



## People's Opinions towards the Local Administrators Election

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Received 01/07/2021

Revised 20/07/2021

Accepted 06/08/2021

**Abstract:-** *The principle of universal democracy is the opportunity for elected citizens to exercise their right to choose or express their opinions regarding the acquisition of local administrative positions. The purpose of this research was to study the people's Opinions towards the election of the president of the Yasothon Provincial Administrative Organization. The population is 3,790 people who have the right to vote in the municipality of Fa Yat Sub-District, Mahanachai District, Yasothon Province. For example, using Taro Yamane's formula, there are 362 people. The tool was a questionnaire. The results of the research showed that public opinion towards the election of the president of the Provincial Administrative Organization was at the lowest level, with an average of 1.25. When considering each aspect, it was found that all aspects were at the lowest level in descending order as follows: First, in terms of the personal qualifications of applicants, the average level is 1.48. Followed by the applicant's policy proposal averaged at 1.25. Next is the trend of political parties or political groups averaging at 1.16 level. and the least was the average citizen functioning at the level of 1.12.*

**Keywords:** People's Opinion; Election; President of Provincial Administrative Organization

### Introduction

Over 80 years there has been a change in the governance of the country, although sovereignty belongs to the people, by the people, and for the people. But the reality is that people's political participation is very low, political awareness is low, and the majority of the people are the recipients rather than the doers. Therefore, most of the power in governing the country rests on the elite or ruling class of the country known as “*Amatayathipataya*” which comes from the noble class, the civil servant class, the military, the police, including businessmen, high-class merchants, etc. It does not conform to the principle of protection of democracy, that is, having a constitution as the supreme law in governing the country. However, Thailand has made several changes to the constitution that were promulgated and then repealed, most of the main reason for the change due to the aftermath of the coup d'état. Until the awakening of students, students, and the public in calling for democracy on October 14, 1973, it expanded to the people all over Thailand until the 1997 constitutional law was promulgated. There is a major change that requires all Thai people in society to participate in politics, strengthen politicians and political parties so that political parties can implement public policies, for all people in society and all sectors to benefit. from politics and governance in a democratic system, there is equality in all dimensions. Strong political parties are not guided by the government sector. As such, after the promulgation of the 1997 Constitution, the democratic trend returned to flourish in Thai society once again. This is an important starting point for the Thai people to be more alert in their involvement in politics. In the end, the democratic trend of the world has influenced to drive people's political participation to develop to create a network of participation of people's organizations from the national level down to the local level until it feels like “Politics is the responsibility of the people together, the use of political power affects the way of life of all people”(Singmart, S. and Kenaphoom, S..2015).

A Provincial Administrative Organization has a chairman of a Provincial Administrative Organization who is directly elected by the people under the law on the election of local council members or the local administrators. The powers and duties of the

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Provincial Administrative Organization are provided in Section 55/1, The performance of duties following the powers and duties of the Provincial Administrative Organization must be for the benefit of the people's happiness by using good public administration methods and taking into account the participation of the people in the preparation of the Provincial Administrative Organization development plan, budgeting, procurement, inspection, performance appraisal, and disclosure of information. In this regard, it shall be following the law, regulations, and rules and procedures prescribed by the Ministry of Interior. Elections are an important activity of democracy and an important condition for explaining to society why people exercise their political rights or powers through a representative system. Once the representatives are chosen to serve, is it necessary for the elected people to accept all the political actions of the politicians taking their seats in parliament without opposing them?

From the foreword above, the main reason causing people's organizations to inspect elections is that the people have lost faith in the traditional electoral processes and systems (leading vote system - using the majority to decide), which the elected representative does not truly reflect the spirit of the voters, and it is in the process of manipulation that politicians can commit widespread electoral fraud, by purchasing votes that have evolved through handouts. The widespread corruption has made Thai democracy political despair, in part due to electoral managers working with politicians, Or a political party that has power by modifying the vote results, some ghost votes, allowing some candles, buying more units, or even changing the ballot box has already happened. Consequently, electoral reform was the subject of much discussion in the 1996-1997 constitution drafting.

The 1997 Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand contains a provision that expresses the intention of the people to participate in politics. Including the creation of many new independent organizations from the Election Commission, the State Audit Commission, the National Anti-Corruption Commission, the National Human Rights Commission, the Parliamentary Ombudsman. But many organizations have been intervened by politicians using their power and undesirable influence, preventing the organs of many independent organizations from performing their intended functions.

It can be seen that the election of the president of the Provincial Administrative Organization from the past, the president of the Provincial Administrative Organization must be elected by the group leader, or wealthy, influential people, politicians at the national level, local level, merchants, business people, or People from political parties who are popular in that province mainly. As a result, people do not pay much attention to the election of the president of the Provincial Administrative Organization as seriously as they should and make political power groups in the province take advantage of the opportunity to unite, seek benefits from provincial politics in Only those who are close to the applicant. When he was elected, he did not pay much attention to the well-being of the local people. But nowadays, it has been found that national political groups have turned their attention to local politics by relying on the popularity of national politicians, or political parties at the national level to create local popularity more.

After that, when there is a general election or any re-election, there will be a central body that is the only body that performs an active audit, and after the 1997 Constitution was promulgated, the electoral audit was reshaped to form a network of networks. People's Network for Election in Thailand abbreviated "PNET". For the audit power to be distributed to the local area at the provincial level, there is a central coordinating center in Bangkok with



three main activities: Receiving notification of campaigning events for people to exercise their rights and sending volunteers to observe at polling stations on election day, Volunteers who join the network are trained before duty, PNET's operations have periodic press releases that have attracted great interest from the society.

Election of the prime minister of Changwat Yasothon Provincial Administrative Organization that held the election on December 20, 2020, in the past, there has been a political party or political group at the national level has turned to send a candidate on behalf of the party or political group that came to from more and more elections. This is in the hope of winning direct popularity from the people. Today it must be acknowledged that politics is a matter and inevitably affects the lives and livelihoods of all citizens. The act of the people to exercise their right to vote for representatives of the people, whether at the national level or the local level, has meanings and relationships linking the direction of national development. That is to say, if the majority of the people of the country have exercised their right to vote at all levels by choosing good people, quality, sacrifice, and responsibility to the country, they will get good people to run the country and help develop the country to benefit the people. . But on the other hand, if the majority of the people of the country exercise their right to vote at all levels but elect their representatives for the sake of salary or benefits without considering the competence of the candidates, then this will have an impact. damage to the administration of the country, or the administration at the local level. Due to the lack of knowledge of the elected candidates, the ideology of sacrifice focuses on personal interests rather than the common good (Raksasataya, A., 2001:87).

From the above reasons, a researcher is a person who is directly involved in politics in Yasothon province and is interested in studying people's opinions on the local administrator's election. That is considered to be politically alert enough in the past that any thoughts, problems, or suggestions? The researcher believes that the decision-making behaviors of the local administrators It is an important goal of the development of a democratic political system, which is an indicator of the development regime of politics and governance.

## Objectives

The purpose of this research was to study people's opinions on the local administrator's election.

## Methodology

In this research, the researcher has determined the scope as follows; The population is 5,633 people who have the right to vote who are domiciled in Non-Puei Subdistrict, Kut Chum District, Yasothon Province. The sample consisted of voters who were domiciled in Non-Puei Subdistrict, Kut Chum District, Yasothon Province, calculated using Taroyamane's formula. Yamane received a sample of 374 people (Yamane, 1973:580-581). Content scope of electoral decision-making behavior the local administrators. Area boundaries include the municipality of Fa Yat Sub-District, Chanachai District, Yasothon Province. Research Instruments: Characteristics of the tools used to collect data is a questionnaire, which the researcher developed the tool from the relevant research theory and applied that tool to adjust the questions to be consistent with the context of this research. Under the supervision and guidance of a faculty advisor, the characteristics of research instruments are as follows: (1) Part 1 questionnaire on personal factors of the respondents including gender, age, education level, monthly income, and occupation, the questionnaire was a Check List. (2) Part 2 of the questionnaire on public opinion towards the local administrator's election is based on a rating

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scale. Scale)(Chompoowong, S.,2004:64), by dividing the level of measurement into 5 levels. Data Analysis: In this research, the researcher will use a computer program as a tool to help analyze research data by following steps: (1) Check the completeness and correctness of the survey responses and it appears that every issue is complete. (2) Save the data from the questionnaire into the finished computer program. (3) preparing the data to prepare an analysis of public opinion towards the local administrator's election as a 5-level rating scale. There is a scoring criterion to measure opinion/behavior on the Likert scale (Chompoowong, S., 2004:64).

## Results

public opinion on the local administrator's election:A case study in Non-Puei Sub-district, the results of a study at the level of public opinion found that the people's Opinions towards the local administrator's election: The overall case study of Non-Puei Sub-district was at the lowest level, the mean at the 1.25 level, (SD =0.14) When considering each aspect, it was found that all aspects were at the lowest level in descending order as follows: First in terms of personal qualifications of applicants, the average is 1.48(S.D.=0.58). Followed by the applicant's policy proposition average at 1.25,(S.D.=0.18). Next is the popularity of political parties or political groups, the average level is 1.16,(S.D.=0.32). And the least aspect was the functional aspect of the average citizen at the level of 1.12,(S.D.=0.16).

## Discussion

From the research findings on the people's Opinions of Non-Phue Subdistrict, Kut Chum District, towards the election of the local administrators, the researchers found important issues that should be discussed as follows: The overall research results showed that overall, it was at the lowest level, the mean level was 1.25 (S.D.=0.14). This reflects that perhaps because the government has not held local elections for a long time, the people in Non-Puei Sub-district are not aware of their civic duties in exercising their right to vote. Considering the applicant's qualifications, the level was the highest in all aspects, This is consistent with the research of Khamkerd, D. (2012) to study the role of local leaders in national and local elections in Prasat District, Surin Province. The results of the study showed that people were more comprehensible when considering elections for members of the House of Representatives and localities who made their own choices based on their knowledge and abilities rather than choosing according to the number that came with their money. Consistent with the research by Butliab, P(2016) examined factors affecting decision-making in the election of members of the House of Representatives of Samut Sakhon Province: a study at the time of 2014. The results of the study revealed that the political media exposure behavior of the sample group was of high importance, with the sample group having the highest level of political media exposure behavior from television. to the decision in the election of the people. It was also found that differences were depending on the candidate's eligibility factor, the candidate's policy, the candidate's media qualification, And the findings are consistent with the research of Chawaratsakulkit, T. (2014), which has studied the factors affecting the decision to elect members of the House of Representatives: a case study of the people who voted in Chiang Mai found that the factors affecting the election decision At a high level in terms of the candidates as well.

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## Recommendation

1 Policy recommendation: Based on research on public opinion towards the local administrator's election: a case study in Non-Puei Sub-district, the researchers made recommendations as follows: (1) The results of the research showed that the people did not pay attention to the election of the president of the Provincial Administrative Organization as they should, therefore, all stakeholders had to speed up the promotion and encourage more people's participation for the people to see the importance of their right to develop democratic governance. (2) According to research findings, people are bored with politics that does not change the country for the better and are not interested in local elections. Therefore, it is the duty of the local administrators at various levels to create value in local administration to achieve practical results to enable people to improve their quality of life from the performance of the local government organization for the people.

2 Further research recommendations: (1) Should study and research on the political leadership of citizens in the Yasothon Provincial Administrative Organization area. (2) Should study and research guidelines for the development of political expression behavior following the democratic way of people in Yasothon Province. (3) Should study and research the guidelines for the development of political expression behavior following the democratic way of people in Non-Puei Sub-district, Kut Chum District, Yasothon Province.



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