

PHENOMENA EMPTY BOXES AND THE RISE OF MILLENNIALS IN THE REGIONAL HEAD ELECTION IN LAMPUNG PROVINCE IN 2024

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ABSTRACT. This research explores the phenomenon of empty boxes and millennial participation in the 2024 Lampung Provincial Election. It highlights the constitutional concern of single-candidate elections, where a win means no competition, but an empty box win results in a government-appointed leader. This issue follows the Constitutional Court Decision Number 60/2024, which eased candidacy requirements. Using a descriptive qualitative method, data was gathered through interviews and FGDs. The findings show that millennials dominated the 2024 Lampung voter list, making up 55% or 3,641,169 of 6,515,869 total voters. In Lampung Barat, Parosil Mabsus-Mad Hasnurin, the only pair running against an empty box, won 87.79% of the vote. At the provincial level, Rahmat Mirzani Djausal and Jihan Nurlela were declared Governor and Deputy Governor for 2025-2029. The study recommends raising public awareness that voting for an empty box is a valid option under election law, allowing voters to voice dissatisfaction with a single candidate. This supports a more democratic process, ensuring elected leaders are accountable to the people.

Keywords: Political Studies; Empty Box; Millennial; Election; Lampung Province

INTRODUCTION

Elections are one of the most crucial parts of the democratic process. With general elections, the people have an active role in participating in the electoral process, this is either directly or indirectly considered capable of influencing the government's active participation in making the best policies for the state and nation. This political participation is also the most important aspect in a democratic state order as well as the main characteristic of the creation of political modernization (Budiarto, 2013: 131). No less important, currently the election of regional heads has also been handed over to the people, where previously elected by the DPR, but since the issuance of Law No. 32 of 2004, the people are sovereign in determining their leaders in the regions for the next five-year period. This law was later refined by Law No. 08 of 2015 concerning simultaneous regional elections (pilkada), (Hollyson and Sundari, 2015: 29). Since the direct involvement of the community in the democratic party, the study of participation and political behavior patterns of the people has become a topic of research and patterns of people's political behavior have become interesting research topics to study.

When discussing the constitutional legal system, several factors are influenced by the democratic process, particularly when it presents single-candidate contests and empty boxes. This issue is closely related to the position of regional heads and the potential resurgence of a centralized

system, which can undermine democratic principles.

Since the simultaneous regional head elections were held in 2015, a number of regions where there was a single candidate, the empty box often threatened the single candidate's vote, even in 2018 in the Makassar City regional head election for example, the empty box succeeded in overthrowing the single candidate with a significant difference in votes. Constitutionally, Indonesian democracy goes one step further backwards by allowing a single candidate to contest the regional head election, because when a single candidate wins the regional head election the candidate wins in the absence of alternative candidates, but when an empty box wins then for some time in the future the area will be led by a person directly appointed by the Central Government, and the potential for the rebirth of the centralization system as happened in the New Order.

The phenomenon of a single candidate in the 2024 Regional Head Elections remains after the Constitutional Court (MK) Decision No. 60/2024 relaxed the threshold for regional head candidacy. The General Elections Commission (KPU) noted that around 48 regions in Indonesia have a single candidate. This means that there are still dozens of candidate pairs who may fight against empty boxes in regional head elections. The process of implementing the regional election based on the laws and regulations related to the election of a candidate pair against an empty box is based on the issuance of the Constitutional Court Decision Number 100

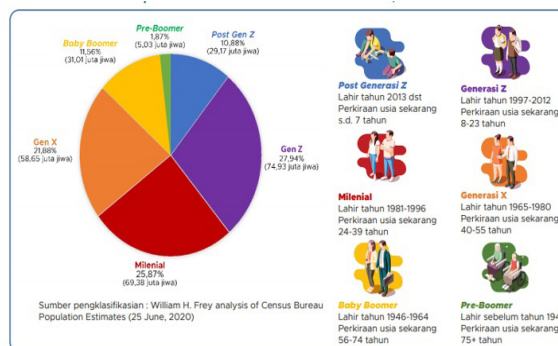
/ PUU-XIII / 2015 which is followed up with the provisions of Article 14 paragraph (1) of the General Election Commission Regulation Number 13 of 2018 concerning Amendments to the General Election Commission Regulation Number 14 of 2015 (in conjunction with the General Election Commission Regulation Number 20 of 2020) concerning the Election of Governors and Deputy Governors, Regents and Deputy Regents, and / or Mayors and Deputy Mayors with One Candidate Pair, which states that regions that only have one candidate pair for regional heads can participate in simultaneous elections.

When examined politically regarding an empty box that wins against a candidate pair in the implementation of the Regional Election, if the candidate pair loses the valid vote or less than 50%, then the next election is repeated in the following year, and based on Law Number 10 of 2016 concerning Pilkada article 54 D paragraph (1) states that a permanent candidate against an empty box must win more than half of the votes to win then in article 54 paragraph (2) if the vote acquisition of the candidate pair is less than referred to in paragraph (2) if the vote acquisition of the candidate pair is less than referred to in paragraph (1). The losing candidate pair may run again in the next election. Article 54 D paragraph (4) because there is no elected candidate pair, the Government assigns an acting Governor, acting Regent or acting mayor, and if the empty box wins, the PJ will lead until 2029, for example the 2018 Makassar mayoral election and the 2020 Makassar mayoral election. Furthermore, related to the continuation of the leadership of the old regional head whose term of office has expired, the Government through the Ministry of Home Affairs assigns Acting Governor, Acting Regent, or Acting Mayor to fill the legal vacuum until the next period of simultaneous elections. (Natasya dkk., 2021).

Apart from the existence of rules related to single candidates, this phenomenon appears in the contestation of democracy in Indonesia, partly due to the failure of political parties to carry out their functions as a means of political regeneration. (Putri dkk., 2025). This condition is certainly not healthy for the sustainability of democracy in Indonesia and the Indonesian constitutional system. Law Number 11 of 2008 in conjunction with Law Number 2 of 2011 concerning Political Parties, states that political parties have several integral functions, including the function of political recruitment in the process of filling political positions through democratic mechanisms. (Andrian dkk., 2024). If political parties fail to carry out their function as a means of

political recruitment, there will be concerns that our constitutional system will be trapped in a number of problems as happened in the New Order era, and will indirectly reduce the quality of our democratic life.

General elections also cannot be separated from the involvement of millennial voters in the success of elections. The millennial voters in question are the generation born in the 90s, which is synonymous with bold, innovative, creative and modern characters. When viewed accumulatively, voters from millennials have a significant percentage. Based on data from the 2020 population census conducted by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the millennial generation in Indonesia born between 1981-1996 amounted to around 69.38 million people with a percentage of 25.87% of the total population of Indonesia. The data is summarized in the figure below.



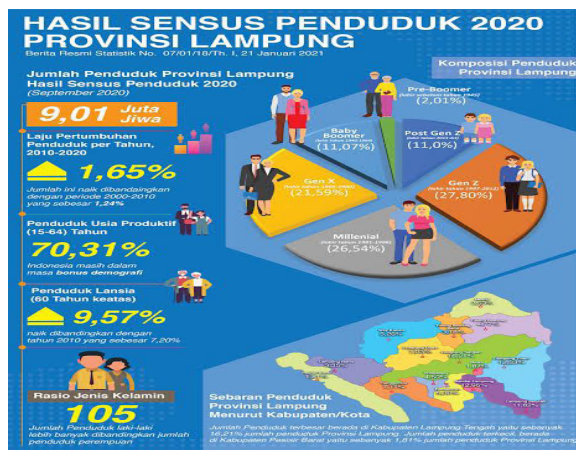
Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020.

Figure 1. Composition of the Indonesian Population by Generation

This significant number cannot be seen as mere numbers or data, but must be a serious concern for the government in creating a more targeted and strategic democracy education for the next generation of leadership in the future. The millennial generation's enthusiasm for the democratic process must be maintained through intensive and continuous supervision, so that various aspects of democratic education can be well internalized at every level of the generation. This is crucial given that citizens' political awareness is a fundamental element in political participation, which acts as a bridge between understanding the rights and obligations of citizens and social life. Participation in political activities reflects the extent to which a person participates in politics. (Artanti, 2023).

In recent years, there has been a lot of political participation of the millennial generation in simultaneous elections. Hassanudin Ali from the Alvara Research Center stated that based on BPS data in 2020, the Indonesian population who have the right to vote or who are over 17 years old totals 191 million people and among those aged 17-36 years reaches 85.44 million people or 44.6%, then

these voters are included in the category of young voters (gen Z and Millennial) (Zen, 2022) The KPU has determined the Permanent Voter List (DPT) for the 2024 Election to reach 204,807,222 voters. Launching from Republika, based on the results of the DPT recapitulation, the majority of voters for the 2024 Election are dominated by generation Z and millennial groups, as stated by KPU RI Commissioner Betty Epsilon Idroos at the DPT Recapitulation Open Plenary Meeting, as many as 66,822,389 or 33.60% of voters from the millennial generation. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2020, the number of millennials reached 69.38 million or around 25.8% of Indonesia's population.



Source: BPS Lampung Province, 2020

Figure 2. 2020 Population Census Results of Lampung Province

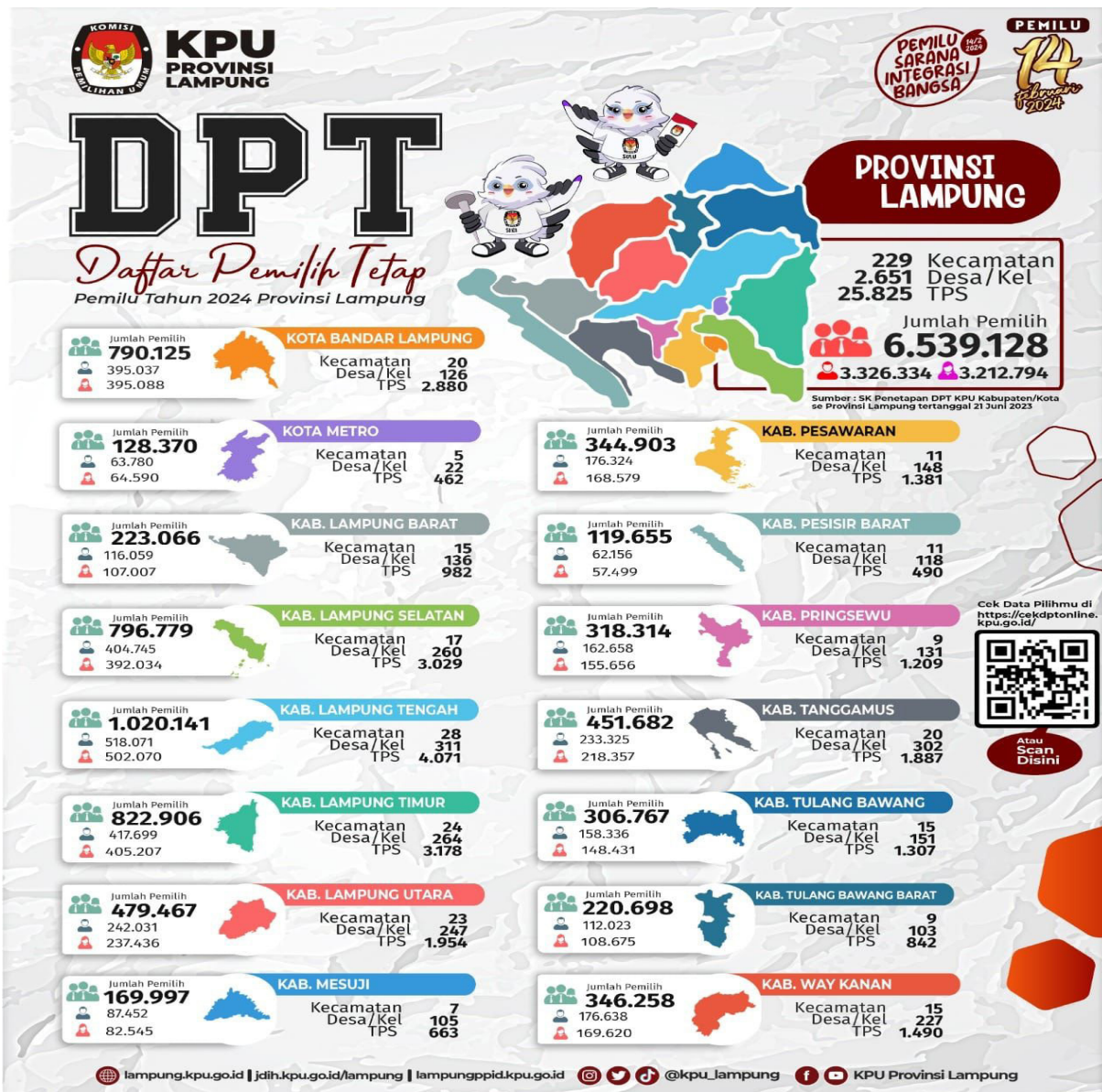
The figure presented above shows the results of the 2020 population census for Lampung Province. Based on information released in the Official Statistics No. 07/01/18/Th. I, January 21, 2021, the population of Lampung Province in September 2020 was recorded at 9.01 million people. Over the past decade (2010-2020), the average population growth rate in Lampung Province was 1.65% per year. This figure shows an increase in the population growth rate of 0.41% when compared to the previous period (2000-2010), which only reached 2.24%. From a development perspective, the population structure has great potential as development capital, especially when the proportion of productive age population dominates. The results of the 2020 population census noted that the majority of Lampung Province's population is dominated by generation Z and millennials. (Purwaningsih & Cahya Widodo, 2021). The proportion of generation Z is 27.80% and the millennial generation is 26.54% of the total population of Lampung Province. Both groups are at a productive age, offering significant opportunities to accelerate economic growth. Demographically in 2020, all generation X and millennial generation are

in the productive age group. Meanwhile, generation Z consists of people in the unproductive and productive ages. At that time, it is estimated that in about 7 years, the entire Z generation will be in the productive age population group category. Lampung Province in 2020 is still in the demographic bonus period because 70.31% of the population is still in productive age. In addition, the percentage of Lampung Province's elderly population has also increased from 7.20% (in 2010) to 9.57% in 2020. (Figure 3)

The General Election Commission (KPU) of Lampung Province has held an open plenary meeting related to the recapitulation of the Permanent Voters List (DPT) for the 2024 Election in Lampung Province. Based on the Minutes of the Lampung KPU Plenary No. 305/PL.01.2-BA/18/2023 dated June 27, 2023, as summarized in the picture above, the Lampung Provincial KPU officially determined the number of DPT for the 2024 Election as many as 6,539,128 voters. Of this total, male voters amounted to 3,326,334 people, while female voters reached 3,212,794 people. The distribution of these voters covers 15 regencies/cities, 229 sub-districts, 2,651 villages/sub-districts, and 25,825 polling stations.

The details of the number of Permanent Voters List (DPT) by region in Lampung Province are as follows:

1. Bandar Lampung City has 790,125 voters, consisting of 395,037 male voters and 395,088 female voters, with 2,880 polling stations.
2. Metro City recorded 128,370 voters, consisting of 63,780 male voters and 64,590 female voters, with 462 polling stations.
3. West Lampung Regency has 223,066 voters with 116,059 male voters and 107,007 female voters, with 982 polling stations.
4. South Lampung Regency recorded 796,779 voters consisting of 404,745 male voters and 392,034 female voters, with a total of 3,029 polling stations.
5. Central Lampung has 1,020,141 voters consisting of 518,071 male voters and 502,070 female voters, with a total of 4,071 polling stations.
6. East Lampung recorded 822,906 voters consisting of 417,699 male voters and 405,207 female voters, with a total of 3,178 polling stations.
7. North Lampung has 419,461 voters consisting of 242,031 male voters and 231,436 female voters, with a total of 1,954 polling stations.
8. Mesuji Regency has 169,997 voters consisting of 87,452 male and 82,545 female voters, with 663 polling stations.



Source : Lampung Provincial KPU, 2024

Figure 3 Lampung Province Voter Data 2024

9. Pesawaran Regency recorded 344,903 voters consisting of 176,324 male voters and 168,579 female voters, with a total of 1,381 polling stations.
10. West Pesisir Regency has 119,655 voters consisting of 62,156 male voters and 57,499 female voters, with 490 polling stations.
11. Pringsewu Regency has 318,314 voters consisting of 162,658 male voters and 155,656 female voters, with 1,209 polling stations.
12. Tanggamus Regency has 451,682 voters divided into 233,325 male and 218,357 female voters, with 1,887 polling stations.
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14. Tulangbawang Regency recorded 305,767 voters consisting of 158,336 male and 148,431 female voters, with 1,307 polling stations.
15. West Tulangbawang Regency has 220,698 voters consisting of 122,203 male voters and 108,675 female voters, with a total of 842 polling stations.
16. Waykanan Regency has 346,258 voters consisting of 176,638 male voters and 169,620 female voters, with 1,490 polling stations.

The regional head election in Lampung Province was attended by 35 pairs of regional head candidates in Lampung Province who had registered. The candidate registration stage itself has lasted for 3 days from August 27 to 29, 2024. The appearance of millennials in the contestation of regional head elections in Lampung Province and the phenomenon of empty boxes provides its own color in the democratic party in this ruwa jurai earth which takes place in November 2024. Some of the candidate pairs are:

Lampung Province

1. Rahmat Mirzani Djausal and Jihan Nurlela, who are supported by partai Gerakan Indonesia Raya (Gerindra), Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa (PKB), Partai Demokrat, Partai Nasional Demokrat (Nasdem), Partai Golongan Karya Golkar), and Partai Keadilan Sejahtera (PKS)
2. Arinal Djunaidi (incumbent) and Sutono, who were nominated by partai Demokrasi Indonesia Perjuangan (PDI Perjuangan)

South Lampung Regency

1. Radityo Egi Pratama and M. Syaiful Anwar are supported by Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa (PKB), Partai Gerakan Indonesia Raya (Gerindra), Golongan Karya, Partai Garuda, Partai Persatuan Pembangunan (PPP), Partai Buruh, Partai Nasional Demokrat, Partai Amanat Nasional (PAN), Partai Demokrat, and Partai Serikat Indonesia (PSI).
2. Nanang Ermanto and Antoni Imam are supported by PDI Perjuangan and Partai Keadilan Sejahtera (PKS).

North Lampung Regency

1. Hamartoni Ahadis and Romli are supported by Partai Gerindra, PDI Perjuangan, NasDem, and PAN.
2. Ardian Saputra and Sofyan are supported by Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa, Golkar, PKS, Demokrat, and PBB.
3. West Lampung Regency
4. Parosil Mabsus and Mad Hasnurin are supported by PDI Perjuangan, NasDem, Demokrat, Golkar, PKB, PAN, Gerindra, PKS, and PSI.

Tulang Bawang Regency

1. Winarti and Reynata Irawan are supported by PDI Perjuangan and Gerindra.
2. Qudrotul Ikhwan and Hankam Hasan are supported by PKB, Golkar, NasDem, PKS, and Demokrat.
3. Hendriwansyah and Danial Anwar are supported by PAN and Perindo.

Tanggamus Regency

1. H. Moh. Saleh Asnawi and Agus Suranto are supported by Gerindra, PAN, PKB, PPP, and NasDem.
2. Dewi Handajani and Ammar Siradjuddin are supported by PDI Perjuangan, Golkar, PKS, and Perindo.

East Lampung Regency

1. Ela Siti Nuryamah and H. Azwar Hadi are supported by NasDem, PKS, PAN, PKB, Golkar, Gerindra, PPP, PDI Perjuangan, and Demokrat.

Way Kanan Regency

1. Ali Rahman and Ayu Asalasiyah are supported by Demokrat, Gerindra, PKB, PKS, PAN, and PPP.
2. Resmen Kadapi and Cik Raden are supported by NasDem, Golkar, and PDI Perjuangan.

Pesawaran Regency

1. Aries Sandi Darma Putra and Supriyanto are supported by PPP, Demokrat, and Golkar.
2. Nanda Indira and Antonius Muhammad Ali are supported by Gerindra, PDI Perjuangan, PKB, PKS, PAN, PKN, Perindo, PBB.

Pringsewu Regency

1. Adi Erlansyah and Hisbullah Huda are supported by PAN and Demokrat.
2. Ririn Kuswantari and Wiriawan Sada M are supported by Golkar, NasDem, PPP, Perindo, and PSI.
3. Fauzi and Laras Tri Handayani are supported by PDI Perjuangan and PKB.
4. Riyanto Pamungkas and Umi Laila are supported by PKS and Gerindra.

Mesuji Regency

1. Elfianah and M. Yugi Wicaksono are supported by NasDem, Golkar, and Demokrat.
2. Syamsudin and Ahmad Yulivan Nurullah are supported by PDI Perjuangan.
3. Suprpto and Fuad Amrulloh are supported by PAN, PKS, Gerindra, and PPP.
4. Edi Azhari and Tri Isyani are supported by PKB.

West Tulang Bawang Regency

1. Novriwan Jaya and Nadirsyah are supported by PAN, Buruh, PDI Perjuangan, Demokrat, Gerindra, Golkar, Hanura, PKS, PKB, NasDem, and Perindo.

West Pesisir Regency

1. N. Lingga Kusuma and Erlina are supported by PKB, Demokrat, and PAN.
2. Septi Heri Agusnaeni and Ade Abdul Rochim are supported by NasDem and Gerindra.
3. Dedi Irawan and Irawan Topan are supported by PPP, PKS, and PDI Perjuangan.

Bandar Lampung City

1. Eva Dwiana and Deddy Amarullah Yacub are supported by NasDem, PKS, PAN, PKB, Golkar, Gerindra, PPP, Demokrat, and PSI.
2. Reihana and H. Aryodhia Febriansya SZP are supported by PDI Perjuangan.

Based on the preliminary data we obtained, there were three districts in Lampung Province (East Lampung, West Lampung and West Tulang Bawang) that fought empty boxes. The fight initially seemed unbalanced because in political terms, the empty box was not a candidate who had the political resources to compete. This certainty followed the end of the period of extension of registration for regional head candidates from September 2 to September 4, 2024 according to the predetermined time limit.

Observing the political map in the three regions (East Lampung Regency, West Lampung Regency and West Tulang Bawang Regency) there is only a single candidate, for the East Lampung Regional Head Election now there is only the name of the candidate pair Ela Siti Nuryamah and Azwar Hadi who have registered themselves in the registration of regional head candidates in the local district.

Meanwhile, incumbent candidate Dawam Rahardjo after the East Lampung KPU's decision to reject Dawam's registration with Ketut Erawan was carried and supported by PDI Perjuangan. According to the researchers' analysis, the incumbent still has hope through the dispute process at the East Lampung Regency Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu). It remains to be seen whether the dispute report meets the elements to be processed; from this situation, the East Lampung Regional Election in 2024 can be said to be "interesting" because the process of withdrawing PDI Perjuangan support to carry Ela-Azwar to Dawam-Ketut led to rejection. If we learn from the election in Makassar against an empty box and the empty box is declared victorious, it could happen in Lampung.

Meanwhile in West Tulang Bawang Regency, the Pilkada contestation in the local district can be said to be "warm", because the candidate pairs who are advancing will have other candidate pairs and of course there is a movement to campaign for the presence of an empty box in the West Tulang Bawang Regency Pilkada because political parties have agreed to choose not to support other candidates.

Furthermore, in West Lampung Regency, the expertise of the incumbent candidate Parosil Mabsus to be the only candidate for regional head in the district according to the researcher's analysis is because the incumbent is considered successful as a political coach in West Lampung Regency; from the beginning, no other candidate's name was heard to be running in the West Lampung Regency regional election contestation, even if he only registered with a political party. In other words, the party agreement for a coalition is still too dominant the influence of the incumbent who is able to reduce the absence of

political party dynamics in West Lampung Regency, and the minimum limit of political party support to carry a regional head. Even with the decision of the Constitutional Court Number 60, political parties chose to be reluctant to offer their own regional head candidates. According to the researcher's analysis, it is only the intention of political parties to be able to present other candidates as alternative candidates if they see a single candidate.

Gelora's research, Mahardika (2018) states that in a number of regions empty boxes won political contestation. The victory of the empty box in the contestation of democracy is not only proof of the public's saturation with the ineffectiveness of the regeneration function of political parties, but also proves that the single candidate carried by all political parties is not necessarily supported by the people. In the Indonesian constitutional system, the empty box phenomenon certainly has implications for a number of issues.

The purpose of this research is to explore the phenomenon of empty boxes and the emergence of millennials in the 2024 Lampung Provincial Election. This research is interesting to study, because if we relate it constitutionally, Indonesian democracy goes one step further backwards with the allowance of a single candidate contesting the regional head election, because when a single candidate wins the regional head election the candidate wins in the absence of alternative candidates, but when an empty box wins then for some time in the future the area will be led by a person directly appointed by the Central Government, and the potential for the rebirth of the centralization system as happened in the New Order. In addition, there is no other research that examines the phenomenon of empty boxes and the emergence of millennials in regional head elections in Lampung Province and its implications in the Indonesian constitutional system with a case study in Lampung Province.

METHOD

This research uses qualitative methods as explained by Sugiyono (2016) which states that qualitative researchers must have an open mind and be ready to explore various points of view in the field. This method is very suitable for studying complex and dynamic phenomena in accordance with this research study. In other words, this research uses qualitative methods with descriptive analysis techniques. Primary data was collected through interviews with key informants relevant to the study of this research, namely from the Regional House of

Representatives in Lampung Province, the Lampung Provincial Election Commission, academics from the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Lampung University, policy and political observers from Lampung University. Secondary data was obtained from literature study, namely documents relevant to the study of this research. Data were analyzed through the stages of data reduction to conclusion drawing.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Mechanism for the Implementation of Regional Head Elections Based on Legislation Related to Elections with Single Candidates Against Empty Boxes

When it comes to the constitutional legal system, there are several things that are affected by the democratic process that presents the contestation of single candidates and empty boxes; the issue is related to the position of regional heads to the potential for the rebirth of the centralization system. Since the simultaneous regional head elections were held in 2015, a number of regions where there was a single candidate, empty boxes have often threatened the votes of single candidates, even in 2018 in the Makassar City regional head election for example, empty boxes succeeded in overthrowing single candidate candidates with a significant difference in votes (Mip & Purwaningsih, 2020). Constitutionally, Indonesia's democracy goes one step further backwards by allowing a single candidate to contest the regional head election, because when a single candidate wins the regional head election the candidate wins in the absence of an alternative candidate, but when an empty box wins then for some time in the future the area will be led by a person directly appointed by the Central Government, and the potential for the rebirth of the centralization system as happened in the New Order.

The phenomenon of a single candidate in the 2024 Regional Head Elections remains after the Constitutional Court (MK) Decision No. 60/2024 relaxed the threshold for regional head candidacy. The General Elections Commission (KPU) noted that around 48 regions in Indonesia have a single candidate. This means that there are still dozens of candidate pairs who are likely to fight against empty boxes in regional head elections (Mulyadi dkk., 2024).

The process of implementing the regional election based on the laws and regulations related to the election of a candidate pair against an empty box is based on the issuance of the Constitutional Court

Decision Number 100 / PUU-XIII / 2015 which is followed up with the provisions of Article 14 paragraph (1) of the General Election Commission Regulation Number 13 of 2018 concerning Amendments to the General Election Commission Regulation Number 14 of 2015 (in conjunction with the General Election Commission Regulation Number 20 of 2020) concerning the Election of Governors and Deputy Governors, Regents and Deputy Regents, and / or Mayors and Deputy Mayors with One Candidate Pair, which states that regions that only have one pair of candidates for regional heads can participate in simultaneous elections.

The phenomenon of a single candidate first appeared in 2015, at that time, there were a number of regions that almost failed to hold Pilkada, due to the absence of a strong legal basis regarding the legality of a single candidate, then, the decision of the Constitutional Court succeeded in unraveling the problem (Marbun dkk., 2022). In the first period of simultaneous regional elections, the regions that held simultaneous regional elections with a single candidate were Blitar Regency, Tasikmalaya Regency, and North Central Timor Regency in East Nusa Tenggara Province. The results of simultaneous regional elections with a single candidate in 2015 in several cities such as Blitar city, for example, the data obtained by the candidate was 84.9% against the empty box with 15.1% of the votes. Meanwhile in North Central Timor District, the candidate obtained 79.89% and the empty box 21.11%, then Tasikmalaya District the candidate obtained 67.35% of the votes and the empty box obtained 32.65%. The argument stating that the community really wants only one candidate to compete in the Pilkada can be justified by the results of the 2015 simultaneous Pilkada, besides the consequences of the birth of an acting for a long time has not occurred in the first phase of simultaneous Pilkada.

The philosophical meaning that can be learned from direct regional elections is related to the presence of individuals who have the nature of a truly autonomous force, both in the context of exercising their voting rights, as well as to make choices by not exercising their political rights. This means that the connection actually lies in the sovereignty that is fully in the hands of the people, so that the presence of the community really becomes the main stakeholder of the political process in the election (Silalahi, 2022). Individuals who truly have autonomous power in society are usually so loved by their people that they would not choose another leader. This inherent character can be found in Tri Rismaharini, the Mayor of Surabaya a few years ago, who really worked

for her people. The people's love for him scared off potential competitors and avoided the resistance of the "empty box group", so that no one dared to run in the 2015 simultaneous regional elections, although finally after the extension of the second stage of the registration period there were finally competing candidates who appeared. This happened because they thought it would be difficult to defeat an incumbent who had a high level of electability such as Tri Rismaharini.

Furthermore, the phenomenon that occurred in 2017 was the implementation of simultaneous regional elections that provided opportunities for single candidates to participate. In 2017, the number of single candidates contesting instead of decreasing, but actually increasing (Sanjaya & Budiarsa, 2024). There are 9 (nine) regions whose elections only have a single candidate, with the results of simultaneous elections with a single candidate in 2017 as follows:

1. Tebing Tinggi City: 71.32% candidates, 28.68% empty box,
2. Tulang Bawang Regency: 97.49% candidates, 2.5% empty box,
3. Pati Regency: 72.94% candidates, 27.06% empty box
4. Landak Regency, 96.62% candidates, 3.38% empty box
5. Central Maluku Regency, 70.79% candidates, 29.21% empty box
6. Jayapura Regency, candidate 84.34%, empty box 15.66%
7. Tambora Regency, candidate 85.98%, empty box 14.02%
8. Sorong Regency, candidate 78.09%, empty box 21.91%
9. Buton Regency, candidate 78.09%, empty box 55.08, empty box 44.92% 7.

Based on the data above, that in the simultaneous elections in 2017, although it confirms that the existence of a single candidate is the desire of most of the people, but in Buton Regency a single candidate really faces a tough battle with an empty box. The vote difference between the empty box and the single candidate was no more than 11%. This shows that although in terms of results, single candidates won all Pilkada contestations in a number of regions, but in terms of quality this proves that actually in some regions single candidates do not get enough support from the people. Meanwhile, in the 2018 simultaneous regional elections, the phenomenon of single candidates increased significantly to 16 (sixteen) candidates in a number of regions, with the results

of simultaneous regional elections with single candidates. Those regions are:

1. Deli Serdang Regency,
2. North Padang Lawas Regency,
3. Prabumulih City,
4. Pasuruan Regency,
5. Lebak Regency,
6. Tangerang Regency,
7. Tangerang City,
8. Tapin Regency,
9. Southeast Minahasa Regency,
10. Enrekang Regency,
11. Makassar City
12. Mamasa Regency
13. Central Mamberamo Regency
14. Puncak Jaya Regency.

In 2024, of the 16 pairs of candidates who participated in the Pilkada in Lampung Province, in the development and subsequent political situation it turned out that only West Lampung Regency fought an empty box.

The Emergence of Millennials in the Regional Head Election in Lampung Province

Several studies on the level of millennial voter participation have begun to be carried out with several hypotheses, such as those found by (Pew Research Center) that this generation is considered a unique generation compared to previous generations (Syahid et al., 2024). This is because the life of the millennial generation cannot be separated from communication and information technology, especially the internet. Millennials live in an era of information that is obtained openly from the internet, including choices in the online market. This unique historical experience of millennials has shaped their relationship with politics and their community. (Young S.J. et.al 2013: 152) In terms of prospective leaders and the winning team, of course the magnitude of the potential votes that can be taken from millennial voters will be one of the main focuses in making the right campaign tactics and strategies with the aim of attracting sympathy and support so that votes from millennial voters can be optimized. Therefore, it is very likely to be glimpsed by various interested groups. In the rivalry of elections / regional elections. (Aziz 2018: 45). Millennial voter behavior has characteristics that are usually still unstable and apathetic, lack of political knowledge, tend to follow groups of friends and they are just learning politics, especially in general elections. (Sallim dkk., 2024). The space where they learn politics is usually not far from the space that is considered to provide a sense

of comfort in themselves, as for the spaces where they learn politics, including the family room, which is a factor that influences their perspective on the ins and outs of politics they want, then the influence of peers, which is very much considered because this can dominantly change the pattern of thinking in democracy (Gaffar: 2006).

The 2024 general election is a place to show their increasingly influential role, arouse enthusiasm, and voice political issues. Their participation can influence the direction of policies and issues raised in society. The General Elections Commission (KPU) has determined that the permanent voters list (DPT) for the 2024 elections reaches 204,807,222 voters. A total of 66,822,389 or 33.60 percent of voters from the millennial generation. Meanwhile, voters from generation Z are 46,800,161 voters or 22.85 percent. These two generations dominate the 2024 election voters, which is 56.45 percent of the total number of voters. This figure shows that Gen Z and millennials have the potential to shape change and make a positive contribution to decision-making.

Many gen Z and millennials think that democratic parties are only for the benefit of some groups. The decision to abstain or exercise the right to vote is actually a personal right of each individual. As citizens, gen Z and millennials who are old enough have an obligation to make the 2024 elections a success by exercising their right to vote (Sallim dkk., 2024). Based on findings in the field, some gen Z and millennials see abstention as a way to express their dissatisfaction with the political system in this country.

Others, on the other hand, may consider abstention itself an irresponsible act. Thus, some feel that participation in the political process is more effective and impactful than abstention to bring about the desired change. Gen Z and millennials are considered to have a tendency to be reluctant to get involved or even apathetic. However, with the easy access to digital space through trends, politics is considered to have successfully entered and influenced the public opinion of both generations through digital space, including the world of politics, policies, and even elections. As a result of this convenience, there are various reactions both positive and negative from gen Z and millennials. Some of them may choose not to participate in elections as a form of protest or distrust of the political system. They may feel that their vote will not make a significant difference or that the candidates available do not meet their expectations.

Gen Z and millennials use social media as a platform to voice their political views. Social media

platforms are used to criticize candidates, political parties, and the political system in Indonesia (Manik dkk., 2024). Not all gen Z and millennials have a negative reaction to the political situation in this country. The reason is, many of them are starting to be aware of politics. This happens because the campaign process of each candidate uses a more modern and trendy way to attract their attention. Some candidates seem to bring digital trends to the real world such as billboards with AI images, contemporary jargon, and supporting video advertisements to attract attention.

Known for its apathetic tendencies, the 2024 elections remain a benchmark of trust for Indonesia in the future. There are many ways that the KPU and the 2024 Election candidates have done to attract the attention of gen Z and millennials, which seems to be not in vain in the virtual and real world. Some of them are able to express their opinions widely through the digital and real world to determine which candidate they consider suitable. With this, it is hoped that the 2024 General Election can increase the confidence of the wider community, including gen Z and millennials, to determine the fate of Indonesia in the future (Chumaeson, 2022).

The appearance of millennials (young voters) in Lampung Province, dominating in the permanent voter list (DPT) of the Lampung Provincial Election in 2024 reached 55% or 3,641,169 voters from a total of 6,515,869 voters.

Based on data from the Lampung Provincial General Election Commission (KPU), there were 6,515,869 people, consisting of 3,304,463 men and 3,211,406 women spread across regencies / cities, 229 sub-districts and 2,651 villages. Of these, young voters, namely the millennial generation and generation Z, dominate with a total of 3,641,169 voters. Consisting of 2,235,583 voters or 34.31% of the millennial generation (aged 27-42 years) and 1,405,586 or 21.57% of voters from generation Z (aged 17-26 years). Meanwhile, the number of voters from generation X (aged 43-58 years) was 1,815,233 people or 27.86%, voters from the baby boomer generation (aged 59-77 years) 937,440 people or 14.39% and elderly voters (over 78 years) as many as 122,037 people or 1.87%.

The Lampung Provincial General Election Commission also noted that there were 22,706 voters with disabilities in the 2024 elections, with details of 9,271 voters with physical disabilities, 1,486 voters with intellectual disabilities, 3,768 voters with visual disabilities, 3,987 voters with speech sensory disabilities, and 1,407 voters with hearing disabilities.

Data obtained from the KPU of Bandar Lampung City showed that the number of potential

voters in the capital of Lampung Province in the 2024 simultaneous regional head elections increased by 4,124 people. The number of potential voters in the 2024 regional elections in Bandar Lampung City reached 794,249 people, more than the 2024 election voters set at 790,125 people. (Figure 4)

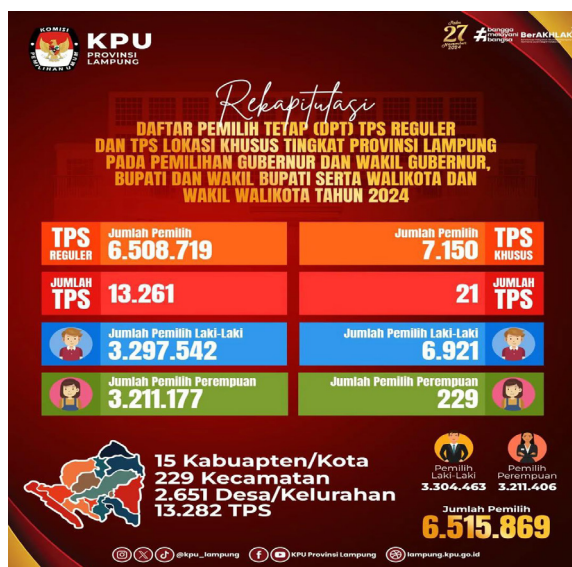


Source: KPU Lampung Province, 2024

Figure 4. Number of Voters by Age Group and Generation

Komisi Pemilihan Umum (KPU) The Lampung Province revealed that the total number of Daftar Pemilih Tetap (DPT) for the 2024 election reached 6,539,128 voters. Based on the image above, the KPU Provinsi Lampung has also mapped the DPT based on voter age groups. The results indicate that the 2024 General Election (Pemilu) in Lampung Province is dominated by young voters, with the largest proportion coming from the millennial generation. The details of the DPT mapping based on voter age groups in Lampung Province are as follows:

1. Elderly (above 76 years old): 145,210 voters or 2.22% of the total DPT.
2. Baby Boomers (57-76 years old): 1,145,273 voters or 17.51% of the total DPT.
3. Generation X (40-55 years old): 1,980,330 voters or 30.28% of the total DPT.
4. Millennial Generation (25-39 years old): Dominates with 2,094,127 voters or 32.02% of the total DPT.
5. Generation Z (17-24 years old): 1,174,188 voters or 17.96% of the total DPT.
6. Voters under 20 years old: 576,128 voters or 8.81% of the total DPT.



Source: KPU Lampung Province, 2025

Figure 5. Recapitulation DPT



Source: KPU Lampung Province, 2024

Figure 6. Number of Voters by Age Group and Generation

Based on the picture above, the Lampung Province General Election Commission (KPU) has also determined Daftar Pemilih Tetap (DPT) for Pemilihan Kepala Daerah (Pilkada) of 6,515,869 voters. With 3,297,542 male voters and 3,211,177 female voters. Spread in 15 regencies / cities, 229 sub-districts, 2,651 villages / sub-districts, and 13,282 polling stations. Of these, young voters, namely the millennial generation and generation Z, dominate with a total of 3,642,169 or around 55% of the total voters. The details of the data consist of the millennial generation (27-42 years) contributing 2,235,583 voters or 34.31%, of the total DPT, and generation Z (17-26 years) as many as 1,405,586 voters or 21.57%. Meanwhile, the number of voters from the generation X group (43-58 years old) was 1,815,233 or 27.86% of voters, as well as from the baby boomer generation (57-77 years old) as many

as 937,440 or 14.39% of voters, and the last elderly voters (over 78 years old) as many as 122,037 or 1.87% of voters from the total DPT.

Political and Policy Studies of Empty Boxes against Candidates in the Implementation of Regional Head Elections

The process of implementing the regional election based on the laws and regulations related to the election of a candidate pair against an empty box is based on the issuance of Constitutional Court Decision Number 100/PUU-XIII/2015 which is followed up with the provisions of Article 14 paragraph (1) of General Election Commission Regulation Number 13 of 2018 concerning Amendments to General Election Commission Regulation Number 14 of 2015 (in conjunction with General Election Commission Regulation Number 20 of 2020) concerning the Election of Governors and Deputy Governors, Regents and Deputy Regents, and/or Mayors and Deputy Mayors with One Candidate Pair, which states that regions that only have one candidate pair for regional head can participate in the simultaneous regional election (Yantomi, 2022) there were 16 candidates who fought against empty boxes for the election of Mayor and Regent, which in Makassar city the fact was that people chose empty boxes more than single candidates who supported political parties, so automatically the winner was the empty box itself. This research is a normative legal research with sources of legal material from secondary data collected through literature study with deductive conclusion drawing techniques. The results of this study indicate that, the process of implementing the Regional Head General Election based on the laws and regulations related to the Election of Candidate Pairs against the Empty Box is based on the issuance of the Constitutional Court Decision Number 100/PUU-XIII/2015 which was followed up with the provisions of Article 14 paragraph (1). When examined politically regarding an empty box that wins against a candidate pair in the implementation of the Regional Election, if the candidate pair loses the valid vote or less than 50%, then the next election is repeated in the following year, and based on Law Number 10 of 2016 concerning Regional Elections article 54 D paragraph (1) states that a permanent candidate against an empty box must win more than half of the votes to win then in article 54 paragraph (2) if the vote acquisition of the candidate pair is less than referred to in paragraph (2) if the vote acquisition of the candidate pair is less than referred to in paragraph (1). The losing candidate pair may run again in the next election. Article 54 D paragraph (4) because

there is no elected candidate pair, the Government assigns an acting Governor, acting Regent or acting mayor, and if.

The empty box phenomenon is not only a technical problem related to less than ideal election scheduling and readiness, but is an early indication of a democratic crisis. The rise of the (Indarto & Fikri, 2022). The phenomenon of empty boxes will definitely have an impact on the quality of voter participation.” Not to mention if we highlight the public assumption that a single candidate will automatically win. According to the researcher’s analysis, in order to maintain the quality of democracy, it is necessary to campaign to the public that the democratic process will still take place even though there is only a single candidate.

In the Pilkada in Lampung Province, for areas that have a single candidate such as West Lampung, there is automatically only one candidate who works hard to bring voters to the polling station. Meanwhile, the empty box does not have a success team, so people are reluctant and lazy to come to the polling station.

The Head of the Legal Division of the Lampung Provincial KPU, Warsito, stated that there are two causes of elections against empty boxes, namely: (i) a political party or a coalition of political parties only proposes one candidate, (ii) there is more than one candidate who submits but only one candidate pair qualifies; and regional head candidates against empty boxes must obtain 50 percent plus one to win the election because otherwise the empty box wins. Previously, the Head of the Lampung Provincial KPU Division explained that various regulations including the General Election Commission Regulation number 8 Year 24 concerning Pilkada have regulated various matters; among others regarding the potential of fighting an empty box. This statement is in line with the Chairman of the Pesawaran Regency DPRD, Ahmad Rico Julian and member of the Central Lampung Regency DPRD Octaviani and Gerindra party politician Mikdar Ilyas who stated that political parties have their own assessments about the candidate pairs that will be promoted regarding the phenomenon of candidate pairs against empty boxes in the 2024 Lampung Provincial election contestation. However, on the other hand, there is a cross opinion about this empty box phenomenon. Vice Chairman of DPD PDI Perjuangan Lampung Watoni Noerdin said that the democratic process is the wishful thinking of the Indonesian people after 32 years under the leadership of the New Order; With the effort to bring up an empty box, it is tantamount to returning to the past and leading to a decline in

democracy and only part of the hopes of the winning party.

Therefore, it is very important to campaign to the public that choosing an empty box is something that is justified in the election rules. In other words, it is necessary to convey to the public that people have the right to choose an empty box if they are not satisfied with the single candidate; with the hope that the Pilkada should really be a dignified democratic contestation that produces qualified leaders who are responsible to the community, not to momentary interests.

The temporary results of the quick count of the simultaneous regional elections on November 27, 2024 in Lampung Province by the Rakata Institute with 100 percent data entry:

1. Election of Governor and Deputy Governor of Lampung (Data entry: 100%) Number 1 Arinal-Sutono: 17.18% Urgent Number 2 Rahmat Mirzani Djausal-Jihan Nurlela: 82,82%
2. Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Bandar Lampung (Data entry: 100%) Urgent Number 1 Reihana-Aryodhia Febriansyah: 26.91% Urgent Number 2 Eva Dwiana-Deddy Amarullah: 73,09%
3. Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Metro City (Data entry: 100%) Urgent Number 1 Bambang-Rafieq: 61.45% Urgent Number 2 Wahdi-Qomaru Zaman: 38,55%
4. Election of Regent and Vice Regent of Tulang Bawang Regency (Data entered: 100%) Urgent Number 1 Winarti-Reynata Irawan: 25.35% Urgent Number 2 Qudrotul Ikhwan-Hankam Hasan: 49.92% Urgent Number 3 Hendriwansyah-Danial Anwar: 24,73%
5. Election of Regent and Vice Regent of Tanggamus Regency (Data entry: 100%) Urgent Number 1 Dewi Handajani-Ammar Siradjuddin: 28.35% Urgent Number 2 Moh Saleh Asnawi-Agus Suranto: 71,65%
6. Election of Regent and Vice Regent of East Lampung Regency (Data entry: 100%) Urgent Number 1 Ela Siti Nuryamah-Azwar Hadi: 64.84% Urgent Number 2 M Dawam Rahardjo-Ketut Erawan: 35,16%
7. Election and Vice Regent of Pringsewu Regency (Data entry: 100%) Urgent Number 1 Fauzi-Laras Tri Handayani: 26.68% Urgent Number 2 Adi Erlansah-Hizbullah Huda: 17.03% Urgent Number 3 Riyanto Pamungkas-Umi Laila: 45.81% Urgent Number 4 Ririn Kuswantari-Wiriawan Sada Melindrda: 10,48%
8. Election of Regent and Vice Regent of Pesawaran Regency (Data entry: 100%) Number 1 Aries Sandi Darma Putra-Supriyanto: 59.77% Urgent Number 2 Nanda Indira-Antonius Muhammad Ali: 40,23%
9. West Lampung Regency Vice Regent and Deputy Regent Election (Data entry: 100%) Urgent Number 1 (Empty Box): 12.21 % Urgent Number 2 Parosil Mabsus-Mad Hasnurin: 87.79 %
10. Election of Regent and Vice Regent of North Lampung Regency (Data entry: 100%) Number 1 Hamartoni Ahadis-Romli: 62.24% Urgent Number 2 Ardian Saputra-Sopiyan: 37,76%
11. Election of Regent and Deputy Regent of Way Kanan Regency (Data entry: 100%) Urgent Number 1 Resmi Kadapi-Cik Raden: 45.50% Urgent Number 2 Ali Rahman-Ayu Asalasiyah: 54,50%
12. Election of Regent and Deputy Regent of Central Lampung Regency (Data entry: 100%) Urgent Number 1: Musa Ahmad-Ahsan Saad Said: 35.51% Urgent Number 2: Ardito Wijaya-Komang Koheri : 64,49%
13. Election of Regent and Vice Regent of South Lampung Regency (Data entry: 100%) Number 1: Nanang Ermanto-Antoni Imam: 30.69% Urgent Number 2 Radityo Egi Pratama-M. Syaiful Anwar: 69,31%
14. Election of Regent and Vice Regent of West Tulang Bawang Regency (Data entry: 100%) Urgent Number 1 Novriwan Jaya-Nadirsyah: 62.33% Urgent Number 2 (Empty Box): 37,67%
15. Election of Regent and Vice Regent of Mesuji Regency (Data entry: 100%) Number 1 Syamsudin-M Yulivan Nurullah: 5.31% Urgent Number 2 Elfianah-M Yugi Wicaksono: 58.44% Urgent Number 3 Edi Ashari-Tri Isyani: 14.26% Urgent Number 4 H Suprpto-Fuad Amrulloh: 22,00%
16. West Pesisir Regent Election (Data entry: 100%) Urgent Number 1 Dedi Irawan-Irawan Topani: 56.11% Urgent Number 2 Septi Heri Agusnaeni-Ade Abdul Rochim: 38.92% Urgent Number 3 Lingga Kusuma-Erlina: 4,97%

In the development of the political constellation in Lampung Province, only the candidate pair from West Lampung Regency against the empty box obtained 87.79% of the votes, namely the Parosil Mabsus-Mad Hasnurin pair: it is almost certain that the Parosil Mabsus-Mad Hasnurin pair will win the election. The simultaneous regional elections were held in November 2024.



Figure 7. The plenary meeting of the Lampung Provincial KPU established the pair Rahmat Mirzani Djausal and Jihan Nurlela as Governor and Deputy Governor for the period 2025-2030.



Source : Lampung Provincial KPU, 2024

Figure 8. List of Regional Election Winners

The Lampung Provincial General Election Commission appointed Rahmat Mirzani Djausal and Jihan Nurlela as the elected pair of Governor and Deputy Governor of Lampung Province for the period 2025-2029 based on the Decree of the Lampung Provincial KPU Number 510 of 2024 concerning Determination of the Results of the Election of Governor and Deputy Governor in 2024, which was carried by the Gerindra, PKB, PKS, Golkar, Nasdem, Labor, PAN, Democratic Party and PSI parties in the 2024 simultaneous elections with 3,300,681 votes or 82.69% of the total valid votes. The inauguration of the Governor and Deputy Governor of Lampung pair was held on February 20, 2025. Data obtained by the Research Team on September 27, 2024, acting Lampung Governor Syamsudin stated that “we have shown Indonesia that Lampung is at the forefront of peace and harmony in the 2024 elections. Peace in the elections will provide a new spirit to improve development in the next five years.”

For the city and regency levels that held simultaneous elections, the following pairs won:

City Level: Bandar Lampung City: Eva Dwiana-Deddy Amarullah Yacub (264,740 votes)
 Metro City: Bambang Santoso - M Rafieq Adi Pradana (56,385 votes)
 District Level: West Lampung Regency: Parosil Mabsus-Mad Hasnurin (121,098)
 South Lampung Regency: Radityo Egi Pratama-Syaiful Anwar (315,606 votes)
 Central Lampung Regency: Ardito Wijaya - IKomang Koheri (369,974 votes)
 East Lampung Regency: Ela Siti Nuryamah - Azwar Hadi (322,946 votes)
 North Lampung Regency: Hamartoni Ahadis - Romli (148,234 votes)
 Mesuji Regency: Elfianah - M. Yugi Wicaksono (61,713 votes)

The inauguration of the Regent and Deputy Regent of the Municipal Districts in Lampung Province was also held on February 20, 2025 except for Pesawaran Regency, the only Regency in Lampung Province that filed a lawsuit to the Constitutional Court. The contents of the lawsuit include the alleged lack of diplomas of the Regent candidates who won the elections some time ago.

The contents of the lawsuit include the non-fulfillment of the certificate requirements of the Regent candidate who won the election some time ago; and based on decision number 20/PHPU. BUP-XXIII/2025 the Constitutional Court has officially disqualified pair number 1 Aries Sandi Dharma Putra from participating in the election of Regent and Deputy Regent of Pesawaran Regency in 2024. The data obtained by the research team that the Chairperson of the Lampung Provincial General Election Commission expressed readiness to undergo the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Indonesia, of course, will consult with the Central Election Commission, coordinate with the Pesawaran Regency KPU regarding the re-election (PSU) in Pesawaran Regency. Nevertheless, the data that the research team obtained at the open plenary meeting on January 9, 2025 regarding the determination of the elected Governor and Deputy Governor candidate pairs held in the 2024 simultaneous elections; member of the General Election Commission Betti Epsilon Idroos expressed his gratitude to the Lampung Provincial KPU and the Regency/City KPU for running successfully.

CONCLUSION

The phenomenon of a single candidate in the 2024 Regional Head Elections remains after the

Constitutional Court (MK) Decision No. 60/2024 relaxed the threshold for regional head candidacy. The General Elections Commission (KPU) noted that around 48 regions in Indonesia have a single candidate. This means that there are still dozens of candidate pairs who may fight against empty boxes in regional head elections. When examined politically regarding an empty box that wins against a candidate pair in the implementation of the Regional Head Election, if the candidate pair loses the valid vote or less than 50%, then the next election is repeated in the following year, and based on Law Number 10 of 2016 concerning Pilkada article 54 D paragraph (1) states that a permanent candidate against an empty box must win more than half of the votes to win then in article 54 paragraph (2) if the vote acquisition of the candidate pair is less than referred to in paragraph (2) if the vote acquisition of the candidate pair is less than referred to in paragraph (1). The losing candidate pair may run again in the next election. Article 54 D paragraph (4) because there is no elected candidate pair, the Government assigns an acting Governor, acting Regent or acting mayor, and if the empty box wins, the PJ will lead until 2029, for example the 2018 Makassar mayoral election and the 2020 Makassar Pilwakot. Furthermore, related to the continuation of the leadership of the old regional head whose term of office has expired, the Government through the Ministry of Home Affairs assigns the Acting Governor, Acting Regent, or Acting Mayor to fill the legal vacuum until the next period of simultaneous elections. Therefore, it is very important to campaign to the public that voting for an empty box is justified in the election rules. In other words, it is necessary to convey to the public that the public has the right to choose an empty box if they are not satisfied with the single candidate; with the hope that Pilkada should really be a dignified democratic contestation that produces qualified leaders who are responsible to the community, not to momentary interests.

The appearance of millennials (young voters) in Lampung Province, dominating in the permanent voter list (DPT) of the Lampung Provincial Election in 2024 reached 55% or 3,641,169 voters from a total of 6,515,869 voters. Based on data from the Lampung Provincial General Election Commission (KPU), there were 6,515,869 people, consisting of 3,304,463 men and 3,211,406 women spread across regencies / cities, 229 sub-districts and 2,651 villages. Of these, young voters, namely the millennial generation and generation Z, dominate with a total of 3,641,169 voters. Consisting of 2,235,583 voters or 34.31% of the millennial

generation (aged 27-42 years) and 1,405,586 or 21.57% of voters from generation Z (aged 17-26 years).

In Pilkada in Lampung Province, for areas that have a single candidate such as West Lampung, there is automatically only one candidate who works hard to bring voters to the polling station. Meanwhile, the empty box does not have a success team, so people are reluctant and lazy to come to the polling station. In the development of political constellation in Lampung Province, only the candidate pair from West Lampung Regency against the empty box obtained 87.79% of the votes, namely the Parosil Mabsus-Mad Hasnurin pair: the Parosil Mabsus-Mad Hasnurin pair won the West Lampung Regency election in 2024. Simultaneous elections at both the provincial and district/city levels were held in November 2024.

Meanwhile, at the provincial level, the Lampung Provincial General Election Commission appointed the pair of Rahmat Mirzani Djausal and Jihan Nurlela as the elected pair of Governor and Deputy Governor of Lampung Province for the period 2025-2029 based on the Decree of the Lampung Provincial KPU Number 510 of 2024 concerning the Determination of the Results of the Election of Governor and Deputy Governor in 2024 carried out by the Gerindra, PKB, PKS, Golkar, Nasdem, Labor, PAN, Democratic Party and PSI parties in the 2024 simultaneous elections with 3,300,681 votes or 82.69% of the total valid votes.

The implications of this research study are (i) it is necessary to convey to the public that the public has the right to choose an empty box if they are not satisfied with the existing single candidate; various regulations including the General Election Commission Regulation Number 8 of 24 concerning Pilkada have regulated various matters; among others regarding the potential to fight empty boxes; with the hope that regional head elections should truly be a dignified democratic contestation so as to produce qualified leaders who are responsible to the community, not to momentary interests. (ii) In the case study that occurred in Lampung Province, the appearance of millennials dominates in the permanent voter list (DPT) for the 2024 Lampung Provincial Election, reaching 55% or 3,641,169 voters out of a total of 6,515,869 voters. This is an interesting phenomenon in the political scene in the country, especially in Lampung Province. Future researchers can study it more deeply considering the role of gen Z is increasingly influential, arousing enthusiasm and voicing political issues. Their participation can influence the direction of policies and issues raised in society.

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