



Implemented the Fulfillment of Voting Rights for Persons with Disabilities in the 2024 Elections

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Abstract :

This study aims to analyze the implementation of the fulfillment of voting rights for persons with disabilities by the General Elections Commission (KPU) of Gorontalo City in the 2024 Election from the perspective of constitutional law and human rights. Although Indonesia has a strong legal basis through the 1945 Constitution, the Election Law, the Law on Persons with Disabilities, and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), field practices show that significant gaps remain. Empirical data shows that voter participation by persons with disabilities only reached 59.71% of the total 834 registered voters, indicating structural and non-structural barriers that hinder the full realization of people's sovereignty. These barriers include limited physical access at polling stations (TPS), lack of supporting facilities such as braille ballot templates and sign language interpreters, information and communication barriers, low officer capacity, and social stigma. This study uses descriptive qualitative methods with interview, observation, and documentation study techniques to obtain a factual picture and identify the factors causing low participation. The research findings demonstrate the need for policy and technical reforms in election administration, increased human resource capacity, strengthened collaboration with organizations for people with disabilities, and adequate budget allocation for accessible facilities. Optimal implementation will ensure respect for the principles of inclusivity, equality before the law, and non-discrimination, while strengthening the legitimacy and quality of Indonesian democracy.

Keywords : Voting Rights; Persons with Disabilities ; Inclusive Elections

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Introduction

Indonesia as a state based on law has been constitutionally affirmed in Article 1 paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UD 1945), which stipulates that all implementation of state power must be based on law and the constitution as the highest source of law. This concept of a state based on law implies that no power can be exercised without a valid legal basis, so that every government action must be legally and constitutionally accountable. Furthermore, Article 1 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution emphasizes that sovereignty rests with the people and is exercised according to the Constitution, which places the people as the holders of the highest sovereignty in the Indonesian state system. This principle of popular sovereignty is realized through a democratic mechanism, where government is run from the people, by the people, and for the people through democratically elected representatives. Within the framework of constitutional democracy, general elections (Pemilu) occupy a strategic position as the primary means of implementing popular sovereignty and are an indicator of the quality of a country's democracy. (UMUM 2019)

Democratic elections must not only fulfill the principles of direct, general, free, secret, honest, and fair (LUBER JURDIL) as stipulated in Article 22E paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution, but must also be inclusive and provide equal opportunities for all citizens without discrimination, including groups of people with disabilities. The political right to vote and be elected is a universal constitutional right, as affirmed in Article 27 paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution that all citizens have equal status before the law and government without exception. This principle of equality is reinforced by Article 28D paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution which guarantees the right of every person to recognition, guarantees, protection, and fair legal certainty as well as equal treatment before the law. This constitutional norm is the fundamental basis for the protection of the political rights of people with disabilities and the state's obligation to provide equal access in all political processes, including elections.

At the legislative level, voting rights are regulated universally through Article 1 paragraph (34) of Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections, which defines voters as Indonesian citizens who are 17 years of age or older, married, or

have been married, without imposing restrictions based on physical, mental, or sensory conditions. Article 5 of the same law explicitly states that persons with disabilities who meet the requirements have equal opportunities as voters, candidates for members of the DPR, DPD, President/Vice President, DPRD, and election organizers. Furthermore, Article 350 paragraph (2) mandates election organizers to determine voting and vote counting procedures by considering the convenience for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable community groups, which shows that accessibility is not just a moral right but a binding legal obligation. (Shabrina et al. 2025)

Specific provisions regarding the rights of persons with disabilities are contained in Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Persons with Disabilities, which provides comprehensive recognition of the rights of persons with disabilities in various areas of life. Article 13 of this law affirms that persons with disabilities have equal political rights to elect and be elected to public office and are entitled to accessibility to election facilities and infrastructure. Article 54 regulates in detail the obligation to provide disability- friendly facilities and infrastructure, including wheelchair ramps, braille ballot templates for the blind, sign language interpreters for the deaf and mute, and assistance officers who understand the specific needs of each type of disability. This law also emphasizes that accessibility is not merely an additional facility, but an integral part of the implementation of quality and fair elections. (Santosa and Alfirdaus 2021)

The obligation to protect the political rights of persons with disabilities stems not only from national law, but also from Indonesia's international commitments after ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) through Law Number 19 of 2011. Article 29 of the CRPD requires state parties to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate effectively and fully in political and public life, either directly or through their freely chosen representatives, by ensuring that election procedures, facilities, and materials are accessible and understandable to persons with disabilities. This convention also requires states to protect the right of persons with disabilities to vote secretly without intimidation, encourage their active participation in non-governmental organizations and associations related to the public and political

life of the country, and to form and join organizations for persons with disabilities. This ratification binds Indonesia under international law to implement inclusive standards in all aspects of public life, including elections. (Rengganis et al. 2021)

Although national and international legal frameworks have provided strong guarantees for the political rights of persons with disabilities, implementation in the field still shows significant gaps. Empirical data from the Gorontalo City General Elections Commission (KPU) for the 2024 Simultaneous Elections illustrates a concerning reality, where of the 834 voters with disabilities registered on the Permanent Voter List (DPT), only 498 exercised their right to vote, or approximately 59.71%. This figure means that almost 40% of voters with disabilities were unable or chose not to exercise their right to vote, indicating the existence of structural and non-structural barriers that hinder their participation in the democratic process. The composition of disabled voters in Gorontalo City consists of 103 blind voters, 48 deaf voters, 192 mute voters, 41 mentally disabled voters, 328 physically disabled voters, and 122 mentally disabled voters, which indicates the diversity of types of disabilities that require different approaches and facilities.

disabled voter participation also showed variation across regions, with Dumbo Raya District recording the highest number of disabled voters (118), followed by Kota Tengah District (113), Kota Barat District (111), Kota Utara District (102), Hulonthalangi District (101), Sibatana District (90), Kota Timur District (76), Kota Selatan District (71), and the lowest in Duingingi District (52). This variation indicates that geographic factors, transportation accessibility, the quality of polling station facilities, and the outreach approach in each region also influenced the level of disabled voter participation.

voter participation in Gorontalo City can be caused by various interrelated factors. First, physical barriers in the form of limited accessibility at polling stations (TPS), such as the lack of wheelchair ramps, stairs that are too high, doors that are too narrow, voting booth tables that cannot be adjusted for height, and the absence of special rooms that provide adequate privacy for voters with disabilities. Second, information and communication barriers, where election socialization materials are rarely available in formats that are accessible to people with disabilities, such as braille for the blind, videos with sign language interpreters for the deaf and mute, or

information in simple and easy-to-understand language for people with intellectual disabilities. Third, the limited capacity and understanding of KPPS officers who have not received special training on how to provide friendly and inclusive services for various types of disabilities, so that voters with disabilities often feel uncomfortable or even experience discrimination when exercising their right to vote.

The fourth factor is the lack of outreach and special assistance tailored to the specific needs of disability groups, so that many of them are unaware of election procedures, their rights, or even unaware that they are registered as voters. Fifth, psychological and social barriers in the form of stigma, discrimination, or feelings of inferiority experienced by people with disabilities, making them reluctant to participate in the political process. Sixth, limited resources and budget allocated for providing accessibility facilities, officer training, and inclusive outreach programs. Seventh, minimal coordination and cooperation between the General Elections Commission (KPU) and organizations for people with disabilities, non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders in designing and implementing inclusive election programs.

From the perspective of constitutional law and human rights, this condition can be seen as a form of violation of the principle of equality before the law (equality before the law) and the principle of non-discrimination guaranteed by the constitution. The inability or failure of election organizers to provide equal access for people with disabilities can be considered a form of indirect discrimination that contradicts Article 28I paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution concerning the right to be free from discriminatory treatment. Furthermore, this can also be seen as violating the state's obligation to protect, respect, and fulfill human rights as stipulated in Law No. 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights. (Mailoor et al. 2025)

The role of the General Elections Commission (KPU) as an election organizing body is highly strategic in the context of fulfilling the political rights of persons with disabilities. The KPU is not only responsible for the technical aspects of election administration, but also has an obligation to ensure that the entire election process, from voter registration and outreach, provision of facilities, training of officials, implementation of voting, and counting of results, is carried out with due regard for

the principles of inclusivity and accessibility for all groups in society, including persons with disabilities. (Inayah 2020)

In the context of Gorontalo City, research on the implementation of the fulfillment of voting rights for people with disabilities by the General Elections Commission (KPU) in the 2024 Election is very important and relevant for several reasons. First, legally, this research will evaluate the extent to which the Gorontalo City KPU has implemented its legal obligations stipulated in the 1945 Constitution, the Election Law, the Law on Disabilities, and international commitments through the ratification of the CRPD. Second, empirically, this research will identify and analyze the factors that contribute to the low level of voter participation among people with disabilities and the concrete obstacles faced in the field. Third, from a public policy perspective, this research will provide evidence-based strategic recommendations to improve the quality of services and accessibility of elections for people with disabilities in the future.

This research is expected to make a significant contribution in several aspects. From an academic perspective, this research will enrich the study of constitutional law, particularly in the field of election law and human rights, by providing an empirical analysis of the implementation of political rights of vulnerable groups at the regional level. From a practical perspective, this research will provide technical and strategic recommendations for the General Elections Commission (KPU) of Gorontalo City and other regions to design and implement more inclusive and disability- friendly election programs. From a social perspective, this research is expected to increase public awareness of the importance of political participation of people with disabilities in strengthening the legitimacy and quality of Indonesian democracy, as well as encourage changes in societal attitudes and behaviors that are more inclusive of groups with disabilities.

Thus, research on "Implementation of Fulfillment of Voting Rights for People with Disabilities by the Gorontalo City General Elections Commission in the 2024 Election" is not only important to assess the performance of election organizers in fulfilling their legal obligations, but also to measure the extent to which Indonesia as a state of law and a democratic country has succeeded in carrying out its

constitutional mandate and international commitments in building a political system that is inclusive, just, and respects human dignity for all citizens without exception.

Method

This research method uses a descriptive qualitative approach to understand the implementation of the fulfillment of voting rights for people with disabilities by the Gorontalo City General Elections Commission (KPU) in the 2024 Election in depth and contextually. Data were obtained through in-depth interviews with key informants such as KPU employees, voters with disabilities, and organizations of people with disabilities, as well as direct observation at polling stations (TPS) and documentation studies of related regulations. Data analysis was carried out through reduction, presentation, and verification to identify obstacles, opportunities, and best practices in the implementation of inclusive elections. This research also uses a case study approach so that the results can provide a comprehensive picture of the implementation of political rights of people with disabilities in Gorontalo City. With this method, the research seeks to produce realistic and applicable strategic recommendations to increase the accessibility and political participation of people with disabilities in a sustainable manner. (Aqsa, n.d.)

Discussion

1. Obstacles and Barriers in Implementing the Voting Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The implementation of fulfilling the voting rights of people with disabilities in Gorontalo City in the 2024 Election faces complex, multidimensional problems that reflect the gap between constitutional guarantees and empirical reality on the ground. Physical barriers are the most fundamental obstacle directly felt by voters with disabilities, where the majority of polling stations do not meet universal accessibility standards as mandated by regulations. Limited wheelchair access at various polling locations, most of which are located in old buildings without adequate ramps or ramps, forces voters in wheelchairs to rely on the physical assistance of others and lose their independence in a political process that should be private and confidential. The design of voting booths that is not responsive to the diversity of physical needs is problematic, with standard table heights that are inaccessible to

wheelchair voters, booth widths limited for maneuvering mobility aids, and lighting inadequate for voters with mild to moderate visual impairments. The absence of braille ballot templates is a serious disregard for the rights of blind voters that fundamentally violates the principle of vote secrecy, forcing them to rely on the assistance of others who could potentially influence their political choices. (Febriantanto 2019)

The information and communication dimension shows serious limitations in reaching communities with disabilities, where outreach materials still use conventional formats that are inaccessible to various types of disabilities. Brochures and pamphlets are rarely available in braille or with adequate color contrast for voters with visual impairments, while outreach videos often lack adequate subtitles or sign language interpreters for deaf and mute voters. The language used in outreach materials tends to be technical and complex, making it difficult for people with intellectual disabilities to understand concepts such as proportional systems, electoral districts, or vote counting mechanisms that require simple and visual explanations. The use of information technology is also suboptimal, with the KPU website not fully compatible with screens. readers and mobile applications that do not have accessibility features such as voice User-friendly commands or navigation for users with fine motor disabilities. Public communication strategies have not yet engaged organizations for people with disabilities as strategic partners in disseminating information, even though these organizations have networks and a deep understanding of the characteristics and communication needs of their communities.

Human resources, particularly the capacity of polling station (KPPS) officers, pose a crucial obstacle because the majority of officers have not received specific training on providing friendly and responsive service to the needs of people with disabilities. This lack of understanding leads to awkwardness, lack of confidence, or even insensitivity when serving voters with disabilities, creating an unpleasant experience that can reduce motivation for future political participation. Existing training is generally general in nature, lacking a thorough understanding of the diversity of disabilities and appropriate service approaches. Consequently, officers lack knowledge of how to communicate with deaf voters, guide blind voters without

compromising their independence, or provide clear instructions to voters with intellectual disabilities. Technical operational aspects are also challenging because many officers are unfamiliar with the use of accessibility aids such as braille templates or communicating with sign language interpreters, making the election process longer and more complicated, potentially leading to frustration. The lack of detailed and specific standard operating procedures for serving various types of people with disabilities forces officers to improvise based on limited understanding, creating inconsistencies in service between polling stations and uncertainty for voters with disabilities about the type of service they can expect.

often unidentified dimensions that have a significant impact on the political participation of people with disabilities. The lingering social stigma creates a psychological barrier that hinders active participation in the political process. The public perception that people with disabilities are seen as objects of pity rather than legal subjects with equal political rights also influences internal motivation to participate in elections. Feelings of inferiority or lack of self-confidence exacerbated by experiences of discrimination in various aspects of social life can be intensified in the political realm because elections are public events that involve interaction with many people and have the potential to attract attention. Fear of judgment or fear of negative assessment is a strong inhibiting factor in coming to the TPS, while the lack of Successful role models or figures with disabilities in politics create the perception that the political sphere is not the right place for them. This situation is reinforced by the media, which rarely highlights success stories or positive contributions of people with disabilities in social and political life, and by overprotective families who, with good intentions, try to "protect" but instead create dependency and diminish opportunities to develop independence in political decision-making.

systemic constraints at the macro level are the root of the problem, requiring comprehensive policy intervention. Budget allocations for accessibility facilities remain very limited and are not prioritized in election operational planning. Budget constraints result in minimal investment in disability- friendly infrastructure, officer training, and the development of inclusive outreach materials. Meanwhile, coordination between agencies and stakeholders shows significant weaknesses, as the General Elections Commission (KPU) often operates in isolation without optimally

involving organizations for people with disabilities, social services, or NGOs with expertise and networks within the disability community. This fragmentation results in duplication of efforts and inefficient use of limited resources, exacerbated by poorly structured monitoring and evaluation to measure the effectiveness of implemented inclusiveness programs. The absence of comprehensive data on the satisfaction levels of voters with disabilities or the identification of specific barriers often results in poorly targeted or unsustainable improvement programs, creating an unproductive cycle in efforts to improve service quality. (Anshari 2025)

From the perspective of constitutional law, these conditions of obstruction can be categorized as a form of violation of the fundamental principles guaranteed by the constitution, where the state's inability to provide equal access in the political process can be seen as indirect discrimination which is contrary to Article 28I paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution concerning the right to be free from discriminatory treatment and violates the principle of equality. before the Law, which is the cornerstone of a state based on the rule of law. In the context of international obligations, these obstacles indicate the suboptimal implementation of the CRPD, which Indonesia has ratified, particularly Article 29, which explicitly requires state parties to ensure the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in political life by providing adequate access to all political processes. These legal implications indicate that states have a positive obligation not only to avoid direct discrimination but also to take affirmative steps to eliminate structural barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from accessing their constitutional rights. (Waisnawa and Dewi 2019)

The empirical situation in Gorontalo City, which shows that disabled voter participation is only 59.71% of the total registered voters, reflects a systemic failure in translating legal guarantees into meaningful practical access. This figure is not merely a statistic, but a concrete indicator of the extent to which the principle of popular sovereignty as mandated by Article 1 paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution has been implemented inclusively. When almost 40% of disabled voters are unable or choose not to exercise their right to vote, this indicates a serious democratic deficit in the Indonesian political system, where the legitimacy of the democratic process is questioned because not all segments of society can participate effectively.

Furthermore, these obstacles also reflect the lack of integration of a human rights perspective into development approaches and governance at the regional level. Understanding of disability remains trapped within a charity model paradigm that views people with disabilities as objects in need of compassion, rather than a rights-based model that recognizes them as legal subjects with equal rights. This paradigm shift requires not only regulatory changes but also a shift in mindset and organizational culture across all levels of government, from the national to the regional levels.

The complexity of these issues demonstrates the need for comprehensive reform in the approach to election administration, not only from a technical operational perspective but also from a philosophical perspective on the meaning of inclusivity in democracy. A truly democratic election must not only meet procedural criteria such as LUBER JURDIL, but must also ensure that all citizens have an equal opportunity to participate without barriers based on physical, mental, or sensory conditions. Realizing this vision requires strong political commitment, adequate resource allocation, and synergistic cross-sectoral collaboration to build a truly inclusive and just democratic system, thereby strengthening the legitimacy and quality of Indonesian democracy as a state based on the rule of law that respects human dignity and universal human rights for all citizens without exception.

2. The Role of the General Elections Commission (KPU) and Strategies to Increase Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities

The General Elections Commission (KPU), as the election organizing body, has a strategic position and fundamental constitutional responsibility to ensure inclusive and democratic elections for all citizens, including persons with disabilities. This role is not merely an administrative obligation, but a concrete manifestation of the principle of a state based on law that upholds equality and non-discrimination as mandated by the 1945 Constitution. In the context of Gorontalo City, where empirical data shows a still low level of disabled voter participation in the 2024 Election, the KPU has a moral and legal obligation to undertake a fundamental transformation in its approach to election administration in order to reach and serve the special needs of this vulnerable group. This transformation concerns not only technical operational

aspects but also a paradigm shift in understanding the meaning of inclusion and accessibility as an integral part of the quality of true democracy. (Rosifa 2023)

The KPU's role in realizing inclusive elections begins with the strategic planning stage, which must integrate disability perspectives into all aspects of the election process. This includes budgeting, allocating specific funds for accessibility facilities, developing inclusive outreach materials, training officers, and implementing special programs to reach the disability community. This planning must be based on accurate data on the composition and characteristics of disabled voters in each region, ensuring that programs are well-targeted and responsive to real needs on the ground. The KPU needs to conduct comprehensive mapping not only of the number of disabled voters but also of their disability types, geographic distribution, education levels, socioeconomic conditions, and the specific barriers they face in accessing public services. (Ramadhan 2021) This data will serve as the foundation for designing communication strategies, selecting polling station locations, providing supporting facilities, and optimal resource allocation.

During the voter registration phase, the General Elections Commission (KPU) is obligated to ensure that all eligible persons with disabilities are registered on the Permanent Voter List (DPT) and receive clear information about their rights as voters. This registration process must be carried out proactively by reaching out to disability communities and collaborating with disability organizations, social services, and rehabilitation service institutions to reach those who may not yet be registered. A door-to-door or mobile approach is required. Registration can be a solution for reaching voters with disabilities who have limited mobility or live in remote areas. The registration system should also be equipped with a mechanism to record the type and level of a voter's disability, so that special needs can be anticipated during the election, such as special assistive devices, assistance, or modifications to certain procedures.

Voter education and outreach strategies are crucial areas that require specialized and innovative approaches to effectively reach the disability community. The General Elections Commission (KPU) must develop outreach materials in various accessible formats, such as brochures with braille for blind voters, videos with subtitles and sign language interpreters for deaf voters, visual materials with images

and simple language for voters with intellectual disabilities, and audio formats for voters who have difficulty reading. Outreach content should explain in detail the rights of voters with disabilities, election procedures, available special facilities, and how to access assistance if needed. More importantly, outreach should emphasize that political participation is a fundamental right guaranteed by the constitution, not a privilege or favor from organizers. The communication approach should use empowering language. language) and avoid terminology that stigmatizes or demeans people with disabilities. (Rahmanto 2019)

Collaboration with organizations for people with disabilities is a fundamental strategy that the General Elections Commission (KPU) must strengthen because these organizations possess credibility, networks, and a deep understanding of the characteristics and needs of their communities. This partnership should not be tokenistic or merely a formality, but rather must involve substantial collaboration in program planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Organizations with disabilities can act as a bridge between the KPU and their communities, assisting in disseminating information, providing feedback on program effectiveness, and identifying barriers that may be invisible to organizers. This collaboration can also involve peer-to-peer training. Educators from the disability community can act as agents of socialization and support for fellow people with disabilities. This model has proven effective because of the trust and shared understanding. experience that facilitates communication and understanding. (Putri and Kristanto 2024)

disability- friendly physical facilities and infrastructure is a technical aspect that requires standardization and consistent implementation across all polling stations (TPS). The General Elections Commission (KPU) must establish minimum accessibility standards that include wheelchair ramps with slopes that meet international standards, doors with a minimum width that is wheelchair accessible, adequate lighting for visually impaired voters, voting booths with adjustable table heights, sufficient space for maneuvering mobility aids, and clear signage with good color contrast and available in braille format. Braille ballot templates must be available at each TPS in sufficient numbers, accompanied by training for officers on how to use them. For deaf and mute voters, sign language interpreters should be provided or officers should at least be able to communicate with these groups in a

basic manner. Assistive technology such as magnifying glass should be available. glass for voters with low Special vision or stylus devices for voters with fine motor disabilities should also be considered.

Officer training is a crucial element in determining the quality of inclusive election implementation in the field. Training programs must be comprehensive and provide not only theoretical knowledge but also practical skills and sensitivity. Training on how to interact with various types of people with disabilities. Officers need to understand communication etiquette, such as speaking directly to voters with disabilities rather than their companions, not touching assistive devices without permission, providing assistance only when requested, and respecting voter independence. Training should also include technical mastery of the use of accessibility aids, knowledge of various types of disabilities and their characteristics, and special procedures that may be required in certain situations. Playing games and simulations can be effective methods for providing officers with practical experience before election day. Training should not be a one-time event but should be ongoing with refreshers. regular training and performance evaluation.

The development of digital technology and innovation can be a game A game changer in improving election accessibility for people with disabilities. The KPU can develop a mobile application that is compatible with screens. reader for blind voters, equipped with features voice Command and audio feedback. This application can provide information on the location of the nearest accessible polling station, election schedules and procedures, candidate profiles in audio or video format with sign language, and a feature to report obstacles encountered during the election. Electronic voting or e-voting with a disability- friendly interface can be considered as an alternative in the future, although its implementation requires in-depth studies on security and public acceptance. QR codes that can be accessed with smartphones and are compatible with assistive devices Technology can also be used to provide additional information about candidates or election procedures.

robust monitoring and evaluation system needs to be developed to measure the effectiveness of inclusion programs and identify areas for improvement. The General Elections Commission (KPU) should collect data not only on participation rates but also on the quality of disabled voters' experiences, their satisfaction with the services

provided, any remaining barriers, and suggestions for improvement. A special post-election system for voters with disabilities can provide valuable insights for evaluating and planning the next election. Mechanisms must also be available and accessible for voters with disabilities to report discrimination or obstacles they experience, accompanied by transparent and accountable follow-up. This data and feedback must be analyzed systematically and become the basis for continuous improvement in the implementation of inclusive elections.

Cross-agency coordination is a determining factor in the successful implementation of inclusive elections, as the General Elections Commission (KPU) cannot work alone to address the complex issues faced by people with disabilities. Collaboration with local governments is necessary to provide accessible infrastructure in public buildings used as polling stations (TPS), allocate regional budgets for inclusion programs, and synchronize with disability-friendly infrastructure development programs. Coordination with social services can assist in the identification and outreach of voters with disabilities, while collaboration with education services can optimize the use of schools as polling stations with necessary accessibility modifications. Mass media involvement is also crucial for campaigning. Raising awareness of the political rights of people with disabilities and changing public perceptions of their abilities and contributions to society. (Pramestia et al. 2025)

Sustainability programs are an essential aspect of the KPU's long-term strategy. Investments in accessible infrastructure, officer training, and system development must be designed to provide long-term benefits, not just for a single election period. The KPU needs to develop institutional memory and knowledge management a system that allows the transfer of knowledge and experience between periods, so that starting does not occur from scratch every time there is a change of personnel. Best documentation practices and lessons What has been learned must be used as a reference for continuous improvement and can be shared with other regional KPUs as a form of peer review. learning.

From a legal and constitutional perspective, the KPU's efforts to increase the political participation of people with disabilities are not only an obligation but also a concrete implementation of the fundamental principles of Indonesia's rule of law.

Article 28D paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution concerning the guarantee of recognition, guarantee, protection, and fair legal certainty and equal treatment before the law requires that the KPU ensure there is no discrimination in access to the political process. Furthermore, Indonesia's commitment to the CRPD requires the state to take affirmative steps to ensure the effective participation of people with disabilities in political and public life. Failure to implement this could have implications for the state's legal accountability internationally and domestically. (Polin 2024)

The success of strategies to increase political participation among people with disabilities is measured not only by quantitative increases in participation rates, but also by the quality of their democratic experiences. Indicators of success include increased awareness of political rights among people with disabilities, reduced structural and attitudinal barriers, increased trust in the democratic process, and ultimately, emergence. of political awareness among the disability community that can empower them not only as voters but also as candidates or political activists. Thus, the KPU's efforts in implementing inclusive elections not only contribute to fulfilling the constitutional rights of people with disabilities but also strengthen the legitimacy and quality of Indonesian democracy as a whole, reflecting the universal values of human dignity, equality, and justice that are the foundation of a democratic and socially just state based on the rule of law.

Conclusion

Based on the discussion regarding the implementation of the fulfillment of voting rights for persons with disabilities by the Gorontalo City General Elections Commission (KPU) in the 2024 Election, it can be concluded that although Indonesia has a comprehensive legal framework to guarantee the political rights of persons with disabilities through the 1945 Constitution, the Election Law, the Law on Persons with Disabilities, and the ratification of the CRPD, implementation in the field still shows significant gaps. Empirical data shows that only 59.71% of the 834 registered voters with disabilities exercised their right to vote, indicating the existence of complex structural and non-structural barriers. The main obstacles include limited physical accessibility at polling stations (TPS), the lack of supporting facilities such as braille templates and sign language interpreters, lack of training for KPPS officers,

and barriers to information and communication that are not yet inclusive. Psychological factors such as stigma and discrimination also affect the political participation of this group. This condition indicates the need for a comprehensive transformation in the implementation of elections that are more responsive to the diverse needs of voters. The KPU, as the election organizer, has a strategic responsibility to ensure the implementation of the principle of inclusivity through infrastructure improvements, increasing the capacity of officers, strengthening cooperation with disability organizations, and adequate budget allocation. This effort is not only important to fulfill legal obligations and international commitments, but also to strengthen the legitimacy and quality of Indonesian democracy as a state of law that respects human dignity and universal human rights for all citizens without discrimination.

Recommendation (Optional)

Based on the analysis of the implementation of the fulfillment of voting rights for people with disabilities in the 2024 Election in Gorontalo City, several strategic steps are recommended to increase the political participation of this group in a sustainable manner. First, the General Elections Commission (KPU) needs to strengthen the provision of disability -friendly physical facilities at each polling station (TPS), such as wheelchair ramps, voting booths with adjustable table heights, braille ballot templates, and sign language interpretation services. Second, an inclusive outreach program using multimedia formats and simple language is needed to be accessible to all types of disabilities, including active collaboration with organizations for people with disabilities to reach out to communities directly. Third, special training for KPPS officers must be improved so that they have the technical skills and a friendly attitude in serving voters with disabilities, thereby reducing service barriers and hidden discrimination. Fourth, the KPU needs to build cross-sectoral partnerships with local governments, NGOs, the media, and communities to support logistics, assistance, and budgeting for inclusive election implementation. Fifth, regular post-election monitoring and evaluation is crucial to identify problems and improve future implementation mechanisms. In addition, the central and regional governments must allocate adequate budgets to fund accessibility facilities and ongoing outreach programs. These recommendations are expected to ensure the

fulfillment of the principles of equality and non-discrimination, increase the legitimacy of the democratic process, and strengthen the role of persons with disabilities as an active part of the people's sovereignty in accordance with the mandate of the constitution and Indonesia's international commitments.

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