

## **ABSTRACT**

*This study empirically analyzes the relationship between political competition and economic growth in Indonesia. The analysis uses panel data from 508 districts and municipalities in Indonesia across three waves of local elections (Pilkada) during the period 2005–2018. Political competition is measured by the number of candidates and the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI), while economic growth is measured by the gross regional domestic product (GRDP) of each district/municipality. The findings show a non-monotonic relationship between political competition and economic growth, with different patterns between the two measures of competition. The number of candidates exhibits a U-shaped relationship, while the HHI exhibits an inverted U-shaped relationship. These differing patterns are presumed to arise from the different aspects of competition captured by the two measures used.*

**Keyword:** Political Competition; Economic Growth; Pilkada; Indonesia

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