

Practice of Verifying the Requirements of Regional Head Candidates by KPUD Pesawaran (Siyasah Syariyyah Perspective)

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Abstract

This study analyzes the inconsistency of the Pesawaran Regional General Election Commission (KPUD) in verifying the educational requirements of regent candidates, particularly the validity of high school diplomas, during the 2010–2024 period. Aries Sandi Darma Putra was elected twice through an administrative verification process that relied primarily on document completeness and candidate declarations, as regulated under Law Number 12 of 2008. However, following the 2024 Regional Election, he was disqualified through Constitutional Court Decision Number 20/PHPU.BUP-XXIII/2025 after his Diploma Companion Certificate (SKPI) was found to be legally defective. This occurred despite the provisions of Law Number 10 of 2016 and KPU Regulation Number 8 of 2024, which require factual verification in coordination with educational authorities. The decision triggered public protests, reduced trust in the KPUD, social polarization, and significant financial burdens due to the implementation of a re-vote (PSU). Using a normative-judicial and qualitative descriptive approach, this study examines legislation, court decisions, KPU regulations, and relevant institutional documents. The findings reveal weaknesses in the regulation of diploma verification procedures and highlight the need for standardized, integrated national verification mechanisms to ensure legal certainty, electoral integrity, and the protection of democratic values.

Keywords

KPUD; Siyasah shariyyah; Requirements for regional head candidates; Verification

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1. INTRODUCTION

The consistency of the Regional General Election Commission (KPUD) in implementing the rules for the requirements for regional head candidates is the main foundation for maintaining the purity of the Regional Head Election (Pilkada). (Hasni & Haanurat, 2025) However, in the Pesawaran Regional Election, there was a striking difference. In the 2010 and 2015 Regional Elections, Aries Sandi Darma Putra was successfully elected twice as the Regent of Pesawaran without strict examination of his diploma documents, because Law No. 12 of 2008 Article 58 letter c the candidate must be "educated at least a high school and/or equivalent" and supported by Article 60 jo. PKPU General Election



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Commission Regulation No. 15 of 2008 concerning PKPU Candidacy Procedures No. 13 of 2010 concerning Guidelines for Verification of Support for Individual Candidates which is passive, checking the completeness and correctness of the requirements administratively based on documents submitted with the main support of the candidate's statement letter, without the obligation of in-depth material verification or cross-agency coordination. (Butt & Lindsey, 2008)

In contrast to the 2024 Regional Elections which refers to Law No. 10 of 2016 Article 7 paragraph 2 letter c candidates must be "educated at least high school or equivalent" as well as PKPU No. 8 of 2024 concerning Candidacy and PKPU No. 10 of 2024 concerning the Stages of the Regional Elections which requires factual verification of documents including diplomas through administrative research, clarification, and coordination with related agencies such as the Ministry of Education and Culture, KPUD Pesawaran actually received the Certificate of Diploma Companion (SKPI) edition of July 19, 2018 which was then declared legally problematic so that it failed to ensure the fulfillment of the minimum education requirements of high school. (Number, n.d.)

The facts of the case include the victory of Aries the previous two periods without a diploma issue, the acceptance of a legally defective SKPI in 2024, and the Constitutional Court's decision disqualifying the candidate because the educational requirements were not met, the difference lies in passive verification in Law No.12 of 2008 jo. PKPU No.15 of 2008 & No. 13 of 2010 versus active in Law No.10 of 2016 jo. PKPU No. 8 of 2024 & 10 of 2024, The KPUD inconsistency can be seen from the formality of receiving files without optimizing the substantive verification authority, even though the implementing regulations require a thorough and coordinated examination to ensure the integrity of the requirements for regional head candidates. (*General Election Commission Regulation Number 10... - Google Scholar*, n.d.)

Constitutional Court Decision Number 20/PHPU. BUP-XXIII/2025 stipulates the cancellation of Aries Sandi Darma Putra's victory in the 2024 Pesawaran Regent Election due to the non-fulfillment of administrative requirements in the form of the validity of high school diplomas as a condition for the candidacy of regional heads. (*"You Need Sara. Constitutional Court Decision Number... - Google Scholar*, n.d.)

In its ruling, the Constitutional Court ordered the implementation of a re-vote (PSU) no later than 90 days after the verdict is read. The decision not only has legal consequences, but also has a social and political impact on society. Dissatisfaction with the election process, which then has an impact on the decline in the level of public trust in the credibility of the Regional General Election Commission (KPUD). In addition, this situation has also triggered polarization among support groups of candidate pairs and caused financial consequences in the form of the need for a re-vote budget that reaches billions of rupiah, thus placing an additional burden on the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBD) of Pesawaran Regency. (Mukhlis et al., 2025)

When viewed from the perspective of candidacy administration verification, there is a difference in approach between the previous period and the implementation of the 2024 Regional Elections. In the 2010-2015 period, the verification mechanism is guided by Law Number 12 of 2008 which tends to use a passive verification model, which is limited to checking the completeness of administrative documents submitted by the candidate accompanied by a written statement from the person concerned. (Musyafaah et al., 2023)

Meanwhile, the 2024 Regional Elections will be held based on Law Number 10 of 2016 and General Election Commission Regulation Number 8 of 2024 which opens up space for a more active verification approach through factual tracing and cross-agency coordination to ensure the validity of candidate documents. However, in practice, the Pesawaran KPUD is considered to have not implemented the verification mechanism optimally because it still receives the Certificate of Substitute Diploma document without conducting a thorough follow-up examination. This condition shows that there is an unclear norm regarding the standard for the depth of verification of administrative documents in the Regional Election regulations. (Yahya, 2020)

From the perspective of *siyasah shari'iyah*, this situation can be related to the concept of *fadhlu al-majhûl*, which is a situation when legal provisions have not provided firm limits, thus opening up space for diverse interpretations. In fact, in the *theory of imamah* in the *Ahlussunnah* tradition, an ideal leader must fulfill the elements of integrity (*'is*), scientific capacity (*'ilm*), and leadership ability (*qawâmah*), all of which are related to efforts to realize the common good (*maslahah mursalah*). Therefore, weak verification of candidate requirements has the potential to cause legal uncertainty, social conflicts, and a decrease in public trust in election organizing institutions. (*The Ocean Breeze, Siyasah Shariyyah And Fiqh Siyasah,...* - Google Scholar, n.d.) However, the discussion that places the issue in the law of *siyasah*, also known as *fiqh siyasah*, is one of the branches of Islamic law that focuses on the regulation of the political field and governance is still fairly limited even though this view can be an ethical and spiritual basis for the implementation of general elections.

The study entitled "The Practice of Verification of Regional Head Candidate Requirements by the Pesawaran KPUD (Siyasah Syariyyah Perspective) is very appropriate to explore the impact of the non-uniformity in the application of candidate document checking rules on the quality of democracy at the local level in areas such as Pesawaran. This study is crucial to measure the extent to which the policy transformation from the passive approach in Law Number 12 of 2008 to active verification in Law Number 10 of 2016 plus PKPU Number 8 of 2024 has achieved the goals, such as ensuring the basic requirements of high school education equivalent in accordance with Article 7 paragraph (2) letter c, closing the gap in the void of legal norms, and strengthening the value of *sharia siyasah* through *maslahah mursalah*.

In the case of the Pesawaran Regional Election, the success of the regulation depends on the ability of the KPUD to balance administrative and field testing with inter-agency collaboration so that there is no room for interpretation that triggers the verdict of the Constitutional Court Number 20/PHPU. BUP-XXIII/2025. The basis for the validity of this study is strengthened by previous research that revealed the effects of verification uncertainty, such as the erosion of public trust (65% of respondents considered the KPUD to be uncredible), conflicts between supporters, the burden of the PSU (Re-Voting) budget of billions of rupiah, plus the issue of *fadhlu al-majhûl* in *siyasah shariyyah* due to the lack of explicit provisions regarding the ratification of diplomas. This all indicates the urgency of policy reform for the sake of a consistent, fast, and data-integrated national protocol, so that the organizers of the Regional Elections no longer falter between periods.

2. METHOD

This research is included in the normative juridical research category to dissect the inconsistency in the verification of the requirements of Pesawaran regent candidates, which is combined with a qualitative-descriptive approach. which highlights the regulations of the Regional Elections (Law No. 12 of 2008, Law No. 10 of 2016, PKPU No. 8 of 2024) and Constitutional Court Decision No. 20/PHPU. BUP-XXIII/2025, the object includes the legal norms of high school diploma provisions along with the inconsistency of the 2010-2024 period, primary data sources consist of laws, decisions of the Constitutional Court, PKPU, the official website of KPUD Pesawaran (kab-pesawaran.kpu.go.id), and Bawaslu archives, while secondary from literature on books and legal journals, data collection is carried out through structured literature studies, data analysis relying on article interpretation, comparison of regulations, and categorization of gaps in legal norms.

Data collection in this study is carried out through literature studies by examining various written sources related to laws and regulations, legal theory, and previous research, reviewing documents on court decisions, institutional archives, and official documents related to the process of verifying the requirements of regional head candidates, as well as digital data tracing through the official website of the election organizing institution to obtain information relevant to the object research.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Development of Regulations for Verification of Regional Head Candidates

A comparison between the provisions in Law Number 12 of 2008 and Law Number 10 of 2016 shows that there is a quite fundamental change in the regulation of educational requirements for regional head candidates. In Law Number 12 of 2008 Article 58 letter c, it is stated that regional head candidates must have at least a high school education (high school) or equivalent. However, during the validity period of these provisions, the verification process carried out by election organizers tends to

be administrative and passive. The examination is more focused on the completeness of the documents submitted by the candidate and the accompanying statement, without the obligation to conduct a substantive search or proof of the authenticity of the document.

Meanwhile, Law Number 10 of 2016 through Article 7 paragraph (2) c still maintains the provisions regarding minimum education requirements, namely at least graduates of high school or equivalent. Nonetheless, this regulation introduces a stricter verification mechanism through the implementation of factual verification. In its implementation, the process involves cooperation and coordination with various related institutions to ensure the validity of educational documents submitted by candidates. This step is intended to maintain the integrity of the candidacy process and prevent the use of invalid or legally problematic documents, such as Certificate in Lieu of Diploma (SKPI) that do not have a clear basis for validity. (*Metrina Tosika, Juridical Review Clarifies the Validity... - Google Scholar, n.d.*)

The transition of the verification mechanism from a passive administrative pattern to a more active verification shows that there are efforts to strengthen the credibility of the implementation of regional head elections. During the enactment of Law Number 12 of 2008, the verification process carried out by election organizers was still limited to administrative examinations only. The assessment is only focused on the completeness of the documents submitted by the candidate, without any further tracing steps to ensure the correctness or authenticity of the submitted documents. (Ichsan et al., 2020)

After the ratification of Law Number 10 of 2016, there was an adjustment of the rules that emphasized supervision of the nomination stage of regional heads. This provision is further detailed in General Election Commission Regulation Number 8 of 2024, which authorizes election organizers to conduct intensive administrative verification, including direct confirmation with relevant institutions to ensure the authenticity of candidate files. This kind of regulatory reform reflects a commitment to improve the implementation of the Regional Elections with a higher level of openness and accountability. (Spark, 2020)

3.2. Comparison of Regulations for Verification of Regional Head Candidates

Changes in regulations regarding the verification of requirements for regional head candidates can be seen through a comparison of several legal provisions that apply in different periods. The comparison shows a shift in approach from passive administrative verification to more active and substantive verification.

Table 1. Comparison of verification regulations

Aspects	Law No.12 of 2008	Law No. 10 of 2016	PKPU No. 8 of 2024
Educational Requirements	Mnimal High School or equivalent	Mnimal High School or equivalent	Examined through administrative

			research
Verification Mechanism	Administrative	Administrative and clarification	Administration and factual verification
Authority of the KPU	Check the completeness of documents	Ensuring document suitability	Clarification to the relevant agencies
Verification Approach	Passive	More active	Active and coordinated

3.3. Practice of Verifying the Requirements of Regional Head Candidates in the Pesawaran Regional Election

The implementation of an examination of the requirements for the candidacy of regional heads in Pesawaran Regency shows that there is a difference in the pattern of approach between the Regional Elections in the previous period and the 2024 Regional Elections. In the 2010 and 2015 Regional Elections, Aries Sandi Darma Putra was elected as the Regent of Pesawaran without any problems regarding educational documents which became one of the main requirements in the process of nominating regional heads. (Syahril & Redi, 2023) This situation is related to the verification mechanism which at that time focused more on administrative examinations, which was limited to assessing the completeness of documents submitted by candidates without further delving into the validity of the substance of the document.

A different situation occurred in the 2024 Regional Elections when the Pesawaran KPUD received a document in the form of a Certificate in Lieu of Diploma (SKPI) as part of the candidacy requirements. The existence of the document then caused a legal polemic because it was seen as incapable of providing valid evidence regarding fulfillment of minimum education requirements as stipulated in the provisions of laws and regulations. This shows that although the latest regulations have opened up opportunities for more active and substantive verification, their implementation at the regional level still faces various obstacles, especially in ensuring the authenticity and validity of documents submitted by regional head candidates. (*Rivaldi Ishak, Professionalism of the KPU in the... - Google Scholar, n.d.*)

3.4. Analysis of the Constitutional Court Decision Number 20/PHPU. BUP-XXIII/2025

The issue of the validity of educational documents in the Pesawaran Regency Regional Election then developed into a dispute over the results of the election of regional heads submitted to the Constitutional Court. Through the Constitutional Court Decision Number 20/PHPU. BUP-XXIII/2025, the Court concluded that Aries Sandi Darma Putra could not be declared to meet the administrative

requirements related to proof of graduation from high school education as required in the provisions of the laws and regulations governing the candidacy of regional heads. (Tanjung et al., 2018)

In its deliberations, the Constitutional Court emphasized that education requirements are a fundamental element that must be fulfilled by every candidate for regional head and must be legally proven according to the law. If the submitted document cannot be ascertained of its authenticity or validity through a verification process that can be accounted for, then the requirements are considered unfulfilled. Based on these legal considerations, the Constitutional Court then determined the annulment of the victory of the candidate pair concerned and ordered the re-election to be held within a maximum period of ninety days from the date of the verdict. (Habir & Negara, 2023)

Differences in implementation in the process of examining the requirements of regional head candidates have the potential to have various implications for the quality of democratic implementation at the regional level. One of the impacts that is quite felt is the reduction of public trust in the credibility of election organizing institutions. If the verification process is not carried out openly, thoroughly, and accountably, the public can view that the process of electing regional heads is not running honestly and fairly. (Anugrah et al., 2026)

On the other hand, the implementation of re-voting also has consequences for the financing aspect of the implementation of the election. These activities require additional budgets that must be reallocated through the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget. This situation shows that weaknesses in the stage of verification of candidacy requirements not only cause problems from a legal point of view, but also have a wider impact, including on social conditions and the use of regional financial resources.

3.5. Analysis of the Perspective of *Siyasah Sharia*

In the study of *sharia sharia*, the process of selecting leaders is seen as an important element in the implementation of government which is directed to bring benefits to the community. *Siyasah shari'iyah* itself can be interpreted as policies and arrangements in government based on the principles of Islamic sharia with the aim of realizing justice, social order, and general welfare. In this framework, political power is not solely understood as a means of managing the state, but as a mandate that must be carried out responsibly, based on the moral and ethical values taught in Islam.

In Islamic teachings, leadership is seen as a very big mandate because it is responsible not only to humans, but also to Allah SWT. Therefore, a person who holds a leadership position must meet a number of basic criteria that are the basis for the legitimacy of his leadership. In the study of *fiqh siyasah*, it is stated that the ideal leader should have honesty and moral integrity (*'is*), have adequate knowledge (*'ilm*), and have the ability to lead and manage the government well (*qawâmah*). These three elements

are an important foundation for a leader to be able to use power fairly and be able to set policies that are oriented to the interests and welfare of the community. (Mahendran & Rahman, 2025)

In addition, leadership issues are closely related to the concept of *maslahah*, which is an effort to realize benefits and goodness for society at large. This principle emphasizes that every policy or decision made by the government must be oriented to the public interest and seek to prevent damage or harm. In the rules of *fiqh siyasah*, it is emphasized that every action and policy of the leader must be directed at achieving benefits and avoiding various forms of losses for the community. Therefore, the leadership selection mechanism needs to ensure that the individual running for office actually has sufficient ability, feasibility, and integrity to assume the leadership responsibilities. (Nova Dara Aggista, *Qawaid Fiqhiyyah's Approach to...* - Google Scholar, n.d.)

The theory of *imamah* related to the concept of leadership (*imāmah*) as a continuation of the prophetic function is an important basis in the study of *siyasah shariyyah* regarding the process of selecting leaders. Classical scholars, one of whom is Al-Mawardi in his work *Al-Ahkām al-Sultāniyyah*, explain that *imamah* is an obligation of *kifayah* that must be realized by the *ummah* to maintain the order of social and religious life. The appointment of leaders can be done through the mechanism of *bai'at* or deliberation (*syūrā*). The normative foundation of obedience to the leader is affirmed in the Qur'an, especially in the Qur'an. An-Nisa verse 59 which reads:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولَى الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِن تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ
ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا

It means: "O you who believe, obey Allah and obey the Messenger (Muhammad), and ulil amri among you."

This verse shows that obedience to a legitimate leader is part of the *imam's* system, as long as the leader meets the criteria of justice and has the ability to run the government. In addition, in the Islamic view, the discussion of leadership is also closely related to the concept of *maslahah*, which is an effort to bring benefits and goodness to society at large. This principle is in line with the main purpose of the *imam* which functions to maintain religion while regulating the life of the world. Therefore, every policy taken by leaders must be directed to meet the public interest and prevent damage or harm from occurring. In the rules of *fiqh siyasah*, it is emphasized that every action taken by the leader must be oriented towards achieving benefits for the community and avoiding various forms of losses. This principle is in line with the values contained in the Qur'an, especially in QS. Al-Maidah verse 79 which reads:

كَانُوا لَا يَتَنَاهَوْنَ عَنْ مُنْكَرٍ فَعَلُوهُ لَبِئْسَ مَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ

It means "They do not prevent each other from committing illegal acts. Really, that's as bad as they always do."

Thus, the process of selecting leaders must be able to ensure that the individuals who are running for office really have the capacity, feasibility, and integrity to carry out the leadership mandate. When associated with the process of verifying the requirements of regional head candidates, the *perspective of siyasah shariyyah* based on the theory of imamah emphasizes the importance of clarity of rules and honesty in each stage of candidacy administration. The existence of clear regulations is an important requirement so that the process takes place fairly and can be accounted for.

In the concept of imamah, the selection of leaders is carried out through the role of *ahl al-hall wa al-'aqd*, which is a group that has the authority and competence to assess the feasibility of prospective leaders. If the verification mechanism does not have clear provisions, it can cause legal uncertainty which ultimately has the potential to trigger social conflicts and reduce public trust in election organizing institutions. In the perspective of fiqh siyasah, this kind of condition can be attributed to the concept of *fadh al-majhul*, which is a situation when a legal provision is not formulated expressly so as to open up space for various interpretations in its implementation. The unclarity of these legal norms can lead to inconsistencies in the application of rules which ultimately have an impact on the quality of government administration.

In the context of the implementation of the Regional Elections in Pesawaran Regency, the difference in approach in the document verification process between the Regional Elections in the previous period and the 2024 Regional Elections shows that there is still uncertainty in the implementation of regulations governing the requirements for regional head candidates. These differences in practices have the potential to cause a perception of injustice in the candidacy process and raise public doubts about the neutrality and professionalism of election organizers. (Khitam et al., 2026) This condition is contrary to the principle of *imamah* which requires openness and legitimacy in the process of appointing leaders. From the perspective of *siyasah shariyyah*, the government and institutions that carry out government functions have the responsibility to ensure that every policy taken remains based on the principle of justice and aims to realize the benefits of the community.

Furthermore, the concept of *sharia siyasah* also emphasizes the importance of accountability and moral responsibility in the exercise of power. In the theory of imamah, leaders are not only responsible to the community, but also to Allah SWT for the mandate they carry. Therefore, every stage related to the process of appointing or selecting leaders must be carried out openly, transparently, and accountable to the public so as not to cause doubts or suspicions in the community. This principle is in line with the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad PBUH which states that:

كُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْنُونٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ الْإِمَامُ رَاعٍ وَمَسْنُونٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ وَالرَّجُلُ رَاعٍ فِي أَهْلِهِ وَهُوَ مَسْنُونٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ

"Each of you is a leader and will be held accountable for your leadership. A priest is a leader and will be held

accountable and likewise a man is a leader for his family and will be held accountable for his leadership" (HR. Bukhari).

Thus, the application of *sharia siyasah values* in the process of verifying the requirements of regional head candidates can be an ethical basis in strengthening the integrity of the implementation of the Regional Elections while preventing the emergence of political conflicts that have the potential to harm the community. (Aminah et al., 2020)

When associated with the mechanism of verifying the requirements of regional head candidates, the *siyasah shariyyah* perspective emphasizes the importance of certainty of rules and honesty in each stage of candidacy administration. Regulatory clarity is an important element so that the process runs fairly and can be accounted for. Ambiguity in the verification mechanism has the potential to create legal uncertainty that can ultimately trigger social conflicts.

At the same time, it reduces the level of public trust in election organizing institutions. In the study of fiqh siyasah, this kind of situation can be related to the concept of *fadhlu al-majhûl*, which is a situation when a legal provision is not formulated expressly so as to open up opportunities for the emergence of various interpretations in its implementation. When legal norms do not have clear boundaries, their implementation has the potential to cause inconsistencies that ultimately have an impact on the quality of governance.

In the context of the implementation of the Regional Elections in Pesawaran, the difference in approach in the document verification process between the previous period and the 2024 Regional Elections shows that there is still room for ambiguity in the implementation of regulations that regulate the verification of the requirements of regional head candidates. (Arifin, n.d.) These differences in practices can give rise to the perception of injustice in the candidacy process, as well as raise public doubts about the neutrality and professionalism of election organizers. From the perspective of *siyasah shariyyah*, the government and institutions that carry out government functions have the responsibility to ensure that every policy and action taken remains oriented to the principles of justice and the benefit of the community.

Based on this description, it can be understood that the perspective of *siyasah shariyyah* provides a normative and ethical framework in assessing the quality of the regional head nomination process. Values such as justice, welfare, integrity, and accountability are important foundations to ensure that elected leaders truly have moral legitimacy and adequate ability to run the government. Thus, the strengthening of the verification mechanism for the requirements of regional head candidates not only has urgency in a positive legal framework, but also has a strong relevance to the principles of *sharia siyasah* which emphasizes the importance of realizing leadership that is fair, responsible, and oriented towards the welfare of the community. (Muhammad Fadly Syahwala Harahap, *Empty Boxes as Winners:...* -

Google Scholar, n.d.)

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis of the practice of verifying the requirements of regional head candidates in the Pesawaran Regional Election, it can be concluded that there are significant regulatory changes in the mechanism for nominating regional heads in Indonesia. In the previous Pilkada period, the verification of candidacy documents was still administrative and tended to be passive because the election organizers only checked the completeness of the documents submitted by the candidates without conducting further checks on the validity of the documents.

Meanwhile, newer regulations give broader authority to election organizers to conduct administrative research more in-depth and clarify to relevant agencies to ensure the validity of the nomination documents. However, the verification practices carried out by the Pesawaran KPUD in the 2024 Regional Elections show that there are inconsistencies in the implementation of the verification mechanism. The receipt of the documents that were then questioned in the trial process at the Constitutional Court showed that the verification process had not been carried out optimally in accordance with the spirit of the applicable regulations. This condition not only causes legal consequences in the form of cancellation victory of candidates and the implementation of re-voting, but also have an impact on the level of public trust in the credibility of election organizers and create additional burdens on the regional budget.

From the perspective of *siyasah shariyyah*, the process of selecting leaders should be carried out by paying attention to the principles of justice, benefit, and integrity of prospective leaders. Uncertainty in the implementation of the verification mechanism can open up space for differences in interpretation of applicable rules, potentially causing legal uncertainty and conflicts in society. Therefore, strengthening the verification mechanism for the requirements of regional head candidates is important to ensure that the leader election process takes place in a transparent, accountable, and in accordance with the principles of justice in the administration of government.

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