share Political Thoughts and Ideas

Every individual has the freedom to communicate and advocate for political beliefs and viewpoints.

The various implementations of political rights held by citizens, particularly millennials, certainly have an impact on political developments in Indonesia. Further research is needed to determine how the millennial generation influences political development in Indonesia.



B. The Influence of the Millennial Generation on Political Developments in Indonesia

The political rights inherent in the millennial generation certainly influence political developments in Indonesia. Why is this so? Indonesian politics in 2024 is considered a celebration of democracy because it will host general elections. Both the presidential and regional elections will be held in the same year, resulting in vibrant political growth and development in Indonesia.

As time goes by and technology advances rapidly, it also plays a significant role in political developments in Indonesia. This is evident in the numerous social media platforms that serve as platforms for citizens to learn about the potential leaders who will govern Indonesia in the future. Based on a survey conducted by the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII), generation Z and millennials have different social media preferences.⁶

The majority (51.9%) of Indonesian Generation Z frequently access the social media app Instagram. Meanwhile, among millennials, the majority (74.09%) frequently access Facebook.

⁶ Diakses dari, [https://databoks.katadata.co.id/infografik/2024/09/24/media-sosial-favorit-gen-z-dan-milenial-indonesia#:~:text=Menurut%20survei%20Asosiasi%20Penyelenggara%20Jasa,09%25\)%20sering%20mengakses%20Facebook.](https://databoks.katadata.co.id/infografik/2024/09/24/media-sosial-favorit-gen-z-dan-milenial-indonesia#:~:text=Menurut%20survei%20Asosiasi%20Penyelenggara%20Jasa,09%25)%20sering%20mengakses%20Facebook.), pada 30 Oktober 2024.





Figure 4.1 Results of the 2024 APJII Social Media Usage Survey

The data above is the result of a survey conducted by APJII from December 2023 to January 2024, involving a total of 8,720 respondents selected randomly and proportionally from 38 provinces in Indonesia.

From the survey results above, it can be seen that the millennial generation also plays an active role in using social media both as entertainment media and information media to find out information that is currently popular or trending.

This makes information regarding presidential and vice-presidential candidates very easy to find and obtain. As technology advances, millennials are increasingly interested in political movements in Indonesia.

This politically literate attitude is certainly the starting point for changes in political developments in Indonesia and can reduce the number of non-voters during the election process. This is evidenced by the statement made by the General Elections Commission (KPU) regarding the 2024 election.

The General Elections Commission (KPU) stated that 203 million people were registered as voters in the 2024 simultaneous

regional elections. Of these 203 million voters, 25.69% were in the Generation Z or Gen Z age category and 33% were Millennials.⁷

This was conveyed by the Chairman of the Indonesian General Elections Commission (KPU RI), Mochammad Afifuddin, in a press conference at the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs Office in Central Jakarta on Monday (November 25, 2024). He said that of the 203 million registered voters, the number of female voters outnumbered male voters.

*"Based on the national permanent voter list, 203,657,354 voters will exercise their right to vote, with a composition of 101,654,993 or 49.91 percent men and 102,111,361 or 50.9 percent women," said Afifuddin.*⁸

"Based on the final voter list (DPT), there are 52,318,841, or 25.69%, Gen Z voters, and 67,731,281, or 33%, millennial voters. Then there are 55,069,832, or 27.04%, Gen X voters, 25,799,756, or 12.67%, baby boomers, and 2,737,644, or 1.34%, pre-boomers," he explained.

Based on the official vote recapitulation conducted by the General Elections Commission (KPU), voter turnout in the 2024 presidential election reached 81.78 percent. This percentage was obtained from 164.3 million valid votes out of a total of 204.4 million registered voters.

Voter participation in the 2019 presidential election, which pitted Joko Widodo-Ma'ruf Amin and Prabowo Subianto-Sandiaga Uno against each other, remains the highest in the last four presidential elections, at 81.97 percent.

Compared to the 2014 election, voter participation in 2019 was quite high, with a 12.4 percent increase. The 2014 election, the first contest between Jokowi and Prabowo, only attracted 69.9 percent of voters. In the 2009 election, voter participation reached 72.6 percent. However, this marked a 7.2 percent decrease from

⁷ Diakses dari, <https://news.detik.com/pilkada/d-7656333/data-jumlah-pemilih-pilkada-2024-berdasarkan-usia-gen-z-25-69-milenial-33>.

⁸ Ibid.,



the 79.8 percent in the first round of the 2004 election. A different pattern emerged in the legislative elections over the past four cycles. In the 2024 Legislative Election, the General Elections Commission (KPU) recorded 151.8 million valid votes, with a voter turnout of 81.42 percent. Similar to the presidential election, this result was slightly lower than the 81.69 percent turnout in the 2019 Legislative Election.

Thus, the 2019 Election can be considered to have the lowest abstention rate since 2004, bucking the upward trend in abstention rates since post-reform elections. The list is as follows:

1. Number of Abstainers in the 2004 Presidential Election: 20.2 percent
2. Number of Abstainers in the 2009 Presidential Election: 27.4 percent
3. Number of Abstainers in the 2014 Presidential Election: 30.1 percent
4. Number of Abstainers in the 2019 Presidential Election: 18.03 percent
5. Number of Abstainers in the 2024 Presidential Election: 18.22 percent

At the time, KPU Chairman Hasyim Asy'ari acknowledged that voter participation in the 2024 Election had decreased compared to 2019. Compared to other countries that implemented a direct election system, voter participation rates untuk Pemilu 2024 di Indonesia, khususnya pilpres, masih tergolong tinggi. Penelitian dari *International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance* (International IDEA) menunjukkan bahwa dengan angka partisipasi Pemilu 2024, Indonesia termasuk dalam kategori partisipasi pemilih yang tinggi.

However, this study also states that the global trend of voter participation is expected to decline over the next decade due to voter apathy driven by rampant cases of corruption by government officials and indecisiveness in law enforcement. High rates of abstention from voting can seriously impact the legitimacy of elected governments. Ujang Komarudin, Executive Director of the Indonesia Political Review (IPR), stated that high



rates of abstention can diminish the legitimacy of the president, vice president, and elected legislative members. This has the potential to impact the stability and effectiveness of future governments.

The government has made efforts to reduce the abstention rate by involving religious leaders. The Chairman of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) for Da'wah and Ukhuwah, M. Cholil Nafis, stated that abstention, or not voting in elections, is haram (forbidden). This fatwa was actually issued by the MUI since the 2009 elections and remains in effect this year.

D. Conclusion

From the explanation of the previous chapters, the following conclusions can be drawn regarding the research on the influence of the millennial generation on political developments in Indonesia:

1. The constitution is stated in the Law regarding the Political Rights of Citizens based on Article 43: (1) All citizens are entitled to the right to vote and to run for office in elections that are conducted directly, openly, freely, confidentially, honestly, and fairly, in line with the relevant legal regulations.
2. The millennial generation has a significant influence on political developments in Indonesia, as evidenced by the decline in abstention rates and the increasing access to social media, which has made it easier for millennials to access election information and foster political literacy. This is based on a survey by the Indonesian Association of Indonesian Voters Associations (APJII) and data from the General Elections Commission (KPU).

Referensi

- Bawamenewi, Adrianus, 'Implementasi Hak Politik Warga Negara', *Jurnal Warta Dharmawangsa*, 13.3 (2019), p. 43
- Shaleh, Chaerul, 'Hak Politik Warga Negara Dan Pemilu', *Siyasi: Jurnal Trias Politica*, 1.1 (2023), pp. 17–26



Yusrin, and Salpina, 'Partisipasi Milenial Mengawasi Pemilu 2024', *Journal on Education*, 5.3 (2023), pp. 9646–53

Diakses dari GoodStats,

<https://data.goodstats.id/statistic/pierrerainer/sensus-bps-saat-ini-indonesia-didominasi-oleh-gen-z-n9kqv>, pada 1 Januari 2024.

Diakses dari,

[Diakses dari, <https://news.detik.com/pilkada/d-7656333/data-jumlah-pemilih-pilkada-2024-berdasarkan-usia-gen-z-25-69-milenial-33>](https://databoks.katadata.co.id/infografik/2024/09/24/media-sosial-favorit-gen-z-dan-milenial-indonesia#:~:text=Menurut%20survei%20Asosiasi%20Penyelenggara%20Jasa,09%25)%20sering%20mengakses%20Facebook, pada 30 Oktober 2024.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

