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THE IMPACT OF POLITICAL LITERACY EDUCATION AND LEARNING ON THE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF FIRST-TIME VOTERS AHEAD OF THE 2024 ELECTION IN KERINCI REGENCY

Atiqah Revalina¹⁾, Suryanef²⁾, Al Rafni³⁾, Eka Vidya Putra⁴⁾, Yovhandra Ockta⁵⁾

¹⁾ Universitas Negeri Padang, Padang, Indonesia
E-mail: Atiqahrev@gmail.com

²⁾ Universitas Negeri Padang, Padang, Indonesia
E-mail: Suryanef@fis.unp.ac.id

³⁾ Universitas Negeri Padang, Padang, Indonesia
E-mail: Alrafni@fis.unp.ac.id

⁴⁾ Universitas Negeri Padang, Padang, Indonesia
E-mail: Ekavidya@gmail.com

⁵⁾ Universitas Negeri Padang, Padang, Indonesia
E-mail: yovhandra1999@gmail.com

Abstract. In a democratic country, political literacy is a very important aspect in elections because the higher the political literacy of its citizens, the higher the quality of democracy implementation in the country. Political literacy will create a politically literate society, if there is a lack of political literacy, it will have an impact on the quality of participation. This study aims to find out the level of political literacy of novice voters, find out the level of political participation of novice voters and find out the quality of the correlation between the political literacy of novice voters and their political participation ahead of the 2024 general election. This research is located in Air Hangat Barat District, Kerinci Regency. This study uses a descriptive-correlational method. The data collection technique used is a questionnaire. The sampling technique used is probability sampling, which is simple random sampling. Data analysis was carried out by Pearson correlation test analysis, which was first carried out as a prerequisite for analysis, there was a significant positive relationship between the political literacy of novice voters and political participation ahead of the 2024 election, showing a significance value of $p < 0.05$. The value of the product moment correlation between x and y is only at 0.409 from the interval of 0.40-0.599, so it is concluded that it is "quite strong" even though it is not at a very high level, because not only political literacy affects novice voters to participate but many other factors can influence novice voters to participate in activities ahead of the general election.

Keywords: Political Literacy, Beginner Voters, Political Participation, Approaching the 2024 Election

I. INTRODUCTION

General elections are an important democratic process in Indonesia's political system, and are also one of the processes to fight for political interests in the form of a selection process for the birth of people's representatives and leaders in the context of the realization of democracy, because general elections are a political activity to accommodate the interests of the people, which are then formulated in various forms of policies. General elections aim to form a system of state power with the sovereignty of the people and representative deliberations outlined by the 1945 Constitution. According to

Nasir (2020) General elections are a conception and a big idea which is the implementation process of democracy where every citizen has the right to determine their candidate leader.

In a democratic country, political literacy is a very important aspect in elections because the higher the political literacy of its citizens, the higher the quality of democracy implementation in the country. In general, political literacy is often associated with the level of public participation in elections. This view reduces the importance of political literacy itself to something that is only related to elections. Although political literacy has a broad meaning, it requires citizens to know, understand and realize their position in the political and constitutional system, including national

awareness, consequences between rights and obligations and individual responsibilities in the survival of the nation and state. Ridha & Riwanda (2020) said that political literacy is knowledge and understanding of political processes and political issues that allow people to actively and effectively perform their roles as citizens such as voluntarily participating in the election of leaders and being directly or indirectly involved in the general policy formulation process.

Political literacy will create a politically literate society. The lack of political literacy in society will have an impact on how easily it is led by irresponsible opinions. For this reason, political literacy is an important thing to convey to the community. Sutisna (2017) explained that the election not only produces a high level of participation, but also produces a quality of participation. To produce a quality election with quality participation, certain preconditions are needed, one of which is the performance of voters who are literate, intelligent and politically critical, so that their political preferences are rational choices. Rational voters (intelligent and critical) are described as voters who not only have electoral knowledge and awareness, but are also free from various forms of intimidation, have resistance to unhealthy transactional attacks or persuasions that violate rules such as money politics, and understand very well the importance of the votes they have and the political consequences of their choices in the future. While hypothetically, irrational voters or "politically blind" voters contribute to the implementation and results of elections that are not of good quality, elections that are colored by transactional practices such as money politics and election mobilization that give birth to more elected candidates (legislative and executive elections) who are not integrity and far from competent. Irrational voters who are still far from the intelligent and critical categories are generally spread out in the beginner voter segment. This is supported by opinions Rosadi (2020), that novice voters are a new generation in voting who have different traits and characters, backgrounds, experiences and challenges from previous voters. So that with low political literacy, they will tend to be indifferent, apolitical, and easy to mobilize for certain interests.

Based on the provisions of the law, voters are residents who are at least 17 (seventeen) years old or have been/have been married who are registered in elections with an election cycle in Indonesia which is held every five years, so the age range of novice voters is 17-21 years old. Ardiani et al., (2019); Yunus et al., (2022) mentioned that first-time voters are citizens registered by the election organizers in the voter list, and have only participated in the election for the first time since the election held in Indonesia. This segment of novice voters is mostly students, students/youth who are between 17-21 years old at the time an election/regional election is held. One of the objects of the election itself is the novice voters. Sukmajati, M., & Hahsun (2019) found that novice voters are one part of the election object that has a weak level of political literacy. Where the attitude of novice voters is still very inclined to the majority vote rather than based on rational choices based on a further vision in the future.

Other opinions, Suryanef & Rafni (2015) states that first-time voters are often described as voters who have the following behaviors: (1) voters who are still unstable; (2) voters who have relatively low political knowledge; (3) voters who tend to be dominated by groups; (4) voters who make choices because of the popularity aspect of political parties or candidates proposed by political parties; (5) Voters who come to the polling station only to register or abort their rights. Therefore, novice voters are a group of people who need to be educated continuously in order to become intelligent and rational voters, because novice voters are also voters who have considerable potential and significance for the amount of votes obtained by political parties or candidates in elections and regional elections. The potential of first-time voters ranges from 30 to 35% of the total number of voters.

Based on data released by the Central Statistics Agency (2018), in the 2004 legislative election there were more than 50 million novice voters, in the 2009 election there were more than 36 million, and in the 2014 election the number was more than 32 million. Meanwhile, in the 2019 election, the number of novice voters was more than 36 million (Rafni et al., 2022). Rafni & Suryanef (2019) also stated that novice voters are very natural to be targeted by political parties because they have at least two important meanings, namely: (1) to be a voting field in elections; and (2) this segment determines whether or not the general meeting of political parties is crowded or not, which has an important meaning for publication and influencing other prospective voters. Thus, it is very important for novice voters to have good political literacy, with good political literacy can make them able to make their own political choices, become rational voters and are expected to produce quality political participation.

Based on the data in the field obtained by the researcher in Air Hangat Barat District, the number of novice voters with an age range of 17 to 21 years based on the village as seen in the details of table 1 as follows:

Table 1.

Distribution of Permanent Voter Lists with the age of 17 to 21 years

Village	Age					Amount
	17 Year	18 Year	19 Year	20 Year	21 Year	
Koto Mebai	7	6	6	5	4	28
Desa Baru	14	10	14	19	17	74
Air Panas	26	15	17	13	17	88
Hamparan Pugu	9	12	18	18	12	69
Pugu	18	17	14	19	23	91
Koto Mudik	13	11	14	13	16	67
Koto Tengah	10	5	13	8	6	42
Koto Datuk	12	8	10	7	8	45
Koto Dua Baru	9	16	9	16	9	59

Koto Cayo	16	8	9	18	23	74
Desa Kecil	10	9	12	13	12	56
Air Bersih	13	8	7	5	5	38
Total						731

Source: PPK Air Hangat Barat Discrit, 2023

From the data above, it can be seen that the number of novice voters in West Air Hangat District is 731 people, novice voters with an age range of 17-21 are quite potential in their political participation in the 2024 general election. Then based on the gender of novice voters in Air Hangat Barat sub-district with the number of males which is 376 people while females number 355 people as presented by the researcher in the following table:

Tabel 2.

Distribution of Permanent Voter Lists Based on Gender with the Age of 17 to 21 Years

No.	Age	Gender		Amount
		M	F	
1.	17 Year	81	71	152
2.	18 Year	64	59	123
3.	19 Year	75	71	146
4.	20 Year	77	84	161
5.	21 Year	79	70	149
Total		376	355	731

Source: PPK Air Hangat Barat District, 2023

To explore information about the political literacy of novice voters, the researcher conducted interviews with several novice voters, one of which was from informant A, he said that "What is important in choosing a candidate for leader in the general election is what people recognize. If many people like it, it must be good to choose" (May 2, 2023). Thus, the political behavior of novice voters is still a problem that needs to be considered because they are a vulnerable generation and very strategically targeted by certain interest groups, if their literacy tends to be lacking, it is very easy to mobilize, simply because it is influenced by the views of their family and friends, so that in making a choice to one of the candidate pairs without a deep understanding or not understanding politics objective and independent assessment of why they should choose the candidate pair and such a thing will have an impact on the quality of their participation. If they are mobilized and choose one of the candidate pairs without independent consideration and objective assessment, then this is believed to be the result of the political literacy they currently have, by having a sufficient understanding of politics and general elections, it is assumed that first-time voters in the 2024 election have a good understanding of politics and general elections. On the other hand, if they do not have enough political literacy, then they tend to care less and are not interested in politics so that it is easy to mobilize.

Therefore, political literacy is important because the lack of political literacy will have an impact on their low participation in general elections, which can have an impact on inaccurate election decisions and have an impact on the quality of leadership and government policies and also have the potential to reduce the quality of democracy in a country. As it is said Rafni et al., (2022) The quality of political participation, which is the ultimate goal of political education, depends heavily on political knowledge, in addition to that knowledgeable citizens are a prerequisite for the functioning of democracy. Therefore, this study aims to determine the quality of the correlation between the political literacy of novice voters and political participation ahead of the 2024 general election.

II. METHODS

his research utilizes a descriptive correlational method to examine the relationships between variables, aiming to determine both the strength and direction of these correlations. Descriptive research seeks to provide an accurate depiction of objects as they exist, while correlational research focuses on assessing the relationships between variables without altering the existing data. The study targets 731 novice voters in the Air Hangat Barat District for the 2024 election. Using probability sampling to ensure equal selection chances, the sample size was determined through the Slovin formula with a 10% error margin, resulting in 88 participants. These respondents were selected via simple random sampling (Umar, 2013). For instrument testing, the research employed tools that had been validated and deemed reliable. Validity was assessed using the Pearson Product Moment formula, with results analyzed through SPSS 23. Validity was confirmed by comparing the significance level (sig) to a threshold of 0.05 and checking if the Pearson correlation coefficient surpassed the critical value from the correlation table (Arikunto, 2019; Priyatno, 2023). Reliability was evaluated using Cronbach's Alpha, with a value above 0.60 indicating acceptable reliability (Priyatno, 2023). Data collection involved a closed-type questionnaire distributed via Google Forms, targeting novice voters aged 17-21. The research process included a literature review, data gathering, and quantitative analysis. Collected data were processed through editing, coding, and tabulation using Excel. After confirming the validity and reliability of the instruments, the study analyzed political literacy among novice voters and its influence on their political participation.

a. Normality Test

The normality test is useful for determining whether the data that has been collected is normally distributed or not. Data normality is a basic requirement that must be met in *parametric* analysis. Data normality is important because with normally distributed data, the data is considered to be representative of the population. In this study, the normality test was carried out using the help of the SPSS 23 program which was carried out with the One Sample Kolmogorov Smirnov method (Priyatno, 2023). Adapun kriteria pengujian yaitu

sebagai berikut: Jika signifikansi (sig) > 0,05 maka data berdistribusi normal. Jika signifikansi (sig) < 0,05 maka data tidak berdistribusi normal.

b. Linearity Test

The linearity test is intended to determine the form of the relationship between independent variables and bound variables. The linearity test in its implementation uses variance analysis through the SPSS for Windows 23 Version program. The rule used is: If $p > 0.05$ then the relationship between the two is linear If on the other hand if $p \leq 0.05$ then the relationship between the two variables is not linear.

c. Pearson Correlation Test Analysis

This correlation analysis was used to determine the strength of the relationship between the correlation between the political literacy of novice voters and political participation ahead of the 2024 election in West Air Hangat District. Using Pearson correlation analysis, also known as product moment correlation, is an analysis to measure the linear relationship between two variables that have a norm data distributionl (Priyatno, 2023).

Pearson correlation produces a correlation coefficient that serves to measure the strength of the linear relationship between two variabels. Purba & Purba (2022) Mention Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis Techniques including Parametric Statistical Techniques that use interval and ratio data with certain requirements. Pearson's product moment correlation data must have met the classical assumption test (normality, homogeneity, and linearity), if one of these requirements is not met, the correlation analysis cannot be performed. Furthermore, hypothesis testing was carried out using correlation analysis. To analyze the correlation between the political literacy of novice voters and political participation ahead of the 2024 election in West Air Hangat District, the researcher used the Pearson correlation formula. The results of the analysis using SPSS version 23 determined the correlation coefficient (r) and the significance of the relationship between variable X (political literacy) and variable Y (political participation). So in this study to see the level of relationship between variable X and variable Y, the meaning of the price of r will be consulted with the interpretation of the value of r as shown in table 3 as follows:

Tabel 3.

Interpretasi Nilai r

No.	Interval	Category
1	0,80 – 1,000	Very Strong
2	0,60 – 0,799	Strong
3	0,40 – 0,599	Quite strong
4	0,20 – 0,399	Low
5	0,00 – 0,199	Very Low

(Priyatno, 2023)

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Result

a. Normality Test

This test is used to find out whether the data is normally distributed or not. The normality test in this study uses the Kolmogrov-Smirnov method with the help of SPSS 23 software with the results obtained as shown in table 6 as follows:

Table 4.

Normality Test Kolmogrov Smirnov	
Statistic	Value
Sample Size (N)	88
Mean	0.000
Std. Deviation	2.422
Maximum	0.076
Difference	
Test Statistic	0.076
Significance (2-tailed)	0,13888889

Based on the results of the normality test in the table above, it can be seen that the Significance value is $0.200 > 0.05$ ($\alpha = 5\%$) which means that it can be concluded that based on the basis of data decision-making, the residual value is normally distributed.

b. Linearity Test

The linearity test aims to find out whether two variables (independent variables and dependent variables) have a significant linear relationship or not. The linearity test in this study was carried out with the help of SPSS 23 with the results obtained in table 7 as follows:

Table 5.

Linearity Test

Source	Sum	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups (Combined)	179.36	11.958	1.987	0.028
Linearity	102.26	102.265	16.991	0.000
Deviation from Linearity	77.100	5.507	0,635	0,379
Within Groups	433.35	6.019		
Total	612.71			

Based on the table above, it is known that the value of the Deviation from linearity sig > 0.05, which is 0.547, which means that there is a linear relationship between the variables of political literacy (X) and political participation (Y). Therefore, the data on political literacy and political participation can be assumed to be linear.

In this research, the hypothesis proposed is as follows:

Ha : There is a positive significant relationship between the political literacy of novice voters and political participation ahead of the 2024 election in Air Hangat Barat District, Kerinci Regency.

H0 : There is no positive significant relationship between the political literacy of novice voters and political participation ahead of the 2024 election in Air Hangat Barat District, Kerinci Regency.

Hypothesis testing in this study was carried out using the Product Moment correlation analysis technique from Karl Person. Pearson Correlation or often called Product Moment Correlation is a statistical test tool used to test the associative hypothesis (relationship test) of the two variables in this study.

The product moment correlation test in this study was used to determine the correlation between independent variables and non-dependent variables. The correlation of product moments can be known whether or not there is a correlation between political literacy and political participation.

From the collection of data taken, successfully collected and passed the stages of validity-reliability test, normality and linearity analysis requirements test, then the next stage that was passed was to test the research hypothesis.

The results of the correlation test using product moment through SPSS vs 23 can be seen in table 8 as follows:

Table 6.
Correlation Test Results Using SPSS

Variable	Political Literacy	Political Participation
Political Literacy	1	0.409**
Political Participation	0.409**	1
Significance	.000	.000
N	88	88

Based on the output results of SPSS version 23 above, it is known that the variable X and Y have a correlation because the 2-tailed sig value is 0.000 which means less than α (0.05), the (2-tailed) sig value is $0.000 < 0.05$.

Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a significant correlation between the political literacy of novice voters and political participation ahead of the 2024 election in Air Hangat Barat District, Kerinci Regency. For more details, please see the following table 7:

Table 7.
Summary of Correlation Test Results

Variable	Correlation	Sig.	Conclusion
Political Literacy	0,28402778	p = 0.000	H0 rejected, Ha accepted, Proven Hypothesis
Political Participation	-	-	-

From the data in the table above, a correlation coefficient value of 0.409 with a significance value / *p value* of 0.000, because the significance value of $p < 0.05$, then H0 is rejected and Ha is accepted, meaning that there is a positive significant relationship between the political literacy of novice voters and political participation. The sign on the price of the correlation coefficient also affects the interpretation of the results of the correlation analysis, namely positive (+) indicates the direction of the relationship in the same direction, meaning that the relationship between the two variables is directly proportional. The higher the variable X will be followed by the higher the variable Y and vice versa, the lower the variable x will be followed the lower the variable Y. The sign on the correlation coefficient is (-) indicating the opposite direction of the relationship, meaning that the relationship between the two variables is inversely proportional. The higher the variable x will be followed the lower the variable Y and vice versa. The correlation coefficient sign from the results of this data analysis is positive, so it indicates the direction of the relationship in the same direction. This means that the higher the political literacy of novice voters, the higher their political participation. On the other hand, the lower the political literacy of novice voters, the lower their political participation.

Then the significance between variable X and variable Y was carried out with criteria using r table at a significance level of 0.05. Based on table 4.9 above, it can be known that the t-value is calculated at 0.409 and compared with the t-value of the table, which is 0.207, the result is obtained that $t \text{ calculates} > t \text{ table}$ with a value of $0.409 > 0.207$. So it can be concluded that there is a very significant relationship between the political literacy variable (X) and the political participation variable (Y). The correlation value between X and Y is 0.409. Because the value of this coefficient is in the interval of 0.40-0.599, it can be concluded that the quality of the correlation between X (political literacy) and Y (political participation) is categorized as quite strong.

B. Discussion

After conducting research on novice voters in West Air Hangat District and continued with data analysis using three indicators, namely: first, political knowledge; The first indicator is observed through sub-indicators including; a) knowledge of elections,

candidates (vision & mission) and political parties; b) knowledge of the political and government system. Second, the skill indicator can be known through sub-indicators including; a) critical thinking skills; b) evaluation skills about candidates. Third, the attitude indicator can be known through the sub-indicator of political activity attitudes.

The results of the study showed that 68.4% of 88 respondents in Air Hangat Barat District had an overall level of political literacy, including the sufficient category ahead of the 2024 election because based on the interpretation criteria it was in the interval of 56%-75%. However, when viewed from the items of questions that were disseminated, there are several question items that show the political literacy of novice voters.

As conveyed by Rosadi (2020) If the political literacy of voters is low, they will tend to be indifferent, apolitical, and easy to mobilize for certain interests, moreover, novice voters are a new generation in voting who have different traits and characters, backgrounds, experiences and challenges from previous voters, therefore the lack of political literacy in novice voters will have an impact on being easily led by irresponsible opinions. This is also in line with Rahman & Suharno (2020) which reveals that if the political literacy in voters is low, it tends to be used by certain politicians and during the general election period, novice voters tend to be the priority target of political campaigns. Even more fatal with low levels of political literacy tend to be more passive in political participation, because they do not understand political issues or are not motivated to engage in political activities and do not have the skills to critically evaluate political information. This can result in them making inappropriate political decisions or even not voting at all. According to Isyanawulan & Hendarso (2023) If the lack of public understanding of political issues and political activities causes people to tend to be apathetic towards the various stages of democracy, especially related to the current political dynamics.

On the other hand, novice voters who have good political literacy may be able to understand political issues better, and are able to participate actively and effectively as citizens. They can identify critical issues, analyze policy implications, and understand the consequences of political decisions. Citizens who have good political knowledge will also be significantly more actively involved in political activities such as voting, political discussions, expressing opinions through the media and others.

The existence of this research helps to provide understanding and increase the awareness of novice voters about the importance of participation in the political process and thus good literacy is needed. Although the political literacy of novice voters in this study shows that on average it is categorized as sufficient, such things still tend to lead to positive or good literacy and have a significant positive impact on the political participation of novice voters. As conveyed by Sutisna

(2017) Quality elections require the prerequisites or preconditions of voters who are intelligent, critical, rational, and responsible with their choices. Voters with these characteristics, among others, are commonly categorized as politically literate voters, with novice voters who have sufficient political literacy also tend to make more informed election decisions. They are able to evaluate the credibility of candidates, understand political platforms, and assess the extent to which a candidate's vision and values align with their own. This can result in better elections and be relevant to the aspirations and needs of the community. This is also supported by Pontes et al., (2019)

Where novice voters who have a sufficient level of political literacy, they are able to independently provide rational reasons why they choose a certain figure or party. This research is also supported by the results of research conducted by Inara (2020) that the political participation of novice voters in general elections is still low at 50.7%. This shows the need to improve political education among young people, especially first-time voters who have just entered the field and entered the world of politics by encouraging the political participation of first-time voters through political education efforts, counseling campaigns, and creating an environment that supports the involvement of young people in political life, especially in the context leading up to the 2024 elections.

Previous studies have shown that political knowledge is strongly correlated with political participation (Neuman, 1986) Political efficacy facilitates political activity and is a strong predictor of political participation (Verba et al., 1995). This is also supported by research conducted N. E. Putri (2017) that the results of his research show that there is a relationship between the level of political literacy and political participation. The positive relationship between political literacy and political participation of novice voters suggests that investment in increasing political literacy can be an effective strategy to encourage political engagement and better understanding among the younger generation and first-time voters. With political literacy, it helps novice voters to conduct a more in-depth analysis of candidates and political platforms. Politically informed voters are more likely to make election decisions based on knowledge and careful evaluation. Then when associated with elections, refer to opinions Rafni et al., (2022) said that the quality of political participation is highly dependent on political knowledge. In other words, a knowledgeable citizen is a prerequisite for the functioning of democracy. Therefore, it is important to improve the political literacy of the public, especially first-time voters in the context of elections. Increasing voters' political literacy can have a positive impact on their political participation in general elections.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Based on data collection, data analysis, and discussion carried out, it can be concluded that the level of political

literacy of novice voters ahead of the 2024 election is seen from three indicators of political literacy, namely 1) political knowledge, 2) political skills, 3) political attitudes, showing that the level of political literacy of novice voters is at 68.4% or categorized as sufficient because it is in the range of 56%-75%. Then the level of political participation of novice voters ahead of the 2024 election is seen from three indicators of political participation, namely 1) group discussions, 2) forming and joining interest groups and individual communication with political and administrative officials, 3) political campaigns, showing that the political participation rate of novice voters is at the level of 51.8% or categorized as less (low) because it is at an interval of < 56%. Furthermore, if the relationship between the two variables, namely political literacy and political participation, there is a significant positive relationship between the political literacy of novice voters and political participation ahead of the 2024 election in West Air Hangat District, showing a significance value of $p < 0.05$, then H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted. The positive correlation means that it shows the direction of the relationship in the same direction, meaning that the relationship between the two variables is directly proportional, the higher the level of political literacy will be followed by the higher the level of political participation and vice versa, the lower the level of political literacy, the lower the level of political participation. As for here, the correlation value between X and Y is 0.409, because the value of this coefficient is in the interval of 0.40-0.599, it can be concluded that the quality of the correlation between X and Y is in the interval of the categorical coefficient is quite strong, therefore for novice voters ahead of the 2024 election can carry out activities for political participation such as participating in group discussions about politics both through *the platform* Social media, television, attending political seminars, chatting at cafes with friends discussing political issues and discussing with family, then novice voters can also participate in political party campaigns and interact with political officials ahead of the 2024 election because this is a form of participation that can be done by novice voters ahead of the 2024 election. The correlation analysis of *the product moment* between x and y is only at 0.409 from the interval of 0.40-0.599 "quite strong" even though it is not at a very high level, because not only political literacy affects novice voters to participate but many other factors can influence novice voters to participate in activities ahead of the general election.

Based on the results of this study, there are several things that the researcher considers important to suggest, including: 1) For novice voters, they should be able to understand and absorb knowledge about political literacy because considering how important the values contained in it are to be applied in daily life as citizens and novice voters are expected to be more open to being able to show their abilities in the world of politics. 2) The government should provide facilities that can support voter activities in the world of politics, as well as the provision of political education that is shown specifically for novice voters so that it can stimulate the desire of novice voters to participate in the world of politics, especially the Kerinci Regency government through

Kesbangpol as input to evaluate the implementation of voter education programs. 3) For the General Election Commission, to be able to develop voter education programs that can build political literacy and increase the political participation of novice voters in elections. 4) For future researchers, it is hoped that further research on political literacy can be examined in providing knowledge related to the vitality of student political participation and examining more reference sources related to politics so that the research results can be even better. In addition, the researcher suggested that if the next researcher wants to research similar variables, he should use indicators that have not been researched so that he can give rise to more discussion of knowledge more broadly.

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