



## Voting Behavior of the Cilegon Disability Group in Using Their Voting Rights in the Election

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### ABSTRACT

*This article explores the experiences and interpretations of several individuals with disabilities regarding accessibility barriers, lack of information, and social support and affirmative justice policies during the election. We employed a qualitative research method with a phenomenological approach. The results indicate that the main obstacles faced by individuals with disabilities include a lack of disability-friendly facilities at polling stations (TPS), minimal inclusive election outreach, and social stigma that reduces their confidence in participating. Furthermore, limited transportation and dependence on guardians also impact their ability to vote independently. This study recommends that election organizers improve inclusive political education, provide accessible facilities, and train election officials to understand the needs of individuals with disabilities. This will increase voter participation for individuals with disabilities and support the realization of an inclusive and equitable democracy. The novelty of this study lies in application of Creswell's transcendental phenomenology, to explore the lived experiences of voters with disabilities in Cilegon City. This study integrating theoretical framework of group differentiated justice, more nuanced conceptualization of how disabled individuals perceive fairness, accessibility and political agency. This research contributes original empirical insights by demonstrating barriers to electoral participation not solely structural, but deeply shaped by subjective experiences, that remain underexplored in existing Indonesian political behavior research.*

**Keywords:** Disabilities; Accessibility; Justice; Participation.

### Introduction

Lack belief self for group disability seems creating a great paradox for their awareness regarding the importance of using the right to vote as a form of political participation (Basniwati & Nugraha, 2019; Dewa et al., 2020; Julijanto, 2019; Nurbeti & Chandra, 2021). The right to vote for groups with disabilities has been regulated in Law Number 8 of 2016 Number concerning Disability. The political rights of disability groups include the right to vote and be elected to public office, the right to express aspirations, form organizations and freely choose political parties. Another right is to actively participate in the election system at all stages of its implementation, including acting as a supervisor and participating in data collection (Indriyany et al., 2019; Sudharma & Meiranda, 2021).

Elections should be inclusive and accessible to all voters, including those with disabilities (groups with disabilities) (Noviani et al., 2021). When political conditions are favourable, people tend to be more open to engaging in political

activities. These findings provide empirical evidence that the existing democratic context significantly influences the intention of groups with disabilities to participate in exercising their right to vote. Based on the concept of accessibility, people with disabilities should have equal opportunities in all aspects of life, including in daily life, and be able to carry out their daily activities without significant barriers (Wicaksana et al., 2023).

In the context of political rights, groups with disabilities are often marginalized and do not receive comparable recognition in society (Noviani et al., 2021). Most election information is still provided in a format that is difficult for certain groups with disabilities to access, especially those with sensory limitations, such as the blind and deaf. This creates a gap in political knowledge, which ultimately affects their level of political participation (Gaunt & Schein, 2019).

Furthermore, disability groups are part of a community that often faces discrimination in every region. For a long time, people almost all over the world have viewed disability as something that is pitied and feared. Stigma in the form of negative prejudice against people with disabilities gives a deconstructive meaning to the existence of disability groups. The same thing happened in the Metropolitan and industrial cities, namely Cilegon City. Based on KPU data, the composition of voters from disability groups registered in the Permanent Voter List (DPT) amounts to a total of 1,381 people in Cilegon City participated in the legislative and presidential elections. Meanwhile, in the Cilegon City regional elections, 963 disabled voters were registered on the final voter list (DPT), including 293 with physical disabilities, 77 with intellectual disabilities, 157 with mental disabilities, 205 with speech-sensory disabilities, 47 with hearing impairments, and 184 with visual impairments (antaranews, 2024; tvrijakatanews.com, 2024; banpos.com, 2024).

The realization and protection of the political rights of groups with disabilities is still a very important issue in Indonesia, considering the frequent occurrence of discrimination in the exercise of their political rights. These rights have not been fully accommodated well in the political and governmental systems in the Republic of Indonesia (Indriyany et al., 2019; Sinaga & Desiandri, 2024). The low voter participation among disability groups is also caused by difficulties in accessing polling stations (TPS). Many polling stations in Indonesia are not equipped with adequate facilities for wheelchair users or attendants who are trained and disability-friendly. In addition, accessibility for groups with disabilities, such as assistive devices for the visually impaired, is still very limited. This condition makes people with disabilities feel difficult and uncomfortable in exercising their right to vote (Suryani, 2024; Tsaputra, 2019). In this conditions crate discomfort and diffivulties for peope with disabilities in

exercising their political right, due limited accessibility, insufficient institutional support, and social stigma (Basniwati & Nugraha, 2019; Dewa et al., 2020; Julijanto, 2019). The research using voter behavior theory, group differentiated justice by Kymlicka, and justice as fairness theory by John Rawls.

The primary purpose of this research is to examine how individuals with disabilities in Cilegon City experience, perceive, and enact their political rights during elections. This study aims to identify the barriers that both visible and invisible. That will shape their level of participation and to understand the extent to which social, institutional, and structural factors influence their voting behavior (Evans & Reher, 2021; Schur et al., 2002). Through this analysis, the study seeks to provide a grounded and contextual understanding of political participation among disability groups in an urban industrial environment.

This study examines how individuals with disabilities in Cilegon City perceive and experience their political rights during elections by exploring the forms of participation that emerge across different disability categories and the barriers they encounter throughout the voting process, including physical limitations, social stigma, institutional inconsistencies, economic vulnerability, and limited accessibility. The research seeks to understand how these environmental, social, and structural conditions shape their engagement in political activities and influence their ability to exercise their rights as citizens (Putnam, 2005). This topic is important to discuss because meaningful democratic participation requires that all citizens, including disability groups, have equitable access to electoral processes, yet in practice, legal guarantees are often not accompanied by adequate implementation (Hammel et al., 2008; Power et al., 2013; Soss & Keiser, 2006). By analyzing the lived experiences of disability communities in Cilegon City, the study highlights ongoing gaps in electoral governance, reveals how intersecting disadvantages continue to undermine political autonomy, and identifies forms of support and accommodation needed to strengthen inclusive and disability-responsive political participation in future elections.

## **Research Methods**

This study uses a qualitative research method with a phenomenological approach typical of Creswell's transcendental type. Phenomenology serves to confine the researchers' personal assumptions about research (Creswell, 2013). Research related to the behaviour of voters with disabilities in voicing their voting rights in Cilegon City The study of the research uses a transcendental qualitative method to describe a concept of meaning from a number of individuals regarding their life experiences of a phenomenon. We focus on how to describe the experience and meaning of a concept or phenomenon that exists in the minds of individuals

and groups. Purposive sampling is used to determine the criteria for informants who are able to articulate their experience as a voter of the disability group. The following is a table of research informants:

Tabel 1. Research Informant

No	Name	Profile	Seeks to Explore
1.	Sanadi	Disabled Voters	Voting Experiences
2.	Agil Wiratno	Disabled Voters (Intellectual disability)	Communication barriers; fairness perception; stigma
3.	Mamat	Disabled Voters (Speech impairment)	Motivation; difficulty expressing; equality experience
4.	Adam Permana	Disabled Voters (Psychosocial disability)	Reasons for not voting; independence; fairness perception
5.	Yusuf	Disabled Voters (Physical disability)	Acces to information and dependence on KPPS
6.	Fahrudin	Disabled Voters (Physical disability)	Acces to TPS; treatment by KPPS; environmental obstacle fairness
7.	Rifai	Chairman of DPC PERTUNI	Barriers to political education, facility adequacy; inclusion recommendations

Source: (Author Team, 2025)

The research data was obtained through in-depth interviews as primary data and literature studies and documentation as secondary data. The technical analysis is based on coding phenomenological analysis Creswell which is carried out systematically by identifying significant statements, grouped into meaning units, then textural description to compile about the "what" experienced by women politicians and structural description to compile the "how" of the phenomenon of political expressionism they experience, finally essence description to reveal the essence related to voter behaviour and justice interpreted by the group voters with disabilities in Cilegon City.

The urgency of this study arises from the persistent experiential barriers that continue to marginalize voters with disabilities within Indonesia's electoral processes, inadequate institutional support, and after that scarcity of trained electoral officers, all of which compromise ability to vote independently, moreover entrenched social stigma and limited political education their

awareness as political actors his research was conducted Dewa et al., 2020; Julijanto, 2019). This research was conducted between November or December 2024, encompassing the stages of preparation, proposal development and final reporting, as indicated in the research schedule.

## **Results and discussion**

### ***1.1 Political Rights and Electoral Accessibility for Disability Groups in Indonesia***

The political rights of persons with disabilities in Indonesia have been explicitly recognized and protected through several legal instruments, most notably Law Number 7 of 2017 on General Elections and Law Number 8 of 2016 on Persons with Disabilities (Eliyanti & Sinaga, 2025; Hamdan et al., 2023; Pane & Yanis, 2023; Yulius, 2020). Law Number 8 of 2016 affirm that persons with disabilities hold the same political rights as other citizens, including the right to vote, the right to be elected, and the right to participate actively in all stages of electoral processes (Yulius, 2020). These legal frameworks regulate the state's obligation to provide accessible electoral infrastructure and facilities. That requires the government to guarantee accessibility in all aspects of civic life, including access to information, public services, and political participation (Ardila Selvia et al., 2024; Nasution, 2021). Complementing this, Law Number 7 of 2017 and related regulations issued by the General Election Commission (KPU) require the establishment of disability-friendly polling stations, the availability of tactile ballots, trained officers capable of assisting voters with various disabilities, and accessible political education materials (Haryani, 2023; Rahmatullah, 2020). These regulatory frameworks articulate the state's responsibility to minimize physical, informational, and procedural barriers.

The reality on the ground shows a noticeable gap between legal guarantees and their implementation. Although the laws mandate comprehensive accessibility, many polling stations across Indonesia still lack ramps, clear pathways, or appropriate seating for voters with limited mobility (Haroma, 2017; Polin, 2024). Assistive tools such as braille templates are inconsistently provided, and voting information is rarely available in formats accessible to people with sensory or intellectual impairments. However, the reality consistently highlight uneven implementation, largely due to insufficient training of election officials, limited budget allocations for accessibility measures, and weak coordination between national policies and regional execution (Pratama, 2019; Sinaga & Desiandri, 2024). That is why, persons with disabilities remain vulnerable to exclusion, dependency on companions, and restricted autonomy in political decision-making, despite the existence of robust legal protections.



The overall situation demonstrates that while Indonesia has established a solid normative foundation for the political rights of persons with disabilities, the practical realization of inclusive elections remains uneven and incomplete (Muslikhah, 2017; Ramadhan, 2021). Ensuring effective accessibility requires not only legal mandates but also sustained institutional commitment, capacity-building at the local level, and increased awareness within the broader community about the political agency of disability groups (Ansar & Hasmiyati, 2024; Rahmasari & Amalia, 2023). Strengthening these elements is crucial for advancing a more inclusive democratic system where persons with disabilities can participate fully, independently, and meaningfully in electoral life.

## **1.2 Meaning of Voting Behaviour and Fairness for Disability Groups**

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), granting voting rights for groups with disabilities cannot be restricted. In fact, the state is obliged to remove a number of obstacles to the implementation of the voting rights of disabled groups, which have the potential to limit or eliminate the right to vote for disabled groups. In the context of voting rights for mentally disabled groups, the state's obligation is to recognize legal capacity, and to strive to support mental disabled groups to be able to make their own decisions independently (Ibrahim, 2023; Nurbeti & Chandra, 2021; Olha et al., 2021; Putri & Halim, 2023; Ro'fah, 2014)

Based on the finding of (Prayudi, 2021) research, the 2024 General Election must still maintain the quality of its implementation. Because the purpose of the election is to implement the political rights of the people. The implementation is realized through providing the greatest opportunity for the community to participate and have a role in the government. This also applies to people with disabilities, because their participation in elections can be proof that elections are a picture of humanity. Because there are many assumptions that disability is not important because it is disabled and weak so that it denies the ability and integrity of disabilities to be able to be actively involved in elections (Nurbeti & Chandra, 2021).

In a democratic system, the right to vote is the basic right of every citizen without exception, including groups with disabilities. The interpretation of voting rights by disability groups involves their understanding as an integral part of society that has a contribution to determining state policies. In general, the right to vote for people with disabilities is interpreted as recognition of the existence, independence, and equality of position before the law and government (Rahmanto, 2019; Salim, 2014). Next, we present the meaning of voting behaviour and justice according to voters with disabilities in Cilegon City. The following table 1. The meaning of the results of the interview with

the informant is as follows:

**Tabel 1. Meaning of Voter Behaviour and Justice**

No.	Key Informant	Significant Statement	Meaning Unit	Keywords
1.	Sanadi	<i>Ya dihargai</i> , orang disekitar saya biasa aja gaada pikiran jelek. Tapi saya ga nyoblos neng kemarin karena saya gadikasih duit, <i>padahalmah saya mau aja kalo kondisi saya gini juga.</i>	Evident that Groups with disabilities have received a positive response from the surrounding environment, only their personalities are hindering to carry out elections.	a. Participatory b. Justice
2.	Agil Wiratno	<i>Ikut terus</i> , petugas dan orang sekitar juga gembira pas saya dateng ke TPS presiden kemarin tuh. <i>Diarahin juga saya karena respon saya lambat.</i>	Very enthusiastic Carry out voting activities but because he is mentally limited, he must be directed from KPPS officers and assisted and accompanied by his mother.	a. Participatory b. Justice
3.	Mamat	<i>Selalu ikut tiap pemilu</i> , karena saya ingin Pak Prabowo jadi Presiden, dan juga saya suka ikut pemilu <i>karena saya diberlakukan sama dengan orang lain</i> walaupun saya berbicara serba terbatas.	He is very involved because he is so interested in President Prabowo that he continues to participate in political rights.	a. Participatory b. Justice

4.	Adam Permana	<i>Jujur aja saya gapernah golput neng selalu hadir terus, tapi disaat pencoblosan calon dewan itu saya memang ga nyoblos dia karena saya gadapet uang nya karena kan saya juga butuh biaya transport buat ke TPS.</i>	Choosing it is still influenced by financial needs even though they are interested and do not object to making an election.	a. Participatory b. Justice
5.	Yusuf	<i>Saya selama ini selalu mengikuti pemilihan. Tetapi, jika tidak ada yang mendampingi saya tidak pergi ke tempat pemungutan karena keterbatasan fisik saya.</i>	Although participants have a strong intention to participate, physical barriers and the absence of a companion create a gap between the desire and ability to be present at the polling station.	a. Participatory b. Justice
6.	Fahrudin	<i>Setiap pemilu saya berusaha datang, tapi antrean panjang dan tempat duduk yang terbatas membuat kaki saya cepat lelah dan akhirnya ingin pulang.</i>	Physical obstacles that make participants tired quickly lead to a decrease in motivation to complete the selection process.	a. Participatory b. Justice

Source: (Processed by Researcher, 2025)

Based on the table above, the conclusion of the meaning of voting rights by groups with disabilities is not only limited to the use of their votes, but also related to the struggle to obtain equality in the electoral system, both in terms of facilities and inadequate accessibility, and during the interview process with the majority of informants, they are actively involved in participating.



According to the theory of voter behaviour, their participation in elections is influenced by external factors such as accessibility, which affects their decision to choose. Meanwhile, within the framework of Rawls's theory of justice, this right to vote is part of the principle of justice that must ensure that groups with disabilities have the same opportunity to participate in democracy, as well as other citizens. This shows the need for more inclusive electoral policy reform to provide equal opportunities for all levels of society.

The informant, Yusuf, a blind person, stated that physical limitations, particularly vision, were a major obstacle preventing him from going to the polling station (TPS) without a companion. This highlights the importance of support from others and disability-friendly facilities to ensure inclusive political participation. This situation also reflects accessibility challenges in the election process, which have not fully addressed the needs of voters with disabilities. **Fahrudin**, a 37-year-old key informant with a physical disability, complained that long lines and limited facilities, such as seating, at polling stations were major challenges, leaving participants physically exhausted and demotivated to complete the voting process. This situation highlights the importance of more inclusive elections, particularly by providing facilities that support the comfort of voters with special needs or physical limitations.

Thus, the meaning of voting rights for people with disabilities is not only limited to the use of their voices, but also related to the struggle to achieve equality in the electoral system, both related to facilities and inadequate accessibility. During the interview process with informants, the majority of them were actively involved in participating. Meanwhile, within the framework of Rawls's theory of justice, this right to vote is part of the principle of justice that must ensure that people with disabilities have equal opportunities to participate in democracy, as other citizens. This indicates the need for more inclusive electoral policy reforms to provide equal opportunities for all levels of society.

The understanding of people with disabilities towards general elections (Elections) is highly dependent on the extent of accessibility and support provided to them. Accessibility is a fundamental aspect of ensuring equal participation, including physical facilities, information, and accommodations that support the specific needs of groups with disabilities. This is regulated in several national regulations, such as Law Number 8 of 2016 concerning Disability Groups, which guarantees the right of accessibility in utilizing public facilities and decent accommodation (Dwintari, 2021). However, the implementation in the field shows several obstacles. For example, although efforts have been made to provide tools such as braille templates at polling stations, their distribution has not been evenly distributed in various regions.

In Yogyakarta, for example, only a small number of polling stations are equipped with such tools, even though the disability group has been registered in the Permanent Voter List (DPT). Coordination with election organizers such as the General Election Commission (KPU) and various related organizations continues to be sought to increase the participation of people with disabilities.

Limited physical accessibility, such as disabled-friendly polling places or lack of supportive facilities, remain a major obstacle (Baturangka et al., 2019; Lestari et al., 2024). Many disability groups feel that their voices are not heard in the political process, either due to the indifference of the authorities or the lack of political education that can help them understand the electoral process. This feeling of isolation can lead to a decrease in participation in elections, as they feel that their rights are not valued or even ignored by the existing political system.

In addition, inclusive campaigns and education about the political rights of people with disabilities are the responsibility of the government and election organizers. This can help resolve the obstacles experienced, so that people with disabilities can actively participate in voting and contribute to the democratic process (E. Lestari & Melia, 2020). Even though the mentally disabled group still does not get the same opportunities and special treatment in accordance with the conditions experienced in which the state is obliged to strive for the fulfillment of the rights of every citizen (Rahmanto, 2019). This can be due to the lack of understanding of the importance of the right to vote for mentally disabled groups, because it has an impact on their non-participation in exercising their voting rights. On the other hand, the good will of the government, in this case the organizers of the regional elections, who have not yet made maximum efforts and carried out their only formal duties procedural in fulfilling their voting rights (Dwintari, 2021; Soleh, 2004).

### **1.3 A Study of Justice and Voter Behaviour in Cilegon City**

This study uses John Rawls' theory of justice to examine this study. Rawls in (Soleh, 2004) said the people are a formation of individuals who on the one hand want to unite because of the bond to fulfil their interests, but on the other hand, each of these individuals has a carry-on (basic capital) and rights that are not synchronized, and all of them can be fused into social life. The question is, how to bring together rights and responsibilities that are not in sync with one party using the ideals for and for the fulfilment of the needs of the other party? In short, how to bring together individual rights and social obligations in a balanced and harmonious manner as a result there is nothing to be ignored and neglected. According to Rawls, justice is honesty. In order for social interaction, for example, above to be able to run fairly, he must be regulated or

run synchronously using the 2 principles formulated. **First**, the principle of equal liberty, that everyone has the same basic freedom. These basic freedoms include, among others, (1) political freedom, (2) freedom of thought, (3) freedom based on arbitrary actions, (4) personal freedom and (5) freedom to own wealth (Soleh, 2004).

**Second**, the principle of difference, that the inequalities that exist between human beings, in the economic and social spheres, are governed in such a way that, as a consequence of inequality, (1) can benefit everyone, especially those who are naturally fortunate and (2) are inherent in positions and functions that are open to all people. And in the principle of justice theory, this is related to the focus of research, namely on the behaviour of voters of disability groups in voicing their voting rights in the city of Cilegon, as said by Rawls that justice is also a form of freedom and there is political freedom where groups with disabilities also have the same right to participate in politics. As said by the Cilegon City PERTUNI DPC, namely the Cilegon City government, has also actively participated in inviting disability groups in Cilegon City, but indeed the direction for simulation and also socialization from the election organizers is lacking because especially the blind people really need direction. Rifai's brother as the Chairman of DPC PERTUNI said that:

*"Kalau untuk keadilan adil atau tidaknya menurut saya sendiri sih sudah adil ya karena saya juga kebetulan tuna netra tetapi tidak menutup kemungkinan bahwa saya juga bisa aktif terlibat dalam politik dan organisasi bahkan saya sebagai ketua DPC PERTUNI yang dimana berarti saya dipercaya untuk melakukan dan mewakili teman-teman tuna netra yang berarti pemerintah juga sudah melakukan kebebasan terhadap siapapun, dan terkait perilaku pemilih kalau pribadi saya sendiri suka terhadap suatu visi-misi ataupun programnya karena kan saya juga suka mendengarkan media sosial gitu. Nah, kalau teman-teman tuna netra lain itu biasanya lebih kepada pilihan hati nurani oleh karena itu kita sebagai organisasi tuna netra ingin memberikan edukasi terkait tata cara pemilu, dan juga pasangan calon agar nanti nya mereka sudah paham tanpa perlu didampingi."*

We also interviewed Bawaslu regarding this, and actually the chairman of Bawaslu has indeed underlined that during the voting process, the disability group should be prioritized, but indeed during the process it is usually never

according to the direction. Here's what the Bawaslu Staff said:

*“Tentang adil sebenarnya adil, tetapi memang terkadang sepengalaman saya itu terkadang **perasaan minder dari seorang disabilitas nya** ini dan untuk peran pendamping seperti keluarga yang seharusnya tidak mendampingi hingga bilik suara tetapi pada kenyataannya itu tidak sesuai, dan **perilaku memilih mereka seperti yang sudah pernah saya tanyakan juga terkait ada atau tidak nya.**”*

The behavior of voters with disabilities in Cilegon City in voicing their voting rights reflects the struggle to achieve balanced social justice, in accordance with Rawls' theory of justice. The principle of justice as fairness which refers to political freedom and equal treatment has been pursued by the government and election organizers. However, obstacles to accessibility, lack of socialization, and limited political education are still major challenges. Although some people with disabilities feel that political freedom has been fulfilled, implementation on the ground, such as suboptimal direction and reliance on companions, shows a lack of conformity with the principle of equal liberty. In addition, the principle of difference, which is supposed to accommodate their special needs, has not been fully implemented, especially with regard to adequate facilities and transportation.

Disability groups tend to vote based on vision-mission and conscience, but insecurity and lack of education still influence the behaviour of their voters. Organizations such as DPC PERTUNI and Bawaslu have shown efforts to support the participation of disability groups, although implementation at the field level requires improvement so that elections are truly inclusive and fair.

## Conclusion

The behavior of voters with disabilities in voicing their voting rights in Cilegon City shows various challenges and dynamics that affect their participation in elections. Although the disabled groups in the city have a high awareness of their political rights, many factors prevent them from participating to the fullest. Some of them are related to physical and mental limitations, accessibility barriers, and economic problems that affect their decision to vote or not to vote. Some of the participants interviewed showed a strong intention to participate in the elections. Some of them, despite facing physical and mental limitations, still tried to come to the Polling Station (TPS) and vote. For example, there are participants who even need help from their families to go to the polling station and vote, they still actively

vote because they feel that the right to vote is important. These individual efforts expose the institutional shortcomings, as the responsibility for accessibility shifts from electoral bodies to families or communities, showing that legal guarantees under Law No. 7/2017 on General Elections and Law No. 8/2016 on Persons with Disabilities have not been fully realized at the practical level. Such gaps indicate systemic barriers that persist despite formal recognition of rights.

This research is here to ensure that voters with disabilities can participate optimally, it is important for election organizers and the community to provide better support, such as providing more disability-friendly facilities, providing more accessible information, and providing the assistance needed to ensure a smooth election process. John Rawls' justice theory can provide a more in-depth perspective on this situation. So, we argue that in order to create equality, society needs to provide additional support to marginalized groups, such as people with disabilities. This is relevant to the finding that voters with disabilities need extra assistance to be able to participate equally in elections. Rawls's principle of justice as fairness strengthens this argument because political institutions are expected to be structured in ways that benefit the most disadvantaged groups. When election infrastructure fails to accommodate disability needs, the process becomes inherently unequal, meaning electoral participation is accessible only at a symbolic level. Although the government has guaranteed the political rights and accessibility of people with disabilities through Law Number 7 of 2017 and Law Number 8 of 2016, this study shows that local election organizers still fail to fully implement General Election Commission requirements for accessible polling stations, adequate assistance, and disability friendly election information. In addition, Rawls's theory of justice, which emphasizes the importance of justice as fairness, in which social and political structures must be designed to ensure that the most vulnerable groups benefit the most, can also be applied in this context. This means that to achieve justice, elections must be designed with the special needs of voters with disabilities in mind, ensuring they have equal access to participate and are no longer restricted to access

### **Suggestion**

Based on this study related to the behavior of voters with disabilities in Cilegon City, there are several suggestions that need to be considered to improve their participation in elections. **First**, it is important to improve accessibility at polling stations, such as providing special lanes, seating appropriate to the number of polling stations, and disability-friendly facilities that facilitate voting with physical or visual limitations. **Second**, it is necessary to provide assistance at the polling station so that voters with disabilities can undergo the election process more easily, especially for those who need help reading ballot papers or moving to the



polling station and also the need for the officer to approach the group if indeed the person cannot be present at the election so that later their votes will not be lost. **Third**, related to socialization and education that is less in- depth as said by the Chairman of the Cilegon City PERTUNI DPC Organization, the KPU and BAWASLU should be able to better embrace them so that they can more intensively get to know the candidates and what the election process should be done, because with a more friendly approach for disability groups. Researchers recommend several effective media formats, including audio based information for individuals with visual impairments, sign language videos for voters with hearing impairments, simplified infographics with high contrast visuals for those with low vision or intellectual disabilities, and easy read materials that use simple language and clear icons to support voters with cognitive limitations. These formats provide more inclusive channels that improve understanding of election procedures and candidate information. Such as using easily accessible media, they must also understand and want. **Fourth**, in my opinion, if there are economic constraints to go to the polling station, officers should do something so that they also participate in the polling station. **Finally**, the electoral system must be designed to be more inclusive and pay attention to the needs of groups with disabilities, ensuring that they get equal access to exercise their voting rights.

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