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Reducing “Golongan Putih” Activities in General Elections Abstention by Strengthening Citizen Participation and Involvement in Public Management

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Abstract: *This article discusses efforts to reduce golongan putih or golput activities (abstention) in general elections by strengthening citizen participation and involvement in public management. Through political education, increasing access to information, encouraging active involvement, and increasing citizen capacity, it is hoped that voter participation can be increased. Strengthening citizen participation and involvement in public decision-making processes will strengthen democracy, increase government legitimacy, and ensure policies that better represent the public interest. This literature study involved 60 reputable national and international journals and international journals that had the keywords abstentions, elections, participation, involvement, and public management. The synthesis of community participation and abstention activities in public management includes several things, namely public participation and engagement, decision-making and the formation of public policy, abstentions and the fulfillment of voting rights, and a democratic environment. It can be concluded that public management as a reference for ideal community participation and involvement in general elections has a slice of direct study by creating open channels of communication, promoting inclusive political participation, building trust, and developing community involvement in public participation mechanisms.*

Keywords: *Reduction of Abstentions; Participation; Public Involvement; Public Management; General Elections.*

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Introduction

The context of the term community empowerment is closely related to several aspects of public management. The most important aspect of public management related to community empowerment is public participation (Cho et al., 2021; Cui & Osborne, 2022). Community empowerment is based on the principle of public participation, which involves citizens in the decision-making process and the implementation of public policies. In public management, public participation is an important aspect of ensuring that the resulting policies and programs reflect the needs, aspirations, and interests of the people served. Public participation in public management can be linked to community involvement in elections in several ways. This is related to the characteristics of the community and the area where the practice occurs (Falanga & Ferrão, 2021; Fu & Ma, 2020; Szczepańska et al., 2022).

Meanwhile, public participation in public management has an important role in increasing community involvement in general elections. By involving citizens in decision-making and providing a platform for them to express their aspirations and needs, public participation can encourage greater involvement in elections and strengthen the legitimacy of democratic processes. The intersection of the two can be seen from the level of political awareness, which can help increase people's political awareness (Jones, 2020; Solhaug & Christophersen, 2022). When citizens are involved in the decision-making process, they are more familiar with political issues and options. This can influence their involvement in elections by making them more informed about the candidates and related issues. Furthermore, public participation through political education can provide the

necessary knowledge to the public about the political system and the importance of general elections. Through political education programs, citizens can learn about their rights and obligations as voters, as well as the importance of participation in the democratic process. For example, studies in China (Chen, 2023; Kennedy et al., 2018) and England (Kandiko Howson & Buckley, 2020) use digital interactive methods; in Indonesia, political education is done by touching the grassroots to form political awareness. Good political education can increase the understanding and involvement of the people in

Not only that, the intersection of the two (Majó-Vázquez et al., 2021) can create public discussions in policy forums that provide opportunities for the public to discuss political issues and consider diverse views. These public discussions can involve citizens in a deeper understanding of issues related to elections. This can increase citizen involvement in elections by providing a platform for sharing views and influencing political discourse. Forms of public management can also be represented in conveying aspirations and desires, which provide space for citizens to convey their aspirations, desires, and needs to policymakers. Through participatory mechanisms such as public consultations or participatory forums, citizens can convey their priorities to the candidate or political party concerned. This can influence citizen involvement in elections by providing a sense of ownership and providing direct input to political leaders.

Public participation in election monitoring is an important form of community involvement (A'yun et al., 2022; Grömping, 2021). Civil society organizations and election observer groups have a role in ensuring fairness,

transparency, and integrity in elections. With their participation, the public can help maintain a fair election process and overcome potential fraud. In several studies, it can be described in several cases that occurred in Indonesia. Public participation in public management can have an impact on community involvement in general elections. By involving citizens in the decision-making process, providing opportunities to interact directly with potential political leaders, and monitoring the electoral process, public participation can strengthen citizen involvement in elections and encourage more active participation in democracy.

In the first case, before the 2019 general election, a public discussion forum was held in a city or region involving candidates from various political parties. The forum provides an opportunity for the public to ask prospective leaders about the programs and policies they are promoting. These discussions allow the public to obtain first-hand information about the vision, action plans, and positions of prospective political leaders on relevant issues. Communities can convey their aspirations, concerns, or problems to prospective political leaders through questions and direct interaction. Some parties are guerrilla in involving community participation, as in the case of Marsiaman Saragih from the PSIP Party in the 2019 legislative elections in the Riau-2 Electoral District (Gulo et al., 2022). In addition, public participation can also occur through election monitoring activities carried out by civil society organizations or election observer groups. In this case, the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) of Tanjung Pinang City, Lampung, which carries out participatory supervision of the public, can be actively involved in monitoring the general

election process, such as the electoral process, vote counting, or handling voter complaints (Afnira, 2023). Abstention is defined as an act that is detrimental to the state in the context of not contributing directly to the implementation of public election management. This activity is considered very disturbing and provides bad lessons for political activities in Indonesia. Therefore, abstentions are always considered to be linearly correlated with the participation and involvement of the community as the owner of the voice in a democratic party.

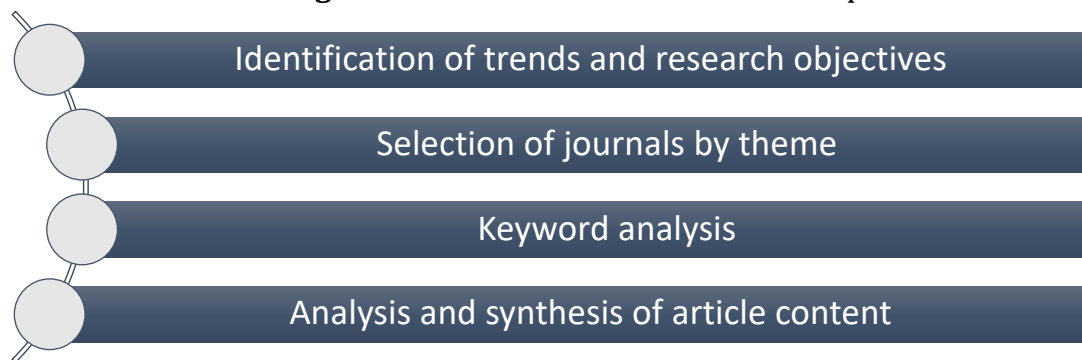
Through this participation, the public can ensure fairness, transparency, and integrity in general elections, as well as report any violations that occur to the competent authorities. Lee & Schachter's (2019) study of community participation and involvement in elections correlates with public management, especially for election administrators and government. Furthermore, the effectiveness of public management depends on community participation in the context of involvement in it (Tai et al., 2020). Policymaking in terms of general elections requires good public management so that they can explore irregularities in general elections about hoax (Khalyubi & Perdana, 2021; Setyaningsih, 2020; Siregar, 2020); disorder security (Djuyandi et al., 2019; Kurniaty, 2020); and money politics (Khairi, 2020; Setiyawan & Mashdurohatun, 2021). From various studies on some of these matters, a research question can be drawn about how strengthening citizen participation and involvement in public management can reduce abstention in general elections. The novelty of this study is that it emphasizes the workings of public management in terms of citizen participation and involvement in reducing abstentions in general elections in Indonesia.

Method

The literature study approach in this study aims to evaluate and explore a deep understanding of the phenomenon of white groups (abstentions) in general elections in Indonesia, which intersects with public management in terms of citizen participation and involvement. The research data was obtained through an analysis of 60 journal articles, which

included sources from reputable international journals, international journals, and accredited national journals. The articles were grouped by topic and year of publication to facilitate data analysis. The analysis is carried out by considering the topic clusters that are formed by the sub-themes that have been determined in the research framework.

Figure 1. Literature Review Research Steps



Sources: (Barry et al., 2022; Belur et al., 2021; Mengist et al., 2020)

This study adopted a method that is a combination of several literature review models (Barry et al., 2022; Belur et al., 2021; Mengist et al., 2020). First, this study identified research objectives and research trends and made comparisons with previous studies as the main focus. Second, the selection of journals is carried out by considering the criteria of the last five years and sources of journal indexation from Google Scholar. Third, keywords relevant to the topic are determined by making a list of appropriate keywords. These keywords are then used in the search for journals that are relevant to the topic. Fourth, the analysis of the article is carried out in detail by taking into account the main findings, the methodology used, the theoretical framework, and the resulting conclusions. The information obtained from these articles is organized

and grouped based on certain themes or concepts.

Result and Discussion

Citizen Participation and *Golput* (Abstention) Activities in Public Management

In this sub-chapter, the importance of citizen participation in the decision-making process and the formation of public policies can be discussed. In the context of reducing abstentions, it is necessary to examine how community empowerment and increased participation can motivate citizens to play an active role in general elections. In this discussion, examples of programs or policies that have been implemented to strengthen citizen participation in public management and their impact on the abstention level can be included.

Abstention can be considered a challenge to democracy because it shows citizens' dissatisfaction or loss of trust in the political system. Studies show that the main reasons people choose to abstain are feelings of hopelessness, distrust, or dissatisfaction with the available options (Anam & Somantri, 2020; Harrison, 2020; Katz & Levin, 2018). Therefore, efforts to reduce abstention should focus on strengthening citizens' trust in the political process and increasing the attractiveness of the choices offered by political leaders.

(Matthews, 2021) Community empowerment is an approach that involves the active participation of citizens in making public decisions that impact their lives. Through empowerment, citizens are given the opportunity to contribute to formulating policies and implementing programs that are more in line with their needs and expectations. Community empowerment can be carried out through political education (Zavala & Henning, 2021), forming community groups (Dynes et al., 2021), and facilitating public participation (Arana-Catania et al., 2021) in various stages of the public policy process.

To reduce the abstention rate, efforts are needed to increase citizen participation in the political process (Boyd & Nowell, 2020; Thomas, 1997). This can be done through an approach that is inclusive and responsive to the needs and interests of the community. Some of the steps that could be taken include increasing the accessibility of political information, strengthening political education in schools and communities, and encouraging citizen participation in public discussions and policy forums. Tackling the *golput* problem and strengthening citizen participation in public management require close

collaboration between government and society. The government must create a conducive environment for citizen participation by building mechanisms that allow citizens to convey their aspirations and needs. In addition, the community needs to be encouraged to take an active role in the decision-making process and be involved in the planning and implementation of public programs.

Citizen participation and *golput* activities in public management are two interrelated aspects in the context of the democratization process. Citizen participation refers to the active involvement and contribution of the community in decision-making and the formation of public policies, while abstention activities refer to the actions of citizens who choose not to use their voting rights in general elections. An analysis of citizen participation and abstention activities in public management involves understanding the factors that influence the level of participation and abstentions, as well as the impact of citizen participation in reducing abstentions (Amalia & Mulyadi, 2019; Dewi et al., 2022).

Factors that influence citizen participation may include social (Alidu & Bukari, 2020), economic (Park, 2021), political (López García & Maydom, 2021), and cultural factors (Dassonneville & Kostelka, 2021). For example, education level, political awareness, access to information, and involvement in civil society organizations can play a role in increasing citizen participation. On the other hand, factors such as dissatisfaction with the political system, lack of trust in political leaders, and limited resources can be factors that hinder citizen participation. *Golput* activities can be influenced by various reasons, including dissatisfaction with available candidates or political

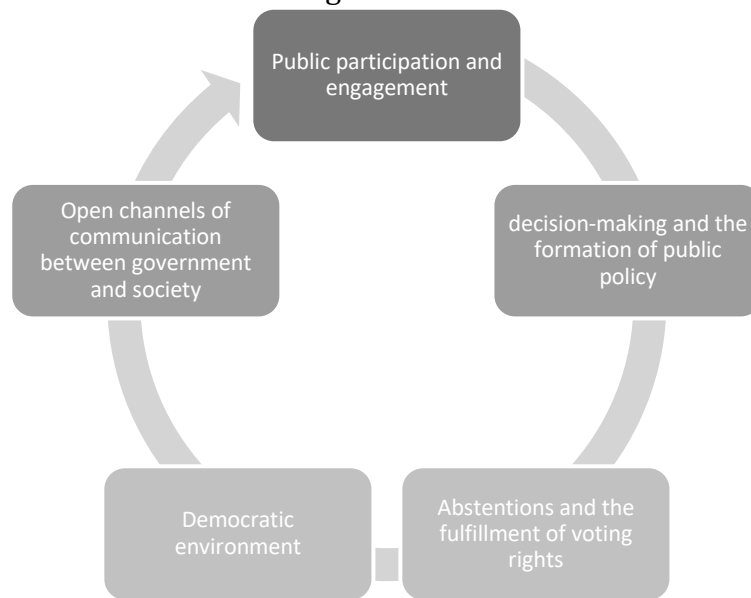
parties, feelings of hopelessness in the political system, perceptions of the meaninglessness of elections, or a false understanding of the importance of their vote. In some cases, abstention can also occur due to a lack of awareness or information about the general election process.

It is important to analyze the impact of citizen participation in reducing *golput* activities. Strong citizen participation can create greater legitimacy for political decisions and public policies, as well as strengthen community representation in the democratic process. By being actively involved in policy formation, citizens can feel they have a meaningful contribution to make and feel more connected to the government and political leaders. This can encourage voters to exercise their voting rights and reduce abstention rates. However, it is also important to note that citizen participation does not always guarantee a significant

reduction in abstention activities. There are still various factors that can influence an individual's decision to abstain. Therefore, continuous efforts are needed to promote wider citizen participation and increase public understanding of the importance of general elections.

Overall, an analysis of citizen participation and abstention activities in public management requires an understanding of the factors influencing these two aspects as well as an evaluation of the impact of citizen participation in reducing abstention rates. With a deep understanding of this, more effective efforts can be made to strengthen citizen participation in public management and reduce *golput* activities. This involves a comprehensive approach involving political education, increasing access to information, civil society involvement, and building trust between government and society.

Figure 2. Synthesis of Citizen Participation Practices and Abstentions Activities in Public Management



Sources: (Researcher data, 2023)

In the context of citizen participation and abstention activities in public management, the focus is mainly on aspects of public participation. Public participation in public management is an important concept for ensuring citizen involvement in decision-making and public policy formation. This involves involving citizens in the decision-making process, facilitating open communication between the government and the community, and providing opportunities for citizens to express their aspirations, wishes, and needs regarding public issues.

In the context of *golput* activities, public participation plays an important role in overcoming the challenges of low voter turnout. Through strengthened public participation, such as through voter awareness campaigns, public discussion forums, or election monitoring activities by civil society organizations, it is hoped this will encourage citizens to exercise their voting rights and reduce abstention rates. In this case, public management plays a role in creating an environment that supports and encourages active public participation. Based on Khan & Krishnan (2021), governments and public institutions have a responsibility to facilitate citizen participation, provide transparent and easily accessible information, and open effective channels of communication between government and society. Through good public management, citizen participation can be increased, and abstinence activities can be dealt with more effectively.

In conclusion, citizen participation and abstinence activities in public management have an interrelated relationship. Strong citizen participation in the decision-making process and the formation of public policies can play a role in reducing *golput* activities in general elections. Community empowerment and

increased citizen participation can be motivations for citizens to play an active role in general elections. Abstention can be considered a challenge to democracy because it reflects the dissatisfaction or loss of citizens' trust in the political system. Factors such as distrust, dissatisfaction with the available options, or the perception of the meaninglessness of the election can be the main reasons someone chooses to abstain. Therefore, efforts to reduce abstention should focus on strengthening citizens' trust in the political process and increasing the attractiveness of the choices offered by political leaders.

Community empowerment plays an important role in facilitating citizen participation in public management (McMullin, 2021). Through empowerment, citizens are given the opportunity to contribute to formulating policies and implementing programs that are more in line with their needs and expectations. Community empowerment can be carried out through political education, forming community groups, and facilitating public participation in various stages of the public policy process. To reduce the abstention rate, efforts are needed to increase citizen participation in the political process. This involves an inclusive and responsive approach to community needs and interests. Some of the steps that can be taken include increasing the accessibility of political information, strengthening political education in schools and communities, and encouraging citizen participation in public discussions and policy forums.

In order to address the *golput* problem and strengthen citizen participation in public management, close cooperation between the government and the community is required. The government needs to create an

environment that supports citizen participation by building mechanisms that allow citizens to express their aspirations and needs. On the other hand, the community also needs to be encouraged to take an active role in the decision-making process and to be involved in the planning and implementation of public programs. Overall, citizen participation and abstention activities in public management have an important role in maintaining a sustainable democratization process. By strengthening citizen participation in public management as well as increasing public understanding and trust in the importance of general elections, efforts to reduce abstentions can be more effective.

Participation and Involvement in Political Behavior Change

In this sub-chapter, the research focuses on how community involvement can increase participation in general elections and reduce abstention rates. In this discussion, various strategies and approaches that have been implemented, such as voter awareness campaigns, public discussion forums between prospective political leaders and the public, or election monitoring activities by civil society organizations, can be discussed. It is also important to analyze the effectiveness of these strategies in reducing abstention rates.

Participation and involvement in changes in political behavior are two aspects that are interrelated in the context of democracy (Lapuente & Van de Walle, 2020) and the political process (Braun et al., 2020). Participation refers to the active involvement of individuals in political activities, such as voting in general elections, participating in political campaigns, or being involved in social movements related to political issues.

Engagement, on the other hand, includes the individual's role in formulating and implementing more positive and impactful changes in political behavior. Analysis of participation and involvement in changes in political behavior involves understanding the factors that influence political participation and efforts to encourage changes in political behavior that are more responsive and inclusive.

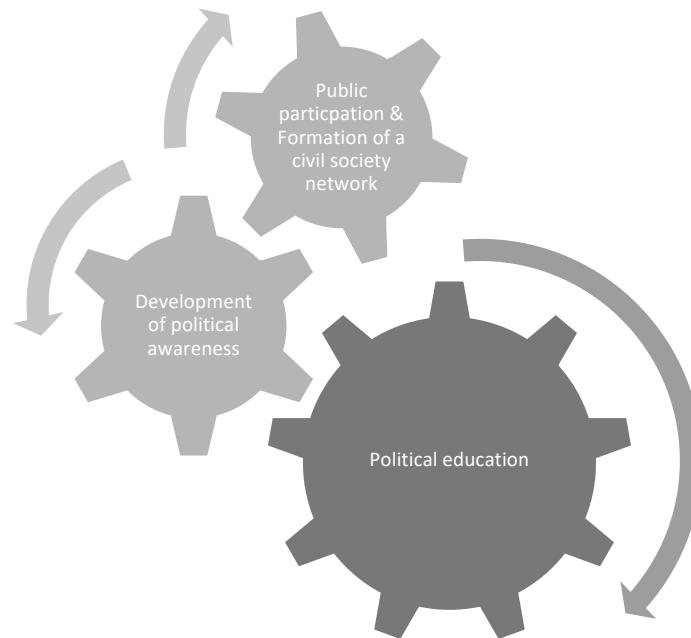
Factors that influence political participation may include social, economic, cultural, and institutional factors. For example, educational level, political awareness, and access to political resources can influence the extent to which individuals are involved in the political process. On the other hand, factors such as dissatisfaction with the political system, lack of trust in political leaders, and the inability to access accurate and reliable political information can also act as barriers to political participation.

Changes in political behavior, on the other hand, require efforts to influence individual attitudes, beliefs, and actions related to political activity (Onyango, 2020). This involves changing behavior that is unresponsive or apathetic to one that is more active, informed, and responsive to the demands of democracy. In order to increase participation and involvement in changing political behavior, several approaches can be taken, including first, political education that increases people's political understanding and knowledge through education and accurate information. This can be done through schools, the mass media, or political training programs. Second, related to the development of political awareness, encourage individuals to be more sensitive to political issues, their rights as citizens, and the importance of participation in the political process.

Third, public participation in opening more open channels of communication between the government and the public so that citizens can be actively involved in making decisions and forming public policies. Fourth, the formation of civil

society networks: encouraging participation in organizations and social movements that focus on political issues and fight for social change that is more just and democratic.

Figure 3. Public Management Approach in Increasing Participation and Involvement to Change Political Behavior



Sources: (Researcher data, 2023)

In the analysis of changes in political behavior, it is important to evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented strategy. This evaluation may involve measuring levels of political participation before and after strategy implementation, as well as monitoring changes in individual attitudes, beliefs, and actions related to political activity. In addition, the analysis also needs to consider the social, political, and cultural contexts that influence participation and involvement in changes in political behavior.

Overall, participation and involvement in changes in political

behavior are important elements in building a more inclusive, responsive, and democratic political system (Mamanovich, 2021). By increasing political participation and encouraging positive changes in political behavior, individuals can feel they have a more active and influential role in the political process. In addition, changes in political behavior that are more responsive can also create a political environment that is more just, transparent, and has a positive impact on society as a whole. In the context of participation and involvement in changes in political behavior, the focus is mainly on aspects of public management that involve

the management and formation of public policies. Public management plays an important role in creating an enabling environment and encouraging active political participation, as well as in facilitating positive changes in political behavior.

In terms of political participation, public management plays a role in facilitating citizen participation in the process of making decisions and forming public policies. Governments and public institutions have a responsibility to create open channels of communication, provide transparent access to information, and involve citizens in decision-making processes. By involving citizens in the decision-making process, public management creates opportunities for individuals to actively participate, provide input, and influence public policy (Chipkin, 2021; Eriksson et al., 2020). Involvement in changing political behavior also involves aspects of public management. The government and public institutions need to play an active role in initiating programs and activities that encourage positive changes in political behavior. This can involve political education, training in political skills, or developing initiatives that encourage individuals to take responsive and impactful action in their political activities.

Public management is also responsible for building systems that support changes in political behavior. This involves establishing public policies that promote inclusive, transparent, and fair political participation. In addition, public management also needs to create mechanisms and platforms that facilitate citizen participation and involvement in political processes, such as public discussion forums, feedback-gathering mechanisms, or participation in decision-making processes (Trischler & Westman

Trischler, 2022). Overall, public management in the context of participation and involvement in changes in political behavior focuses on creating an environment and system that supports the active participation of citizens in the political process, as well as encouraging changes in political behavior that are more positive and responsive.

Thus, public management plays a very important role in encouraging participation and involvement in changes in political behavior (Clark, 2021). Through inclusive and transparent public policies as well as mechanisms that facilitate citizen participation in decision-making processes, public management can create an environment that enables individuals to play an active role in political activities. In addition, through political education, political skills training, and other initiatives, public management can drive changes in political behavior that are more responsive and impactful.

However, keep in mind that participation and involvement in changing political behavior also involve the active role of individuals and society. Although public management can create a supportive environment, individuals also need to have the motivation and awareness to engage in political activities and carry out positive behavior changes. Therefore, close collaboration between public management and society is essential to achieving effective results in overcoming the challenges of participation and promoting changes in political behavior. Overall, participation and involvement in changing political behavior is an effort that involves the active role of public management in creating an environment and policies that support inclusive political participation and facilitate more responsive changes in political behavior. Thus, public

management has an important role in building a more democratic political system and encouraging individuals and communities to be actively involved in political processes that have a positive impact.

Public Management as a Reference for Ideal Community Participation and Involvement in General Elections

In this sub-chapter, we can discuss the impact of strengthening citizen participation and involvement in public management on reducing abstention. In this discussion, an analysis of the data and findings obtained from relevant research or previous studies can be carried out. Consider involving quantitative or qualitative analysis to measure the effect of civic participation and involvement in reducing abstention rates. The reference for public management in holding general elections is related to community participation and involvement. In addition, effective public communication is a key component of community empowerment (Criado et al., 2021). Good public management requires open, transparent, and two-way communication between the government and the public. Good communication helps build understanding, trust, and citizen involvement in the decision-making process.

Meanwhile, there are also aspects of participatory management that can encourage a participatory management approach in which citizens have an active role in planning, implementing, and monitoring public programs. Participatory management involves citizens in the process of decision-making, sharing of responsibilities, and managing resources together with the government and other stakeholders (Brown, 2021; Chipkin, 2021). Forms of openness and access to

information: represent a fair value for public information. Good public management must ensure that policy information, data, and decision-making processes are easily accessible to the public. By having adequate access to information, citizens can participate effectively and make meaningful contributions to public management.

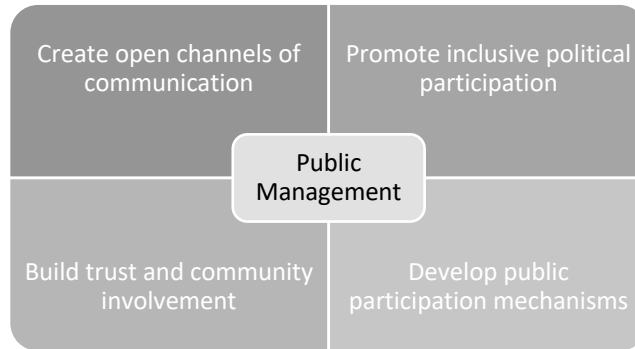
Basically, the two-element collaboration between the government and the community in public management focuses on the social cohesion of the community (Kim et al., 2022; LEBRUMENT et al., 2021). This collaboration includes partnerships, cooperation, and the sharing of power between governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, and society at large. Good collaboration enables more effective planning and implementation of programs that are responsive to community needs. In practice, community empowerment can be an approach that cuts across various aspects of public management to ensure active citizen participation, greater engagement, and more inclusive decision-making in public management processes. Public management as a reference for ideal community participation and involvement in general elections involves an understanding of how government and public institutions can create an environment that supports active political participation and positive public involvement.

In Boselie et al. (2021), an analysis of public management as a reference for ideal citizen participation and involvement in elections involves an understanding of the role of public management in creating open channels of communication where public management can play a key role in opening effective channels of communication between the government and the public. This involves ensuring the

accessibility of political information that is transparent and easily accessible to the public. Through open communication, the public can be more involved in the

decision-making process and gain a better understanding of political issues relevant to elections.

Figure 4. Understanding the Role of Public Management in Reducing General Elections Abstentions



Sources: (Researcher data, 2023)

Encouraging inclusive political participation: Public management must ensure that political participation is not limited to certain groups or individuals but must be inclusive of the whole society. This includes ensuring that accessibility and opportunities for political participation are available to all citizens, including minority or underrepresented groups. In general elections, public management can facilitate broad participation by providing clear and accurate information, organizing discussion or debate forums between prospective political leaders and the public, and promoting voter awareness.

Building trust and community involvement: public management should focus on building trust between the government and the public. This involves transparency in decision-making and public policy, as well as opening effective communication channels that are responsive to people's aspirations, needs, and input. By building trust and strong involvement, the public will feel more involved and have a sense of ownership of the electoral process (Schnell & Gerard,

2022; Zheng, 2012). By developing mechanisms for public participation, public management can facilitate public participation through the establishment of mechanisms that enable citizens to convey their aspirations and needs. This could include using information and communication technology to gather public feedback, setting up forums for discussion and public consultation, or involving the community in the planning and implementation stages of election-related public programs.

In the synthesis and analysis, it can be concluded that public management plays a key role in creating an environment that supports ideal public participation and involvement in elections. By ensuring open communication, encouraging inclusive political participation, building trust and community involvement, and developing mechanisms for public participation, public management can become a reference for creating an electoral system that is democratic and actively involves the public. It is important to apply these public management

principles when holding general elections in order to increase citizen participation, minimize abstentions, and build trust in the political process. Thus, public management acts as a guideline for creating ideal community participation and involvement in general elections.

In this conclusion, several important points can be drawn regarding public management as a reference for ideal community participation and involvement in general elections. Open and transparent public communication is a key factor in building understanding and trust between the government and the public. Through good communication, people can be more involved in decision-making processes and have a better understanding of relevant political issues. Inclusive political participation is a goal that must be achieved by public management. In organizing general elections, it is important to ensure that all citizens have equal access and opportunity to participate, regardless of background or certain groups. This includes providing clear and accurate information as well as organizing discussion or debate forums that involve prospective political leaders and the public.

Building trust and community involvement is an important focus in public management. Transparency in decision-making and public policy, as well as responsive communication to the aspirations and needs of the people, will help strengthen citizens' trust in the electoral process and encourage more active participation (Beerli, 2021). The development of public participation mechanisms is an important step in public management. Communities need to have an easily accessible channel to express their aspirations and needs, either through the use of information and communication technology or through discussion forums

and public consultations. In terms of elections, involving the community in the planning and implementation stages of related programs will increase their participation and involvement.

Overall, public management has an important role to play in creating an environment that supports ideal citizen participation and involvement in elections. By paying attention to open public communication, inclusive political participation, building trust and community involvement, and developing mechanisms for public participation, public management can become an important reference for minimizing *golput* activities, increasing citizen participation, and building trust in the political process.

Conclusion

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that first, citizen participation and *golput* activities in public management: an analysis of citizen participation and abstention activities in public management highlights the importance of community participation in decision-making processes and the formation of public policies. High abstention rates can be seen as a challenge to democracy, and efforts should be made to reduce abstention rates by strengthening citizen participation. Community empowerment through political education, forming community groups, and facilitating public participation can be important steps in overcoming abstention activities. Second, citizen participation and abstention activities in public management are influenced by factors of citizen participation and abstention activities, including social, economic, political, and cultural factors. An approach that is inclusive and responsive to community needs and interests is needed to increase

citizen participation in the political process. Measures such as increasing the accessibility of political information, strengthening political education, and encouraging citizen participation in public discussions and policy forums can help reduce abstention rates.

Third, public management is a reference for ideal participation and community involvement in general elections. Public communication that is open, transparent, and two-way between the government and the community is the key to building understanding, trust, and citizen involvement in the decision-making process. Good public management also includes a participatory aspect, in which citizens have an active role in planning, implementing, and monitoring public programs. In conclusion, as a whole, citizen participation and *golput* activities in public management have a close relationship. In order to overcome abstention activities, the active participation of citizens in the political process is required. Public management as an ideal reference for community participation and involvement in general elections emphasizes the importance of open public communication, inclusive political participation, and participatory management. Through these steps, the level of *golput* can be reduced and citizen participation can be increased, which in turn will strengthen democracy and community involvement in the political process.

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