

## Law Enforcement on Money Politics in The Implementation of General Elections for Members of The Regional People's Representative Council in North Padang Lawas Regency

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**Abstract.** *This study aims to determine the factors that encourage the practice of money politics in the DPRD General Election in North Padang Lawas, to determine the impact of money politics on the democratic process and governance, to determine the enforcement of money politics law in the DPRD General Election in Padang Lawas Regency. This study uses a sociological legal approach. Based on the study, it was concluded that the practice of money politics in the DPRD General Election in North Padang Lawas was influenced by various factors, including the socio-economic conditions of the community, weak law enforcement, and a political culture that was tolerant of the practice. The impact of money politics in North Padang Lawas Regency includes declining election integrity, increasing corruption, and loss of public trust in political institutions. Law enforcement against money politics in the DPRD General Election in Padang Lawas Regency involves various efforts to crack down on corrupt practices in elections.*

**Keywords:** DPRD; Elections; Law Enforcement; Money Politics.

### 1. Introduction

Money politics also reflects deeper problems in governance and democratization processes. This practice often occurs in countries with high levels of corruption, stark economic inequality, and weak legal systems. Therefore, understanding and analyzing money politics is important to find effective solutions to strengthen

democracy and create clean and transparent governance.<sup>1</sup>In addition, the influence of money in local politics is also associated with the rise of identity politics at the regional level. Political elites are known to exploit ethnic, religious, or regional sentiments to mobilize support and secure access to lucrative government contracts and resources. Money politics refers to the practice of using money or other financial resources to influence political or electoral outcomes, often through dishonest or unethical means. Money politics practices can include vote buying, campaign financing from unclear sources, or providing financial rewards to voters or officials involved in the political process.<sup>2</sup>

Law enforcement against money politics practices in elections is important to ensure that elections are conducted fairly and honestly. This aims to ensure that people's voting rights are not affected by fraudulent practices such as bribery and fraud that can damage the legitimacy of election results. Law enforcers must remain neutral and cannot be used as political tools by certain parties. This is important to ensure that law enforcement does not become part of money politics practices, but rather as an effort to maintain justice and truth in the election process. Early detection and prevention of money politics practices are important to prevent previous violations.<sup>3</sup>

Money politics is regulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia in Article 9 paragraph (2) and is regulated in Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections (Pemilu) and Law Number 3 of 1999 concerning General Elections. The philosophical basis for law enforcement against the practice of money politics in elections in Indonesia is based on several important aspects related to democracy, justice, and ethics.<sup>4</sup>This study aims to determine the factors that encourage the practice of money politics in the DPRD General Election in North Padang Lawas.

## **2. Research Methods**

The method used in this study is sociological juridical, the research specification used is descriptive analytical, the type of data used is qualitative, the data sources are primary and secondary, the data collection method is primary data by means of interviews, secondary data with literature studies, data analysis is qualitative. The theory used is Lawrence Friedman's legal system theory, Soerjono Soekanto's law enforcement theory, the theory of justice in an Islamic perspective.

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<sup>1</sup>Davidson, JS, 2015, *Indonesia's Changing Political Economy: Governing the Roads*. Cambridge University Press.

<sup>2</sup>Schedler, A, 2002, *Elections without Democracy: The Menu of Manipulation*, *Journal of Democracy*, p. 36-50.

<sup>3</sup>International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), 2002, *International Election Standards: Guidelines for the Review of the Legal Framework for Elections*, International IDEA, Jakarta

<sup>4</sup>Maya Mustika Kartika, 2022, *Family Clean from Corruption: Anti-Corruption Education and Awareness Strategy*, *Anti-Corruption Journal*, Accredited Sinta Rank 5 SK no 105/EKPT/2022

### **3. Results and Discussion**

#### **3.1. Factors that encourage the practice of money politics in the DPRD General Election in North Padang Lawas**

##### **a. Economy**

Economic limitations are the main cause of the practice of money politics in society, which often does not think rationally about using their voting rights in elections. Their votes in the general election can be exchanged for money. In this case, there needs to be more attention to the economic welfare of the community, especially those in the villages. In the DPRD election in the village of Padang Lawas Utara, there was indeed money politics, because the community considered the DPRD election as an event to get money from the candidates, and the community would choose the candidate based on the amount of money received. This became an opportunity for DPRD candidates to 'buy votes' from those who were not interested in voting. The DPRD campaign team began to work to give money to villagers so that they would give their votes to the DPRD candidates who gave them money. The range of money given to them ranged from Rp. 100,000 to Rp. 200,000. This shows that the economic factor in society, especially the lower middle class, considers the practice of money politics in the DPRD election as something that can increase their income just by voting.

##### **b. Education**

This low level of education is also a factor in which the practice of money politics still occurs in Indonesia. Low education is also a cause of low economic factors, with the low economic conditions of society making it difficult for people to get the opportunity to study or get proper education. With the lack of educational opportunities, it will later form a mindset in society that is less rational in responding to everything. Low knowledge causes people to be easily manipulated first in terms of politics. The ignorance of society in terms of politics has an effect on responding to the money politics that occurs. They consider this to be a form of fairness seen from how they choose a predetermined candidate for leader and will later be rewarded with money, this kind of thing will continue to happen and society.

##### **c. Culture**

Giving to each other and if you get a fortune, you should not refuse it, that is the expression that seems to have stuck in the Indonesian nation. Money and all forms of money politics from election participants are considered as fortune for the community that should not be refused. And because it has been given, automatically the community must also give something to the election participants, namely by voting, becoming a successful team, and even helping to make money politics a success in order to win the election participants. this is

done solely as an expression of gratitude and a sense of gratitude from the community towards the giver who gave the money.

#### **d. Environmental factors**

The supporting environmental factors are no longer a secret and this money politics practice is practiced starting from small institutions to high state officials is an organized network. The environment that is most vulnerable to this is the court, of course the target is the judges. Sometimes if the defendant has no initiative to give a bribe, it is precisely the judges who are not "clean" who make offers to the defendant.

#### **e. Legal Factors**

This legal factor that can be bought is not a public secret, it is already known to the public that the law in Indonesia is a law that can be bought with money. It does not mean that the law is wrong, but the enforcers who make the law ineffective for people with a lot of money. By bribing judges or even army guards with a certain amount of money, the defendants can enjoy a luxurious life in prison. Weak faith will automatically make someone far from God Almighty. That is the main factor that causes someone to easily commit and accept bribes. Putting aside the fact that what they do is a sinful act. There is no fear at all of the act, so that the act of money politics is considered a normal act and is commonly done.

By analyzing the factors that drive the practice of money politics in general elections through Lawrence Friedman's legal system theory, we can understand more deeply why this practice can develop and persist in the context of general elections.

### **1. Structure**

Legal structure refers to the institutions, legal institutions, and procedures that exist within the legal system. In the context of money politics, this structure includes government institutions, political parties, election institutions, law enforcement officers, and the judicial system. Factors that drive money politics in the legal structure:

a) Institutional and oversight weaknesses when institutions responsible for enforcing election law (such as the General Election Commission or KPU) and law enforcement officers (the police and prosecutors) are weak, do not function well, or do not have strong control over the practice of money politics, political candidates can feel free to use money to buy votes without worrying about legal consequences.

b) An ineffective electoral system, namely an electoral system based on the most votes or "winner-takes-all", can trigger very tight competition between candidates, where money politics is considered a tool to gain votes. When the structure of the electoral system does not encourage transparency and fairness, the practice of money politics is easier to develop.

c) The solution in the context of structure is to strengthen the institutional framework for election supervisors and law enforcement officers so that they have the capacity and authority to supervise and handle money politics cases more effectively.

d) Improving the quality of the election system, such as implementing a fairer and more transparent system to prevent the practice of money politics.

## **2. Substance**

Legal substance refers to the legal rules that regulate individual behavior in society. In the context of money politics, legal substance includes regulations regarding the prohibition of money politics, corruption, and the rights of voters and obligations of candidates. Factors that encourage money politics in legal substance:

a) The lack of strictness or lack of sanctions, namely although many countries have legal regulations prohibiting the practice of money politics (such as the Election Law), in practice, the lack of strictness or laxity in law enforcement often causes perpetrators of money politics to not feel afraid of sanctions. There is no strong enough sanction mechanism to overcome this practice, so that candidates or political parties involved in money politics often feel that they are getting benefits without great risk.

b) The inconsistency of legal norms with social practices with sometimes a gap between legal norms governing money politics and social reality on the ground. In many communities, especially those with high poverty rates, money politics is considered part of the "election culture" that has been widely accepted. Legal substance that is not accompanied by an adequate social or educational approach can make people consider this practice legitimate or normal.

c) The solution in the context of substance is to strengthen and clarify the substance of the law with harsher sanctions and provide a deterrent effect on perpetrators of money politics.

d) Adapting legal norms to social conditions of society through political and legal education to increase awareness of the dangers of money politics and its impact on the democratic system.

## **3. Culture**

Legal culture is the values, norms, and behaviors that guide how society views the law and its application. In the context of money politics, legal culture includes society's attitudes and views on money politics as well as their perceptions of justice, integrity, and legal legitimacy. Factors that drive money politics in legal culture:

a) A permissive political culture towards corruption in some societies, there is a culture or habit that treats money politics as something common or even legitimate to gain political support. If society and voters consider that receiving

money from candidates is something normal and not wrong, then this practice continues.

b) The view that laws cannot change existing practices, that is, people who feel that laws are ineffective or never change the situation (for example, because of weak law enforcement) may consider that participating in money politics is a realistic way to influence election outcomes.

c) The solution in the cultural context is to improve the political culture that prioritizes integrity, justice, and responsibility through political and legal education for the community.

d) Creating a social movement to combat money politics, through awareness campaigns that demonstrate the dangers of this practice to democracy and the common good.

#### **4. Interaction Between Structure, Substance, and Culture**

According to Lawrence Friedman's legal system theory, these factors interact with each other and form a complex legal system. The practice of money politics in general elections is not only influenced by the weakness of the legal structure or the inadequacy of the legal substance, but also by a legal culture that is permissive or insensitive to the negative impacts of money politics. Using Lawrence Friedman's legal system theory approach, the factors that encourage money politics in general elections can be explained through three main elements: legal structure (weak institutions), legal substance (rules that are not firm enough), and legal culture (permissive views on money politics). To overcome this problem, there needs to be a renewal in the structure, substance, and culture of the law in order to create a more effective and fair legal system in combating the practice of money politics in general elections.<sup>5</sup>

### **3.2. The impact of money politics on the democratic process and governance**

Money politics is a practice in which money or financial rewards are used to influence political decisions, gain support or votes, or control relations between public officials and voters. This practice often occurs in the election process, but its impact is not limited to that stage. Here are some of the negative impacts of money politics on governance:

#### **1. Corruption and Abuse of Power**

Money politics tends to worsen the problem of corruption in government. Officials who obtain positions or positions through money politics may feel obliged to repay the investment made by the parties that support them. This can encourage officials to engage in corrupt practices, such as accepting bribes, allocating budgets non-transparently, or using power for personal or group interests.

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<sup>5</sup>Hariman Satria, Legal Politics of Criminal Acts of Money Politics in General Elections in Indonesia, INTEGRITAS Anti-Corruption Journal, 5 (1), 1-14

## **2. Reducing the Quality of Leaders**

Leaders elected through money politics often focus more on financial and personal interests than on the public interest. They are more likely to make unrealistic promises to gain votes or repay their supporters with projects that are inefficient or do not benefit the wider community. As a result, the quality of leadership can decline, because decision-making is more influenced by the power of money than competence or a good vision for the community.

## **3. Weakening Democracy**

Money politics can damage the essence of democracy, because it is not the quality or vision of the leader that is the main consideration in the election, but rather who has more money to influence voters. This causes inequality in political participation, where candidates with greater financial power are more likely to be elected, even though they may not have the capabilities or programs that are beneficial to the community.

## **4. Abuse of State Resources**

In order to gain political support through money politics, many candidates or political parties allocate state budget unfairly to fund their campaigns or to benefit certain groups that support them. This can lead to waste of state budget and imbalance in the distribution of public resources, where funds should be used for development programs that benefit society as a whole, but are instead misused to support short-term political interests.

## **5. Increasing Social Inequality**

Money politics tends to worsen social inequality. Groups with great financial power or business groups with access to greater funds can buy political support, while poor or marginalized groups do not have the same opportunity to actively participate in the political process. This creates injustice in the democratic process, where the resulting policies benefit the rich and powerful, while the poor or disadvantaged are increasingly marginalized.

## **6. Increasing Politicization of Natural Resources**

In many developing countries, money politics is often linked to the exploitation of natural resources. Politicians can use the funds they receive to support policies that benefit large corporations or individuals with interests in natural resources, even if these policies are detrimental to the environment or local communities. This can undermine sustainable development and exacerbate social and economic disparities.

## **7. Losing Public Trust**

If the public sees that money politics is a common practice in elections and government processes, their trust in political institutions and government will decrease. This can create a sense of apathy among citizens, who feel that their

voices will not be heard or will not affect the election results. This distrust can reduce political participation and damage the legitimacy of government.

### **8. Lowering the Quality of Public Policy**

Money politics can also result in policies that favor the interests of certain individuals or groups rather than the public welfare. Officials or politicians involved in this practice may prioritize projects or policies that benefit their financial sponsors, even if the policies are ineffective or even detrimental to society as a whole. This leads to public policies that are not based on objective analysis or relevant data, but rather are influenced by political considerations or personal gain.

The causes of money politics include: weak faith, low political education, economic factors/poverty, weak laws, cultural habits and traditions, weak supervision, low education, the last factor is distrust of community leaders. Views of Islamic Law. Returning to Allah's teachings is the only and most effective way to prevent the practice of money politics, among other things, faith in Allah, believers will be afraid of committing prohibited acts such as bribery, corruption and so on, so act honestly, trustworthy and istiqomah, people. whoever is able to realize this behavior then the path will be straight, fair, blessed, grateful and qona'ah, if you really return to the Islamic concept you will definitely not dare to engage in money politics.<sup>6</sup>

Lawrence M. Friedman's legal system theory can be used to analyze the impact of money politics in general elections. According to Friedman, the legal system consists of three interrelated and interacting components: structure, substance, and culture. Each of these elements influences how law is applied in society and how society responds to the rules. The following is an analysis of the impact of money politics in relation to Lawrence Friedman's legal system theory:

#### **1. Structure (Structure) Impact on Institutions and Law Enforcement**

The legal structure includes institutions involved in making and implementing laws, such as legislative bodies, election supervisory bodies, the judicial system, and law enforcement officers. In the context of money politics, if the legal structure is weak or ineffective, the impact can be very detrimental to the political and legal system.

#### **2. Substance: Impact on Rules and Application of Law**

Legal substance refers to the content of regulations that regulate people's behavior. In the context of money politics, legal substance includes election laws, anti-corruption rules, and provisions prohibiting money politics.

The impact of money politics on legal substance:

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<sup>6</sup>Karto and Akhmad Khisni, Islamic Views on Money Political Practices in the Constitutional Election of 2019, Law Defense Journal



a) The impact on the effectiveness of the law if the substance of the law is not firm enough or is not applied consistently, money politics will remain a profitable practice for certain candidates. For example, even though there is a law prohibiting money politics, if the law is not enforced effectively (such as the low rate of prosecution of money politics cases), then the impact will damage the credibility of the law itself.

b) The indecisiveness of sanctions for politicians or candidates involved in money politics may feel that the punishment they face is not commensurate with the benefits they receive, so they continue to violate the law without fear. This creates a permissive legal environment, where the practice of money politics is considered part of the "normality" in elections.

c) Abuse of power: Money politics involving abuse of power can create inequality in the application of the law. Candidates or political parties that are financially stronger or have access to more resources can easily avoid legal sanctions, thus creating injustice in the legal system.

### **3. Culture: Impact on Society's View of Law**

Legal culture encompasses the values, norms, and attitudes of society towards the law and its application. In the case of money politics, this legal culture plays a major role in shaping public perceptions of the legitimacy and morality of money politics.

The impact of money politics on legal culture:

a) Social acceptance of money politics if society considers money politics as part of the ingrained election culture, then the impact can be very detrimental to the democratic system. Society may think that receiving money from candidates is normal, or even part of their rights in the election.

b) Normalization of corrupt practices in a culture that is permissive of money politics, corruption and abuse of power can be considered commonplace and does not affect the integrity of the election. This can damage the political awareness of the community and create indifference towards unethical and illegal practices.

### **4. Interaction Between Structure, Substance, and Culture**

According to Friedman's legal system theory, these three elements (structure, substance, and culture) interact and influence each other. The impact of money politics often arises when there is a mismatch or weakness in one or more of these three elements.

The impact of money politics in general elections, when associated with Lawrence Friedman's legal system theory, can damage the three main elements of the legal system: structure, substance, and culture. Money politics threatens trust in the existing legal structure (weak law enforcement), damages the substance of the law by creating injustice and legal ineffectiveness, and changes the legal culture to be more permissive towards corruption and abuse of power.

To overcome these impacts, it is important to improve these three elements so that money politics can be suppressed, and general elections can take place fairly and transparently.<sup>7</sup>

### **3.3. Law enforcement of money politics in the DPRD General Election in Padang Lawas Regency**

The phenomenon of money politics often appears in the election process in Indonesia. This behavior can certainly affect the selection of legislative candidates by voters. The influence of money is an important issue in political affairs. The rampant money politics in elections makes people consider this behavior as an integral aspect of Indonesian political culture. The practice of money politics is basically contrary to the principles of democracy, because the people's right to vote is the main sovereignty, which leads to detrimental political competition. This study aims to prevent and explain the practice of money politics that often occurs in elections. This opens up opportunities for legislative candidates in elections to do so to secure votes. The findings of this study indicate that money politics behavior can endanger the democratic system in Indonesia if it is rampant, harming the community by prioritizing the financial resources of legislative candidates compared to the competence of legislative candidates in guaranteeing election votes. Although there are regulations prohibiting political money as stated in Article 515 of Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning Elections, the rampant practice that occurs in most Indonesian society cannot be denied.<sup>8</sup>

In the Election in the Perspective of *Siyasah Sar'iyah* in Kampung Padang Lawas Utara Village 2024. Based on the findings of the data in this study, it is true that this political practice occurs in society. The election of the Regional People's Representative Council which took place in the 2024 period, became a phenomenon of money politics in that period. If associated with the theory used in this study regarding Alfred Schutz's phenomenology. Then there is a meaning that arises in the election of the Regional People's Representative Council so that money politics occurs to buy people's votes. Looking at the experiences experienced by the community in the phenomenon of money politics in this period, we can see the reflection of the reality that occurs in that society. When viewed from Alfred's perspective, individuals will do something if there is a trigger for action. In reality, this does happen, people go to the polling station because they are given money even though they previously did not want to go. This also applies to determining the successful team, because many people want to be a successful team because of the benefits they will get. Elections are a tradition that occurs in society every time a period changes. This money politics is lively to enliven the village head elections. Even some people think that the

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid

<sup>8</sup>Albi Ikhzami & Dodi Jaya Wardana, The Effect of Money Politics on the Level of Voter Participation Elections in Indonesia, Volume 7 No. 3, September 2024, Journal of Legal Sovereignty

existence of money politics is increasingly interesting, they can witness and "splash" the profits. Giving money to the community is often interpreted as religious by the community. Such as to choose the candidate, respect the community, to replace community participation. As in the results above, there are still many individuals who do not want to go to use their votes. This is due to various aspects such as not knowing the Regional People's Representative Council candidates, not having time because of work, and assuming that other people will vote so that their votes have no impact. Therefore, according to the theory taken, money politics has taken root in society, so that it becomes a phenomenon that always occurs every period.

Money politics that has become a tradition in society makes people take this for granted. They even expect money with a high nominal value that they receive. They will not be surprised if they are given money when approaching election day. The form given is also not necessarily just money but can be in other forms, such as basic necessities and eating together. The community must be lured with money first to cast their votes, even so this is not entirely true. Because the votes they have have been bought by the Regional People's Representative Council candidates. What we do not realize is that money politics also increases community participation in casting their votes. If no money is given or just an event, the community will be surprised and feel less lively. The weaknesses of law enforcement in Indonesia, including the weakness of the substance of the law, namely the principle of differentiation in the Criminal Procedure Code, many articles are open to multiple interpretations so that legal certainty is not guaranteed. The weakness of structural law is the overlapping authority between law enforcement agencies in investigating corruption crimes.

The weakness of legal culture is the existence of a legal culture of compromise, peace, patrimonial values and the attitude of society that considers corruption cases as easy and does not know the law of the law enforcement process. Law enforcement against money politics in the DPRD General Election in Padang Lawas Regency involves various efforts to crack down on corrupt practices in the election. This includes supervision by the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu), law enforcement by the police, and cooperation with other related institutions.

### **1. Law Enforcement Steps**

Law Enforcement Steps are:

- A. Sting Operation (OTT): Law enforcement is often carried out through sting operations against perpetrators of money politics. For example, in April 2019, the Deputy Regent of North Padang Lawas and 12 other people were arrested in an OTT carried out by the Money Politics Task Force Team of the South Tapanuli Police.
- B. Investigation by Gakkumdu: After the arrest, the cases are handed over to the Integrated Law Enforcement Center (Gakkumdu) for further investigation.

Gakkumdu consists of Bawaslu, the police, and the prosecutor's office working together to handle money politics cases.

C. Imposition of Legal Sanctions: Perpetrators of money politics who are proven guilty can be subject to legal sanctions, including imprisonment and fines.

The practice of money politics in the DPRD General Election in North Padang Lawas was influenced by various factors, including the socio-economic conditions of the community, weak law enforcement, and a political culture that is tolerant of such practices. The impact of money politics in North Padang Lawas Regency includes declining election integrity, increasing corruption, and loss of public trust in political institutions. Law enforcement against money politics in the DPRD General Election in Padang Lawas Regency involves various efforts to crack down on corrupt practices in elections. The causes of money politics include: weak faith, low political education, economic factors/poverty, weak laws, cultural habits and traditions, weak supervision, low education, the last factor is distrust of community leaders. Views of Islamic Law. Returning to Allah's teachings is the only and most effective way to prevent the practice of money politics, among other things, faith in Allah, believers will be afraid of committing prohibited acts such as bribery, corruption and so on, so act honestly, trustworthy and istiqomah, people. whoever is able to realize this behavior then the path will be straight, fair, blessed, grateful and qona'ah, if you really return to the Islamic concept you will definitely not dare to engage in money politics.<sup>9</sup>

Law enforcement related to money politics can be analyzed using the law enforcement theory put forward by Sadjono Soekanto, an Indonesian legal expert. According to Soekanto, law enforcement involves a process to ensure that legal regulations are implemented properly and effectively in society. Soekanto formulated several factors that influence law enforcement, consisting of legal structure, law enforcers, society, budget, and culture. Each of these factors interacts with each other to determine whether the law can be enforced effectively or not.

### **1. Legal Structure**

The legal structure refers to existing legal rules, be they laws, regulations or other implementing regulations relating to money politics.

Regarding money politics, one of the important regulations in this case is the Election Law which regulates the prohibition of money politics practices. However, even though the rules already exist, if this legal structure is not implemented properly or is incomplete, law enforcement against money politics practices will be very difficult. For example, Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning Elections stipulates that money politics practices are violations that can be subject to sanctions, both for the giver and the recipient of bribes. However, if

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<sup>9</sup>Karto and Akhmad Khisni, Islamic Views on Money Political Practices in the Constitutional Election of 2019, Law Defense Journal

the law is not applied consistently or is not followed by adequate implementing regulations, then money politics practices can still develop.

## **2. Law Enforcement Officials**

Law enforcers include police officers, public prosecutors, judges, and other institutions involved in enforcing the law. The function of law enforcers is to ensure that perpetrators of money politics are sanctioned in accordance with applicable laws. Related to money politics, one of the main factors that influences law enforcement against money politics is the quality of law enforcers. If law enforcers do not have a strong commitment or if there are procedural errors, money politics can still occur without adequate punishment. In addition, there is a possibility that law enforcers are involved in the practice of money politics or receive pressure from certain interested parties.

## **3. Society**

The community also plays an important role in law enforcement, both as voters who must avoid accepting money from candidates and as spectators who can report money politics practices to the authorities. Regarding money politics, if the community is not aware or even accustomed to the practice of money politics, law enforcement will be difficult. Voters who receive money or goods from candidates may not consider it a violation of the law, but rather as part of the "political culture". In addition, it is possible that the community also does not report money politics practices to the authorities because they are afraid or feel that it will not have any impact. The impact is when the community does not support or even allows money politics, then law enforcement will be hampered. Therefore, it is important to build legal awareness among the community so that they understand that money politics is an act that is detrimental to democracy and must be fought.

## **4. Budget**

Budget factors refer to the financial resources available to support law enforcement. This includes funding for law enforcement agencies, training of law enforcement officers, and procurement of tools and technology that can assist law enforcement. In relation to money politics, law enforcement against money politics requires sufficient funding, both for supervision during elections, investigations into money politics cases, and for the operations of law enforcement agencies that handle these violations. Without an adequate budget, law enforcement becomes limited and less effective. The impact is that without proper budget allocation, legal institutions cannot carry out their supervisory and law enforcement duties optimally. This will slow down the prosecution process against perpetrators of money politics and ultimately undermine fairness in general elections.

## 5. Culture

Legal culture involves the values, norms, and attitudes of society towards the application of law. In the context of money politics, the prevailing legal culture can greatly influence law enforcement. Related to money politics, if society or politicians do not see money politics as a serious problem or even view it as a normal practice in elections, law enforcement will face major challenges. This culture treats money politics as a "tradition" or "necessity" in political competition, not as a violation of the law.

Law enforcement against money politics, according to Sodjono Soekanto's law enforcement theory, is influenced by five main factors: legal structure, law enforcers, society, budget, and culture. If one of these factors is weak, then law enforcement against money politics practices will be ineffective. Therefore, to overcome the problem of money politics, it is important to strengthen the legal structure with clear and firm rules, increase the capacity of law enforcers to enforce the law fairly, build public awareness of the dangers of money politics, provide sufficient budget for supervision and prosecution, and change the political culture to be more supportive of integrity and fairness in the election process.<sup>10</sup>

This study aims to prevent and explain the practice of money politics that often occurs in elections. This opens up opportunities for legislative candidates in the election to do so to secure votes. The findings of this study indicate that money politics behavior can endanger the democratic system in Indonesia if it is rampant, harming the community by prioritizing the financial resources of legislative candidates compared to the competence of legislative candidates in guaranteeing election votes. Although there are regulations prohibiting political money as stated in Article 515 of Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning Elections, the rampant practice that occurs in most Indonesian society cannot be denied.<sup>11</sup>

## 4. Conclusion

The practice of money politics in the DPRD General Election in North Padang Lawas is influenced by various factors, including the socio-economic conditions of the community, weak law enforcement, and a political culture that is tolerant of such practices. Evaluation and prevention efforts by the authorities are very important to reduce the negative impacts of money politics. Factors that encourage the practice of money politics are socio-economic conditions, weak law enforcement, political culture, campaign strategies, low political education. The impacts of money politics in North Padang Lawas Regency include declining election integrity, increasing corruption, and loss of public trust in political

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<sup>10</sup>Rai Iqsandri, The Influence of Politics on the Law Enforcement Process in Indonesia, Volume 2, Number 1, October 2022, Pages 1–3, Journal of Criminology and Justice

<sup>11</sup>Albi Ikhzami & Dodi Jaya Wardana, The Effect of Money Politics on the Level of Voter Participation Elections in Indonesia, Volume 7 No. 3, September 2024, Journal of Legal Sovereignty

institutions. This practice can also result in injustice in political representation and cause voters to choose based on material rewards rather than the vision and mission of the candidate. declining quality of leaders increasing public dissatisfaction, strengthening the culture of corruption, violations of the law. Law enforcement against money politics in the DPRD General Election in Padang Lawas Regency involves various efforts to crack down on corrupt practices in elections. This includes supervision by the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), law enforcement by the police, and cooperation with other related institutions. Law enforcement steps Hand-caught Operations (OTT), Investigations by Gakkumdu, and the imposition of legal sanctions

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