

PANDEMIC AT THE POLLS: PREPAREMENT AND ARRANGEMENT OF INDONESIAN REGIONAL THE ELECTION IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19

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Submission date: 30-Sep-2022 03:38AM (UTC+0700)

Submission ID: 1912383874

File name: PANDEMIC_AT_THE_POLLS_PREPAREMENT_AND_AR.pdf (131.97K)

Word count: 6208

Character count: 33928



PANDEMIC AT THE POLLS: PREPAREMENT AND ARRANGEMENT OF INDONESIAN REGIONAL THE ELECTION IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19

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ABSTRACT

Covid-19 pandemic is a disaster which has brought negative impact in various aspects of human life, namely health, economy, to technology. This condition forces the government to limit both mobilization and crowds in order to hold back the spread of coronavirus. Along with this, the government of Indonesia is also faced with a large and important event, namely the simultaneous regional head elections of 2020. This condition forces the government of Indonesia to prepare and arrange proper management during the implementation of the simultaneous regional head elections of 2020, thus it can prevent the transmission and rise of new cluster of Covid-19. The implementation of the simultaneous regional head elections in 2020 will affect the investment rank of Indonesia. On the other hand, the event would also enable the emergence of new cluster of Covid-9 spread in Indonesia. This study will discuss the effort from the government of Indonesia in running the simultaneous regional head elections of 2020 in the middle of Covid-19 pandemic. The stages during the simultaneous regional head elections implementation during pandemic will also be discussed in detail in this study. The results of this study show that the government of Indonesia has made several detailed regulations and procedures regarding the implementation of the simultaneous regional head elections in order to prevent the emergence of new cluster of Covid-19 spread.

Key words: polls, preparation, arrangement, election

Cite this Article: Hadi Prabowo, Wirman Syafri and Juanda Juanda, ²⁹ Pandemic at the Polls: Preparation and Arrangement of Indonesian Regional the Election in the Midst of COVID-19, *International Journal of Management*, 11(12), 2020, pp 2189-2199.

<http://www.iaeme.com/IJM/issues.asp?JType=IJM&VType=11&IType=12>

1. INTRODUCTION

Responding to the current global situation where all countries, including Indonesia, are still hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, every country ⁵¹ must ensure that its people comply with health protocol regulations to minimize the addition and spread of Covid-19 cases. However, at the same time, the government of Indonesia chose to carry out the regional head elections simultaneously. In the implementation of the simultaneous regional head election ⁵⁷ concerns arise from the community regarding the possibility that the election can lead ¹⁵ new clusters of Covid-19 spread (Velavan & Meyer, 2020). Concerns about the emergence of a new cluster of the spread of Covid-19 in the implementation of the regional head election requires good management in the implementation of the election, starting from the preparation, dissemination ⁶ to the community, clear implementation procedure, and risk management. The management of the preparation ³⁴ of the regional head election implementation is an essential factor for the smooth and safe implementation ¹⁶ of the simultaneous regional head election of 2020. Countries that held elections during the Covid-19 pandemic were not only Indonesia, but it were also carried out by 47 countries. Among these countries, there were five countries that postponed the elections, but among these five, there were three countries that ³⁷ had implemented the elections during Covid-19 pandemic (Gostin & Wiley, 2020; Sharma et al. 2020; Crick & Crick, 2020; Shokrani et al. 2020; Sandi et al., 2020). ⁶ The two countries that have not done the elections are France and Poland (Ciotti et al., 2020). The implementation of the simultaneous regional head election of 2020 in Indonesia will ³¹ affect the investment rank of Indonesia. Indonesia's success in implementing simultaneous regional head elections in the midst of a pandemic without creating new clusters will be seen as the country's success in controlling and securing the spread of Covid-19. As a result, Indonesia is seen as a conducive destination ¹¹ country for both domestic and foreign investment (Bahanan, 2020; Khumayah & Siswoyo, 2020). On the other hand, the success of the simultaneous regional head election of 2020 can prove that Indonesia has a great management concept and has been proven to success of a large agenda implementation in the midst of a pandemic, as well as minimize and prevent health risk to occur.

¹⁵ The simultaneous voting for the Governor and Deputy Governor, the Regent and Deputy Regent, as well as the Mayor and Deputy Mayor was held in September 2020. There are 270 regions (9 provinces, 224 regencies, and 37 cities) that must carry out the election for the 4th Regional Head simultaneously. According to the schedule, the elections of Regional Head of 2020 determined by the General Election Commission Regulation Number 5 of 2020 were on June 15, 2020. On March 2, 2020, the first Covid-19 case was found in Indonesia. Since then, the spread of Covid-19 in Indonesia has widened, and the pandemic was eventually declared a non-natural national disaster through the Presidential Decree Number 12 of 2020 regarding the Determination of Non-Natural Disaster for the Spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) as a National Disaster. In the midst ⁵⁶ of the Covid-19 pandemic that has hit the entire world as a global pandemic and become a non-natural national disaster for Indonesia, the government along with its supporting institution (DPR, KPU, Bawaslu, and DKPP) must make the decisions on the continuation of the implementation ⁵² of the simultaneous regional head elections of 2020. To provide a legal protection for the postponement of the ³ schedule for the simultaneous regional head elections in 2020, the President issued a Government

Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 2 of 2020 concerning the Third Amendment to Law Number 1 of 2015 concerning the Stipulation of Government Regulations in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2014 concerning Elections for Governors, Regents, and Mayors. The changes of the implementation of the regional head election were followed up by changes in the schedule for the simultaneous regional head elections of 2020 which were stipulated by the General Election Commission Regulation Number 5 of 2020 concerning the Third Amendment of General Election Commission Regulation Number 15 of 2019 concerning the Stages, Programs, and Implementation Schedules of the Election for the Governor and Deputy Governor, the Regent and Deputy Regent and/or the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of 2020.

In order to form a management for the implementation of the simultaneous regional head election of 2020, KPU have prepared guidelines for the implementation of regional head elections in 2020 by implementing the health protocol for preventing the transmissions of Covid-19 in every stage of the simultaneous regional head election. In addressing the plan to implement the simultaneous regional head elections, the Institute for Domestic Government (IPDN) has held a national seminar on June 23, 2020, as it becomes the academic obligation for the institute to oversee and monitor the implementation of the simultaneous regional head elections as one of the duty of a higher education. Based on these considerations, IPDN as an official higher education institution within the Ministry of Home Affairs has been motivated to conduct research in order to answer a series of questions related to the success of the implementation of regional head election. The application of health protocols to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at every stage of the regional head election which involves hundreds of thousands of organizers, participants, and millions of voters is the most interesting thing to research and understand scientifically. Therefore, this study will discuss the analysis and procedures for holding the simultaneous regional head elections in 2020 in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic. This study also provides an overview of the implementation of the simultaneous regional head election of 2020 in the midst of pandemic, starting from the preparation management and regional head election dissemination, voting implementation management, as well as voting count management in Indonesia so that it does not cause an emergence of new cluster of the spread of Covid-19.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESIS

2.1. Management of Regional Head Elections

Elections are one of the characteristics that must be present in a democratic country. Election is an important means for the people in the life of the state, which is done by electing representatives who in turn will control the wheels of government. The results of the election held in an atmosphere of openness with freedom of opinion as well as freedom of association are considered quite accurate in reflecting the aspirations and participation of the public (Nasdik, 2016). The pandemic has indeed cause numbers of negative impact to the whole world, but there are several countries that have been able to rise up and suppress the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. The key for a country in overcoming this crisis is seriousness, prioritizing the interests of the people, and optimism (Bustikova & Babos, 2020). The efforts to deal with the crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic will not be separated from politics, thus it must be directed towards positive things that can help the country handle the pandemic, rather than the other way around (Bustikova & Babos, 2020).

For Indonesia, the opportunity to show optimism in handling the pandemic is through the sound and successful implementation of the regional head elections. The simultaneous regional head elections of 2020 are truly much debated. Marisa et al. (2020) stated that the regional head election could be postponed after the pandemic, but it is still the government's right to determine the timing. If the regional head election continues, the government must

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continue to urge ²⁸ the public to use ⁹ masks and maintain physical distance as a protocol to prevent the spread of the virus ⁶. In order to achieve this goal, it requires a good and professional management of the implementation of regional head election. Management of the implementation of regional head election is a detail implementation management starting from the preparation, ⁵⁷ dissemination, campaign, voting, voting count, and delivery of voting results. Management of the implementation of regional ²⁵ head election surely different and more complex compared to the previous years, since it is carried out in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic, which requires both the government and the people to maintain health protocols.

In Indonesia, ¹³ the regional head election is carried out by an independent institution, namely the General Election Commission/KPU (Mutiarasari & Herawati, 2020). The institution has representatives in each region, so that the distribution process of ballot papers and other equipment is assisted by the local institution. KPU does not work without supervision. To minimize any violations that occurred, the Election Supervisory Agency ²² (Bawaslu) is formed. Provincial or Regency/City Bawaslu has the main task of overseeing the implementation of regional head election starting from the stage of identifying candidates, determining candidates, campaigning, until the voting process ends (Nasdik, 2016).

The stages of the simultaneous regional head election consist of preparation (initial stages) and implementation (campaigning, ⁵⁰ voting, vote counting, and delivering vote count results) (Gaffar, 2004). The preparatory stage begins with the KPU's program and budgeting planning which has been started on September 30, 2019. In program and budgeting planning, the Regional Grant Agreement Manuscript is drafted and signed in October 2019. After the manuscript is signed, the program and budgeting management is carried out. After the initial stage of the election preparation is carried out, the next stage is implementation, which includes campaigning, voting, vote counting, and delivering vote count results. This stage begins with the fulfillment of the support requirement for individual candidate pairs. KPU, through its authority to form election regulations, determines the minimum number of support requirements and the distribution of individual candidate pairs based on the recapitulation of the permanent voting list (DPT) from the last election (Dwipayana, 2016). ²⁰ The next stage is voting stage. The voting stage is carried out through two processes. First, the procurement and distribution of voting as well as counting equipment, which consists of the process ²⁰ of procuring voting and counting ballot equipment. The second process is the production and distribution of the voting and counting equipment.

After voting, the next step is counting the votes. Vote counting was carried out on December 9, 2020 right after the completion of the voting schedule by voters. The results of the vote count at the voting place were reported by the voting committee (PPS) to the district selection committee (PPK) on December 9, 2020 to December 11, 2020. After the district selection committee received all vote count results in its district, they conducted ⁵⁸ vote recapitulation in the district level on December 10, 2020 to December 14, 2020. The final stage is the delivery of results. The stage of submitting ⁴² the results of the vote count are carried out through the announcement board and website of the provincial ³⁶ KPU for the election of governors and deputy governors, as well as the district/city KPU for the election of regents and deputy regents or mayor and deputy mayor. After the announcement of the vote count results, the next stage is the determination of the elected candidates without a request for dispute over the election ³ results. As for the candidates with disputed requests for election results, candidates for regents and deputy regents, or mayor and deputy mayor, or governor and deputy governor, it takes no less ²⁷ than five days after the Constitutional Court officially notifies the integrated application in the constitutional case registration book to the KPU. From each stage of the implementation of the simultaneous regional head election of 2020, the key to its successful implementation is in the implementation of health protocols (Rosanti,

2020). The government must have a team and partners who are reliable and firm in handling health protocols. The government must also guarantee that the voting place are sterilized and are closely guarded (Kuswanto, 2020; Fernandes et al. 2020).

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Design Analysis and Hypotheses Test

This study is a descriptive research with quantitative descriptive approach. Quantitative descriptive research presents a detailed description of phenomena about a special situation, social setting, and the relationship between concepts (Wasilah, 2002; Seniawan, 2008). The population of this study is divided into two, namely the population for voters' perceptions of the implementation of regional head elections (100,359,152 voters) and the population for calculating voter participation, which uses voting place (298,938 voting places) (Mutiarasari & Herawati, 2020). The sampling method in this study is carried out using accidental sampling, where the researchers determined the voters as a sample in 180 regions from 470 provinces, districts, and cities that held the simultaneous regional head elections of 2020. The number of respondents in this study is 1,405 respondents. In addition, to determine voter participation, the number of voting place that becomes the sample is 1,552 voting places.

3.2. Data Collection

In this study, the data collection method used by the researchers is through questionnaires and documentation studies, which will be explained below:

- Questionnaire. Questionnaire is a data collection technique that is conducted by providing questions that should be answered by respondents, usually in written form. The questionnaire is used when researchers want to know the perceptions or habits of a population based on the respondents. Questionnaires can be in the printed form or online form, such as Google Forms. This study uses online questionnaire using Google Forms format.
- Documentation study. The secondary data uses in this study is the data on the results of regional head elections published by the Voting Organizing Group (KPPS) or the KPU, as well as other policies document related to the implementation of the simultaneous regional head election of 2020.

The data processing and analysis technique in this study uses description in the form of percentage resulted from the response submitted by the respondents through Google Forms.

4. RESULT & DISCUSSION

The first stage during the management of the implementation of regional head election is preparation management. The preparatory stages for the simultaneous regional head elections of 2020 have been going well. The series of preparatory activities for the simultaneous regional head elections of 2020, which have been carried out from the initial stage, especially the support from the strategic role of the Ministry of Home Affairs, are explained below:

- The Directorate General of Regional Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, has a role in facilitating the preparation of budgeting for the simultaneous regional head elections of 2020 through the formulation of the budget requirements, which are discussed jointly with the Ministry of Finance and the Central KPU. The budgeting for the simultaneous regional head elections of 2020 held on December 9, 2020, requires large funds in addition to financing logistics, as well as financing security and health protocols. Therefore, for the simultaneous regional head elections of 2020, the government allocates funds from IDR 15,23 trillion to IDR 20,46 trillion, or an

increase of IDR ⁹ 5,23 trillion. The total fund of IDR 20,46 trillion consists of IDR 15,23 trillion ⁹ from the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget, and IDR 4,77 trillion from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget.

- ³²
• The Directorate General of Population and Civil Registry of the Ministry of Home Affairs ⁴¹ has the role of preparing the list of Potential Electoral Voters (DP4) submitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs on behalf of the Government to the KPU to serve as the basis for compiling the Permanent Voting List (DPT) by KPU.
- ¹⁷
• The Directorate General of Regional Autonomy of the Ministry of Home Affairs plays a role in the formulation of regulations for the simultaneous ⁵ regional head elections of 2020 as well as the preparation of instructions and dissemination of neutrality ²³ the State Civil Apparatus (ASN) in simultaneous regional head elections. They also play a role in providing support for the ⁴⁶ preparation of the temporary office of the regional head (governor and regent/mayor) of the simultaneous regional head election who run for the regional head candidate pair.
- ¹⁹
• The Directorate General of Politics and General Administration of the Ministry of Home Affairs plays a role in coordinating with related agencies, especially the Provincial and Regency/City United Nation and Politic in socializing and disseminating the simultaneous regional head election in order to increase knowledge and community participation.
- ¹⁹
• The Directorate General of Regional Administration of the Ministry of Home Affairs plays a role in coordinating with the Provincial and District/City Service Police Units, the Regional police, and the Indonesian National Army to support the improvement of public order and peace at both the initial and implementation stage of the election. Distribution of masks, hand sanitizers, and face shields to the public is also carried out in preparation for a new normal, so that the people are safe from Covid-19 and can continue to carry out productive activities.

²¹
Furthermore, the implementation stage of the campaign for the simultaneous regional head election of 2020 is focused on securing the implementation of the campaign, implementation of standard health protocols, as well as the delivery of mission and mission of the regional head candidates, campaign materials related to Covid-19, response from the community regarding the vision and mission of prospective regional heads, level of community participation in campaign implementation, law enforcement by the supervisory committee and the monitoring team for campaign violations, the use of campaign media/facilities, clearance of campaign props in the quiet day, and innovative use of campaign media. The implementation of simultaneous regional head election of 2020 has been going well, as shown by the distribution of logistics, completeness of logistics, security of logistics at voting place, schedule of voters' arrival at voting place, compliance with health protocols, assistance and level of community participation, timeliness of voting, witnesses' attendance, seating arrangements, health conditions of Voting Organizing Group (KPPS), as well as transactional violations prior to voting.

Furthermore, vote counting is carried out with the timeliness of vote counting in accordance with the schedule, order and fluency in vote counting, public participation in vote counting, witnesses' attendance, safeguarding of ballot boxes, and handling of violations that occur when vote counting has gone well. In addition, the stage of submitting vote count results to voting committee in villages, timeliness of submitting vote count results to district selection committee (PPK), timeliness of submitting vote count results to the Regency/City of KPU, and timeliness of submitting vote count results to Provincial KPU, especially for the governor election, have been going well.

Regarding the neutrality of the ASN in the regional head election of 2020, the Minister of Home Affairs has anticipated by reprimanding 67 regional heads who have not followed up the recommendation from the ASN commission regarding the imposition of sanctions for ASNs who violate neutrality in the regional head election of 2020. The warning is delivered through a letter signed by the General Inspector of the ministry of Home Affairs, Tumpak Haposan Simanjuntak, on October 27, 2020.

Many ASNs have failed to understand about the neutrality in the regional head election. The warning to the regional heads is a follow-up to the Joint Decree of the Minister of State Apparatus Empowerment and Bureaucratic Reform, Minister of Home Affairs, Head of the State Civil Service Agent, Chairman of ASN Commission, and Chairman of Bawaslu regarding guidelines for monitoring the neutrality of ASN employees in the implementation of regional head election of 2020. More detailed explanation regarding the crucial issue in each stage of the management of the regional head election of 2020 is discussed below:

4.1. Preparation Stage

In the preparation stage of the simultaneous regional head election of 2020, budgeting issues are of great concern. This has to do with improving safety and implementing health protocols. To deal with this issue, the government, through the Minister of Finance, has allocated the election funds from IDR 15,23 trillion to IDR 20,46 trillion, added IDR 5,23 of an increase. This additional budget is very significant, as it is almost the same as the total budget of KPU for simultaneous regional head elections in 2015. The total fund of IDR 20,46 trillion consists of IDR 15,23 trillion from the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD), and IDR 4,77 trillion from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBN). In addition, the simultaneous regional head of 2020 which was attended by 270 regions have indirectly created 270 controls related to the realization of the budget. This is due to the Regional Grant Agreement Text (NHPD) or grant funds for the regional head election budget sourced from the APBD. The main reason why this problem keeps recurring is because the budget from regional head election comes from the APBD and not from one-stop control. It differs from the implementation of legislative and presidential elections, which budget comes from the state and through one-stop.

From the aspect of the permanent voters list (DPT), in order to ensure the latest data, Bawaslu has provided a number of notes related to the process of matching and researching or updating the election voter data. It is held by the KPU starting from July 15, 2020 to August 4, 2020. This process is carried out door to door by the officers. The implementation of this study is based on the voters list in the A-KWK model, which originated from the synchronization results between the 2019 election voters list and the 2020 election potential voters list. The matching and early research was carried out by identifying first-time voters, observing voters who were declared ineligible in the 2019 election, collecting information on voters who were married under 17 years old, and identifying voters in the special voters list of the 2019 election. In this process, Bawaslu provided several notes, namely:

- There were 328,024 new voters in 235 districts/cities who were not registered in the A-KWK model voter list.
- It was found 805,856 voters in 204 districts/cities who have been declared TMS in the 2019 elections were registered in the A-KWK model voter list.
- It was found 3,331 who were not yet 17 years old were married in 142 districts/cities who were not registered in the A-KWK model voter list.
- It was found 66,041 voters in the 2019 election in 111 districts/cities who were not registered in the A-KWK model voters list.

- It was found 182 districts/cities where voters were separated from their voting place based on the A-KWK model voters list.

From the results of these observations, Bawaslu could draw several conclusions. First, the synchronization process did not update the population data, especially for residents aged 17 or residents who have been married on December 9, 2020. Second, the synchronization process did not produce an accurate and valid voter list, because the A-KWK model voters list still included voters who are declared TMS, and it did not include voters in the 2019 election of DPK list. Third, the A-KWK model voters list has not fulfill the requirements for voter formation in one voting place, and has not met the requirements for the convenience of voters, because it has not fulfilled the principle of one family to vote in the same voting place.

4.2. Campaign Stage

In the campaign stage, the KPU found several problems based on reports from the regional KPU. The first is that many pairs of candidates campaigned without a notification permits (STTP) from the police. Moreover, the campaign notification permits are often not submitted to the regional KPU. This is also caused by the lack of responsiveness and communication between the candidate pairs and the KPU.

Several concerns were also given on the implementation of campaigns with both online and social media. As of mid-October 2020, there are only four percent of 3,398 total campaign activities were carried out with online media. Ninety-six percent are still conducting face-to-face campaigns, which is a violation of health protocols. There are still many people who do not keep their distance and do not have adequate hand washing or sanitation facilities. In connection with the online campaign, data from campaign officers, volunteers, and official social media accounts used for campaign purposes was late in submitting candidate pairs to the KPU. Social media account manager data is also not or has not been included in the social media account report submitted by the candidate.

Besides that, there was a delay in submitting the design of the campaign props and campaign materials by the candidate campaign team to the KPU with substandard image quality. Furthermore, the additional APK of the candidate pairs does not meet the requirements and does not match the location because it is installed in both private and public areas. Regarding the location of the props, there are also problems with the campaign zone. Campaign zones and schedules are not specified in the campaign regulations. Therefore, in the end, the KPU suggested to create a campaign zone to be outlined in the KPU's decision. Many candidate pairs create campaign posts that have the potential to generate crowds, while the KPU does not regulate the provisions of the post in KPU Regulation Number 17.

4.3. Implementation Stage

¹³ The implementation of the voting of the simultaneous regional head election of 2020 in accordance with the Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 2 of 2020, which is scheduled for December 9, 2020, is considered to have potential problems by several parties. Bawaslu member, Rahmat Bagja, stated that, "Potential problems such as money politics practices, voters list, decreased voter participation, and abuse of power can occur. This is a big challenge for election organizers."

During the implementation stage, Praja found that in general the voting place had prepared and ⁶paid attention to health protocols. This cannot be separated from the socialization of the implementation of health protocols during the regional head elections. This is shown from several facts, for example, that the time to attend voting is done on a scheduled basis, the obligation ¹⁷wear masks by voters and committees, as well as social distancing in the voting place. The implementation of the regional head elections has run

safely according to the Covid-19 protocol, although the tools used are simple, such as using an attached bucket to wash hands. Rapid testing of witnesses is not always carried out, but protocols such as checking temperature and wearing masks are a must. Technically, the implementation of the simultaneous regional head of 2020 cannot be separated from classical and technical problems, such as problems with the DPT that are not pasted, lack or exchanged ballot papers, and et cetera. In addition, there are several incidental things. For example, in the district of Boven Digul, Papua Province, the implementation of the simultaneous election was postponed based on the KPU Decree of Papua Province Number 104/PL.02-Kpt/91/Prov/XII/2020, on the grounds that the dispute trial at Bawaslu had not yet been completed (Mutiarasari & Herawati, 2020).

4.4. Vote Counting Stages

From the observation results by Praja, the vote counting stages generally went quite smoothly. Currently, the KPU is also using an application called Sirekap (Recapitulation Information System). However, it must be admitted that the process of inputting data into the application is still constrained by the internet network limitations, thus it will take longer until the vote count results at the voting place are sent to the district selection committee (PPK). As of December 10, 2020, the implementation of the vote recapitulation is still ongoing..

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the discussion of the results of monitoring and academic studies on the management and implementation of the simultaneous regional head elections in 2020 in the midst of Covid-19 pandemic, it was found that the stages of the elections had been carried out directly, publicly, freely, secretly, honestly, fairly, safely, orderly, and successfully based on health protocols. This success is supported by the proactive role of the Minister of Home Affairs in realizing the democratic and healthy simultaneous regional head elections with various announcements and programs. The success of implementing simultaneous regional elections in 2020 in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic is shown from the results of the data analysis based on the following indicators:

- The level of compliance with the health protocol has mostly been complied with the achievement of 90.17%, thus the simultaneous regional elections that are feared will cause new clusters have not been proven.
- Voter participation in simultaneous regional elections in 2020 reached 80.34%, thus the reduction of regional head during Covid-19 pandemic did not hinder and did not result in a decrease in political participation.
- The implementation of simultaneous regional head elections in 2020 runs directly, publicly, freely, secretly, honestly, fairly, safely, orderly, and successfully, reaching 96.08% due to the synergy between both the central and local government, as well as the active role of simultaneous election organizers (FORKOPIMDA), which is supported by the Indonesian National Army, Police, security guard, community protection, political party, and the community.
- The preparatory stage for the simultaneous regional elections in 2020 reached 92.93% which includes budget preparation, logistics, socialization, and DPT determination has been carried out in accordance with the plans and provisions of the applicable laws and regulations.
- The vision and mission of regional head candidates with the theme of handling Covid-19 through candidate campaigns and debates reached 93.12%.

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- The linkage between ⁴⁴ the vision and mission of the candidate for regional head and regional development reaches 77.38%.
- Innovation in the use of information technology in the campaign is still low, namely 27.64%, most of which are still done traditionally and not innovative.
- The timeliness of the implementation of voting, the schedule for the calculation, and submission of the 2020 regional elections for simultaneous votes reached a result of 93.55%.
- ⁵ The neutrality of ASN in the implementation of simultaneous regional ¹⁴ elections in 2020 has not been fully achieved. This is indicated by the warning from the ¹⁸ Minister of Home Affairs to ⁶⁷ regional heads, because there are still some ASNs within the scope of regional government who indicated the violation of neutrality.
- The efforts made ¹³ by the Minister of Home Affairs in supporting the implementation of the simultaneous regional head election of 2020 and anticipating the transmission of Covid-19 through the issuance of a Circular Letter of the Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic ¹² of Indonesia Number 440/2622/SJ on March 29, 2020 regarding the Formation of a Regional Task Force for the Acceleration of Handling Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) and socialization to the regions is very precise, so that the implementation of the regional head election can run according to safe health protocols from Covid-19 transmission. ¹¹

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