Kinship Politics and Political Dynasties in the Aftermath of the 2020 Local Elections: A Comparative Analysis of Kinship Based Political Practices in Sleman and Medan

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Dynastic politics refers to political power held within families and remains a feature of democratic dynamics. This study explores the role of kinship in local politics and its influence on election outcomes using a qualitative approach with the NVivo 12 Plus application for data analysis. The research focuses on online news coverage of the 2020 regional elections, highlighting the prevalence of political dynasties. Wordcloud analysis revealed frequent keywords such as *politics*, *dynasty*, *regional elections*, *candidates*, *Sleman*, *Medan*, *Bobby*, and *Jokowi*, with *politics* appearing most often. A Crosstab Query showed three main narratives: (1) the right to vote and be elected (51.82%), (2) high capability (29.55%), and (3) no constitutional violation (18.63%). However, the study is limited to two regions—Medan and Sleman—suggesting the need for broader research and deeper analysis to support future scholarly work on political dynasties.

Keyword : Dynastic Politics, Kinship Politics, 2020 Local Elections

I. INTRODUCTION

After the fall of the New Order regime in 1998, Indonesia entered a new era known as the Reform Era. This period was marked by the opening of a more democratic political system, where power was no longer centralized in a single person or a particular elite group. One of the major achievements of the Reform Era was the implementation of direct elections, including for the positions of President, Governor, Regent, and Mayor. Citizens were now granted the direct right to choose their leaders, a significant step forward in Indonesia's democratic journey.

However, although the democratic system has been formally implemented, in practice, Indonesian democracy faces various serious challenges. One of these challenges is the emergence and strengthening of dynastic politics—a condition in which political positions are held alternately or continuously by individuals within the same family circle. This phenomenon shows that power tends to be informally inherited from one family member to another. As stated by Susanti (2018), this condition reflects a form of governance that resembles a monarchy wrapped in the guise of democracy.

The phenomenon of dynastic politics did not emerge out of nowhere. According to I Putu Sastra Wingarta et al. (2021), after the Reform Era, Indonesia also faced challenges in the form of the rise of identity politics. Identity politics exploits differences in ethnicity, religion, race, and social groups as political tools to gain public support. This condition exacerbates the emergence of dynastic politics, as social identity is often used to maintain power within a particular family or group. As a result, the democratic process becomes neither fully inclusive nor rational, but is often trapped in emotional loyalty and primordial ties.

Before the Reform Era, the President of Indonesia was elected by the People's Consultative Assembly (Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat or MPR), which at the time functioned as the highest state institution and the holder of the people's sovereignty (Susila Wibawa, 2019). This election process was indirect and highly elitist. However, following the Reform Era, a fundamental change occurred: the election of the President, as well as regional leaders, was carried out through direct voting by the people. This marked a significant symbol of democracy, as it

gave the public full authority to decide who would lead them.

Although direct elections are considered a manifestation of democratic values, it cannot be denied that this system also opens the door for the growth of dynastic politics. Numerous cases across various regions show that incumbent regional leaders often encourage their relatives to run in the next election. It is also common for them to use their influence and resources accumulated while in office to support their relatives' campaigns. In this context, political parties play a crucial role, as they provide the political platform for candidates.

Political parties, which are supposed to serve as the main pillars of democracy, often end up becoming facilitators of dynastic politics. This occurs because many political parties tend to be pragmatic, prioritizing electoral victories over healthy political recruitment and regeneration. Many parties prefer to nominate candidates who possess popularity and resources—including those from political families—rather than opening opportunities for new, potentially capable candidates who lack strong networks or financial capital.
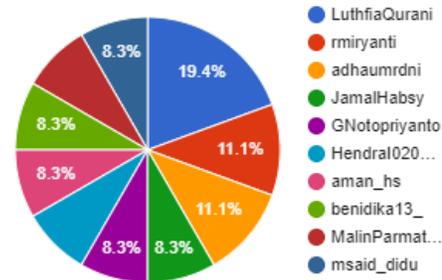
This phenomenon is further reinforced by the lack of strict regulations in regional head elections to limit the influence of dynastic politics. In some cases, existing regulations even create loopholes that allow a single family or group to dominate political power. Ideally, however, democracy should provide equal opportunities for all citizens to participate in the political process without discrimination or monopolization by any particular group.

In today's digital era, discussions about dynastic politics have also become widespread on social media. Data from Netlytic shows a high volume of conversations on platforms such as Twitter expressing concerns over dynastic and kinship-based politics. Social media has become an alternative space for the public to express criticism, aspirations, and support for certain political figures. This also indicates a growing public awareness of democratic issues.

Nonetheless, this awareness must be accompanied by concrete actions from various stakeholders—especially the government, electoral oversight institutions, and political parties—to strengthen a healthy and just democratic system. Strengthening regulations, expanding political education, and ensuring transparency in the nomination of candidates are among the essential steps that must continuously be taken to reduce the dominance of dynastic politics.
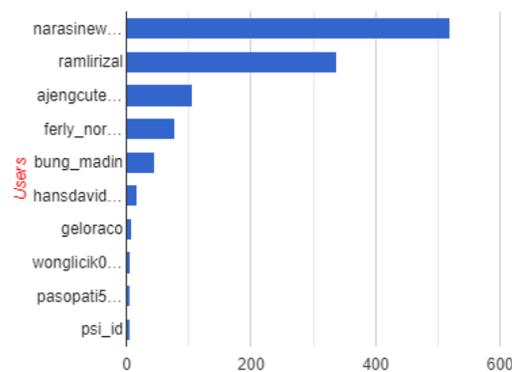
Thus, although the Reform era has brought Indonesia into a more open and participatory democratic system, challenges such as dynastic politics and identity politics remain pressing issues that need to be addressed. True democracy is not merely about electoral procedures, but also about fairness, equal access, and inclusive representation for all citizens.
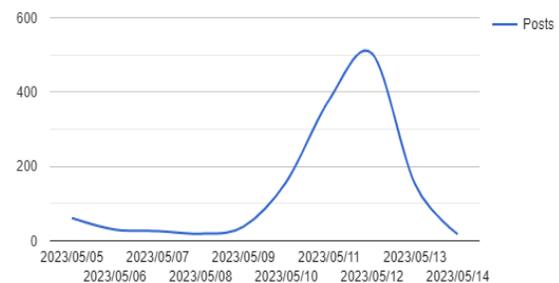

Picture 1. Data Source Top 10- Posters

Based on the analysis results from Netlytic, data related to the keywords "Dynastic Politics" and "Kinship Politics" on the Twitter database shows a percentage of mentions in posts containing narratives related to dynastic and kinship-based politics. The data was collected from May 5 to May 14, 2023. The analysis indicates an increase in mentions on May 9, followed by a decline through May 14, 2023.

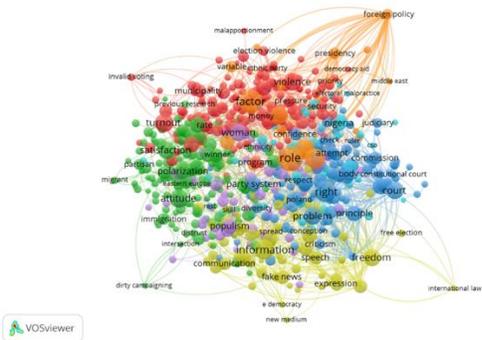**Picture 2.** Network Level Centrality: Top 10 Users

Picture 3. Posting Frequency

Mentions related to identity politics and dynastic politics on the Twitter platform have increased over the past two weeks. For example, on May 5, 2023, the account @posaktualcom tweeted: *"Ingin Bangun Dinasti Politik, Jokowi Selalu Ikut Campur Urusan Capres"* ("Wanting to Build a Political Dynasty, Jokowi Always Interferes in Presidential Candidate Matters"). Similarly, on the same day, user @hellozorvanion posted: *"PART II: THE FOUR MAJOR POLITICAL DYNASTIES IN BANTEN – THE RATU ATUT*

FAMILY: 1. Andika Hazrumy, Vice Governor of Banten – Ratu Atut's Son; 2. Andiara Aprilia, Deputy Speaker of the Banten Provincial Parliament – Ratu Atut's Daughter; 3. Airin Rachmi Diany, Banten Gubernatorial Candidate – Wife of Ratu Atut's younger brother." Mentions related to dynastic and kinship politics continued until May 14, when the user @laskarpeningit tweeted: *"Not Only a Political Dynasty, Rizal Ramli Says Jokowi Is Also Building a Business Dynasty."*

Based on this data, this research aims to examine the role of kinship in local politics and how it influences the outcomes of general elections. This study will conduct a comparative analysis between two different regions with diverse political, social, and cultural contexts. The research will explore how kinship factors influence candidate campaign strategies, voter support, and election results in both areas.

This analysis will help understand the significance of family ties in local politics and their impact on democracy and fairness in the electoral process. A descriptive and qualitative method will be used to collect data and analyze the information using software such as NVIVO 12 Plus. The results of this research are expected to provide new insights into the role of kinship in local politics and offer recommendations for improving the electoral process and enhancing public participation in politics.

Picture 4. VOSViewers analysis elections, dynastic politics, and democracy on Scopus

Table 1. VOSViewers analysis elections, dynastic politics, and democracy on Scopus

Keywords	Cluster
Advantage, Authoritarian Rule, Civil Liberty, Competitive Election, Constituency, Correlation, County, Democracy Accountability, Democracy Backsliding, Democracy State, Election Violence, Election Fraud, Local Election, Malapportionment, Multiparty Election, Opposition Party, Politic & Policy, Territory, Voter Participation, Weakness	1
Advanced Democracy, Affective Polarization, Civic Engagement, Coalition Government, Constituent, Democratic Satisfaction, Direct Democracy, Dirty Campaigning, Dissatisfaction, Electoral Volatility, Income Inequality, Negotiation,	2
Amendment, Consociational Democracy, Electoral Collage, Electoral Law, Electoral Reform, Human Right, Irregularity, Legislation, Ocal Government Election, Supreme Court, Transparency	3
Awareness, Big Data, Democratic Society, E Democracy, Free Election, Freedom, Political	4
Decision, Public Sphere, Regulation, Social Network,	
Democrat, Democracy Legitimacy, Political Development, Relation, Social Justice, State Power	5
Beureaucracy, Candidate Selection, Civil Society, Contestation, Electoral Integrity,	6
Executive Power,	7

Bibliometric analysis using the VOSviewer software based on data retrieved from the Scopus database with the keywords *"elections," "dynastic politics,"* and *"democracy"* reveals both interesting and problematic preliminary findings. The resulting science mapping visualization demonstrates that academic discussions on these three keywords remain concentrated within a single dominant cluster. This cluster is primarily focused on discourse surrounding elections and democracy, with limited explicit connections to the topic of dynastic or kinship politics.

This is evidenced by the lack of strong linkages between the keyword *"dynastic politics"* and themes such as power monopolies, elite reproduction, or familial power relations. These findings indicate that scholarly attention to dynastic politics remains relatively limited and has not yet emerged as a central focus in international research, particularly in prominent databases such as Scopus. Consequently, this gap provides a potential entry point to offer **novelty** in this research, specifically through a comparative analysis of kinship-based political indications during the 2020 regional elections (*Pilkada*) in two strategic regions: **Sleman** and **Medan**.

The phenomenon of dynastic politics is rooted in complex structures and cannot be separated from the dynamics of democracy in pluralistic societies. In the context of Indonesia—a democratic state with a heterogeneous social structure—identity politics and kinship-based political practices have found fertile ground for growth. The dominance of kinship identity in electoral contests often threatens social cohesion and triggers deep societal segregation (Ukhra et al., 2021). Dynastic politics further reinforce the influence of specific societal groups, particularly those with access to political and economic resources.

One major driver behind the proliferation of political dynasties at the local level is **political decentralization**, which has granted substantial autonomy to regional governments. While decentralization was intended to strengthen local democracy, in practice, it has facilitated the replication of power through familial lines. Individuals holding national or regional office often encourage their family members to pursue lower-level government positions, thereby expanding their political networks and influence (Fitriyah, 2020). As a result, **power relations in local politics tend to be determined more by blood ties than by**

competence or integrity.

This phenomenon poses significant risks to democratic development. Dynastic politics can restrict political access for citizens without elite backgrounds and inhibit healthy political competition. As Heriyanto (2022) argues, the systemic presence of political dynasties obstructs the national leadership regeneration process, significantly limiting opportunities for broader segments of society to assume regional leadership roles.

One of the indicators that strengthens this argument is the phenomenon of electoral victories by several elite family figures in the 2020 Regional Head Elections (Pilkada). Gibran Rakabuming Raka, the eldest son of President Joko Widodo, won the mayoral election in Surakarta, while Bobby Nasution, the President's son-in-law, won the mayoral election in Medan (Rahmatunnisa, 2021). Although there are no constitutional violations in their candidacies, their emergence on the local political stage raises questions about how democratic the nomination process truly is.

In practice, Indonesia's democratic system has not yet been able to limit the dominance of political elites who exercise full control over the nomination process for regional leaders. Rather than providing space for public participation in candidate selection, this process is often conducted behind closed doors and exclusively by party elites (Asdhie Kodiyat & Andryan, 2021). As a result, dynastic politics has become a fast track to power, bypassing rigorous and structured political cadre development.

This reality contradicts the values of modern democracy, which uphold meritocracy and transparency. In Western countries, for example, the middle class is associated with values such as independence, competence, and individualism (Fitri, 2019). However, in Indonesia, traces of nepotism remain strong. Many public officials use their positions to push their relatives into strategic government roles (Bimantara, 2017). Such practices not only weaken the checks and balances mechanism but also increase the risk of collective corruption among ruling families (Susanti, 2018).

Nevertheless, some scholars, such as Gunanto (2020), argue that dynastic politics can be accepted as long as the selection and election processes are conducted fairly and professionally. In reality, however,

political dynasties often flourish not because of the competence of the candidates, but due to their political and economic networks. This phenomenon is even referred to as a form of local "Cendanaisasi," drawing a parallel with the political and economic dominance of the Cendana family during the New Order era (Effendi, 2018).

Direct regional elections and the proportional electoral system based on the highest number of votes were initially intended to strengthen public participation. However, in practice, this system has opened wider opportunities for elite families to maintain and expand their power (Purwaningsih, 2015). This systemic weakness is further exacerbated by the underperformance of democratic institutions, as seen in the failed Pilkada in Cimahi due to the lack of adherence to procedural democratic principles (Satria & Kurniawan, 2022).

In this context, strengthening oversight mechanisms is crucial. Bawaslu, as the official electoral supervisory body, needs to enhance its capacity, including through the use of social media as a tool for public education and early detection of electoral violations (Diba et al., 2021). Given Bawaslu's limitations, public participation in monitoring elections is also essential. Public oversight is an integral part of good governance in the implementation of elections (Susila Wibawa, 2019).

The rise of identity politics and political dynasties also reflects the immaturity of Indonesia's democratic transformation. The current democracy remains elitist, transactional, and not yet grounded in the rational political awareness of its citizens (I Putu Sastra Wingarta et al., 2021). This has led to stagnation in the circulation of political elites and hinders leadership regeneration (Rusnaedy et al., 2021).

Ultimately, in a healthy democracy, public participation must be based on strong political rationality. Citizens must be able to assess candidates based on their capacity, integrity, and vision, rather than merely their family ties or proximity to power (Arniti, 2020). Therefore, this study seeks to highlight the dynamics and dangers of dynastic politics through a comparative analysis of two strategic regions in the 2020 Pilkada—Sleman and Medan—in order to deepen understanding and develop strategies to prevent the strengthening of kinship-based oligarchies in Indonesia's local democracy.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This article employs a qualitative approach aimed at uncovering a specific social phenomenon—namely, kinship politics—which relates to the right to vote and be elected, adherence to constitutional principles, and candidate capability. The data analysis in this study utilizes the *Qualitative Data Analysis Software* (Q-DAS), specifically employing the Nvivo 12 Plus application. The use of Nvivo 12 Plus facilitates the organization, visualization, and narration of the processed data.

The research adopts a descriptive analysis method to narrate and explain the findings derived from the data. The stages of data analysis in this study are as follows:

1. **Collecting Data**: At this stage, data are gathered with reference to the phenomenon under investigation—kinship or dynastic politics at the local level.

2. **Filtering Data**: This stage involves screening the collected data sourced from news portals such as CNN Indonesia, Kompas, Liputan6, and Detik.com. Data filtering becomes the second step in refining the collected information.

3. **Coding Data**: In this stage, data are analyzed using specific indicators referred to as *nodes*, which are employed to link the data with the theoretical framework used in the study.

4. **Presenting Data**: The final stage involves narrating the analyzed data, connecting them to relevant theories, and developing them into well-structured and comprehensive findings.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings presented in this study aim to illustrate a comparative analysis of indications of dynastic politics based on online news coverage of the 2020 regional elections (Pilkada) in Sleman and Medan. These findings highlight a comparative view of kinship-based political practices in the 2020 elections, assessed through the lens of problem definitions, moral evaluations, and the impacts they generated. The key findings of this study are as follows:

A. The Influence of News Narratives on Political Dynasties in Medan and Sleman during the 2020 Regional Elections

To understand the impact and public perception of political dynasties in Medan and Sleman during the 2020 Simultaneous Regional Elections, one of the analytical approaches employed in this study is **Wordcloud Analysis**, processed using **NVIVO 12 Plus** software. This analysis aims to capture the dominant narratives circulating in online media, particularly in news reports discussing the involvement of political actors suspected of engaging in kinship-based

politics. In other words, this approach is intended to explore the representation of public discourse on political dynasties through the most frequently appearing words in online news articles published during the 2020 regional elections.

Figure 5 presents a Wordcloud visualization based on data retrieved using the keywords *"Political Dynasty in Medan and Sleman during the 2020 Regional Elections."* This visualization summarizes the frequency of word appearances across a collection of analyzed online news articles. This method effectively assists researchers in identifying the dominant themes within media discourse. From the figure, it is evident that the word *"politics"* appears most frequently, followed by other key terms such as *"regional election" (pilkada)*, *"candidate"*, *"region"*, *"Medan"*, *"Sleman"*, *"Bobby"*, and *"Jokowi."* These words serve as strong indicators of the main narratives constructed by the media and perceived by the public in framing the issue of political dynasties during the elections.

The word *"politics"* appears most prominently in the Wordcloud visualization, underscoring that the analyzed news coverage is primarily centered around political dynamics as the core theme. This suggests that political dynasties are not merely perceived as personal or familial matters, but rather as structural issues embedded within the local political system. Meanwhile, the notable presence of the terms *"Medan"* and *"Sleman"* reinforces the significance of these two regions as focal points in the practice of kinship politics, and their selection as comparative case studies in this research.

Interestingly, the word *"Bobby"* also stands out—referring to Bobby Nasution, the son-in-law of President Joko Widodo, who ran for and was elected Mayor of Medan in the 2020 regional elections. Media narratives surrounding Bobby are closely tied to his familial affiliation with the sitting president, raising public discourse over whether his election reflects political meritocracy or rather the consolidation of a political dynasty. The relatively prominent appearance of the name *"Jokowi"* further supports the indication that Bobby's
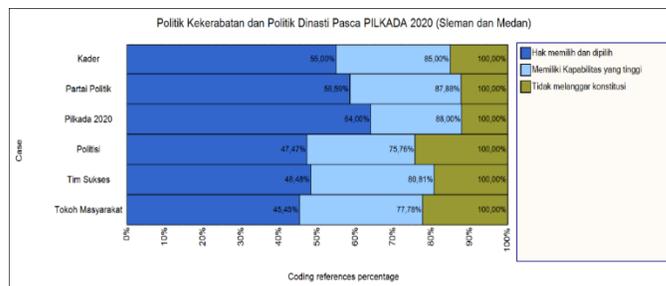
involvement cannot be separated from the influence and public image of President Jokowi, as perceived by both the media and the public.

Furthermore, it is important to note that the 2020 regional elections were conducted under a highly unique context—amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the pandemic raised significant debate over the feasibility and safety of holding elections, the government proceeded with the simultaneous local elections in adherence to the constitutional mandate stipulating that regional leadership terms must be renewed every five years (Ukhra et al., 2021). Within this framework, the issue of political dynasties became increasingly complex, as it was discussed not only in terms of power politics but also in relation to ethics, urgency, and sensitivity to the national crisis.

This phenomenon aligns with the argument made by Gunanto (2020), who states that although political dynasties are not explicitly recognized within democratic systems, in reality, such practices flourish even in modern democratic countries. Political dynasties represent a kind of "democratic anomaly" in which formal electoral processes are upheld, yet power continues to circulate within narrow circles of families or specific elites.

Thus, the wordcloud analysis in this study not only provides a quantitative visualization of dominant terms in news coverage but also enriches the understanding of how discourses on kinship politics are shaped and constructed in the public sphere through media. The wordcloud serves as an entry point to delve deeper into the dimensions of how dynastic politics are perceived by society, mediated by news outlets, and sustained by local political systems that still leave substantial room for familial relationships to influence electoral contests.

B. Analysis of Discussion Topics in the News

Picture 6. Accumulation of online news about dynasty politics
Source : *Crosstab-Query*, NVIVO 12Plus

Table 2. Akumulasi pemberitaan online politik dinasti

	Hak memilih dan dipilih	Memiliki Kapabilitas yang tinggi	Tidak melanggar konstitusi	**Total**
Kader	55%	30%	15%	100%
Partai Politik	58,46%	29,23%	12,31%	100%
Pilkada 2020	64%	24%	12%	100%
Politisi	47,32%	28,57%	24,11%	100%
Tim Sukses	48,7%	32,17%	19,13%	100%
Tokoh Masyarakat	45%	32,5%	22,5%	100%
Total	**51,82%**	**29,55%**	**18,63%**	**100%**

in analyzing online news content related to the phenomenon of political dynasties in Medan and Sleman during the 2020 Regional Elections (Pilkada), this study employed a Crosstab Query approach using NVIVO 12 Plus software. This analysis aimed to identify the dominant themes in online media coverage by categorizing the content into three main themes: (1) The right to vote and to be elected, (2) Not violating the constitution, and (3) Possessing high capability. The results of the data processing revealed that the theme "the right to vote and to be elected" dominated the discourse, accounting for 51.82% of the coverage, followed by "possessing high capability" at 29.55%, and "not violating the constitution" at 18.63%. These findings indicate that citizens' political rights—particularly in the context of candidacy and electability—became the central focus in public discourse on political dynasties.

Conceptually, the right to vote and to be elected is a core principle of modern constitutional democracy. According to

Rahmanto (2018), voting rights are among the fundamental prerequisites of a constitutional democratic system. Ramlan Surbakti (in Rahmanto, 2018) views the right to vote as the right of every citizen to participate in shaping political direction by electing representatives to legislative bodies, while the right to be elected is the right of citizens to run for office and become part of representative institutions through democratic processes. This means that active participation in politics is not limited to voting for leaders but also includes the freedom to run for leadership positions.
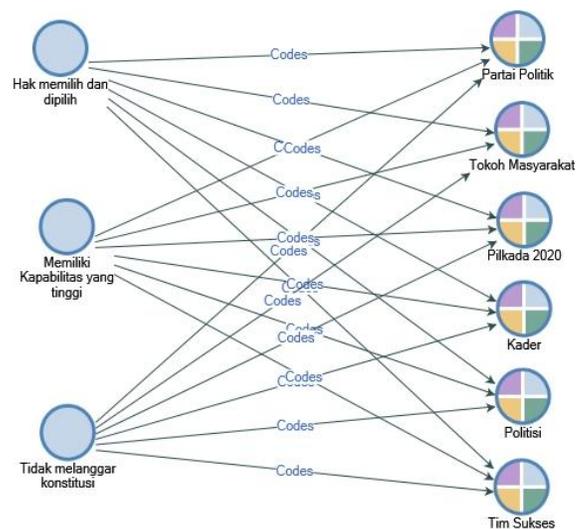
The legal framework concerning the political rights of citizens is explicitly enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, particularly in the 1945 Constitution (UUD 1945). Several articles guarantee these rights, including Article 27 paragraphs (1) and (2), Article 28, Article 28D paragraph (3), and Article 28E paragraph (3). These constitutional provisions obligate the state to ensure the protection and realization of citizens' fundamental rights in the political sphere, including participation in general elections (Pemilu), presidential elections (Pilpres), and regional elections (Pilkada) (Hidayati, 2014). However, the political reality at the local level reveals that despite normative guarantees, access to candidacy is often restricted for individuals who lack structural or cultural proximity to political elites or established dynasties.

The phenomenon of political dynasties illustrates how regional elections frequently become arenas for the reproduction of power by specific groups, particularly entrenched political families. Gunawan (2021) notes that in many regions, candidacies are dominated by individuals from the ruling family circles, ultimately creating disparities in political competition and limiting opportunities for other potential candidates. This presents a significant challenge for local democracy in Indonesia, as the very essence of democracy—namely openness and fairness in political access—is undermined by the persistence of dynastic politics.

Furthermore, this condition is exacerbated by the pragmatism of political parties in nominating regional head

candidates. According to Fitriyah (2020), political parties tend to endorse candidates who demonstrate high popularity and electability based on survey results, and who possess the financial resources to fund their own campaigns. This electoral calculation, which is primarily oriented toward short-term victory, neglects the principles of political cadre development and meritocracy within democracy. In other words, political parties are no longer functioning as institutions that promote ideology and civic political education, but rather have transformed into pragmatic vehicles that operate primarily during electoral moments.

Thus, it can be concluded that although the rights to vote and be elected are legally recognized and widely discussed in public discourse, their implementation still faces serious challenges in local political practice. Dynastic politics and the pragmatic behavior of political parties have created distortions within the local democratic system, which ideally should ensure equal political access for all citizens.

Picture 7. Project Map Online Reporting on dynasty politics

One of the visual methods employed in this study to understand the interrelation between data is the Project Map generated using NVIVO 12 Plus software. A Project Map is a graphical representation that illustrates the relationships among various elements in a research project, such as nodes, cases, and pre-coded categories. In the context of this research, the Project Map functions to visualize the data by connecting major themes—namely, the right to vote and be elected, candidate

capability, and constitutional issues—with key actors who serve as case units, including political parties, community figures, party cadres, politicians, and campaign teams. This visualization not only aids in comprehending the complexity of the data, but also serves as a reflective tool to uncover the hidden narrative structures in media coverage of political dynasty indications during the 2020 regional elections (Pilkada) in the two studied areas: Medan and Sleman.

In this visualization, the relationships between themes and actors are clearly illustrated. For instance, the theme of "the right to vote and be elected" is frequently linked to community leaders and voters in the elections, reflecting the dynamics of electoral democracy at the local level. Meanwhile, the theme of "high capability" is often associated with candidates possessing professional backgrounds or technocratic competence; however, in practice, many dynastic candidates lack adequate political or administrative track records. Lastly, the theme of "not violating the constitution" emerges as a common defensive narrative used to justify the involvement of family members in political contests, even though from ethical and sociological perspectives, political dynasties often raise issues of representation and political fairness.

Further discussing indications of political dynasties in the 2020 regional elections (Pilkada), the two cases analyzed—Sleman and Medan—offer an intriguing illustration of how kinship relations can influence local political dynamics. In Sleman, candidate pair number 03, Kustini Sri Purnomo and Danang Maharsa, won the Pilkada. Kustini, the wife of the incumbent regent Sri Purnomo, ran for office with the support of a major party coalition controlling 15 seats in the Sleman Regency Regional House of Representatives (DPRD) (Gunawan, 2021).

The victory of this pair sparked various interpretations among observers and the public. Some viewed it as a sign of declining democratic quality at the local level, where electoral contests are dominated by figures from within the circle of local ruling elites (Rahmatunnisa, 2021). This situation reflects a tendency toward power reproduction in the form of political dynasties, in which political power is not transferred through a competitive and open selection process, but instead inherited through familial ties.

On the other hand, there is also a more moderate view. Some members of the public considered Sri Purnomo's achievements during his tenure as regent to have delivered tangible benefits for Sleman's development. Therefore, support for his wife was perceived as a continuation of development and policy stability. This suggests that in certain local contexts, dynastic politics can be accepted by the public if the nominated figure is believed to represent the interests and aspirations of the people. In this regard, perceived capability and the success of prior governance become critical factors in the public's acceptance of dynastic candidates.

Meanwhile, the Pilkada case in Medan presented a slightly different dynamic, though still within the framework of political dynasties. Bobby Nasution, the son-in-law of President Joko Widodo, ran for Mayor of Medan and ultimately won the 2020 election. His candidacy sparked controversy and public debate, especially on social media. Many viewed Bobby's nomination as part of President Jokowi's effort to establish a political dynasty at both national and local levels (Asdhie Kodiyat & Andryan, 2021). These concerns intensified due to Bobby's lack of political background and prior government experience.

Criticism also arose due to Bobby's perceived lack of emotional attachment and experience living in Medan. Prior to running for office, he had spent most of his time outside the city, leading to perceptions that he lacked deep understanding of the specific issues faced by Medan residents (Rahmatunnisa, 2021). Consequently, although his candidacy did not formally violate the constitution, it was still criticized for undermining the principles of open competition and meritocracy in local democracy.

These two cases demonstrate that political dynasties remain deeply embedded in Indonesia's local political system. In Sleman, dynastic politics appeared as a form of local regeneration

rooted in the popularity of incumbent family members, while in Medan, it manifested through the symbolic and structural influence of national power entering the local sphere. Through the analysis of the Project Map, the narrative connections between actors, themes, and political contexts can be mapped more comprehensively, providing a clearer picture of how political dynasties are reproduced and legitimized in Indonesia's electoral political life.

IV. CONCLUSION

Kinship politics, often referred to as political dynasties, refers to a situation in which political power is continuously held by members of the same family within a state or government structure. This phenomenon has become increasingly evident in the post-Reformasi era in Indonesia. During the 2020 regional elections (Pilkada), several instances of political dynasties were observed in various regions. However, this study focuses specifically on the cases in the City of Medan and Sleman Regency, based on factual data published by credible online news portals.

This research aims to explore how familial ties influence candidates' campaign strategies, voter support, and electoral outcomes in both regions. Utilizing the Crosstab Query analysis feature in NVivo 12 Plus, the study categorized news content on political dynasties in Medan and Sleman into three main themes: (1) the right to vote and be elected, (2) not violating the constitution, and (3) high individual capability. The results indicate that the theme of "right to vote and be elected" dominated the discourse, accounting for 51.82% of the content, followed by "high capability" at 29.55%, and "not violating the constitution" at 18.63%. These findings suggest that the legitimacy of candidacy, particularly in terms of legal political rights, is the most discussed issue in online media coverage.

The victory of Kustini-Danang in Sleman's 2020 Pilkada holds multiple interpretations. Some argue that this outcome reflects a deterioration in the quality of local democracy, influenced by strong local elites forming political regimes. In the case of Medan, the election of Bobby Nasution became a prominent issue on social media due to his status as the son-in-law of President Joko Widodo. He was widely perceived as a representation of President Jokowi's emerging political dynasty.

Based on the findings, several recommendations can be made: strengthening the function and supervision of political parties to ensure the emergence of qualified cadres; revising legal regulations to restrict the expansion of dynastic politics; and reinforcing law enforcement and electoral oversight

mechanisms to prevent electoral violations, including money politics and political dynasties. This study acknowledges its limitations, particularly in the scope of its variables, which are confined to political dynasties in the 2020 local elections in Sleman and Medan. Future researchers are encouraged to expand or refine the variables used or explore alternative frameworks to enrich the understanding of political dynasties in Indonesia.

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