

ABSTRAK

Pemilihan kepala daerah merupakan salah satu mekanisme demokrasi yang memberikan ruang partisipasi langsung bagi masyarakat dalam menentukan pemimpin di tingkat lokal. Sejak awal kemerdekaan, sistem pemilihan kepala daerah di Indonesia mengalami perubahan yang signifikan, mulai dari sistem penunjukan oleh pemerintah pusat, pemilihan melalui DPRD, hingga pelaksanaan pemilihan langsung oleh rakyat. Dinamika tersebut mencerminkan pergeseran antara efisiensi birokrasi dengan prinsip kedaulatan rakyat. Penelitian ini mengkaji dua rumusan masalah, yaitu: (1) Sejarah pengaturan pemilihan kepala daerah di Indonesia, dan (2) Kelebihan dan kekurangan pemilihan kepala daerah secara langsung dan serentak dalam konteks demokrasi Indonesia.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode yuridis normatif-empiris dengan pendekatan historis, perundang-undangan, konseptual, dan yuridis-sosiologis. Bahan hukum diperoleh dari peraturan perundang-undangan, putusan Mahkamah Konstitusi, serta sumber sekunder berupa literatur ilmiah. Di samping itu, penelusuran data empiris dilakukan melalui studi dokumen kebijakan, pemberitaan publik, dan wacana evaluasi pelaksanaan Pilkada. Data dianalisis secara kualitatif dengan teknik interpretasi hukum dan pendekatan demokrasi substantif.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Pilkada langsung memperkuat partisipasi publik dan selaras dengan prinsip kedaulatan rakyat, namun masih menghadapi tantangan seperti politik uang, biaya tinggi, dan munculnya dinasti politik. Sementara itu, Pilkada tidak langsung lebih efisien dari segi biaya, tetapi cenderung menurunkan legitimasi dan transparansi publik. Pilkada serentak dinilai mampu mengonsolidasikan demokrasi secara administratif, namun membutuhkan penguatan dalam aspek akuntabilitas, pendidikan politik, dan desain kelembagaan agar sejalan dengan nilai-nilai demokrasi substantif.

Kata Kunci: Pemilihan Kepala Daerah, Demokrasi, Kedaulatan Rakyat, Pilkada Langsung, Pilkada Serentak.

ABSTRACT

Regional head elections (Pilkada) are one of the democratic mechanisms that provide space for direct public participation in determining their local leaders. Since Indonesia's independence, the regional head election system has undergone significant changes, from appointments by the central government to indirect elections by local parliaments (DPRD), and eventually to direct elections by the people. These shifts reflect a dynamic tension between bureaucratic efficiency and the principle of popular sovereignty. This study addresses two main research questions: (1) What is the historical development of regional head elections in Indonesia? and (2) What are the advantages and disadvantages of direct and simultaneous regional elections within the context of Indonesian democracy?

This research employs a normative-empirical legal method using historical, statutory, conceptual, and socio-legal approaches. Legal materials were obtained from relevant legislation, Constitutional Court decisions, and academic literature. Empirical data was collected through document studies, media analysis, and policy evaluation. The data were analyzed qualitatively using legal interpretation and democratic theory frameworks to examine how the principles of democracy, decentralization, and people's sovereignty are applied in regional elections.

The findings indicate that direct elections align with the principle of popular sovereignty and promote citizen participation, though they face challenges such as high costs, money politics, and political dynasties. Indirect elections, on the other hand, offer cost-efficiency but tend to reduce legitimacy and transparency. Simultaneous regional elections have consolidated administrative efficiency in electoral democracy but require improvements in accountability, political education, and institutional design to fully uphold the values of substantive democracy.

Keywords: *Regional Head Election, Democracy, Popular Sovereignty, Direct Election, Simultaneous Election.*