

The Role of Altruism in the 2024 East Java Gubernatorial Election

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Abstract: The 2024 East Java gubernatorial election is one of the most important political contests in Indonesia, determining not only the direction of regional development but also the quality of democracy. This study aims to analyze the role of altruism in public political behavior and its influence on voter participation. Altruism is understood as a mindset that prioritizes public interests over personal interests, making it a crucial factor in determining political choices that are more focused on societal well-being. The research method used is qualitative descriptive, examining the vision, mission, and programs of the East Java gubernatorial candidates. The results of the study indicate that altruistic values encourage public participation in elections, whether through voting, campaign participation, or social support for candidates. Furthermore, altruism also serves as an indicator that helps voters assess the sincerity and integrity of prospective leaders. Candidates who demonstrate altruistic attitudes through pro-people programs tend to be more trusted and supported. Thus, the role of altruism not only strengthens public political participation but also builds public trust in the democratic process. The implications of these findings highlight the importance of value-based political education rooted in altruistic values to strengthen an inclusive, honest, and fair democracy.

Keywords: Altruism, Governor Election, Political Participation, East Java, Democracy

Introduction

The 2024 East Java gubernatorial election will be an important moment in regional political dynamics that will influence the social and economic life of the community. It will also be one of the most significant political contests in Indonesia, given that this province is the second largest in the country in terms of both population and economy. Under Law Number 23 of 2014 on Regional Government, the administration of regional government in Indonesia is regulated with the aim of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of public services and accelerating the welfare of the community. This law replaces Law No. 32 of 2004 and emphasises the principle of broad regional autonomy, where regional governments have the authority to manage government affairs in accordance with the provisions set by the central government (Awat Amir, Izzatusholekha, Salam, & Andriansyah, 2024).

In addition, this law emphasises the importance of community participation in the governance process, from planning to programme evaluation. The community is given the opportunity to participate in decision-making related to regional development, so that their aspirations and needs can be properly accommodated (Deva Putri Haniardi, Yusuf Hariyoko, 2024). Therefore, this law aims to create a more effective, efficient, and responsive regional government that addresses the needs of the community, as well as support the creation of sustainable development across all regions of Indonesia.

Altruism can also influence the level of political participation. When people have altruistic attitudes, they are more likely to engage in political activities, such as voting, participating in campaigns, or even volunteering for social organisations, because they feel a responsibility to contribute to positive social change (Hamdani, Herdiansyah, & Bintari, 2021). In the context of leadership, aspiring leaders who demonstrate altruistic attitudes can build stronger trust and connections or relationships with the community. Leaders who prioritise the interests of the community over personal or group interests are often more valued and supported by voters (Sucipto, Sukmana, Wahyudi, & Moh. Nur, 2024). This attitude can create a healthier and more sustainable political climate, where dialogue and collaboration between leaders and the community can flourish.

Overall, altruism plays an important role in creating a more inclusive and participatory society, where social values and collective welfare are prioritised in the political process (Hermawan & Khikmawanto, 2023). By understanding and applying altruistic principles, both voters and prospective leaders can contribute to the development of a stronger, community-oriented democracy.

In East Java, where social and economic issues such as poverty, education, and health are major concerns, voters with altruistic attitudes may be more likely to choose candidates who are considered capable of bringing positive change to society as a whole. However, the question that arises is how much influence altruism has on voters' decisions and their level of participation in the 2024 gubernatorial

election. This study aims to provide a deeper understanding of how altruism influences voter decisions in the 2024 East Java Governor Election.

Method

This study is a qualitative research using descriptive data (Syahrizal & Jailani, 2023). This qualitative descriptive research was conducted by compiling and tracing the candidates for the 2024 regional elections in East Java. The study looked at the candidates' vision and mission statements during their campaigns and socialisation activities.

Results and Discussion

Law Concerning Gubernatorial Elections

Law Number 10 of 2016 serves as a reference and discussion point for gubernatorial elections in Indonesia and serves as the primary guideline. Furthermore, Law Number 6 of 2020 also serves as the legal basis for direct elections for governors, regents, and mayors, which represent the people's sovereignty in democratically electing regional leaders. This regulation not only regulates the election mechanism but also stipulates candidate requirements, such as the obligation to meet administrative requirements and a commitment to a code of ethics (Asri Elies Alamanda, 2024).

Furthermore, this law also regulates election procedures, which must comply with the principles of direct, general, free, secret, honest, and fair elections. To ensure the quality and integrity of election administration, this law also emphasizes the important role of election organizing institutions, such as the General Elections Commission (KPU), which is tasked with planning and overseeing the election process. The KPU is tasked with ensuring the election process runs smoothly and in accordance with established regulations. The Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) also plays a central role in oversight, tasked with monitoring and taking action against any potential violations that could undermine democratic principles. To ensure that each stage runs according to regulations, Bawaslu is authorized to impose sanctions for violations committed by election participants or election organizers who fail to act in accordance with the established code of ethics (Junindri, HB, & Rauf, 2024).

In 2020, amendments to Law Number 6 of 2020 made important adjustments to the implementation of elections in special situations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. This included election procedures that allow for postponements or schedule adjustments to ensure public safety and security. These changes also emphasized the role of election organizers in ensuring elections continue to proceed with integrity even in less than conducive circumstances. Pursuant to this law, Bawaslu's role is also strengthened in overseeing the process, and the Election Organizer Honorary Council (DKPP) is empowered to enforce the election organizer code of ethics. All of these laws are expected to ensure that the gubernatorial election is conducted honestly, fairly, and in accordance with established procedures.

Altruistic Perspective

In the context of gubernatorial elections, particularly the 2024 East Java gubernatorial election, altruism theory provides an interesting perspective for understanding candidate motivations and behavior. Altruism theory, generally defined as actions undertaken for the benefit of others without expecting anything in return, can be applied to assess candidates' commitment to sincerely serving the public interest, rather than solely for personal or institutional gain. The theory of altruism posits that altruistic actions are often driven by the intention to fulfill the needs or improve the well-being of others. In these elections, some candidates may display attitudes and policies that convey a concern for social, economic, and public welfare issues. For example, gubernatorial candidates who emphasize social programs that support vulnerable groups or promise to reduce poverty and inequality can be seen as representing altruistic intentions. This is evident in the visions of candidates like Tri Rismaharini, who emphasizes the importance of bureaucratic reform for better public services, and Khofifah Indar Parawansa, who supports economic empowerment policies for vulnerable communities (Manita, Meirista, Liani, Putri, & Helmi, 2024).

Altruism theory also asserts that altruistic acts can enhance collective well-being and public trust. In the context of elections, this is crucial because voters tend to be more attracted to candidates with a strong track record of community service. This support can be built because the candidate is perceived as committed to meeting community needs without being tied solely to personal or political interests. Thus, altruism is not only a highly respected moral principle but also an effective political strategy for building public trust and participation in determining their leaders in managing East Java. Overall, the theory of altruism in the 2024 East Java gubernatorial election serves as a framework for evaluating candidates' programs, visions, and commitments to the community. Candidates who embody altruistic values in their policies have the potential to build a good reputation and gain public trust, which can ultimately strengthen their support base in the election (Starks, 2020).

Altruism is also not only inspired by the candidates for the 2024 East Java gubernatorial election, but also by the description of their visions, missions, and work programs.

Suggestion

The 2024 East Java gubernatorial election demonstrated that the concept of altruism in politics plays a crucial role in building public trust in candidates. Based on altruism theory, leaders who prioritize the public interest over personal or political interests are more likely to gain support from voters who desire pro-social policies and demonstrated genuine concern. Candidates who prioritize social programs and a commitment to community empowerment, as demonstrated by the candidates in this election, are seen as representing the altruistic values expected by the public.

From a voter perspective, altruism is an indicator that helps them assess the sincerity and integrity of prospective

leaders. When candidates demonstrate a consistent commitment to the public interest, the public is motivated to participate more actively in elections. Thus, altruistic values not only help build a positive image for candidates but also encourage greater public involvement in the democratic process.

Overall, awareness and implementation of altruism in elections can be instrumental in creating a responsive government oriented toward collective well-being. In the long term, this has the potential to strengthen democracy in Indonesia by fostering mutual trust between the government and the people.

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