Political engagement of Rehobot Christian High School's first-time voters in the 2024 presidential election

Eli Karliani
Universitas Palangka Raya, Indonesia, elikarliani@fkip.upr.ac.id

Ronald Hadibowo Sangalang
Universitas Palangka Raya, Indonesia, ronaldhadibowo@gmail.com

Yuyuk Tardimanto
Universitas Palangka Raya, Indonesia, yuyuk@fkip.upr.ac.id

Lala Indrawati
Universitas Palangka Raya, Indonesia, lalaindrawati789@gmail.com

Tezara Cionita
INTI International University, Malaysia, tezara.cionita@newinti.edu.my

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarhub.uny.ac.id/civics

Political engagement of Rehobot Christian High School's first-time voters in the 2024 presidential election

Eli Karliani *
* Universitas Palangka Raya, Indonesia
elikarliani@fkip.upr.ac.id

Asep Ikbal
Universitas Palangka Raya, Indonesia
asepikbal@fkip.upr.ac.id

Ronald Hadibowo Sangalang
Universitas Palangka Raya, Indonesia
ronaldhadibowo@gmail.com

Yuyuk Tardimanto
Universitas Palangka Raya, Indonesia
yuyuk@fkip.upr.ac.id

Lala Indrawati
Universitas Palangka Raya, Indonesia
lalaindrawati789@gmail.com

Tezara Cionita
INTI International University, Malaysia
tezara.cionita@newinti.edu.my

*Corresponding Author

Abstract
This study aims to analyze how the political engagement of novice voters in the 2024 Presidential Election at Rehobot Christian High School Palangka Raya. The largest data on voters in the 2024 Presidential Election is Generation Z, which is around 74.93%. This study uses a simple survey method on Rehobot Christian High School Palangka Raya students. The location was chosen because Rehobot Christian High School is a new school, and most of its students live in boarding schools but rarely receive political socialisation from the government or other institutions. The questionnaire consists of three aspects, namely knowledge, attitudes and political behaviour in the 2024 presidential election. The study results show that the average knowledge aspect falls into the medium category with a percentage of 46%, which indicates a potential for improvement in students' political knowledge in the 2024

presidential election. Regarding the average attitude of students regarding Political Engagement, which is included in the medium category with a percentage of 62%, there is also room for improvement in cultivating and strengthening attitudes regarding the responsibility to be involved in the presidential election. Meanwhile, from the behavioural aspect, the average student behaviour is in a very low category with a percentage of 43%, indicating a need for improvement in how novice voters actively participate in organisations or communities engaged in election volunteers.

Keywords: political education. presidential election; political engagement; young voters

Introduction

Increasing the political involvement of novice voters in the 2024 presidential election is a challenge in itself, considering that Generation Z, born in the digital era, has a unique way of interacting and accessing information, which is different from previous generations (Lestari & Arumsari (2018). Based on the results of the population census in 2020, BPS reported that there are 74.93 million Gen Z in Indonesia or around 27.94% of the total population of Indonesia. Thus, the population of Generation Z who will vote in the 2024 presidential election is large (BPS, 2020). Elections are a shared responsibility between organizers, governments, political parties, and all citizens, where participation must involve all levels of society; special attention to first-time voters is essential, given the majority of young people who are active and responsive in social media (Karliani, 2016).

In the 2024 presidential election, the number of voters in Indonesia is estimated to reach 187 million people, of which the younger generation, millennials, and Generation Z will contribute 60 per cent or around 112 million votes. Of this number, about 20% or 37.5 million are first-time voters, making them a very influential group thanks to their activeness on social media and concern for socio-political issues. (KPU, 2024). Generation Z, a first-time voter who will exercise their right to vote for the first time in an election, consists of individuals aged 17-21 years, and with Indonesia's election cycle held every five years, this group is a significant segment that needs to be taken into account (Sitorus, 2023).

The political involvement of novice voters is not only limited to participation in general elections but also includes other activities such as volunteering in political organizations or parties, playing an active role in political discussions, and contributing to finding solutions to existing political problems (Karliani, 2017). The political involvement of novice voters in the 2024 presidential election is important because the future of Indonesia's democratic life will also depend heavily on the role of the younger generation in political and community activities. The upholding of a country's democratic order will be strongly supported by the involvement of its citizens in every political activity, especially the younger generation's involvement (Le & Nguyen, 2021). Political apathy is one thing that must be strengthened because it will erode national values, which will ultimately lead to the absence of a successor to the nation in the leadership milestone and citizen participation (Hidayah, 2020).

Based on the analysis of the problem of determining the school at Rehobot Christian High School Palangka Raya because it rarely gets political socialisation from the government because the school is relatively new, so political socialisation is needed to strengthen *the political engagement of* novice voters through the research that will be carried out. The results of the research can develop the science of Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PCE), especially in the development of PCE as a political education in schools.

Method

This research was developed quantitatively with a survey method on Rehobot Christian High School Palangka Raya students. The location was chosen because Rehobot Christian High School is a new school, and most of its students are in boarding schools but rarely receive political socialisation from the government or other institutions. The questionnaire consists of three aspects: the knowledge, attitudes and political behaviour of Rehobot Christian High School Palangka Raya students towards the 2024 presidential election. To measure students'

knowledge related to the 2024 presidential election, 11 test objective questions were given consisting of aspects of the rights and obligations of citizens in elections, voter requirements, requirements for political parties that can participate in elections, attitudes that should be displayed in elections and authorised institutions in organising elections. The attitude aspect includes how students believe in the 2024 presidential election. The behavioural aspect looks at how the behaviour should be displayed by students in the 2024 presidential election. The survey activities that have been carried out on the activities of novice voters begin with the conceptual and theoretical stage of reviewing political engagement to obtain appropriate indicators in instruments that will be distributed to novice voters.

Based on the results of the concept analysis, it was found that the indicators of political engagement consisted of political knowledge, attitudes and behaviours. Political knowledge can be analysed into electoral and political voice indicators. Electoral indicators include (1) voting, (2) influencing others in political discussions, (3) conducting political socialisation of candidates through stickers, images, or symbols, (4) contributing to campaigns, (5) volunteering for candidates or political organisations (Wani, 2023).

Based on these knowledge indicators, it is further described into ten citizenship knowledge questions that will be described on the following grid: The political engagement research questionnaire test for novice voters in the 2024 Presidential election was carried out on students/(i) Rehobot Christian High School Palangka Raya. The trial questionnaire was distributed to 10 students randomly conducted at Rehobot Christian High School Palangka Raya. From the trial results, the researcher then conducted a validity test on the questionnaire instrument that will be used in the following survey activity.

The validity test was carried out to detect the accuracy of the measuring instrument in measuring content validity, instrument arrangement (construct validity), and instrument usability (concurrent validity) (Nuryadi, 2017). A validity test was conducted on this questionnaire using the Pearson correlation formula and assisted by the Excel 2016 application.

$$r = \frac{n \sum XY - (\sum X)(\sum Y)}{\sqrt{[n \sum X^2 - (\sum X)^2].[n \sum Y^2 - (\sum Y)^2]}}$$

The results of the validity test of the Political Engagement variable of novice voters in the 2024 Presidential election at Rehobot Christian High School Palangka Raya it was carried out by providing 11 knowledge measurement questions, namely on question items no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. The construct validity for the attitude variable is found in question items in part 2, namely question items no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. The construct validity for behaviour can be seen in question items part 3 with question items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

Based on the results of the validity test of political engagement of novice voters in the 2024 Presidential election at Rehobot Christian High School Palangka Raya, which consists of knowledge, attitude, and behaviour, it can be concluded that it is included in the valid category and is suitable for unrevised trials.

Result and Discussion

This research was carried out at Rehobot Christian High School Palangka Raya as a research site, with a research population of 58 with a distribution of class X as many as 15 students, class XI as many as 33 participants, and class XII as many as 10 participants. The classification is based on the analysis results showing that students in the class already have the right to vote. The results of the questionnaire data measurement below summarise the description of the political engagement of novice Christian high school voters in the 2024 presidential election which has been classified based on the categories of Very Low (SR), Low (R), Medium (S), High, and Very High (ST). The formula for data conversion is in Table 1.

Table 1.
Data Conversion Formula

Interval	Criteria
X<M-1,5SD	Very Low
X-1,5SD<X≤M-0,5SD	Low
M-0,5SD<X≤M+0,5SD	Keep
M-0,5SD<X≤M+1,5SD	Hight
M+1,5SD<X	Very Hight

The formula above can be used as a basis for obtaining high and low results of the criteria for the results of questionnaire assessment on the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of novice voters in the 2024 Presidential election. The analysis of the research results related to students' political engagement at Rehoboth Christian High School in Palangka Raya consists of aspects of citizens' knowledge, attitudes and political behaviour. Civic engagement emphasises how students are involved not only in quantity, namely how large the participation rate, but also in the quality aspect. Namely, they are psychologically strong in their involvement in political activities (Davis et al., 2022; Karliani, 2016; Morales & Fernandez, 2024). The following will describe the results of the calculation in each aspect.

1. Knowledge

The survey on the knowledge aspect is in the form of an objective question test with as many as 11 questions with different difficulty levels. Of the 58 students who answered the 11 questions, the calculation results on the knowledge aspect will be described in Table 2.

Table 2.
Results of Calculation on the Knowledge Aspect

Average	Max	Min	Stdv	Var	M	SD	M-1,5SD	M-1,5SD	M+1,5SD	M+0,5SD
49,5	72	18	12,64536	159,90	50	13	30	43	69	56

Table 2 illustrates the range of scores from 58 students, namely students who answered below 30, namely eight people, with 30-43 scores, 31 students, 43-56 scores, 56-69 13 students, and one who scored above 69. The results of a survey on political engagement knowledge of Rehobot Christian High School students showed that 12% of students had very low knowledge, 22% low, 46% moderate, 19% high, and 1% very high. The maximum score obtained by students is 72, while the minimum score is only 18, indicating a significant variation in the ability to answer questions. Questions with high difficulty, such as question 10 regarding election dispute resolution institutions, were answered correctly by only four students. In contrast, easy questions, such as question number 7 about campaigns, were answered correctly by 56 students. The average score of students' knowledge about political engagement is in the medium category, with a score of 49.5, indicating the need further to strengthen this knowledge before the 2024 presidential election. Based on the results of the data obtained regarding political knowledge related to elections, there are still many students who must be given a better understanding of the functions and authorities of the Constitutional Court, especially in resolving election disputes, institutions in charge of supervising elections, presidential threshold, and factors that affect the electability and popularity of presidential and vice presidential candidates (Gustiawan et al., 2023).

Knowledge needs to be improved; in this case, it can be through the educational process in schools, the socialisation of institutions involved in elections, and the learning process in the classroom, which is not only theoretical but more praxis in demonstrations related to the implementation of elections and can be done through education on social media (Mulyono et al, 2022; Tarsidi, 2023). Education has a positive relationship in increasing students' political engagement, especially in encouraging political knowledge, fostering political interests, and fostering a supportive attitude towards political freedom (Karliani, 2016, 2017; Le & Nguyen, 2021; Putri & Prihardini, 2023).

Regarding the function and authority of the Constitutional Court, especially in resolving election disputes, institutions in charge of supervising elections, presidential threshold, and factors that affect the electability and popularity of presidential and vice-presidential candidates have not been given too much in classroom learning materials, this needs to be strengthened with other media, for example through social media, mass media and learning resources that can be brought in practitioners who have qualified competencies related to the restraint (Mulyono, 2022; Tarsidi, 2023; Putri & Prihardini, 2023).

2. Attitude

The survey on the attitude aspect in the form of questions and statements on the Likert scale with the classification of SS (Strongly Agree), S (Agree), R (Hesitant), TS (Disagree), STS (Strongly Disagree) as many as 10 questions. Of the 58 students who answered 10 questions/statements on the attitude aspect, the calculation results on the knowledge aspect will be described in Table 6.

Table 3.
Results of Attitude Aspects

Average	Max	Min	Stdv	Var	M	SD	M-1,5SD	M-1,5SD	M+1,5SD	M+0,5SD
6	85	58	66	44	68	6,6	58	78	65	71

The results of the survey of the attitude of Rehobot Christian Boarding School students towards political engagement showed that out of 58 students, two students (4%) had a very low attitude, four students (7%) were low, 35 students (62%) were moderate, 15 students (27%) were high, and two students (4%) were very high. The average student attitude score is in the medium category, with a maximum score of 85 and a minimum of 58; The average score is 68. Statements regarding the choice of parent, teacher, or friend showed that 28 students disagreed, indicating that students have an independent attitude when making their choices. This reflects that novice voters prefer not to be influenced by other people's choices.

However, attitudes still need to be strengthened to convince novice voters that their involvement in politics is needed. With this, it can be interpreted that it is still necessary to cultivate and strengthen attitudes towards students regarding the political engagement of Rehobot Christian High School students in the 2024 presidential election. Through the learning process or socialisation in various media, especially social and political media, it is hoped that students will not have an indifferent attitude towards politics such as opportunist, apathetic and pessimistic attitudes towards politics (Hidayah, 2020; Wahid et al., 2020). One of the efforts that need to be made by schools to improve the political attitude of novice voters in the 2024 presidential election is by practising learning practices that can be inserted into PPKn subjects where students are more invited to analyse political phenomena that occur in society and provide solutions to political problems (Karliani, 2017). Based on the results of a survey regarding the attitude of novice voters in the 2024 presidential election, what needs to be strengthened is in terms of responsibility to be involved in the presidential election so that this will lead to apathy from novice voters towards the election (Hidayah, 2020; Wahid, 2020)

3. Behavioural

The survey on the behavioural aspect in the form of questions and statements on the Likert scale with the classification of SS (Strongly Agree), S (Agree), R (Hesitant), TS (Disagree), STS (Strongly Disagree) as many as 10 questions. Of the 58 students who answered 10 questions/statements on the attitude aspect, the results of the calculation on the knowledge aspect will be described in Table 4.

Table 4.
Results of Attitude Aspects

Average	Max	Min	Stdv	Var	M	SD	M-1,5SD	M-1,5SD	M+1,5SD	M+0,5SD
35,8621	68	20	13,4026	179,63	35,86207	13,4026	34,36207	55,96597	29,16077	42,56337

Table 4 illustrates the range of attitude scores from 58 students, namely students who answered below the score of 29, of 25 people, 29-34 scores of 10 people, 34-42 as many as eight people, 42-55 as many as ten people, and those who scored above 55 as many as two people.

From the results of a survey on the behaviour of Rehobot Boarding School Christian High School students regarding political engagement above, it can be seen that students who have skills with a very low category amounted to 25 students with a percentage of 43%, students with a low behaviour category amounted to 10 students with a percentage of 17%, students with a moderate behaviour category amounted to 8 students with a percentage of 14%, students with a high behaviour category amounted to 10 students with a percentage of the percentage is 17%. Students with very high behaviour are five with a percentage of 9%. The results of student behaviour regarding political engagement, in general, are in the very low category, with a maximum score of 68 and a minimum of 20. This means that the maximum score of 68 is obtained with a score of 34, while the minimum score of 20 is obtained with a score of 10. Student behaviour regarding political engagement can be seen from 47 students stating that they have never actively participated in organisations or communities that volunteer for elections.

Based on the results obtained from survey data regarding political behaviour that needs to be strengthened is how novice voters actively participate in organisations or communities that are engaged in election volunteers (Hidayah, 2022). It is necessary to provide education on the benefits of first-time voter involvement by participating in volunteer communities related to elections. One of the things that can be followed is volunteering in election activities, for example, being a member of KPPS, a member of election supervisors, or volunteering in other election activities. The issue of voter involvement in politics still challenges democratic life; their behaviour often raises questions about their role as citizens (Hidayah, 2020). Some of the models that can be applied in PPKn learning are the Serving Learning Model and the Engagement Learning Model as a medium to provide opportunities for novice voters to directly see political problems in the community and be motivated to make an effort to solve these problems (Hidayah, 2020; Karliani, 2017; Staeheli & Hammett, 2010).

Conclusion

The conclusion of this study shows that the political engagement of novice voters of Rehobot Christian High School students in the 2024 Presidential election is in the medium category. In general, students' knowledge was recorded in the medium category (46%), students' attitudes were also in the medium category (62%), while the average student behaviour was in the very low category (43%). To increase students' political involvement, there needs to be a focus on knowledge about the functions and authorities of the Constitutional Court, election supervisory institutions, presidential thresholds, and factors that affect the electability of candidates. From the aspect of attitude, students need to understand their responsibilities in the election, and from the aspect of behaviour, they need to be more active in election volunteer organisations. Teachers should relate learning materials to more relevant contexts, use methods that improve students' attitudes and behaviour competencies, and utilise learning resources from social media. This research is limited to the political engagement of novice voters ahead of the 2024 elections, so further research is expected to delve deeper into strategies to increase this involvement.

References

BPS. (2020). *Berkualitas untuk Indonesia maju*. Badan Pusat Statistik. https://www.bps.go.id/id

Davis, A. N., Clark, E. S., Streit, C. (2022). The buffering role of community self-efficacy in the links between family economic stress and young adults' prosocial behaviors and civic engagement. *The Journal of Genetic Psychology,* 183(6), 527–536. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1080/00221325.2022.2094212

Gustiawan, R., Rafzan, R., Ropawandi, D., Suswanta, S., & Pribadi, U. (2023). Analyzing public sentiment on implementing the presidential threshold in Indonesia's presidential election system. *Jurnal Civics: Media Kajian Kewarganegaraan*, *20*(1), 156-166. https://doi.org/10.21831/jc.v20i1.57295

Hidayah, Y. (2020). *Disertasi: pengembangan model belajar keterlibatan (MBK) untuk memperkuat partisipasi politik dan civic engagement warga negara muda di era digital.* Bandung: Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia

Hidayah, Y., Su Fen, C., Suryaningsih, A., & Mazid, S. (2022). Promoting student participation skills through student organizations. *Jurnal Civics: Media Kajian Kewarganegaraan*, 19(2), 213-223. https://doi.org/10.21831/jc.v19i2.53422

Karliani, E. (2016). Membangun civic engagement melalui model service learning untuk memperkuat karakter warga negara. *Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Pancasila* dan Kewarganegaraan, 27(2). http://dx.doi.org/10.17977/jppkn.v27i2.5517

Karliani, E. (2017). *Disertasi: pengembangan model belajar melayani (MBM) berbasis nilai sosial spritual untuk memperkokoh pelibatan kewarganegaraan keindonesiaan.* Bandung: Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia

KPU. (2024). Pemilu 2024 sukses, antusias masyarakat tinggi. Komisi Pemilihan Umum. https://www.kpu.go.id/

Le, K & Nguyen, M. (2021). Education and political engagement. *International Journal of Educational Development,* 85: 102441. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2021.102441

Lestari, E. Y., & Arumsari, N. (2018). Partisipasi politik pemilih pemula pada pemilihan walikota semarang di kota Semarang. *Integralistik*, 29.1(10.). https://sikenal.unnes.ac.id/

Morales, O., & Fernandez, F. (2024). Chapter 5 the educational benefits of diversity for civic and political engagement. *Wiley Online Library*. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119985280.ch5

Mulyono, B., Affandi, I., Suryadi, K., & Darmawan, C. (2022). Online civic engagement: fostering citizen engagement through social media. *Jurnal Civics: Media Kajian Kewarganegaraan,* 19(1), 75-85. https://doi.org/10.21831/jc.v19i1.49723

Nuryadi, T. D. A. (2017). *Dasar-dasar statistik penelitian*. Sibuku Media

Putri, S., & Prihardini Wibawa, D. (2023). Peran media sosial dalam keterlibatan politik generasi z. *Indo-MathEdu Intellectuals Journal*, *3*(4), 2014–2027. https://doi.org/10.54373/imeij.v4i3.461

Sitorus, M, S (2023). Partisipasi generasi z dalam menggunakan hak pilih pada pemilihan umum 2024 di SMK Taruna Pekanbaru. *Edu Society: Jurnal Pendidikan, Ilmu Sosial dan Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat*, 3.2, 969–976. https://doi.org/10.56832/edu.v3i2.344

Staeheli, L. A., & Hammett, D. (2010). Educating the new national citizen: Education, political subjectivity and divided societies. *Citizenship Studies*, *14*(6), 667–680. https://doi.org/10.1080/13621025.2010.522353

Tarsidi, D., Suryadi, K., Budimansyah, D., & Rahmat, R. (2023). Social media usage and civic engagement among Indonesian digital natives: an analysis. *Jurnal Civics: Media Kajian Kewarganegaraan,* 20(2), 257-269. https://doi.org/10.21831/jc.v20i2.60812

Wahid, U., Aminudin, A., , & Rosita, R. (2020). Penyuluhan partisipasi politik dan sosial media bagi pemilih pemula pemilukada 2020 di Sekolah Menengah Atas (Sma) Islam Cikal Harapan 01 Serpong Tangerang Selatan. *RESONA: Jurnal Ilmiah Pengabdian,* 4(2), 96–116. http://dx.doi.org/10.35906/resona.v4i2.585

Wani, D. M. (2023). *Tinjauan yuridis tanggung jawab Komisi Pemilihan Umum (KPU) dalam meningkatkan partisipasi masyarakat pada pemilihan umum serentak*. Digilib Perpustakaan Universitas Riau. digilib.unri.ac.id