

The Abstention of Urban Students Preference in Indonesian Election 2024

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify the potential and preferences for abstention by urban students as young voters in the 2024 elections in Indonesia. This context tends to be ignored in previous studies that discuss the phenomenon of abstention in general elections. In addition to responding to the shortcomings of previous studies, study also focuses on the characteristics and preferences underlying urban students as young voters choose to abstain in the 2024 general election in Indonesia. The findings in this study show that the age characteristics of urban students in the Yogyakarta area tend to choose to abstain from voting and appear in the productive age range of around 20 years from 27 provinces of origin. In addition to appearing with such complex characteristics, the behaviors of urban students who tend to abstain are also influenced by the dominant political preferences of their social structure, access to information, and their perceptions of the ongoing democratic system in the 2024 general elections in Indonesia. From these findings, it can be reflected that the abstention of urban students as young voters is not only temporal but also a rational choice of the regulatory system and the democratic process in such a complex general election.

Keywords: Abstention, Urban student, Voters, Democracy, and General Election

INTRODUCTION

Golput (abstain) is a behavior that urban students tend to choose as young voters in the 2024 general election in Indonesia. Ribeiro et al. (2023), apart from having such complex characteristics, contextual preferences also influence the abstention chosen by young voters. Even in the view of Dobbs (2023), abstention is a rational choice for urban students for the complex

democratic system applied in the electoral process. This context is reflected through the study of Carvalho et al. (2023), which shows that the abstention chosen by young voters is a manifestation of their knowledge and perceptions of democratic processes that are considered not to have direct implications for the welfare of their lives in the future. Battiston et al. (2024) argued that in addition to having preferences that are so complex and contextual, the abstention that is the dominant choice of young voters is also a very critical issue to explain in order to evaluate the complexity of the electoral system that can shape the abstention of young voters in each general election.

The momentum of general elections is essential in determining leaders for the country and society (Al Mas'udah, 2020). In Indonesia, general elections were first held in 1955 where the implementation of general elections aimed to elect executive and legislative candidates who would lead Indonesia (Syafi'i, 2020). Along with the development of society, general elections are held every five years with the assistance of electoral institutions, such as the General Election Commission (Komisi Pemilihan Umum or KPU), the General Election Supervisory Board (Badan Pengawas Pemilu or BAWASLU), and the Ethics Council of Election Organisers, as stated in Law Number 8 of 2015 (Nugroho & Asmorojati, 2019; Alexander Wewo, 2018). However, in its implementation, general elections in Indonesia face a variety of complex problems, such as damaged ballots, multiple voter lists, not being registered as permanent voters, money politics, transparency, administrative violations, election sanctions, and high abstention (*golongan putih* or *golput*) (Sabrina & Ristawati, 2021).

So far, studies addressing the issues of youth voter abstention in general elections have focused on three dominant contexts. First, studies address the trend and low involvement of young voters in elections (Euzébios Filho & Tabata, 2023; Nkansah & Papp, 2023; Azzollini, 2023). Second, studies discuss regulations that accommodate young voters in elections (Muro & Chehtman, 2020; Brasher, 2020; Stewart et al., 2020). Third, studies discuss

the influence of social media on young voters' abstention (Waeterloos et al., 2023; Battaglini et al., 2023; Battaglini et al., 2023). In general, studies that have discussed the abstention of young voters only focus on three contexts: trends, regulations, and factors that influence young voters to abstain. In other words, studies that discuss the abstention of young voters have not been comprehensively discussed, especially studies that identify and analyze why urban students as young voters choose to abstain in general elections.

The white group, or what is often referred to as *golput* (abstain) in the context of politics in Indonesia, is the apathy of an individual or group towards the democratic process (Allen, 2015). This apathy is described by a situation where voters who are supposed to vote for prospective leaders do not use their voting rights or are neutral during general elections (Ulum, 2020). Based on its history, the term *golput* (abstain) became known after the protest movement of students and youth who disagreed with implementing the general election in 1971, the first general election in the *Orde Baru* (New Order era) (Putra & Fauzi, 2020). The student protest movement in 1971 was based on organizing elections that were considered corrupt and unrepresentative (Lestarini, 2023). In addition, dissatisfaction with the choice of candidates available, skepticism, and the stigma of complicated political and administrative institutions encouraged people to choose abstention (Padilla & Trujillo, 2023; Armengol & García-Cerdaña, 2023). Thus, abstention is the public's response and behavior to the stagnation of the democratic system in general elections.

In the context of general elections, abstention from urban students as young voters is not uncommon in countries that adhere to a democratic system based on direct elections. Apart from reducing the quality of democracy, abstention from urban students also has the potential to produce leaders who do not care about the future welfare of the younger generation. This context by Fernando et al. (2023) occurs because abstention can causally establish the pragmatic behavior of voters and contestants, so the orientation of general

elections to produce ideal leaders is very difficult to manifest in the future. By implication, abstention not only has the potential to reduce the quality of democracy in the direct election process but also to create policies that discriminate against the welfare of the younger generation in the future. This study not only responds to the shortcomings of previous studies but also analyses the dominant preferences that influence urban students to abstain from voting in general elections.

The abstention behavior of urban students as young voters in general elections contains complex characteristics and preferences, so the context is fascinating to explain. In explaining and analyzing this context, this study focuses on two questions. First, what are the characteristics of urban students who abstain in the 2024 general election in Indonesia? Second, what are the reasons or preferences of urban students who abstain in the 2024 general election in Indonesia? In line with that, this study is also based on two hypotheses, namely: The characteristics of urban students who choose to abstain tend to come from a productive age with an average age of 20 years; The reasons for urban students who choose to abstain tend to be influenced by the preferences of relatives, access to information, and perceptions of democracy that are dominant in their social environment. In other words, the abstention of urban students as young voters is not only influenced by the ongoing situation and conditions but also a rational choice of the complex regulations and democratic processes in general elections.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study was conducted during rampant issues of young leaders and voters in the 2024 general election in Indonesia. However, this study only focuses on analyzing the characteristics and preferences of the behaviors of urban students as young voters who tend to choose to abstain in the 2024 general election. Yogyakarta became a research locus based on the city's status as a student city in Indonesia. In line with that, this study is also based on three

considerations. First, the response of urban students to general elections is a central issue that has not been comprehensively considered in previous studies. Second, the behaviors of urban students who tend to abstain from voting have complex characteristics. Third, the responses and behaviors of urban students who tend to abstain from voting also have contextual reasons that are very important to explain. These three considerations form the basis of this study to explore the behaviors and responses of urban students who tend to abstain in the 2024 general election in Indonesia as the focus of discussion.

Urban students move from a particular region to an urban environment to live a college life (Novitasani & Handoyo, 2014; Widari et al., 2023). In this context, urban students tend to have characteristics and mindsets affected by the dynamics of big city life, where they tend to have easier access to information and facilities, including political information, through social media, discussions, and organizations on campus (Bourchier, 2014; Airlangga PH et al., 2024; Munjiah, 2023). In line with that, urban students have a busy schedule, are involved in various lecture activities, organizations, and social activities, and take advantage of free time to explore the various opportunities big cities offer (Pribadi, 2021). Meanwhile, in forming organizational administration, urban people usually prefer institutions that can encourage their life networks (Kort & Klijn, 2011).

This quantitative predictive study is based on primary and secondary data with a systematic process (see Figure 1). Primary data in this study was obtained through a survey from 27 January to 03 February 2024 using Google Forms. The one-week survey received 173 responses from urban students in the Yogyakarta area. The questions asked in the survey focused on two contexts. The first question focused on name initials, age, region of origin, and sources of information that urban students often access in obtaining information related to the 2024 general election to identify the characteristics of urban students who tend to abstain. The second question focuses on the

behavior of relatives, access to information, perceptions of democracy, and why urban students choose to abstain from analyzing the preferences of urban students who tend to abstain in the 2024 general election. The secondary data in this study was obtained through reading books, websites, and journal articles relevant to the hypotheses proposed in this study.

Figure 1. Systematic Research Process.



Data analysis in this study refers to the process conducted by Miles and Huberman (2014), which focuses on three processes. First, data reduction is a process carried out to organize data into a more systematic form based on the tendency of the data obtained under the characteristics and preferences represented by the data. Second, data verification is the process of identifying data that has been reduced thematically. Third, data description is the process of displaying data that has been identified thematically and then presented in the form of figures and diagram-shaped tables containing numbers regarding the responses and opinions of respondents. From these three processes, the next step is to analyze the data deductively as a basis for interpreting the data that has been collected. Interpretation of the data is done by restating and reflecting on the data under the trends, patterns, and socio-cultural context represented by the data. The process and stages of analysis made it possible to draw a conclusion on the hypothesis proposed (Fernando, Galuh Larasati, & Cahyani, 2023).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Abstention in the 2024 general election tends to be chosen by urban students living in the Yogyakarta area, containing complex characteristics and perceptions. This complexity can be reflected in the findings and discussions in this study.

Characteristics of urban students who choose abstention in the 2024 election

Golput (abstain) is a behavior that urban students living in the Yogyakarta area tend to choose in the 2024 general election. Carvalho et al. (2023) also said that in every general election, abstention tends to be chosen by young voters and novice voters in responding to ongoing democratic events. The urban students' response to the 2024 general election can also be seen in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Urban students' responses about the 2024 election.

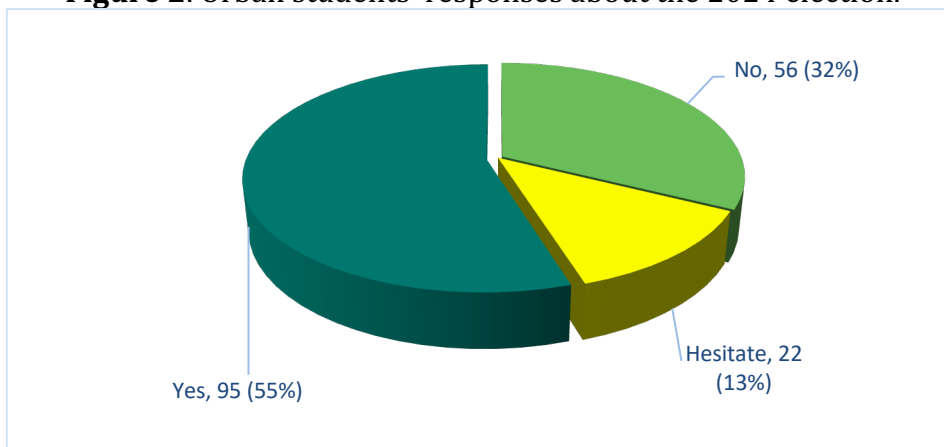


Figure 2 shows the responses of 173 urban students living in the Yogyakarta area regarding the 2024 general election in Indonesia. From Figure 2, we can also see three significant trends regarding the responses of 173 urban students about the 2024 general election. First, out of 173 urban students living in the Yogyakarta area, 95 or 55% of students tend to choose to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election. Second, out of 173 urban students living in the Yogyakarta area, 56 or 32% of students tend to choose not to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election. Third, out of 173 urban students living in the Yogyakarta area, 22 or 13% of students still hesitate to participate in the 2024 general election. From these three trends, it can be reflected that abstention is a behavior that urban students living in the Yogyakarta area tend to choose in the 2024 general election, with 95 or 55% of the 173 total number of urban students.

Urban students who tend to choose to abstain in the 2024 general election also have varying age characteristics. Bekker et al. (2022) also said that in explaining the complexity of the characteristics of voters who choose to abstain in general elections, they can be identified based on their age categorization. The age characteristics of urban students who choose to abstain in the 2024 general election can be seen in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Age of urban students who abstain from voting.

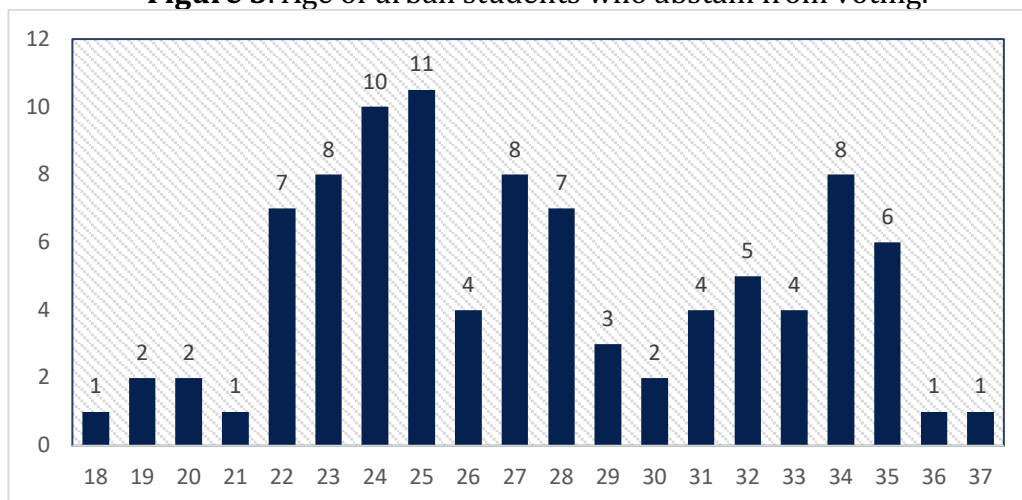


Figure 3 shows the age characteristics of 95 or 55% of urban students living in the Yogyakarta area who abstain from voting in the 2024 general election. From Figure 3, we can also see three significant trends regarding the characteristics of urban students who choose to abstain. First, those aged 23, 24, 25, and 27 are urban students who chose to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election. Second, the ages of 31, 33, 32, and 35 are those of urban students who are likely to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election. Third, ages 18, 19, 20, and 29 are the ages of urban students who are the least likely to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election. From these three trends, it can be reflected that the age characteristics of urban students living in the Yogyakarta area who choose to abstain from voting in the 2024 elections are around 20 years old.

Apart from age, the characteristics of urban students living in the Yogyakarta area who choose to abstain in the 2024 general election also come

from various regions in Indonesia. Manoel et al. (2022) also said that in explaining the complexity of the characteristics of voters who choose to abstain in general elections, they can be identified through the distribution of the region of origin of voters. The characteristics of the region of origin of urban students who choose to abstain in the 2024 general election can be seen in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Distribution of the region of origin of urban students who abstain from voting.



Figure 4 shows that 27 provinces out of 95 or 55% of urban students in the Yogyakarta area chose to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election. From Figure 4, we can also see three significant trends regarding the characteristics of the distribution of the areas of origin of urban students who choose to abstain. First, Riau, South Sulawesi, South Sumatra, and West Sumatra provinces are the areas of origin of the most urban students who chose to abstain in the 2024 general election. Second, the provinces of Banten, West Java, Aceh, and North Sumatra are the areas of origin of many urban students who choose to abstain in the 2024 general election. Third, the provinces of Bangka Belitung, Jakarta, Central Kalimantan, East Nusa Tenggara, and West Nusa Tenggara are the areas of origin of urban students who are least likely to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election. From these three trends, it can be reflected that 95 or 55% of urban students who

choose to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election tend to come from the island of Sumatra.

In addition to the distribution of regions of origin, urban students who choose to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election also refer to various sources. Marquart et al. (2020) also said that in explaining the characteristics of voters who choose to abstain in general elections, they can be identified through the access they often use in obtaining election information. The access that is often used by urban students who choose to abstain from obtaining information related to the 2024 general election can be seen in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Information access of urban students who choose abstention.

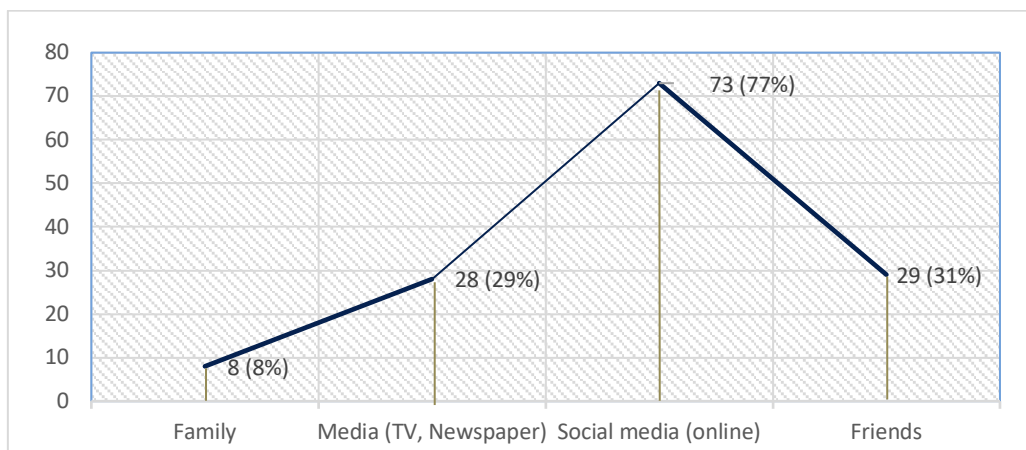


Figure 5 shows the access often used by 95 or 55% of urban students who choose to abstain from obtaining information related to the 2024 general election. From Figure 5, three essential trends can also be seen regarding the access that urban students often use to obtain information related to the 2024 general election. First, as many as 73 responses, or 77% of urban students who chose abstention, mainly accessed information about the 2024 elections through social media (online). Second, as many as 29 or 31% of urban students who abstain often access information about the 2024 general election through their friends. Third, as many as eight or 8% of urban students choose to abstain from the most minor access information related to the 2024 general election

through their families. From these three trends, it can be reflected that social media (online) is the most widely used access by urban students who choose to abstain from obtaining information related to the 2024 general election.

URBAN STUDENTS' PREFERENCE TO ABSTAIN IN THE 2024 ELECTION

Abstention tends to be chosen by urban students living in the Yogyakarta area in the 2024 general election and also has a contextual preference. Medel (2024) also said that the dominant views of their social environment, such as their friends, can influence voters' preferences in participating in general elections. The preferences and behaviors of these urban students' friends in the 2024 general election can be seen in Figure 6.

Figure 6. Attitudinal preferences of urban student friends in the 2024 election.

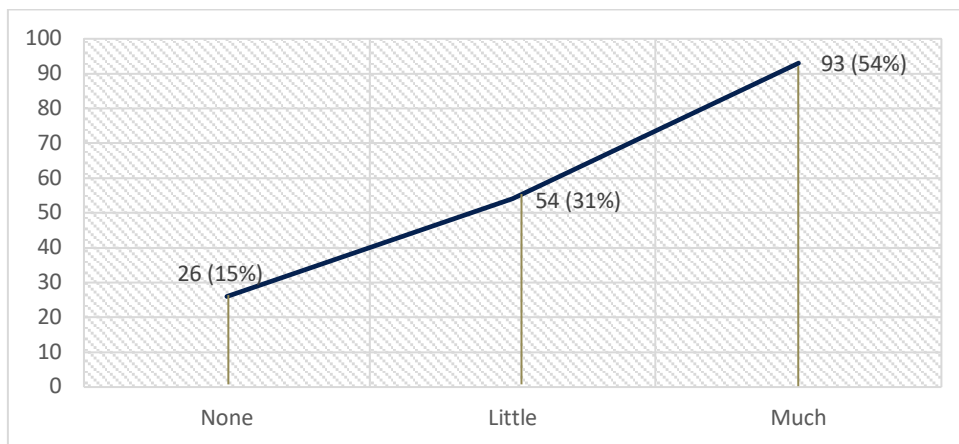


Figure 6 shows the attitudinal preferences of urban student friends who live in the Yogyakarta area to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election. From Figure 6, we can also see three significant trends regarding the dominant behavior preferences of urban student friends regarding the 2024 general election. Firstly, out of 173 urban students living in the Yogyakarta area, many friends also choose to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election, around 93 or 54%. Second, out of 173 urban students living in the Yogyakarta area, many friends also choose to abstain from voting in the 2024

general election, around 54 or 31%. Third, out of 173 urban students living in the Yogyakarta area, a few friends also choose to abstain in the 2024 general election, around 26 or 15%. From these three trends, it can be reflected that out of 173 urban students who choose to abstain also have friends, around 93 or 54% prefer to abstain in the 2024 general election.

The tendency of urban students to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election is also influenced by the sources of information they use as preferences. Ramos et al. (2023) also said that in analyzing the formation of abstention among voters, it can be identified through the sources of information they use as preferences. The sources of information used as preferences by urban students who choose to abstain in the 2024 general election can be seen in Figure 7.

Figure 7. Information sources of urban students who abstain from voting.

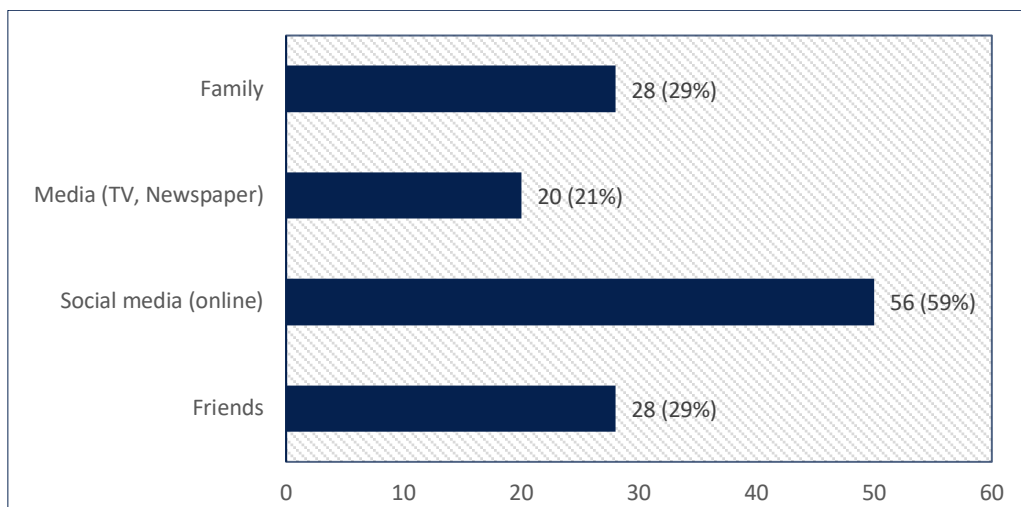


Figure 7 shows the information sources of 95 or 55% of urban students living in the Yogyakarta area who choose to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election. From Figure 7, we can also see three significant trends regarding the dominant sources of information that influence urban students' preference to abstain. First, as many as 56 or 59% of urban students who choose to abstain are influenced by social media (online), which they use as a

preference in obtaining information related to elections. Second, as many as 28 or 29% of urban students who choose to abstain are influenced by their friends and family, who are used as preferences in obtaining information related to elections. Third, as many as 20 or 21% of urban students who choose to abstain are influenced by the media (TV, Newspaper) that they make as a preference in obtaining election-related information. From these three trends, it can be reflected that social media (online) is the information source that most influence the preferences of 56 or 59% of 95 or 55% of urban students who choose to abstain in the 2024 general election.

In addition to information sources, the preference of urban students who tend to choose to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election is also influenced by their perceptions of the democratic process. Panagiotidou and Chadjipadelis (2021) also say that the democratic process in a country can dominantly influence voters' behaviors to participate in general elections. The perceptions of urban students regarding the democratic process that have become their preference to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election can be seen in Figure 8.

Figure 8. Perceptions of democracy of urban students who abstain from voting.

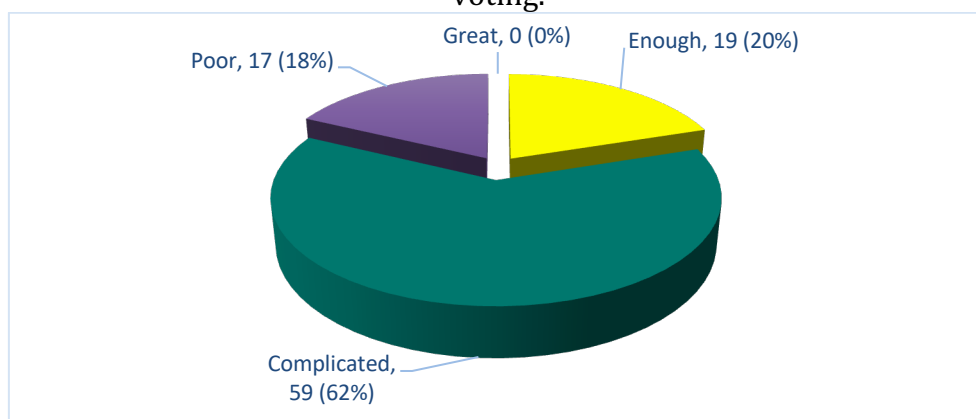


Figure 8 shows the democratic perceptions of 95 or 55% of urban students living in the Yogyakarta area who chose to abstain in the 2024 general election. From Figure 8, we can also see three significant trends regarding the

perception of democracy that become the preference of urban students to abstain from voting in the general election. Firstly, out of 95 or 55%, 59 or 62% of urban students say that the complicated democratic process greatly influences their preference to abstain in the 2024 general election. Second, out of 95 or 55%, 19 or 20% of urban students say that the democratic process in the 2024 general election is quite good. Third, out of 95 or 55% of urban students who chose to abstain, 17 or 18% said the democratic process in the 2024 general election was terrible. From these three trends, it can be reflected that the perception of a complicated democratic process is the dominant preference for 95 or 55% of urban students choosing to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election.

The tendency of urban students living in the Yogyakarta area to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election also contains complex and contextual reasons. Mwonzora (2023) also said that abstention from voters in political contestation certainly does not occur naturally but has complex and contextual reasons. The reasons that underlie urban students' choice to abstain in the 2024 general election can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Reasons why urban students abstain from voting.

Initial	Age	Province	Behavior	Coding	Reasoning
MA	23	West Borneo	Abstain	Regulation	The rules are very difficult for urban voters
HJ	20	Aceh	Abstain	Regulation	Unclear rules on moving election location
FC	34	Gorontalo	Abstain	Regulation	Election rules that complicate voter registration
TW	24	Riau	Abstain	Regulation	The rules are unclear for urban voters
JL	26	South Sumatra	Abstain	Literacy	Not following the election development process
RY	27	Southeast Sulawesi	Abstain	Literacy	Do not know about election developments
IJ	28	East Java	Abstain	Literacy	Have never voted in any election

TW	25	Bali	Abstain	Literacy	Not familiar with the candidate
YG	34	Special Capital Region of Jakarta	Abstain	Literacy	Not knowing the capacity of the candidate
DA	22	Banten	Abstain	Capacity	Candidates do not meet the criteria
HK	25	East Nusa Tenggara	Abstain	Capacity	Saturated with politicians' promises that cannot be kept
HL	23	West Nusa Tenggara	Abstain	Capacity	All candidates are not in favor of the people
IY	31	West Java	Abstain	Capacity	Unsettled by the capabilities of existing candidates
SK	23	South Sulawesi	Abstain	Capacity	There is no candidate pair worth voting for
KB	32	North Sumatra	Abstain	Capacity	Existing candidates may not meet expectations
AS	25	Central Java	Abstain	Administration	The administrative process of moving the election has been closed
HI	30	West Sumatra	Abstain	Administration	There is no time to arrange to change the election location
SW	24	Bengkulu	Abstain	Administration	Limited administrative arrangements
FH	27	Maluku	Abstain	Administration	Complicated administrative process for urban voters
PW	30	East Borneo	Abstain	Administration	The complicated process of moving to a new election place

Table 1 shows why 95 or 55% of urban students living in the Yogyakarta area chose to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election. Table 1 also shows four dominant reasons why urban students choose to abstain. First, the reasons why urban students choose to abstain in the 2024 general election tend to be based on election regulations. Second, the reasons why urban students choose to abstain in the 2024 general elections tend to be

based on literacy. Third, the reasons why urban students choose to abstain from voting in the 2024 general elections tend to be based on the capacity of the nominated prospective leaders. Fourth, the reasons urban students choose to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election tend to be based on administrative reasons. From these four reasons, it can be reflected that the reasons underlying 95 or 55% of urban students who choose to abstain from voting in the 2024 general election are influenced by structural, structural, and infrastructural factors that do not accommodate elections.

MAKING SENSE OF THE BEHAVIOR AND ABSTENTION PREFERENCES OF URBAN STUDENTS

The responses and behaviors of urban students who choose to abstain show that young voters' commitment to actively participating in democratic contestation is still shallow (Dobbs, 2023). The findings in this study show that the average age of urban students living in the Yogyakarta area who tend to choose to abstain appears in the productive age range of 20 years and come from 27 provinces. In addition to appearing with such complex characteristics, the behaviors of urban students who tend to abstain are also influenced by the dominant political preferences of their social structure, access to information, and their perceptions of the democratic system, which underlie urban students choosing to abstain in the 2024 general election in Indonesia. In other words, the abstention of urban students in the 2024 general election in Indonesia does not only occur naturally but is also influenced by cultural, structural, and infrastructural reasons related to election regulations, which are still considered unable to provide direct implications for the welfare of urban students' lives in the future.

This study also reflects that urban students' tendency to abstain in general elections is a form of rationalization of the complexity of regulations and political discourse that develops in their social environment. Nkansah and Papp (2023) also said that the complexity of regulations and political

perceptions has normalized the abstention chosen by young voters in a democratic contestation. This context is also confirmed by Bhatti & Hansen (2012), who states that the tendency of young voters to abstain in general elections is a manifestation of their knowledge and perceptions of political dynamics that are considered not to accommodate their needs in the future. The tendency of urban students to abstain shows that young voters are a homogeneous group with a level of commitment to democracy that is so complex and contextualized (Laughland-Booÿ et al., 2018). In other words, the abstention chosen by urban students is not only related to the complexity of regulations but also influenced by the preferences and perceptions of democracy that develop in their social environment.

Abstention from urban students can potentially have long-term implications for the circulation and quality of a country's democracy in the future (Wagner et al., 2012). In addition to reducing the quality of democracy, abstention also has the potential to produce leaders who are not sensitive to the interests of urban students in the future. The low commitment of urban students to participate in elections has had a causal impact on policies that do not neglect the future welfare of the younger generation (Mo et al., 2022). Dobbs (2023) also argues that the latent implications of the lack of commitment of young voters to participate in elections can hinder the process of democratic revolution that favors the interests of young people in a country. In line with this, in the view of Bourdin & Tai1 (2022), abstention chosen by young voters not only has implications for the welfare of their lives in the future but also has the potential to create depersonalization of democracy from the younger generation, so that the commitment and participation of the younger generation in building the future of a country tends to be passive.

The findings in this study are different from previous studies. Studies that have discussed abstention issues in general elections focus on the situational and temporal responses and behaviors of urban students. However, the findings in this study show that the abstaining behavior of urban

students is a choice that they consider rational. Hence, their preference to abstain is a normalization of the complexity of the formally practiced democratic system. This context, in the view of Galuh Larasati et al. (2023), occurs because the democratic system implemented is so conservative in responding to the needs of young voters. Hence, choosing to abstain is the most rational response for young voters in participating in general elections. In line with that, Fernando et al. (2023) also said that the consequences of an unaccommodating democratic system not only have a situational and temporal impact but also have the potential to normalize the abstention of young voters as their rational choice in every general election conducted in the future.

The abstention of urban students in general elections contains characteristics and preferences that are so complex and contextual. In addition to forming an accommodating democratic system, the consistent application of electoral regulations to accommodate the aspirations of young voters is also essential to reduce abstention. In line with that, Ribeiro et al. (2023) also said that to prevent massive abstention preferences in young voters, the implemented democratic system must be evaluated systemically to increase the commitment of urban students to participate actively in general elections. In addition to evaluating the democratic system, ideological reflection is a crucial context for political parties and election implementers in accommodating young people's discourses to arouse their curiosity or interest in actively participating in general elections. The abstention preference of urban students can be prevented with an educative and reflective approach, which can form a high curiosity and commitment to participating in general elections.

CONCLUSION

The abstention chosen by urban students as young voters in the 2024 general election in Indonesia has complex characteristics and preferences for reasons. This context can be seen through the essential findings in this study,

which show that the age characteristics of urban students in the Yogyakarta area tend to choose to abstain from voting appear in the productive age range of around 20 years from 27 provinces of origin. In addition to appearing with such complex characteristics, the behaviors of urban students who tend to choose to abstain are also influenced by the dominant political preferences of their social structure, access to information, and their perceptions of the ongoing democratic system in the 2024 general elections in Indonesia. From these findings, it can be reflected that the abstention of urban students as young voters is not only temporal but also a rational choice of the regulatory system and the democratic process in such a complex general election.

This study's findings differ from studies that have discussed the abstention of urban students as young voters in general elections. So far, studies that discuss the abstention of urban students as young voters only focus on trends and characteristics of abstention that are considered temporal. However, the findings in this study show that the abstention chosen by urban students as young voters is a rational choice of the regulatory system and the complex democratic process in every democratic process. The findings in this study are not only expected to be able to become a dialogical basis for social and political science studies but also expected to be a preference in reflecting and evaluating the regulatory system and democratic processes in general elections that are considered unable to accommodate the interests of urban students as young voters in the general election process.

This study also has a weakness in the data collection process, which was only done through a survey using Google Forms on urban students in the Yogyakarta area. Thus, the data described and displayed in this study is only quantitative data obtained from the responses of urban students in the Yogyakarta area. However, the weaknesses in this study are expected to be able to become the basis or reference for future studies, especially for studies that want to analyze the characteristics and preferences of urban students as young voters who choose to abstain in general elections with a varied and

broader scope and number of respondents. Through this process, a more comprehensive understanding of the characteristics and preferences of urban students who choose to abstain in general elections is expected to be obtained.

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