

SATLINMAS STRATEGY IN INVOLVING VOTING CONFLICTS IN SIMULTANEOUS REGIONAL ELECTIONS FOR DISTRICTS AND CITIES IN EAST JAVA PROVINCE

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Article History

Received: 1 June 2025

Accepted: 17 June 2025

Published: 31 August 2025

Abstract

This study analyzes the role and challenges of the Community Protection Unit (Satlinmas) in anticipating conflicts during the 2024 Simultaneous Regional Election voting in East Java. As part of the Satpol PP, Satlinmas plays a role in maintaining security and order at Polling Stations (TPS). The method used is qualitative with a phenomenological approach, through interviews, observations, and document studies. The results of the study show that Satlinmas has carried out training, distributed guidebooks, and coordinated across sectors to prevent conflicts. However, they face obstacles such as limited personnel, weak coordination, and the presence of inactive or unofficial members. Nevertheless, Satlinmas continues to contribute to maintaining election order through cooperation with security forces and community leaders. This study emphasizes the importance of increasing the capacity and professionalism of Satlinmas in order to strengthen the stability of democracy at the local level.

Keywords: Satlinmas, 2024 Simultaneous Regional Elections, Voting Conflict, Security Strategy

A. INTRODUCTION

The Civil Service Police Unit (*Satuan Polisi Pamong Praja*), especially in provinces like East Java, is a vital institution for addressing public order disturbances, which often increase during political activities, including local elections (Pilkada) (Hadi, 2024). The readiness and presence of the Civil Service Police Unit during Pilkada are important indicators of how orderly, safe, and regulated the local democratic process will be (Kartika, 2016).

The 2024 Simultaneous Regional Elections are expected to increase public participation, strengthen the legitimacy of election results, and improve cost efficiency and coordination between institutions (Samodra, 2024). The uniform timing of these elections is also hoped to reduce the potential for political instability and harmonize central and regional policies (Jaharsoyo, 2024).

However, the implementation of simultaneous elections is not without potential for conflict that could disrupt the democratic process, from voting to the distribution of ballots to

the provincial level (Tjenreng, 2020). Potential conflicts include friction between supporters of different candidates, excessive fanaticism toward a specific candidate or party, the presence of "fictitious" community protection officers (*Satlinmas*), and a limited number of *Satlinmas* personnel relative to their workload and required duty hours.

In this context, the Community Protection Unit (*Satuan Perlindungan Masyarakat* or *Satlinmas*) plays a crucial role in maintaining security, order, and community protection, especially during elections. According to the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 84 of 2014, Article 1, *Satlinmas* is formed by village or sub-district governments and consists of trained citizens who can respond to emergencies and secure their environment (Pramono & Kinasih, 2018). During the 2024 Simultaneous Elections, *Satlinmas* is tasked with securing Voting Stations (*TPS*), supervising village and sub-district halls, and helping to distribute logistics. Their active involvement is expected to support an orderly, safe, and democratic election process (Akbar, 2024).

This study uses the theoretical foundation of Strategic Management by Fred R. David from his book "Strategic Management: Concepts and Cases." This theory emphasizes purposeful planning that considers internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as external opportunities and threats (Fitriatunisa, 2025). This study will explore how *Satlinmas* developed strategies for security and conflict prevention before the elections, using the 2024 Election Pocketbook provided by the East Java Civil Service Police Unit. This book includes the legal basis, roles, duties, and infrastructure of *Satlinmas*, as well as their rights and obligations during the Simultaneous Elections. The goal is for *Satlinmas* officers at Voting Stations to carry out their duties humanely and with a full understanding of their role, controlling order until ballot boxes are delivered, and handling any conflicts that arise during the forty-eight-hour election period.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Silvany (2025): "Empowerment of *Satlinmas* by *Satpol PP* in the Success of Simultaneous Regional Elections in Bombana Regency, Southeast Sulawesi." This research, conducted in Bombana Regency, focuses on the strategic role of the Community Protection Unit (*Satlinmas*) in supporting smooth election operations. The Civil Service Police Unit (*Satpol PP*) has taken steps to empower *Satlinmas* through training, guidance, and outreach to ensure they can perform their duties professionally, especially in maintaining security and order during elections. The *Satpol PP* acts not only as a director but also as a direct supervisor in enhancing *Satlinmas*'s on-the-ground capacity.

Despite these efforts, several obstacles remain, including limited funding, suboptimal training, and weak inter-agency coordination. A more planned and comprehensive empowerment approach is needed to maximize *Satlinmas*'s potential for future elections. Ilmiyah & Wahyudi (2023) "The Role of the Civil Service Police Unit in the Implementation of Public Order and Community Peace in Surabaya City."

This qualitative descriptive study, conducted in Surabaya, focuses on the Civil Service Police Unit's (*Satpol PP*) role in maintaining public order and community peace. Data was collected through interviews, observation, and documentation. The findings show that *Satpol PP* is active in public order enforcement, such as cracking down on illegal street vendors and

consistently enforcing local regulations to maintain social stability. The research also identified challenges, including limited human resources and operational budgets, which affect the effectiveness of their duties.

The implementation of public order and community peace is detailed in Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 26 of 2020. Article 3, paragraph 4, outlines several key activities, including early detection and prevention, community guidance and education, patrols, security, law enforcement, and handling demonstrations and security disturbances. However, this study focuses on four main activities: early detection and prevention, guidance and outreach, patrols, and enforcement. This highlights the strategic role of *Satpol PP* in creating an orderly and safe environment, especially in situations requiring tight supervision, such as before regional elections.

C. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a phenomenological method to delve deeply into the subjective experiences of Civil Service Police Unit (*Satpol PP*) personnel during the 2024 Regional Elections (*Pilkada*) security operations. The main focus is to explore the hidden perceptions, values, and social interactions behind their formal duties, including their responses to campaign violations and potential disturbances to public order.

The research location, the East Java Provincial *Satpol PP*, was chosen for its strategic relevance, given the high level of political participation in the region. The study also examines the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination, particularly in removing campaign materials and handling horizontal conflicts, to gain a more comprehensive understanding of institutional readiness.

The data collection techniques for this research include:

1. Interviews: In-depth interviews were conducted with several key informants, such as Mr. Agung Prastowo, a Civil Service Police Unit official and Head of the Community Protection (*Linmas*) Section. These interviews explored their views on strategies, obstacles, and concrete experiences during election security duties.
2. Observation: Non-participatory observation was carried out during campaign security activities, attribute installations, and the guarding of strategic locations during the election period. The researcher directly observed how enforcement procedures were implemented and how officers interacted with the public.
3. Documentation: This includes data from activity reports, violation records, and official documents from the Civil Service Police Unit's *Satlinmas* division. These documents serve as supporting evidence to strengthen the validity of the field data and complement the information from interviews and observations.

The data used in this study is both primary and secondary. Primary data was obtained directly from the field through interviews and observation, while secondary data came from written sources such as official reports, journal publications, and media documentation related to election security.

The researcher analyzed the data in three stages: data reduction (eliminating irrelevant data), data display (presenting findings in a descriptive narrative for easier understanding), and data verification (interpreting the meaning and drawing conclusions from the collected

data). The entire process aimed to create a complete picture of the strategic role of the Civil Service Police Unit in ensuring public order during the 2024 city and regency elections in East Java Province.

D. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

General Overview of Satlinmas in East Java Province

History and Legal Basis of the Formation of Satlinmas (Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 84 of 2014)

According to Surakarta City Regional Regulation No. 12 of 2018, the Community Protection Unit (Satuan Perlindungan Masyarakat or Satlinmas) is centered at the sub-district (kelurahan) level. Based on Article 3 of Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 84 of 2014, the organization of Satlinmas involves the recruitment of village or sub-district residents by the Village Head or Sub-district Head. This is done to facilitate the division of duties, grouping of responsibilities, and distribution of work to each unit.

At the village or sub-district level, the organizational structure of Satlinmas typically consists of several key components. The Head of Satlinmas is usually the Village or Sub-district Head, who is responsible for all community protection activities. A Head of Operations works under the Head of Satlinmas to manage day-to-day operations and ensure tasks are carried out according to regulations.

Additionally, there are Squad Commanders who lead a number of members. Squads can be divided by specific functions, including security, readiness, first aid, rescue and evacuation, and logistical support like communal kitchens. Satlinmas members are recruited from local residents on a voluntary basis and are placed in these squads. Each squad has a minimum of five members, but this number can be adjusted to local conditions and needs (Safrizal, 2024).

Satlinmas is formed by the Village or Sub-district Head as part of government administration at the local level and functions as a task force for community protection. In practice, Satlinmas is under the supervision and guidance of the Civil Service Police Unit (Satpol PP) at the city/regency level, which is responsible for providing guidance, training, and formalizing Satlinmas membership through a Decree of the Regent/Mayor.

As a community-based organization, Satlinmas plays a vital role in supporting local government tasks, particularly in maintaining public order, managing disasters, securing local elections (Pilkada), and actively participating in various social activities in the village or sub-district. Therefore, Satlinmas is one of the front-line elements in protecting citizens at the local government level (Government of the Republic of Indonesia, 2021).

Duties and Functions of Satlinmas, specifically in securing Pilkada.

According to Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 10 of 2009, the Community Protection Unit (Satlinmas) plays a very important role in organizing Regional Head Elections (Pilkada). According to Article 2 of the same regulation, the duties of Satlinmas during Pilkada include:

1. Maintaining General Peace and Public Order

Satlinmas is responsible for maintaining peace and order at the village or sub-district level. They actively work to create a safe and comfortable environment so voters can cast

their ballots without fear. Their presence helps the public feel more secure and confident during the voting process.

2. Handling Security During *Pilkada*

Satlinmas also helps address security and peace issues that might arise during the elections. They work with other security forces to anticipate potential disturbances, such as riots or acts of anarchy that could disrupt the election process. The preparedness of *Satlinmas* members in handling emergency situations is crucial for maintaining stability.

3. Disaster Prevention and Mitigation

In addition, *Satlinmas* assists in disaster and fire prevention that could interfere with the election. They are trained to recognize early signs of a disaster and take preventive measures. Their involvement in these efforts demonstrates their commitment to public safety.

4. Community Security

Another duty is to help maintain overall community security, peace, and public order. In this context, *Satlinmas* acts as a mediator between the community and law enforcement, helping to resolve conflicts that may arise during the election process.

The Linmas Task Force (*Satgas Linmas*) serves as a coordinator to manage the Community Protection Unit (*Satlinmas*) personnel involved in every stage of a regional election (*Pilkada*). The formation of the Linmas Task Force must be based on a Decree (*SK*) from the relevant Governor for the provincial level, Mayor/Regent for the city/regency level, and District Head (*Camat*) for the district level, as stipulated in Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 26 of 2020. The Linmas Task Force must be formed annually, not just for elections, to support public order and community protection at all levels of government (Nurhayunda, 2025).

The members of the Linmas Task Force can change each year, depending on the term of service of existing members, with a rotation of older members. Nonetheless, the composition must remain in accordance with the provisions of the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation.

Satlinmas plays a role in managing community conflicts effectively and efficiently by synergizing with the Village-Level Non-Commissioned Officer (*Babinsa*), Community Police Officer (*Bhabinkamtibmas*), and community and religious leaders in villages and sub-districts. They also maintain good relationships with these leaders, allowing conflicts to be resolved using local wisdom that prioritizes their roles. If a conflict can be resolved amicably, there's no need to take it to the legal system. *Linmas* acts as a coordinator in resolving these issues, but the primary role must be given to the community and religious leaders.

Before recruiting members of the Community Protection Unit (*Satlinmas*) for elections, several stages must be completed. This process begins with the appointment of the District Election Committee (*PPK*) by the General Elections Commission (*KPU*), followed by the formation of the Voting Committee (*PPS*), and culminates in the appointment of the Head of the Voting Organizer Group (*KPPS*) at each polling station (*TPS*). After the entire *KPPS* structure is in place, the recruitment of *Satlinmas* can begin. This process typically takes about six months because it requires coordination at the village or sub-district level.

Members of *Satlinmas* assigned during an election must meet several requirements, which are:

1. Physically and mentally healthy, given the heavy workload, especially during the two consecutive days of voting and vote counting.
2. Honest and neutral, not siding with any candidate pair to ensure fairness and order at the polling station (*TPS*).
3. Officially recognized as a *Satlinmas* member by the village or sub-district head, as proven by a Decree (*SK*) from the local government.
4. Possess a valid *Satlinmas* Membership Card (*KTA*), which is crucial for preventing the emergence of "sudden" or fake *Satlinmas* members a problem that had been an issue in some areas but was well anticipated for the 2024 elections.

The 2024 regional elections (*Pilkada*) generally ran smoothly at many polling stations (*TPS*), although several conflicts were observed that should be noted and evaluated for future elections.

Potential Conflicts During Simultaneous Regional Elections Voting

Types of Conflicts That Often Occur During Voting

Voting in Indonesia's simultaneous regional elections can lead to significant potential conflicts in social, political, and legal aspects. This phenomenon reflects the complexity of local democratic dynamics, which must be managed according to policy.

The types of conflicts that often arise in communities during elections include:

1. Friction Between Residents

Tension between the supporters of different candidate pairs during simultaneous regional elections can lead to disturbances, especially when the final vote count is a tie or very close. Such narrow margins often trigger dissatisfaction and conflict among supporters, potentially escalating into physical and social friction. This phenomenon shows that tight competition in elections not only challenges the integrity of the democratic process but can also threaten social stability at the local level.

2. Fanaticism

Political fanaticism in simultaneous regional elections often transforms into social conflict that damages the democratic order. When support for a candidate pair turns into blind loyalty, political rationality is replaced by emotion, and differing choices are seen as a threat to a group's identity. This causes sharp polarization in society, triggering friction between supporters.

Similar phenomena also occur in various regions, where regional fanaticism worsens election conflicts. Ethnic differences and cultural backgrounds are often exploited to mobilize support, which in turn exacerbates polarization and increases the potential for conflict.

3. The Victory of "Empty Box"

The "empty box" in the 2024 Regional Elections reflects a significant decline in the quality of Indonesia's democracy. When there is only one candidate pair running, voters face a limited choice: vote for the single candidate or choose the empty box as a form of protest. The empty box option is not just a symbol of disagreement; it also reflects disappointment with a political system that does not provide adequate alternatives. This phenomenon shows that democracy is not just about election procedures but also about the quality of competition and representation offered to the people.

The empty box phenomenon has the potential to damage the legitimacy of the elected government. Without healthy competition, the victory of a single candidate can be seen as not fully representing the aspirations of the community. This risks eroding public trust in the election system and democratic institutions, as citizens begin to question whether their votes truly matter in determining their local leaders. Therefore, it is crucial for political parties and election organizers to encourage healthy and inclusive competition to ensure that local democracy continues to operate according to its principles.

Empirical Examples of Conflict in East Java

In the context of the East Java regional elections, the province is divided into regions with different characteristics. This division falls into three categories: Red Zone (Madura), Yellow Zone (Pandalungan), and Green Zone (Mataraman). This strategic mapping of conflict risk and potential reflects an effort to manage the democratic process. However, this classification can also worsen social and political polarization, especially when group identity or political affiliation is tied to a specific color.

1. Red Zone (Madura)

The Red Zone is in the Madura region, known for its highly fanatical population, which makes it susceptible to friction. Conflicts often occur in Madura during or after the election of a candidate pair. During the 2024 regional elections, a conflict called "*carok*" broke out in Sampang Regency, Madura. The local population is highly fanatical about their candidates, and a group attempted to "buy" a polling station (*TPS*) to support their candidate.

The Community Protection Unit (*Satlinmas*) at the polling station acted neutrally and refused the bribe. This angered the group, which then initiated a *carok* conflict. After the incident, *Satlinmas* took action to identify the group involved for further legal processing.

Due to the frequent conflicts among the Madurese community, *Satlinmas* implemented extra security measures in the Red Zone, which were distinctly different from those in the Yellow and Green Zones, to prevent similar conflicts from causing widespread harm.

2. Yellow Zone (Pandalungan)

The Yellow Zone includes the areas of Pasuruan, Probolinggo, Situbondo, Banyuwangi, Jember, Lumajang, and Bondowoso. This zone is categorized as moderately vulnerable because its population still has Madurese ancestry. People from this zone are said to have about 40% of the characteristics of the Madurese people, but unlike the Red Zone, the population in the Yellow Zone is still controllable.

While this region is prone to conflict, the intensity and impact are generally lower than in the Red Zone. This is because there are more adaptive social and cultural mechanisms in place to resolve disputes. The level of security in the Yellow Zone is less intense than in the Red Zone.

3. Green Zone (Mataraman)

The Green Zone covers the areas of Jombang, Mojokerto, Nganjuk, Madiun, Tulungagung, Ngawi, Bojonegoro, and Ponorogo. This zone is known for its softer ethical character and high culture, which minimizes conflict. Conflicts are rare here because the community highly values ethics and courtesy. If a conflict does occur, people in the Green Zone prefer to resolve it amicably, without the violence seen in other zones.

Due to the minimal conflict in the Green Zone, security measures are very different from the Red and Yellow Zones. This allows *Satlinmas* and other security personnel to be much more relaxed while supervising the election process.

Factors Contributing to Increased Conflict Potential During Regional Elections (*Pilkada*)

Regional Head Elections (*Pilkada*) introduce a complex political dynamic. While their goal is to strengthen local democracy, the implementation of *Pilkada* is often marked by conflict. Various factors, both structural and cultural, contribute to the increased potential for conflict in this local democratic process.

1. Neutrality of Officers at Polling Stations (*TPS*)

The neutrality of officers during the regional elections (*Pilkada*) is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the entire process (Fachriza & Wibowo, 2023). When officers who are supposed to be impartial show bias, public trust in democracy declines. Such non-neutral actions can create the perception that election results are rigged, which ultimately weakens the legitimacy of elected leaders and harms democratic principles.

Furthermore, a lack of neutrality among election officers has the potential to trigger public dissatisfaction (Achmad, 2025). Suspicions about an unfair election process can lead to social conflict, protests, and even violence (Nasir & Nuraenni, 2025). Therefore, ensuring officer neutrality is essential for creating a peaceful, honest, and transparent election atmosphere. Neutrality is not just a matter of rules; it is a reflection of a commitment to healthy and just democratic values.

2. Dissatisfaction with Election Results

Public dissatisfaction with election results often triggers social conflict (Hardiniawan et al., 2024). This can manifest as riots, demonstrations, or other acts of anarchy that disrupt public order. This situation highlights how important it is to maintain public trust in the democratic process to prevent tensions within the community.

The main cause of this dissatisfaction is generally the perception of unfairness in the election process (Tanjung et al., 2025). When the public feels that the election was not honest, transparent, and did not meet their expectations, the legitimacy of the results is questioned. Therefore, it is important for all parties involved in the elections to uphold the principles of fairness and integrity to prevent more widespread conflict.

3. Buying Polling Stations (*TPS*)

The act of "buying a *TPS*" can damage democratic principles and worsen social tensions. This can influence election outcomes and create injustice in the community (Rochman & Ridwan, 2025). The potential for increased conflict during elections reflects a failure of our political system to manage diversity and political dynamics constructively. To reduce this potential for conflict, strategic and firm legal enforcement is needed, along with improvements in the quality of election supervision.

Satlinmas Strategy in Handling Conflict at Polling Stations

Strategy Formulation: *TPS* Security Planning

Planning for *TPS* security is a crucial initial step in preventing and handling potential conflicts during the 2024 Simultaneous Regional Elections. Once the Community Protection

Unit (*Satlinmas*) is formed, each member assigned to the elections receives guidance from the City or Regency Civil Service Police Unit (*Satpol PP*) on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for checking and supervising the election process. Additionally, *Satlinmas* members are provided with a *Satlinmas* Pocketbook, a practical guide created by the Provincial *Satpol PP*. This ensures that older members can easily understand the briefings and remember the legal basis, election procedures, roles, duties, and rights and obligations of every *Satlinmas* member.

Implementation of the Training Strategy

After the planning stage, the training strategy for Community Protection Unit (*Satlinmas*) members focuses on improving their technical and mental readiness to handle potential conflicts at Polling Stations (*TPS*). The training is conducted regularly with an applied and simulated approach that covers a wide range of essential topics. These topics include *TPS* security techniques, effective and humane communication with voters, early conflict handling, and rapid coordination with security forces like the National Police (*Polri*), the Indonesian Army (*TNI*), and the Election Supervisory Agency (*Panwaslu*).

The main goal is to ensure that every *Satlinmas* member has the necessary skills to maintain a safe and conducive environment during voting and vote counting. The training methods involve simulations of *TPS* security and conflict management, so members not only understand the theory but also get used to dynamic and high-pressure situations. The training also emphasizes the importance of neutrality and integrity through mental and moral strengthening sessions. With this approach, *Satlinmas* is expected to be the front line in preventing and handling conflicts at the *TPS* professionally, quickly, and accurately, thereby supporting a safe and democratic 2024 Simultaneous Regional Election.

Evaluation of the Strategy

Monitoring Performance, Post-Election Evaluation, and Improving Security Procedures

Evaluation is a crucial final stage in the *TPS* security strategy for *Satlinmas*. After the election, a comprehensive performance review of each member is conducted through incident reports and situation analysis during the voting process. This evaluation includes identifying conflict-prone *TPS* locations based on the observed zones, assessing the speed and accuracy of *Satlinmas*'s response to emergencies, and documenting various obstacles and successes in the field. This step is vital for understanding the readiness and effectiveness of *Satlinmas* in carrying out their duties.

Based on the evaluation results, a number of strategic recommendations are drafted for future improvements. These recommendations may include revising Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), adjusting training methods to be more in line with current conditions, and updating the content of the pocketbook to be more informative and easily understood by all members, including older ones. Through this comprehensive evaluation and appropriate follow-up, it is hoped that *Satlinmas* will be even more prepared to anticipate and handle future conflicts, further strengthening public trust in the integrity and security of Indonesia's democratic process.

Challenges and Limitations for *Satlinmas*

Lack of Personnel

According to Ms. Dian from the East Java Provincial *Satlinmas*, the limited number of *Satlinmas* personnel compared to the duration of their duty during the voting process is a major challenge that needs to be addressed and evaluated for future elections. Only two *Satlinmas* members are assigned to each Polling Station (*TPS*), and they must be on guard for 48 consecutive hours without leaving. This situation makes it difficult for them to get the rest they need.

As a result, some *Satlinmas* officers have died or been in accidents due to deteriorating health from exhaustion. According to the "DATA OF DECEASED AND INJURED OFFICERS IN THE 2024 SIMULTANEOUS REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN EAST JAVA as of December 24, 2024," eight *Satlinmas* members or *TPS* security officers died from heart attacks due to fatigue. This occurred during *TPS* checks, on voting day, or while distributing logistics at night.

Mr. Agung, the Head of the *Linmas* Division at the East Java Provincial Civil Service Police Unit (*Satpol PP*), stated that ideally, each *TPS* should be guarded by three or four members. However, the Provincial Political and National Unity Agency (*BANGKESBANGPOL Provinsi*) has not approved this, and additional personnel would require coordination with the city or regency *KPU*, as the province will not cover the cost of their incentives.

"Ghost *Satlinmas*"

The incentive provided to *Satlinmas* for election supervision is quite tempting for many people. This has contributed to the rise of fake or "ghost *Satlinmas*" members, who are sometimes relatives of the Head of the Voting Organizer Group (*KPPS*), colleagues of the Head of the Neighborhood Association (*RT*) or Citizens Association (*RW*), or even supporters of a candidate or party. Their goal is to enter the polling station and help manipulate the vote count. This, of course, significantly disrupts the democratic process.

Therefore, during the formation of *Satlinmas* for the 2024 elections, one of the mandatory requirements was to attach a valid *Satlinmas* Membership Card. This ensured that applicants were genuinely active members. Additionally, *Satlinmas* personnel assigned to the simultaneous elections swore an oath of neutrality and full dedication during the process, from checking and guarding to counting and delivering ballots.

Vote Inflation and "Empty Box" Victories

Another challenge faced by *Satlinmas* is attempts by rogue individuals to alter vote totals and election outcomes. According to Mr. Agung, this can happen through vote inflation and "empty box" campaign victories.

Vote inflation is when rogue individuals swap ballots with pre-marked ones or manipulate ballots during the counting process. This can be identified by an unusually high number of invalid ballots. For example, if invalid ballots make up almost 40% of the total votes, it is a sign of potential manipulation.

Additionally, some cities or regencies with a single candidate faced an "empty box" victory campaign. This was driven by supporters of candidates who failed to pass the verification process. These individuals campaigned for people to vote for the empty box to prevent the single candidate from winning, as happened in Surabaya City.

Other Challenges

<http://jurnaldialektika.com/>

Publisher: Perkumpulan Ilmuwan Administrasi Negara Indonesia

P-ISSN: 1412 -9736

E-ISSN: 2828-545X

Other challenges, though less likely to occur, can still hinder the democratic process. For example, natural disasters such as floods could make it impossible to hold voting at the designated location. In such cases, *Satlinmas* must consider and determine alternative locations for voting. If no suitable location is available, *Satlinmas* must report to the City or Regency KPU, which will then coordinate with the Provincial KPU. Only then can *Satlinmas* act on the Provincial KPU's solution, which may include moving the voting location or postponing the election.

E. SIMPULAN

Pilkada Serentak 2024 di Jawa Timur menunjukkan kompleksitas dinamika demokrasi lokal yang kerap disertai potensi konflik. Faktor-faktor seperti ketidaknetralan petugas TPS, ketidakpuasan terhadap hasil pemilu, dan praktik pembelian suara menjadi penyebab utama meningkatnya ketegangan di masyarakat. Dalam konteks ini, keberadaan *Satlinmas* menjadi garda terdepan dalam menjaga keamanan dan ketertiban selama proses pemungutan suara, terutama di TPS yang rawan konflik. Untuk menjalankan tugasnya secara optimal, *Satlinmas* telah menjalani proses perencanaan, pelatihan, dan evaluasi berbasis strategi yang komprehensif. Namun, tantangan tetap muncul, seperti minimnya jumlah personel per TPS, munculnya *Satlinmas* siluman, hingga risiko kelelahan fisik akibat jam kerja yang panjang. Evaluasi terhadap pelaksanaan Pilkada menunjukkan bahwa masih dibutuhkan peningkatan kapasitas, validasi keanggotaan, dan perbaikan prosedur pengamanan agar *Satlinmas* lebih siap menghadapi dinamika di lapangan. Sebagai tindak lanjut, disarankan adanya penambahan jumlah anggota *Satlinmas* per TPS, minimal menjadi tiga orang, agar beban kerja lebih seimbang. Selain itu, verifikasi identitas dan legalitas anggota perlu diperketat untuk menghindari infiltrasi pihak yang tidak netral. Peningkatan kualitas pelatihan berbasis simulasi serta revisi materi pembinaan juga diperlukan agar dapat menjangkau semua usia anggota. Dengan penguatan sistemik tersebut, *Satlinmas* diharapkan mampu menjalankan perannya secara profesional demi mendukung Pilkada yang damai, jujur, dan demokratis.

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