



LAW ENFORCEMENT OF MONEY POLITICS CRIMINAL OFFENSES IN THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE REGIONAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (STUDY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION SUPERVISORY AGENCY OF SURABAYA CITY)

Muhammad Ardan

Faculty of Law Universitas Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Jawa Timur
21071010005@student.upnjatim.ac.id

Dessy Maeyangsari

Faculty of Law Universitas Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Jawa Timur
dessy.maeyangsari.ih@upnjatim.ac.id

Abstract: The general election is a constitutional mechanism conducted every five years to elect representatives, including members of the Regional House of Representatives, according to the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia and Law Number 7 of 2017. One of the main challenges in its implementation is the practice of money politics, which constitutes a general election criminal offense. This study discusses money politics' classification and law enforcement in the 2024 Regional House of Representatives general election in Surabaya City. The method used is empirical legal research combined with law enforcement theory. Money politics occurred during the campaign period, the quiet period, and on election day, with five reports submitted to the General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City. However, all were dismissed due to failing to meet the elements of legal subject, act, and intent. Obstacles to law enforcement include legal factors, law enforcement officers, facilities and infrastructure, society, and culture. The primary recommendations are education, strengthened supervision, and improvements in the recruitment system.

Keywords: Law Enforcement, Money Politics, General Election, the Regional House of Representatives, the General Election Supervisory Agency Of Surabaya City.

INTRODUCTION

General elections are a national celebration of democracy conducted directly, publicly, freely, confidentially, honestly, and fairly every five years. These elections are held to elect members of the House of Representatives, the Regional Representative Council, the President and Vice President, as well as the Regional House of Representatives, by the mandate of Article 22E paragraphs (1) and (2) of the 1945

Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Specifically, the election for members of the Regional House of Representatives is governed under Chapter IV concerning Regional Government, Article 18 paragraph (3), which stipulates that the regional governments of provinces, regencies, and municipalities shall have a Regional House of Representatives whose members are elected through the general election.

The collection of constitutional provisions concerning the general election served as the foundation for the formulation of Law Number 7 of 2017, constituting the primary legal basis for the administration of the 2024 general election. This legislation repealed several previous laws: Law Number 42 of 2008, Law Number 15 of 2011, and Law Number 8 of 2012.

In its development, Law Number 7 of 2017 underwent one amendment through a Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2022, which was subsequently enacted into law as Law Number 7 of 2023. However, the amendments introduced by this regulation did not affect the provisions related to the practice of money politics. As a result, the regulation of money politics remains solely governed under Law Number 7 of 2017.

The practice of money politics is classified as an Election Crime. Specifically, money politics is regulated under Article 280 paragraph (1) letter j in conjunction with Article 280 paragraph (4) of Law Number 7 of 2017, which states: "promising or giving money or other material benefits to election campaign participants as referred to in Article 280 paragraph (1) letter j. Violations of the prohibitions stipulated in paragraph (1) letters c, f, g, i, and j, as well as paragraph (2), constitute election crimes." The classification of money politics as an election crime mandates that its legal enforcement is governed more specifically by Regulation of the General Election Supervisory Agency Number 3 of 2023, which establishes the General Election Supervisory Agency, the National Police, and the Attorney General Office as the central

institutions responsible for the enforcement of election crimes.

According to Article 286 paragraph (1) of Law Number 7 of 2017, the practice of money politics includes a prohibition against presidential and vice-presidential candidates, legislative candidates for the House of Representatives, Regional Representative Council, provincial Regional House of Representatives, regency/municipal Regional House of Representatives, campaign organizers, and/or campaign teams from promising and/or providing money or other material benefits with the intent to influence election organizers and/or voters. In practice, election crimes involving money politics may occur at various stages of the electoral process, including the campaign period, the cooling-off period, and the voting stage. Such practices aim to influence voters to abstain from voting, to vote in a manner that invalidates the ballot, to vote for a specific candidate pair, to vote for a particular political party, and/or to vote for a specific Regional Representative Council candidate.

In its implementation, the criminal act of money politics may occur at various stages of the electoral process, including the campaign period, the election silence period, and the voting stage. The purpose of such actions is to influence voters to abstain from voting, to vote in a manner that renders the ballot invalid, to vote for a specific candidate pair, to vote for a particular political party participating in the election, and/or to vote for a specific Regional Representative Council candidate.

Sanctions against the practice of money politics are explicitly regulated under Law Number 7 of 2017. Two sanctions may be imposed concurrently if the offense is proven based on a court decision with permanent legal force. First, criminal sanctions, which include imprisonment and fines, with the severity of the punishment adjusted according to the stage of the electoral process during which the money politics occurred. Second, administrative sanctions are in the form of the annulment of candidacy for presidential and vice-presidential candidate pairs and candidates for the House of Representatives, Regional Representative Council, provincial Regional House of Representatives, and regency/municipal Regional House of Representatives by the General Election Commission

The impact of money politics in the electoral process ultimately has detrimental effects on society. This practice tends to produce leaders prioritizing personal or group interests over the public interest that entrusted them with votes. Such leaders are often driven to exploit their positions for personal gain, including efforts to recover campaign expenditures. As a result, this practice gives rise to leaders who are less capable of fulfilling their mandate. Their policies and decisions frequently fail to reflect the people's aspirations and lack accountability. Public interest is often sacrificed in favor of the interests of individuals, donors, or supporting political parties. (Antikorupsi, 2023)

According to information from the official online news portal of the Presidential Staff Office, Deputy V of the Presidential Chief of Staff,

Jaleswari Pramodhawardani, stated there remains a significant likelihood of money politics practices occurring during the 2024 simultaneous general election. The high costs incurred due to political dowries at the initial candidacy stage, along with a society attitude that tends to be permissive toward money politics, are among the key factors hindering efforts to break the cycle of this practice. (Presiden, 2023)

In line with the projected prevalence of money politics in the 2024 General Election, particularly within the jurisdiction of Surabaya City, the General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City reported receiving five allegations of money politics-related electoral crimes. The reports are detailed as follows: 006/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024 dated February 12, 2024; 007/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024 dated February 13, 2024; 008/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024 dated February 14, 2024; 009/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024 dated February 14, 2024—all of which occurred during the quiet period of the campaign—and 012/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024 dated February 21, 2024, during the stages of vote counting and recapitulation of vote count results. (Mas'uda, 2024) These alleged offenses violate Article 278 paragraph (2) in conjunction with Article 523 paragraph (2) of Law No. 7 of 2017, which prescribes a maximum penalty of four (4) years of imprisonment and a fine of up to IDR 48,000,000.00 for violations during the quiet period of the campaign, and Article 523 paragraph (3) of the same law, which provides for a maximum penalty of three (3) years of imprisonment and a fine of up to IDR

36,000,000.00 for violations occurring during the vote counting and recapitulation stages.

The significant number of reports related to such cases highlights the importance of conducting a study on the classification of reports and the factors influencing law enforcement. The aim is to provide solutions to prevent and reduce the occurrence of money politics in the future Regional House of Representatives General Election in Surabaya City. Currently, no specific study thoroughly examines law enforcement against money politics acts in the 2024 General Election for the Regional House of Representatives in Surabaya City, thus presenting a research gap that needs to be addressed.

MAIN PROBLEM

1. How does the classification of money politics criminal offenses report in the 2024 general election for the Regional House of Representatives at the General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City?
2. What are the obstacles and efforts in the law enforcement of money politics criminal offenses in the 2024 general election for the Regional House of Representatives at the General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City?

METHOD OF RESEARCH

This study is an empirical legal research conducted at the Surabaya City General Election Supervisory Agency office. The informants are Aria Pratomi Adi Saputra, S.H., Head of the Subdivision for Violation Handling, Dispute Resolution, and Legal Affairs at the Surabaya City General Election Supervisory Agency, and Ayu Mas'uda, A.Md., Staff

Member for Violation Handling at the same institution. Data were obtained through interviews and field studies, both oral and written, and analyzed using a qualitative method.

RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Classification of Money Politics Criminal Offenses Report in the 2024 General Election for the Regional House of Representatives at the General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City

Money politics refers to using money to achieve specific objectives, particularly in the context of political interests. This practice can occur when a candidate offers material rewards to voters as a form of vote-buying. These rewards are not limited to cash but may also include physical assistance or goods used to support the campaign activities of a particular candidate or pair of candidates. (Zaman, 2016)

Violations of money politics crimes, as outlined in Book Four, Chapter I of Law Number 7 of 2017, are categorized into two types of handling: through findings and reports of election violations. Election violation findings are the results of active supervision conducted by the General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City at each stage of the General Election process. Election violation reports are direct reports submitted by Indonesian citizens with voting rights, election participants, and election monitors to the General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City at each stage of the General Election process.

Based on the above explanation, the General Election

Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City has authority that encompasses its role in election law enforcement, which includes the following functions: 1. The authority to receive and process reports related to alleged election violations. 2. The authority to request statements from relevant parties to prevent and take action against violations of election administration, the code of ethics, criminal election offenses, and election process disputes. 3. The authority to receive, examine, and review election administration, money politics violations, and election process disputes. (Sumodiningrat, 2022)

Table 1. Data on Money Politics Criminal Offenses at the General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City in 2024

No	Date/Report Number	District	Stages of Money Politics		
			Campaign Period	Quiet Period	Election Day
1	12 Feb 2024, 006/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024	Kenjeran			
2	13 Feb 2024, 007/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024	Krembangan			
3	14 Feb 2024, 008/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024	Semampir			
4	14 Feb 2024, 009/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024	Karang Pilang			
5	21 Feb 2024, 012/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024	Wonokromo			

Based on the data above, there were five reported allegations of money politics crimes in Surabaya City, all originating from public reports. Four of the five reports occurred during the quiet period in the districts of Kenjeran, Krembangan, Semampir, and Karang Pilang and were subsequently charged under Article 523 Paragraph (2) of Law Number 7 of 2017. One report occurred on Election Day in the district of Wonokromo and was charged under Article 523 Paragraph (3) of Law Number 7 of 2017. The

following presents a detailed overview of the alleged money politics crime reports in Surabaya City:

Based on the alleged money politics criminal offense Number 006/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024 dated February 12, 2024. The reported allegation of a money politics crime was committed during the quiet period, with the main point of the report stating: "The reported individual instructed their Supporting Team in the Kenjeran District of Surabaya City to distribute dawn attack money amounting to IDR 150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand rupiahs) per person, in denominations of IDR 100,000 (one hundred thousand rupiahs) and IDR 50,000 (fifty thousand rupiahs)." The alleged offense was reportedly committed by a Legislative Candidate for the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia for Electoral District 1, a Legislative Candidate for the Provincial Regional House of Representatives of East Java for Electoral District 1, and a Legislative Candidate for the Surabaya City the Regional House of Representatives for Electoral District 2. (Mas'uda, 2024)

Based on the alleged money politics criminal offense Number 007/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024 dated February 13, 2024. The reported allegation of a money politics crime was committed during the quiet period, with the main point of the report stating: "It is alleged that four members of the Supporting Team of a Legislative Candidate for the East Java Provincial the Regional House of Representatives and the Surabaya City the Regional House of Representatives engaged in money politics practices through a dawn

attack scheme by involving the Chairperson of the Voting Organizer Group in Morokrempangan, Krempangan, a member of the Voting Organizer Group in Morokrempangan, Krempangan, the Party's Victory Team, and the Party Coordinator Team." The money politics crime was allegedly committed by the Chairperson and Member of the Voting Organizer Group, the Party Victory Team, and the Party Coordinator Team. (Mas'uda, 2024)

Based on the alleged money politics criminal offense Number 008/LP/PL/ Kota/16.01/II/2024 dated February 14, 2024. The reported allegation of a money politics crime was committed during the quiet period, with the primary substance of the report stating: "The witness received IDR 50,000 (fifty thousand rupiah) packaged in a small white envelope, along with a specimen of the ballot paper instructing them to vote for a Legislative Candidate for the Surabaya City the Regional House of Representatives Electoral District 2". A Legislative Candidate for Surabaya City, the Regional House of Representatives Electoral District 2, allegedly committed a money politics crime. (Mas'uda, 2024)

Based on the alleged money politics criminal offense Number 009/LP/PL/ Kota/16.01/II/2024 dated February 14, 2024. The reported allegation of a money politics crime was committed during the quiet period, with the core of the report stating: "On Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 04:55 AM Western Indonesian Time, at the Waru Gunung public housing complex in Surabaya, specifically on the second floor, unit No. 204, Block Manyar B,

the distribution of IDR 50,000 (fifty thousand rupiahs) was discovered, allegedly conducted by a supporter of a Legislative Candidate for the East Java Provincial the Regional House of Representatives Electoral District 1 in Surabaya City. A total of seven individuals reportedly received the money." A Legislative Candidate for the East Java Provincial, the Regional House of Representatives Electoral District 1, allegedly committed a money politics crime. (Mas'uda, 2024)

Based on the alleged money politics criminal offense Number 012/LP/PL/ Kota/16.01/II/2024 dated February 21, 2024. The reported allegation of a money politics crime was committed during the vote counting and recapitulation phase, with the substance of the report stating: "The provision of money to influence voters occurred in Ngagel Rejo Subdistrict, RW 5, or at the very least is reasonably suspected to have occurred within the jurisdiction of Surabaya City." The alleged money politics crime was suspected to have been committed by General Election participants, consisting of a Legislative Candidate for Surabaya City, the Regional House of Representatives Electoral District 4, a Legislative Candidate for East Java Provincial, the Regional House of Representatives Electoral District 1, and a Legislative Candidate for the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia Electoral District 1. (Mas'uda, 2024)

Aria Pratomi Adi Saputra, Head of the Subdivision for Handling Violations, Dispute Resolution of Election Processes, and Legal Affairs at the General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City, stated that based on the Minutes of the

Discussion concerning the results of the Integrated Law Enforcement Center discussions which involved the General Election Supervisory Agency, the National Police, and the Attorney Generals Office within the jurisdiction of Surabaya City regarding the reports of alleged money politics crimes numbered 006, 007, 008, 009, and 012/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024, it was concluded that "The legal subject, act, recipient, and objective of the reported cases were not yet fulfilled, and no clear identities were provided. Thus, based on the Integrated Law Enforcement Center discussions, the elements of Article 523 paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of Law Number 7 of 2017 were not met. The cases were consequently dismissed". These reports are dismissed by Article 48 of Regulation of the General Election Supervisory Agency Number 7 of 2022, which stipulates that "If the assessment of an alleged election violation is categorized as not a violation or cannot be proven as an election violation, the findings or reports shall be terminated. The termination, as referred to, shall be decided in a plenary meeting. (Saputra, 2025)

2. Obstacles and Efforts in the Law Enforcement of Money Politics Criminal Offenses in the 2024 General Election for the Regional House of Representatives at the General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City

The law enforcement on electoral offenses related to money politics during the 2024 DPRD General Election in Surabaya City faced several obstacles by the General Election Supervisory Body of

Surabaya City in addressing violations of election laws, particularly in following up on reports of alleged money politics offenses. The Election Supervisory Body of Surabaya City received five reports related to alleged money politics offenses, numbered 006, 007, 008, 009, and 012/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024, all of which were discontinued during the initial review stage.

To analyze these obstacles, it is necessary to employ the Theory of Law Enforcement proposed by Soerjono Soekanto, (Soekanto, 1983) This theory emphasizes five key factors that influence the effectiveness of law enforcement: the legal, the law enforcement officers, facilities and infrastructure, the society, and cultural factors. These components are essential for identifying constraints and formulating strategies that can be implemented to optimize the enforcement of laws against money politics offenses in Surabaya City.

Based on legal factors, Article 523 of Law Number 7 of 2017, which regulates money politics during the three stages of campaigning, the campaign period, the quiet period, and election day, is categorized as a formal offense. In the context of a formal offense, the perpetrator can be deemed to have committed a criminal act once the elements of the offense are fulfilled, regardless of whether any consequential harm occurs. (Topo Santoso, 2023) Therefore, the constraints experienced by the Election Supervisory Body of Surabaya City, particularly the limitations in obtaining evidence and the non-fulfillment of legal subject elements, fail to meet the statutory elements required under the alleged

article. Consequently, this prevents the establishment of legal accountability and the case's progression to subsequent legal proceedings. (Mas'uda, 2024)

The General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City has taken several actions, including seeking information regarding the legal subject, presenting witnesses, and coordinating with sub-district election supervisors to follow up and investigate the alleged violations. However, the results of these follow-ups and investigations have been inconclusive due to the unidentified legal subject involved. Although money as evidence and the location of the incident have been identified, the elements of the violation were not fulfilled because the available evidence was insufficient to prove the linkage to the alleged article, resulting in legal uncertainty in the process. (Mas'uda, 2024) This was further reinforced by the reasons for termination stated in the Minutes of the Discussion for report numbers 006, 007, 008, 009, and 012/LP/PL/City/16.01/II/2024, read by the Head of the Subdivision for Violation Handling, Electoral Dispute Resolution, and Legal Affairs of the General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City, which stated: "the legal subject, act, recipient, and intent of the report have not yet been fulfilled, and there is no clear identity. Thus, in the Integrated Law Enforcement Center discussion, the elements of Article 523 paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of Law on General Election Number 7 of 2017 are not fulfilled and the case is therefore terminated". (Saputra, 2025)

Based on law enforcement officers factors. The Integrated Law

Enforcement Center of Surabaya City encountered difficulties obtaining strong evidence and sufficient witnesses to process alleged violations. Although numerous reports were received, not all could be followed up due to the lack of supporting evidence and unclear witness testimonies. One case that illustrates this obstacle is the discovery of evidence in the form of cash amounting to approximately IDR 23,000,000.00 (twenty-three million rupiah) across report numbers 006, 007, 008, and 009/LP/PL/City/16.01/II/2024.

However, there was no information identifying the parties who gave or received the money nor the origin of the funds. In politics, interest-related factors are complex and cannot be presumed without valid proof. Therefore, every report of alleged money politics must be supported by sufficient evidence to be further processed. Even though money as material evidence was found, if the source and recipient cannot be identified, it is difficult to prove that a violation occurred. (Saputra, 2025)

The General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City undertook strategic measures through coordination meetings with the Integrated Law Enforcement Center. These coordination meetings aimed to align perspectives among relevant institutions regarding General Election violations, particularly criminal acts of money politics. This step is crucial, considering the frequent differences in interpretation during the case-handling process, for example, between the Police and the Public Prosecutor's Office. Therefore, the General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City invited

expert speakers or professionals to these discussions to harmonize institutions understanding. This is expected to ensure that the law enforcement process regarding alleged money politics can be carried out more effectively and by the applicable laws and regulations. (Saputra, 2025)

Based on facilities and infrastructure factors, consist of two main issues: Limitations in the Quality and Quantity of Human Resources.

a) Limitations in the Quality of Human Resources

The General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City faced limitations regarding facilities and infrastructure, particularly concerning human resources within the secretariat. This shortage of personnel posed a significant challenge, especially considering the strong political dynamics in Surabaya City, which demands competent personnel to manage the 2024 Regional House of Representatives General Election process. Therefore, The General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City emphasized the importance of strengthening human resource capacity to enhance the effectiveness of its duties and supervisory functions. (Saputra, 2025)

To enhance the capacity of its human resources, the Election Supervisory Body of Surabaya City has implemented various strengthening programs through internal meetings involving expert speakers who are competent in handling General Election violations. These programs aim to provide a deeper understanding to the secretariat staff regarding the

mechanisms of violation handling in preparation for the 2024 Regional House of Representatives General Election in Surabaya City. In addition, the Election Supervisory Body of Surabaya City also actively conducts internal capacity building through regular assemblies, during which the leadership of the Election Supervisory Body of Surabaya City provides directives to the secretariat staff on procedures for handling violations. These steps are expected to strengthen the institution's readiness to safeguard the implementation of the 2024 Regional House of Representatives General Election in Surabaya City. (Saputra, 2025)

b) Limitations in the Quantity of Human Resources

The limited number of election supervisors has become one of the challenges in the supervision process, particularly at the sub-district level, which only has three supervisors. Meanwhile, at the village level, the number of supervisors is adjusted according to the number of villages, with a scheme of one supervisor per village. This human resource limitation can hinder election supervision effectiveness, especially in covering all stages and areas that need to be monitored. (Mas'uda, 2024)

The optimization of available human resources is being maximized to improve the effectiveness of supervision and law enforcement during the General Election. Additionally, increasing public participation is also a focus in supervising the election. The Electoral Supervisory Agency of Surabaya City encourages participatory supervision by actively involving the public in monitoring the

course of the election. This program is under the coordination of the Prevention Division, led by Mr. Syafiudin, with support from the supervision and prevention staff. Active public participation can contribute to detecting and reporting violations, particularly practices of money politics in Surabaya City. (Saputra, 2025)

Based on society factors. The awareness and understanding of the public regarding the negative impact of money politics on democracy and governance in East Java province shows that only 5.9% of the population rejects the practice of money politics. (Surabaya, 2024) The low percentage of the public rejecting such practices aligns with survey data on public perceptions of money politics:

Table 2. Survey Data on Public Perception of Money Politics in Relation to the 2024 General Election

No	Survey Agency	Public Perception of Money Politics		
		Reason-able	Unreason-able	Not Known / Did Not Answer
1.	Charta Politica Indonesia (Indonesia, 2024)	63,8%	33%	3,2%
2.	Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting (Mujani 2023)	44%	56%	-
3.	Badan Pusat Statistik (Statistik, 2024)	41,91%	58,09%	-
4.	Indikator Politik Indonesia (Indonesia, 2024)	46,9%	49,6%	3,5%

This data shows that money politics is a cycle that is not easy to break, as at least 41.91% of the population justifies money politics. In other surveys, the figure reaches 63.8% of the public who justify money politics. This lack of understanding can lead the public to tolerate the practice of money politics and even potentially participate in such practices, thereby hindering efforts to enforce a clean and integrity-based

democracy. Additionally, the fear or apathy of the public in reporting money politics practices is reflected in the high data figures, with actual reports received by the Election Supervisory Body of Surabaya City totaling 5 reports with report numbers 006, 007, 008, 009, and 012/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024. This suggests that many instances of money politics are not reported. The public is often reluctant to report cases occurring in their communities due to concerns over potential social or legal consequences. Furthermore, there is a perception that reports submitted will not be followed up effectively, even though, in reality, every report that reaches the relevant authorities is processed according to the applicable procedures. This flawed mindset further complicates efforts to combat money politics, as the active role of the public is crucial in preventing and addressing electoral violations. (Saputra, 2025)

The Election Supervisory Body of Surabaya City addresses this issue through political socialization and education to raise public awareness about the dangers of money politics, as mandated by Article 38 of Regulation of the General Election Supervisory Agency Number 3 of 2023. This effort is carried out through campaigns, seminars, and political discussions to provide a more comprehensive understanding to the public about the negative impacts of money politics on democracy and public welfare. Additionally, the Election Supervisory Body of Surabaya City also strengthens participatory supervision by encouraging active public involvement in election monitoring, as mandated by Article 104, letter f of

Law Number 7 of 2017, further regulated by Regulation of the General Election Supervisory Agency Number 2 of 2023. This is done through various activities such as training, coordination meetings with community organizations, and forming volunteer networks. With active public participation, supervision of money politics practices can be improved so that potential violations can be detected and prevented early. (Saputra, 2025)

Based on cultural factors, the strong patronage and permissive culture among the public, in this case, the provision of financial or material assistance by legislative candidates, is often seen as something normal, as demonstrated by the survey data outlined in the previous point regarding challenges based on society factors. Additionally, poverty affecting 116,620 (one hundred sixteen thousand six hundred twenty) people in Surabaya, (Surabaya, 2024) makes the public more vulnerable to promises or other offerings made by those involved in money politics practices. (Saputra, 2025) The primary role is not always carried out directly by legislative candidates but may involve the supporting teams tasked with campaign strategies and mobilizing support. (Mas'uda, 2024)

The General Election Supervisory Agency of Surabaya has taken various strategic steps, including political socialization and education, to raise public awareness about the negative impact of money politics on democracy. Additionally, strengthening participatory oversight has been carried out by encouraging active public involvement in overseeing the General Election so

that practices of money politics can be detected and prevented early, as mandated by Article 104 letter f of the Law on General Election Number 7 of 2017, further regulated by the Electoral Commission Regulation Number 2 of 2023. (Saputra, 2025) Efforts also focus on maximizing prevention and enforcement to reduce and eliminate such practices. Furthermore, optimizing the socialization function is a strategic preventive measure. For example, the Election Supervisory Body of Surabaya City actively issues reminders during each political campaign, emphasizing that money politics violates the applicable laws and regulations. (Mas'uda, 2024)

The Philippines, which has a high patronage culture, is one of the Asian countries with the highest percentage of citizens offered bribes in exchange for votes, averaging 28%. (International, 2020) The solution involves civil society and non-governmental organizations overseeing patronage-based political practices and encouraging active public participation in government oversight and elections. Additionally, it aims to enhance public understanding of the importance of merit-based governance and social justice to prevent the continued reliance on patronage as a tool for obtaining benefits. These efforts are the primary strategies the Philippines promotes to address the patronage culture in money politics. (Komarudin, 2023)

CONCLUSION

The criminal offense of money politics in the 2024 Regional House of Representatives general election, based on Article 523 of Law Number

7 of 2017, is divided into three stages: the campaign period, the quiet period, and the election day. During these stages, the Election Supervisory Body of Surabaya City received 5 reports suspected to involve violations of Article 523 of Law Number 7 of 2017. Four reports occurred during the quiet period, identified as report numbers 006, 007, 008, and 009/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024, which were suspected under Article 523 paragraph (2) of Law Number 7 of 2017. One report occurred on election day, identified as report number 012/LP/PL/Kota/16.01/II/2024, suspected under Article 523 paragraph (3) of Law Number 7 of 2017. All of these reports were halted with the reasoning outlined in the Minutes of Discussion: "The legal subject, act, recipient, and purpose of the report have not been met, and no clear identification was provided. Therefore, based on the Integrated Law Enforcement Center discussion, the elements of Article 523 paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of Law Number 7 of 2017 regarding the General Election are not fulfilled, and the case was terminated".

Implementing law enforcement by the Election Supervisory Body of Surabaya City faces several challenges, which can be analyzed using legal enforcement theory and divided into five main factors. 1. Legal Factor: The limitation of evidence and the failure to meet the legal subject criteria have failed to fulfill the necessary elements of the articles charged. 2. Law Enforcement Officer Factor: Law enforcement officers have encountered difficulties obtaining strong evidence and adequate witnesses to support their

cases. 3. Facilities and Infrastructure Factor: There are limitations in the quality and quantity of human resources, impacting the effectiveness of the enforcement process. 4. Society Factor: The low level of public awareness and understanding of the negative impact of money politics has hindered the enforcement efforts, as many may not recognize the seriousness of such offenses. 5. Cultural Factor: The deeply rooted patronage culture and permissiveness within society have posed significant challenges, as people often accept or overlook practices of money politics due to cultural norms. These factors collectively hinder the optimal enforcement of laws against money politics in the region.

REFERENCE

- [1] Antikorupsi, Pusat Edukasi. (2023). *Waspadai Bahaya Politik Uang, Induk dari Korupsi*, taken from <https://aclc.kpk.go.id/aksi-informasi/Eksplorasi/20230217-waspadai-bahaya-politik-uang-induk-dari-korupsi>, on November 3, 2024.
- [2] Indonesia, Charta Politika. (2024). *Survei Nasional Elektabilitas Calon Presiden – Calon Wakil Presiden Januari 2024*, taken from <https://www.chartapolitika.com/hasil-rilis-survei-nasional-elektabilitas-calon-presiden-calon-wakil-presiden-januari-2024/>, on March 10, 2025.
- [3] Indonesia, Indikator Politik. (2024). *Basis Demografi dan Perilaku Pemilih*, taken from <https://indikator.co.id/rilis-exit-poll-pilpres-2024-indikator/>, on March 10, 2025.

- [4] International, Transparency. (2020). *Global Corruption Barometer Asia 2020: Citizens' Views and Experiences of Corruption*, taken from <https://files.transparencycdn.org/images/GCB Asia 2020 Report Web final.pdf>, on May 09, 2025.
- [5] Komarudin, Ujang. (2023) *Between Clientelism and Patrimonialism: Local Politics of The Philippines and Indonesia*, Jurnal Wacana Politik, Vol 8 (1). <https://doi.org/10.24198/jwp.v8i1.42602>.
- [6] Mujani, Saiful. (2023). *Potensi Politik Uang di Pemilu 2024*, taken from <https://saifulmujani.com/sebanyak-11-persen-pemilih-rentan-terpengaruh-politik-uang/>, on March 10, 2025.
- [7] Presiden, Kantor Staf. (2024). *KSP: Waspadai Potensi Politik Uang dalam Pemilu Serentak 2024*, taken from <https://ksp.go.id/ksp-waspadai-potensi-politik-uang-dalam-Pemilu-serentak-2024.html>, on October 1, 2024.
- [8] Santoso, Topo. (2023). *Hukum Pidana Pemilu*, Rajawali Pers, Depok, p. 102.
- [9] Soekanto, Soerjono. (1983). *Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Penegakan Hukum*, Rajawali Pers, Depok, p. 8.
- [10] Statistik, Badan Pusat. (2024). *Indeks Perilaku Anti Korupsi 2024*, taken from <https://www.bps.go.id/id/publication/2024/12/06/66e636bc0a8fa4f90e0d6c6d/indeks-perilaku-anti-korupsi-2024.html>, on March 10, 2025.
- [11] Surabaya, Badan Pusat Statistik Kota. (2024). *Berita Resmi Statistik No. 10/08/3578/Th. VII*, taken from <https://surabayakota.bps.go.id/id/pres-srelease/2024/08/29/337/persentase-penduduk-miskin-maret-2024-sebesar-3-96-persen.html>, on March 10, 2025.
- [12] Surabaya, Pusat Studi Anti Korupsi dan Demokrasi Universitas Muhammadiyah. (2024). *Tingkat Permisifitas Politik Uang dan Membaca Pola Klientelisme di Jatim Menjelang Pilkada 2024*, taken from <https://www.um-surabaya.ac.id/news/survei-pusad-umsurabaya-54-8-masyarakat-jatim-menerima-uang-tapi-tidak-memilih-calon-yang-memberi>, on March 10, 2025.
- [13] Sumodiningrat, Aprilian. (2022). *Menakar Transformasi Bawaslu Menjadi Lembaga Independen Peradilan Pemilu*, Jurnal Konstitusi, Vol 19 (1). <https://doi.org/10.31078/jk1918>.
- [14] Zaman, Rambe Kamarul. (2016). *Perjalanan Panjang Pilkada Serentak*, expose, Bandung, 2016, p. 240.