ABSTRACT

The literature in Political Economics distinguishes between two mechanisms for selecting leaders: appointment and election. Appointed leaders are accountable to those who appoint them, whereas elected leaders are accountable to voters. These differing accountability mechanisms shape their behavior. This study leverages Indonesia's 2024 presidential election to empirically investigate whether appointed mayors behave differently from elected mayors in supporting a presidential candidate associated with the president who appointed them. The empirical results are mixed and largely inconclusive, though there is marginal evidence suggesting that in districts with appointed mayors, the associated presidential candidate tends to receive slightly more votes.