



Organisasi Masyarakat Untuk
Advokasi Kebijakan Publik

Press Release

MORE INDEPENDENT VOTERS and READY TO ACCEPT DIRECT LOCAL ELECTION RESULT 3 June 2005

Independence from political party affiliation and ethnic background characterized voting behavior in the first direct local election in Indonesia, according to a survey of voters' attitudes conducted on Election Day by an independent advocacy group in Kutai Kartanegara, East Kalimantan. The survey was carried out by Pokja 30 in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI). Another key finding of the survey is that the supporters of all of the candidates were ready to accept the victory of whichever candidate received the most votes which Pokja 30 considers important progress for democracy in Indonesia and for Kutai Kartanegara.

A full one-third of respondents who said they voted for GOLKAR, PKS and PAN in last year's election disregarded their political party's nomination and voted for a candidate nominated by another party. Only 68,81% of GOLKAR's supporters chose the GOLKAR candidate, Syaukani, while 64,06% PKS supporters and 66,67% of PAN supporters voter candidate Aji Sofyan Alex.

Voting behavior in the first direct local election in Indonesia followed the trend established in last year's legislative and presidential elections. Increasingly independent, voters were not interested in being told how to vote by their political party though party affiliation remained an important factor in their choice.

Even though PDI-P and PKB did not nominate particular candidates, their supporters distributed their votes in a similar pattern to the overall proportion of the Quick Count result projection. For instance, 36,18% of PDIP supporters voted for Sofyan Alex, 5,28% voted for Tajuddin Noor, and 50% voted for Syaukani while PKB supporters gave Sofyan Alex 37,93%, Tajuddin Noor 3,45% and Syaukani 55,17%.

Interestingly, votes for Sofyan Alex came largely from Golkar supporters (29,91%) and PDIP (19,43%) while from the parties that nominated this candidate, PKS contributed 8,95% and PAN 9,17%. In addition, Demokrat Party also contributes 7,42% from the vote composition.

87,86% of the defeated candidates' supporters said they could trust the elected Bupati in this local election. This is a very positive behaviour and reflective of a maturing democracy.

To note the 33% votes gained by Sofyan Alex is a big success for the challenger, because, in the 2004 legislative election in Kutai Kartanegara, PAN received only 4,89% and PKS received only 4,71%.

From the ethnicity factor, each candidate received support from all ethnic groups and no single ethnic group dominated. For instance, Aji Sofyan Alex supporters are consisted of 26,42% Kutai, 2,84% Dayak, 17,47% Bugis Makassar, 32,53% Java, 12,45% Banjar and other ethnic groups below 2%. Syaukani supporters are consisted of 25,49% Kutai, 7,41% Dayak, 16,01% Bugis Makassar, 30,07% Java, 13,62% Banjar with other ethnic groups below 2%.

Meanwhile voter distribution based on ethnicity, have a similar pattern to the overall proportion of the Quick Count result projection. For instance, 26,13% Kutai voters voted for Sofyan Alex, 4,75% voted for Tajuddin Noor, and 50,54% voted for Syaukani. It was a similar story with Bugis/Makassar voters who chose Sofyan Alex 26,85%, 6,71% chose Tajuddin Noor, and 49,33% chose Syaukani. Javanese voters 28,54% voted for Sofyan Alex, 4,21% voted for Tajuddin Noor and 52,87% voted for Syaukani. The ethnic group that has different pattern is Dayak ethnic group that 14,61% voted for Aji Sofyan Alex, 1,12% voted for Tajuddin Noor and 76,40% voted for Syaukani.

Thus, ethnicity is not the main factor in electing a candidate except perhaps for Dayak people, more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of whom voted for Syaukani.

These are some of the findings of a Voter Attitude Survey (VAS) conducted on Election Day at Kutai Kartanegara by Pokja 30 in cooperation with National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI). The data from this survey was collected from samples of 1720 respondents interviewed throughout Kutai Kartanegara. This sample is based on the Quick Count sample of 191 polling stations selected randomly according an internationally-accepted standard. The margin of error for the Quick Count $\pm 2\%$, with sample confidence level at 95%.

Pokja 30 (Forum Himpunan Kelompok Kerja 30) is a non-governmental, non-profit and independent organization founded in 1999 to work on public policy issues. Since its foundation, *Pokja 30* has conducted many activities related to public policy including research on the quality of Water Services in Samarinda and Tenggarong Cities. *Pokja 30* has also conducted analyses of the City of Samarinda and East Kalimantan Province budgets. *Pokja 30* also conducted a voter behaviour survey during the Indonesian legislative elections in 2004 using an Exit Poll method, and a survey on voter perception and preference regarding the political platforms of the presidential candidates in Samarinda.



The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Washington, DC that has been working for more than twenty years to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. Working with local partners, NDI has conducted Quick Counts in more than two dozen countries including in Indonesia's National Elections in 2004.

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Table 1: Preference of Political Party in 2004 to pairs of Bupati Candidates

Party April 2004	Sofyan Alex – HM Irkham	Tajuddin Noor –A. Djabar	Syaukani - Syamsuri	Abstain	No Answer	Total
<i>Golkar</i>	16.00%	2.45%	68.81%	0.47%	12.27%	100.00%
<i>PDIP</i>	36.18%	5.28%	50.00%	0.00%	8.54%	100.00%
<i>PKB</i>	37.93%	3.45%	55.17%	0.00%	3.45%	100.00%
<i>PPP</i>	35.19%	14.81%	27.78%	0.00%	22.22%	100.00%
<i>Partai Demokrat</i>	35.05%	4.12%	39.18%	1.03%	20.62%	100.00%
<i>PKS</i>	64.06%	3.13%	26.56%	0.00%	6.25%	100.00%
<i>PAN</i>	66.67%	3.17%	12.70%	0.00%	17.46%	100.00%
<i>PBB</i>	9.09%	9.09%	45.45%	0.00%	36.36%	100.00%
<i>PDS</i>	71.43%	14.29%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
<i>PBR</i>	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%	100.00%
<i>Others</i>	46.15%	10.77%	33.85%	0.00%	9.23%	100.00%
<i>Haven't Voted</i>	27.27%	6.82%	52.27%	0.00%	13.64%	100.00%
<i>Abstain</i>	30.12%	14.46%	42.17%	0.00%	13.25%	100.00%
<i>No Answer</i>	10.75%	6.45%	24.73%	0.00%	58.06%	100.00%

Table 2: Voters Preference to elect Pairs of Bupati Candidates

Consideration to vote candidates	Sofyan Alex – HM Irkham	Tajuddin Noor –A. Djabar	Syaukani - Syamsuri	Abstain	No Answer	Total
Read/ know their programs	29.30%	2.55%	55.73%	0.00%	12.42%	100%
Honesty	38.66%	7.56%	37.82%	0.00%	15.97%	100%
Capability	17.34%	4.43%	59.78%	0.00%	18.45%	100%
Charisma	17.39%	3.48%	62.61%	0.00%	16.52%	100%
Pragmatic	33.33%	16.67%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100%
Faith	60.00%	0.00%	30.00%	0.00%	10.00%	100%
Public speaking skill	58.33%	4.17%	37.50%	0.00%	0.00%	100%
Affiliation with a political party	22.22%	16.67%	50.00%	0.00%	11.11%	100%
Experience	7.00%	1.56%	80.93%	0.00%	10.51%	100%
Family Choice	29.41%	3.92%	58.82%	0.00%	7.84%	100%
Dislike the other candidate	48.28%	3.45%	24.14%	0.00%	24.14%	100%
Money politics	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100%
Others	41.61%	6.99%	40.56%	0.35%	10.49%	100%
No Answer	15.66%	7.23%	28.92%	1.20%	46.99%	100%

Table 3 : Supporters based on Ethnicity

<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Sofyan Alex – HM Irkham</i>	<i>Tajuddin Noor –A. Djabar</i>	<i>Syaukani - Syamsuri</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>No Answer</i>
Kutai	26.42%	27.16%	25.49%	20.00%	33.07%
Dayak	2.84%	1.23%	7.41%	0.00%	2.72%
Bugis/ Makassar	17.47%	24.69%	16.01%	40.00%	19.07%
Manado	0.44%	0.00%	0.33%	0.00%	0.39%
Aceh	0.44%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Batak	0.22%	1.23%	0.33%	0.00%	0.39%
Minang	0.22%	0.00%	0.22%	0.00%	0.00%
Melayu	0.22%	2.47%	0.33%	0.00%	0.39%
Madura	0.44%	1.23%	1.09%	0.00%	1.17%
Bali	0.00%	0.00%	0.33%	0.00%	0.39%
Jawa	32.53%	27.16%	30.07%	0.00%	29.18%
Sasak	0.66%	0.00%	0.33%	0.00%	1.17%
Timor	0.66%	1.23%	0.65%	0.00%	0.39%
Ambon	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.39%
Papua	0.00%	0.00%	0.11%	0.00%	0.00%
Toraja	0.66%	2.47%	1.53%	0.00%	1.17%
Banjar	12.45%	8.64%	13.62%	40.00%	8.56%
Tionghoa	0.00%	1.23%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Others	4.37%	1.23%	2.18%	0.00%	1.56%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 4 : Ethnic group support to Pairs of Bupati candidates

<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Sofyan Alex – HM Irkham</i>	<i>Tajuddin Noor –A. Djabar</i>	<i>Syaukani - Syamsuri</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>No Answer</i>	<i>Total</i>
Kutai	26.13%	4.75%	50.54%	0.22%	18.36%	100%
Dayak	14.61%	1.12%	76.4%	0%	7.87%	100%
Bugis/ Makassar	26.85%	6.71%	49.33%	0.67%	16.44%	100%
Manado	33.33%	0%	50%	0%	16.67%	100%
Aceh	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Batak	16.67%	16.67%	50%	0%	16.67%	100%
Minang	33.33%	0%	66.67%	0%	0%	100%
Melayu	14.29%	28.57%	42.86%	0%	14.29%	100%
Madura	12.50%	6.25%	62.5%	0%	18.75%	100%
Bali	0%	0%	75%	0%	25%	100%
Jawa	28.54%	4.21%	52.87%	0%	14.37%	100%
Sasak	33.33%	0%	33.33%	0%	33.33%	100%
Timor	27.27%	9.09%	54.55%	0%	9.09%	100%
Ambon	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
Papua	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%
Toraja	13.64%	9.09%	63.64%	0%	13.64%	100%
Banjar	26.76%	3.29%	58.69%	0.94%	10.33%	100%
Tionghoa	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Others	44.44%	2.22%	44.44%	0%	8.89%	100%